

Works to align city with province, as required

Updated demo by-law includes fines of \$1M+, detailed specs

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's updated demolition By-law 1609 adopted by council April 8 was undertaken to align where possible with Quebec's new Bill 69 amending the provincial Cultural Heritage Act and the Planning and Development Act adopted March 25, 2021.

Provincial requirement

The province required that all municipalities adopt such a by-law and Westmount, whose demolition by-law had not been updated for some 20 years, took the opportunity to update it "to ensure compliance" with Quebec, according to Urban Planning director Frédéric Neault.

In highlighting many changes, Neault told the public consultation meeting Feb-

ruary 23 that these involve integrating involvement in the demolition process by the Westmount Heritage Council and very significantly increasing fines for unauthorized demolitions.

Fines and penalties can rise in some cases up to \$1,140,000.

Previously, fines for unauthorized demolition ranged between \$500 and \$50,000. In some cases, the city will now be able to undertake restoration work.

What is a demolition?

Another "important part" of the by-law explained by Neault are detailed percentages concerning what constitutes a demolition, and how much depending on specific areas of a house, for example.

New criteria to be considered by the city will *continued on p. 13*

It is spring! Ducklings coming soon



A duck watches over an egg at the Manoir Westmount seniors' residence on Sherbrooke at Lansdowne. See p. 13 for story.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MANOIR WESTMOUNT

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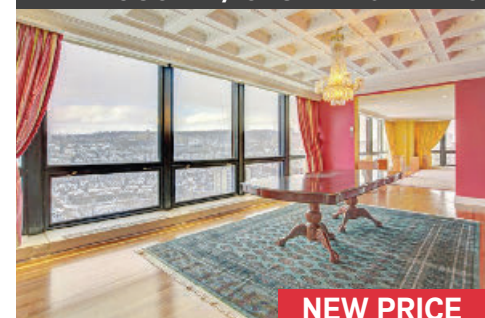
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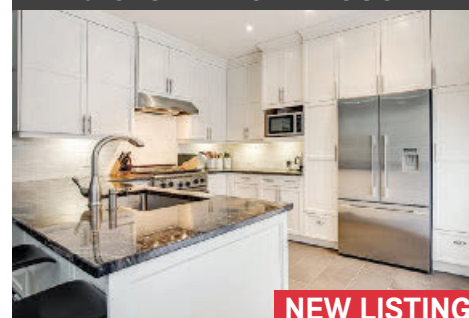
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Public Security warns residents, contractors

Good season for construction work, but lack of permits can bring costly tickets

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Seen all the recent construction work taking place in Westmount? Some of it has been making accessibility a challenge for pedestrians and when finding it, Public Security has been issuing tickets for using the public domain when no permits had been issued.

Officials reported that at least three cases within two days last week generated tickets when contractors used the public street and sidewalk for their vehicles or construction material. The work was stopped until a permit could be obtained.

The Boulevard

On April 29, at 1:50 pm, a patroller on The Boulevard between Grosvenor and Victoria came across a large amount of gravel on the street that blocked one traffic

Sidewalk disrepair leaves Lipovenko 'so upset'

Victoria Ave. fall sends woman to ER

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

When Public Security responded to a call May 1 at 3:52 pm for a woman who had fallen on the sidewalk outside 345 Victoria, they found her seated on a bench in front of a coffee shop where she had been assisted by witnesses, department officials said.

She stated she had been walking north, tripped and fell on her face, which was painful and red. Asked if she needed an ambulance, she stated that her husband was coming to take her to the Jewish General Hospital.

"I was that woman," stated Dorothy Lipovenko, of York St., who contacted the *Independent* to explain the circumstances and the quick response she had received from Public Security.

While she said her injuries "could have

lane and three-quarters of the sidewalk at civic number 3733. The company was issued a ticket for \$1,326 for not having a permit.

Côte St. Antoine

Two days later 10:06 am, a crane was found in full operation doing roof work on Côte St. Antoine at Claremont without a permit. The company was issued a ticket for \$1,326 for blocking the street and sidewalk.

Oakland Ave.

Earlier that day, work on Oakland also generated a ticket when two piles of stone and four pallets were placed on the street and sidewalk, for which the project manager took personal responsibility and was therefore issued a ticket in the reduced amount of \$664.

been worse," on the other hand, "what has me so upset," is that a couple about to leave the café mentioned that in the hour they had been there, three other people had stumbled at the same spot where she fell and suggested that the area be blocked off or at least with some alert to pedestrians.

"Next to where I fell is a largish crater in the sidewalk that is in dire need of repair. People who saw me fall (and came to my aid) said I'd gone down next to it, where apparently the others had stumbled just before me."

Lipovenko echoed what others have stated on previous occasions: "The streets in and around Vic village are in dreadful shape...Does council not see that so many locals are older people whose safety is being compromised by these awful sidewalks/streets?"

Later that same afternoon May 1, patrolers found work under way on Thornhill, where excavated earth was being taken from one side of the street to the other. The workers were described as "co-operative" and stopped the work.

"At this time of year when construction and landscaping work is under way, this is a reminder to residents and contractors to obtain a permit whenever the use of the public domain is required," said Public Security director Greg McBain. These permits outline the required measures that must be taken to create safe passage for pedestrians and maintain traffic flow, he explained.



Letters to the Editor, p. 8

Double Dodge real estate transfers:

• November, p. 16 & 20

• December p. 18 & 21

Police Report, p. 25



Pet page, p. 30

InfoWestmount, p. 31


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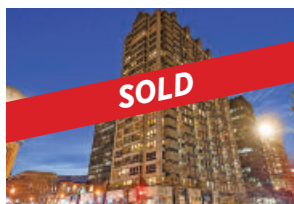
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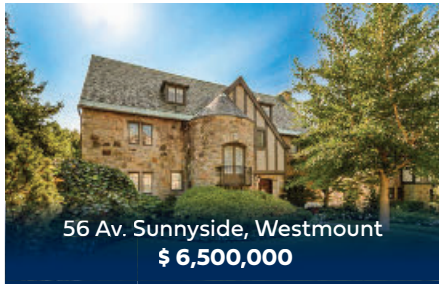
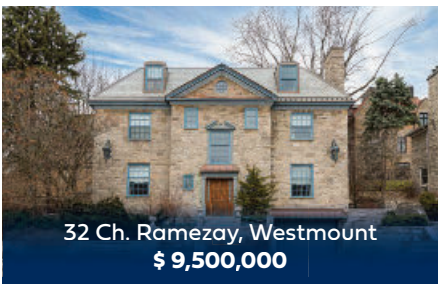
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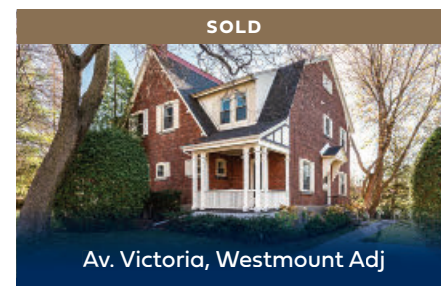
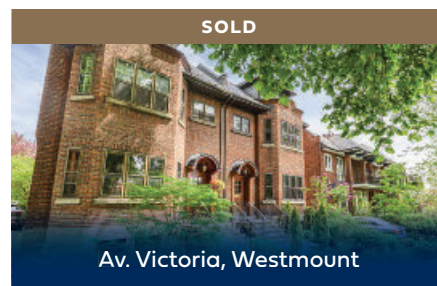
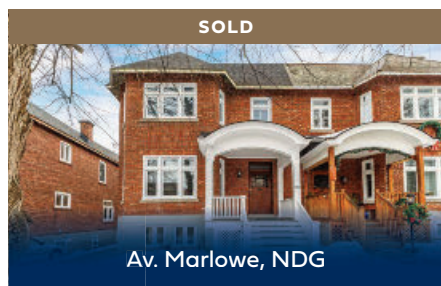
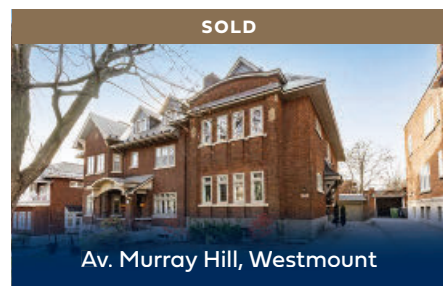
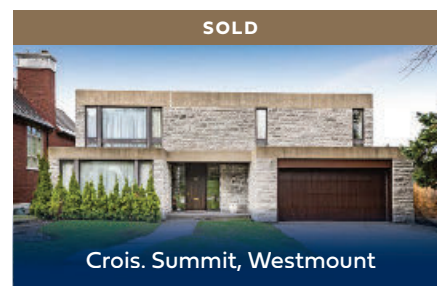
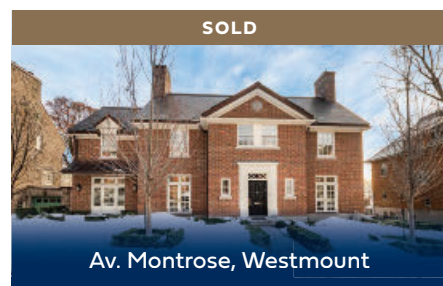
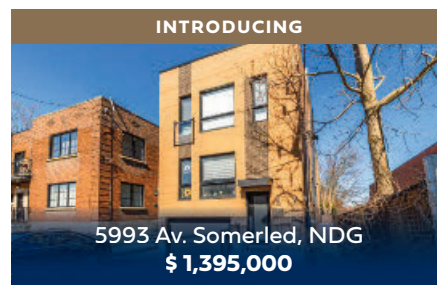
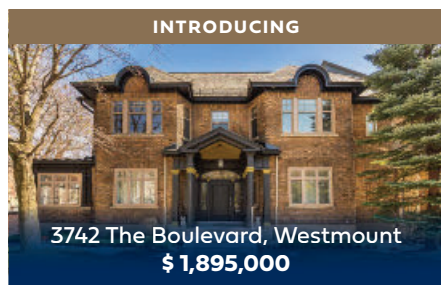
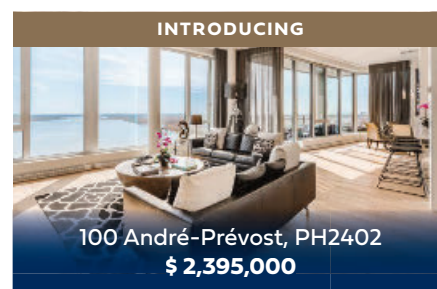
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Lt. McAllister retires, 'old timers' at Stanton fire station drop to 2

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

One of three remaining “original Westmount firefighters” at the fire station on Stanton St. retired May 6 after 33 years of service in Westmount.

In announcing his departure last week, Lieutenant James McAllister recalled many fond memories from the time before the Westmount Fire Brigade became a part of Montreal's after the city was forcibly

merged with Montreal in 2002.

(Westmount and 14 other municipalities demerged in 2006, but it was not allowed to take back its fire department.)

The other two “originals” are firefighter Gianni D’Argenio, due to retire June 1, which will leave firefighter Patrick Hearson as the sole remaining veteran at what is now Station 76 in the Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal (SIM).

“It has been my pleasure to serve and

Stella Morganstein: Hockey player-of-the-month for April

‘Like a road-runner’: Hard to slow her down once she hits the ice

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Stella Morganstein of the Westmount Wings M13 B girls hockey team was named player-of-the-month for April for the role she played with the team in provincial championships April 11-14, said Andrew Maislin, president of the Westmount Minor Hockey Association and vice-president of Hockey Lac St. Louis.

The team had “capped off” the season with a berth in the 2023-2024 championships hosted by the Lac St. Louis region. Stella participated in these games, which involved 12 teams over each of the days facing opponents from across Quebec, during which “one player stood out over the course” of the tournament, Maislin explained. This was Morganstein.

As a result, “it is with great pleasure that we award her the player-of-the-month. She is one of those hockey players that has the ‘hockey sense’ and seems to see the plays develop before most other players do. She is like the road runner/rabbit when she steps on the ice. It is hard to stop her or slow her down once she gets going.”

Stella has been involved with Westmount Hockey for many years “and has always given it 100 percent,” Maislin said, adding that she was also called up as a substitute numerous times for the Mount Royal/Outremont M13A team when they were short players.

“We expect great things for Stella as she plans on trying out for AAA and AA next season with the Lac St Louis Warriors.”

The monthly recognition program was launched by Maislin in 2019 to highlight player contributions and acknowledge the opportunities and skills that minor hockey, and sports as a whole, can offer young people in developing sportsmanship, teamwork and discipline (see November 19, 2019, p. 1).



PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT SPORTS AND RECREATION.



The last “Westmount” firefighters: from left, firefighter and first responder Patrick Hearson, who started at the station in 1994; firefighter Gianni D’Argenio, set to retire next month; and Lieutenant James McAllister, who retired May 6.

PHOTO COURTESY OF J. McALLISTER.

protect the citizens of Westmount and Montreal for over the past many years,” McAllister said.

While many other ex-Westmount firefighters working with the SIM moved to other stations and positions, McAllister spoke fondly of “the good old days” and explained his desire not to seek a transfer away from the Westmount station when the opportunity arose every six months, as per SIM protocols.

“We lost a bit of the camaraderie,” he explained. “Relationships are harder to build up in six months.”

But there is value in the new system, he conceded. Being part of the larger network, he said, has increased fire protection by bringing assistance from other nearby sister stations rather than having to wait for one or more “mutual aid” partners to arrive from Côte St. Luc, Town of Mount, Hampstead, Outremont or Ville St. Laurent, as was the case before 2002.

Remembering many incidents

Among his many memories is his first Westmount fire at 50 Oakland on a Saturday, as well as one at the Westmount Bar BQ restaurant on St. Catherine at Metcalfe near the Perrette’s dépanneur (both now gone).

He also remembers one at the Westmount Animal Hospital at 349 Victoria in 1998, “where we saved all the animals and the building.”

There were also informational, social and celebratory events at Westmount Park and participation in Montreal’s St. Patrick’s Parade.

“Then on September 11, 2001 came the terrorist attack at the World Trade Centre...

“Myself, along with fellow firefighters Ryan Kiley, Mike Amesse, Ian Ritchie and

John Valiquette, went to assist our brothers in New York.

“We arrived at Station 54 in midtown Manhattan and immediately went to work in assisting them in many ways. Fifteen firefighters from Station 54 lost their lives in the collapse of the towers and many to this day are still dying from after-effects of working on the site.”

Foiled armed robbery

In his list of recollections, McAllister failed to include being honoured by Westmount city council along with his team when they foiled an armed robbery at the pharmacy on St. Catherine and Metcalfe in 2014. They had stopped at a red light and spotted two suspects going inside, ushering out people and locking the door.

They alerted police and helped detain one man fleeing down a lane while responding police handcuffed him (see story November 25, 2014, p. 1).

When McAllister joined the Westmount brigade, he had already worked as a part-time firefighter in Two Mountains north of Laval, where he later served as a city councillor from 2007 to 2012. He also worked for Urgences Santé.

When it comes to fire service, he counts 43 years in the profession when adding his previous years from Two Mountains to those in Westmount, so is now eligible, he says, for the 40-year fire service medal.

At the city’s annual Quarter Century Club Banquet in 2022, McAllister was recognized for 30 years of service to the city (see story October 25, 2022, p. 7).

“Myself along with other firefighters who have retired and those still on the job, have the privilege of experiencing and working in the greatest job ever: a proud firefighter!”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

APPRECIATING A JEWEL
IN TIME FOR MOTHER’S DAY

Thank you for “*das Kleinod*” (the jewel). Rain or shine, she is always there. I would not say that she is very welcoming, but she is always leaving space for someone to sit down beside her.

She will not pay attention to you, as she is too absorbed in the child that she is holding next to her heart, taking in the sweet smell of baby, oblivious to everything around her.

Mother and child, beautiful and timeless.

Life still bustles around her, the cars and buses on the busy street. Although they are very close, they feel distant.

Once in a while in the fall, one can enjoy the bounty of fresh produce at the small farmers’ market. At Christmas, a majestic pine tree, illuminated with hundreds of lights, gives the place a festive atmosphere.

There is a calmness, although people are talking and eating lunch, enjoying ice cream, checking messages on the phone, or having a sit-down and visiting with each other in the shade of the beautiful trees.

There are children, students, dogs and once in a while a person being pushed in a wheelchair out for fresh air and a change of scenery.

I am not sure what this little place of reprieve is called, the little place where Prince Albert and Sherbrooke streets almost meet.

A parkette? Does it have a name? I have

called it “A Precious Gem.”
HEIDY VERMEULEN, METCALFE AVE.
Editor’s reply & trivia: The city calls it “Prince Albert Square.” The *Independent* tends not to capitalize the “s” in “square.” It is about to turn 10. For its inauguration, see December 9, 2014, p. 6. For its reconstruction due to construction “deficiencies,” see June 5, 2015, p. 7. The statue is called “*La mère et l’enfant*” by Lea Vivot and is on long-term loan to the city. See April 19, 2022, p. 12. – DP.

MP GAINEY: LIBERAL
GOVERNMENT COMMITS MONEY,
REDUCES RED TAPE TO FIGHT
ANTI-SEMITISM

All of us are troubled by the disturbing rise in anti-Semitism in Canada since Hamas’ brutal terrorist attack on October 7. Jewish Montrealers should not be frightened to go to school or to go to synagogue and – contrary to MP Lantsman’s assertion [as reported in the April 23 *Independent*, p. 8] – the Liberal government is determined to address the situation head on.

We responded last fall by providing \$5 million in emergency funding to expand the Security Infrastructure Program (SIP) – \$335,441 of which flowed directly to Westmount’s Jewish community institutions. Furthermore, we enlarged the program to ensure important community spaces like daycares and community centres qualify for this critical program.

In addition, Budget 2024 commits:

- \$32M over six years to further enhance the SIP, while cutting red tape to make it easier for organizations to apply;
- \$273.6M over six years to combat hate, to support community outreach and law enforcement, to tackle the rise in hate crime, enhance community security, counter radicalization, and increase support for victims;
- \$7.3M over six years to support Deborah Lyons, special envoy on preserving Holocaust remembrance and combatting antisemitism;
- \$5M additional funding for Montreal’s Holocaust Museum, in addition to the \$20M delivered under Budget 2022;
- \$5M over five years to create a new National Holocaust Remembrance Program to educate Canadians about the Holocaust, fight against its denial, and raise awareness of anti-Semitism.

All these measures have been applauded and welcomed by Canada’s leading Jewish organizations, including CIJA.

While Pierre Poilievre’s Conservatives have voted against funding for the Holocaust Museum, against funding for CSIS to fight terrorism and against funding for the RCMP to combat gun crime as recently as December 2023, it is our government that continues to deliver.

I will be voting for all of these measures to fight anti-Semitism. I look forward to MP Lantsman doing the same.

ANNA GAINEY, MP – NDG-WESTMOUNT

DISMISSIVE RESPONSE FAILS TO
ADDRESS CHARGES OF BIAS

Copies of this email were sent Mayor Christina Smith, councillors Antonio D’Amico, Elisabeth Roux and Jeff Shamie, and the Westmount Dog Owners Association.

Your dismissive response to valid criticisms of biased reporting – “Blame the press!” – is both irresponsible and disingenuous (Letters, April 30, p. 9). This flip-pant remark undermines the legitimate concerns raised by community members about the integrity of your journalism, particularly when the full text of the letter from the province revealed the extent of the initial misrepresentations.

It is not only reasonable but necessary for the public to demand accountability from its press. True journalistic integrity involves facing criticism squarely, not deflecting it.

As members of this community, we deserve a newspaper that upholds the highest standards of accuracy and professionalism, and we will continue to hold you to that standard.

KAROLINA VICTORIA JEZ,
MOUNT PLEASANT

Editor’s reply: You imply that I lack “true journalistic integrity” and avoid “facing criticism squarely,” but I have now published two of your letters (plus many from your fellow partisans) and you base some arguments in this new missive on information that is available to you because of my choice to publish the province’s whole letter to Councillor D’Amico about Quebec’s dog-leash laws.

I disagree with you, and find your tone and approach unnecessarily antagonistic (why copy government officials?), but your views on our articles are welcome here.

But it really isn’t about any of that, is it? You and/or your allies just want to walk your dogs off leash in Summit Woods. Don’t blame me, the *Independent* or our reporter for the fact that you have opponents who want the opposite. We didn’t create them. And they are as attached to their beliefs as your side, and have just as much right to exercise their democratic and legal rights.

Personally, though, I have spent exactly zero seconds, minutes and hours in my whole life thinking about what the rules for dogs should be in Summit Woods, up to and including writing this sentence.

Now if someone proposes a beer garden up there, I will have opinions!

The funny thing is that you and many of your allies seem angry, but you are *winning*. I expect the council vote cementing the unleashed-dogs-allowed status quo (which is expected to take place the evening of May 6, after this issue goes to press) will be 7-1, with the mayor’s pro-status-quo casting vote not needed but there in reserve.

Even if your opponents go ahead with their possible lawsuit, they are likely years away from a trial date, never mind a final bullet-proof, post-appellate-court victory – which of course might not happen at all (i.e. they might lose). Why all the angst from your side? – DP.

ISSUES AT SUMMIT WOODS
NOT FAULT OF DOGS

The current project to ban off-leash dogs from Summit Woods has one single origin: some people simply don’t like dogs. A similar project was launched when the old dog-run at Lansdowne was closed and a new one proposed – and finally created thanks to the then mayor Peter Trent.

Then yet again the dog fearers insisted the dog-runs be shut at the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic – claiming dogs spread the virus.

Now the claim is that un-leashed dogs at the summit attack walkers and/or are destroying the woods. The woods have been totally

continued on p. 9

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Editor

David Price: 514.935.4537
editor@westmountindependent.com

Chief reporter
Laureen Sweeney

Graphics
Ted Sancton

Advertising sales

Arleen Candiotti: 514.223.3567
advertising@westmountindependent.com

Classified ads
514-664-6138

Accounting
Beth Hudson: 514.223.6138
office@westmountindependent.com

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Source material regarding dogs' effects on nature reserves

Editor's note

I have been asked about the "Gompper" reference in Heather Black's column of last week ("Summit Woods: Rally for conservation and heritage status," p. 10). In preparing her column, I misunderstood an email from her. The "Frankenstein" sentence that resulted and that ended up being published (changing portion in italics) was:

"However, as dog scent prevents nesting (Gompper 2014), conservation necessitates a quiet 'nature reserve' of dog-free trails along Warbler's Walk in the southwest corner."

Heather in fact wrote two sentences, the second of which was supposed to replace the first, but both of which she stands by. Below is more on those sentences and her sources. – DP.

Columnist's note

The original sentence (changing portion in italics) was: *"However as dog scent prevents nesting (ProtectNatureTO), conservation necessitates a quiet 'nature reserve' of dog-free trails along Warbler's Walk in the southwest corner."*

Here is what I meant by "Protect-NatureTO."

Perhaps the best-known paper on this subject is Lori Hennings' report for the Portland Oregon Metropolitan Region: "Even the scent of dog urine or feces can trigger wildlife to avoid an area."

"Therefore, the impacts of dog presence can linger long after the dog is gone, even days later. One literature review found that predator odors caused escape, avoidance, freezing, and altered behavior in a large suite of wildlife species including scores of amphibian, reptile, bird, and mammal species from other studies" (p. 4).

To find excerpts from this document – and a link to Hennings' whole report – go to ProtectNatureTo.org, then "Resources," then "Our Publications," then the fourth paragraph/link, and then scroll to p. 2 of the pdf.

Furthermore, an experiment with nesting-boxes, "Smelling Out Predators is Innate in Birds," confirmed park observations as birds avoided the "predator scent," boxes, but not those with the "control scent" (Luisa Amo, Marcel E. Visser and Kees van Oers, 2011).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

neglected since one fairly major overhaul that involved a lot of new rocks and plantings several decades ago. Now some dead and diseased trees have been cut down but not removed. None of these results has anything to do with dogs – leashed or free. They are the result of the city's neglect of the park.

I have walked an un-leashed dog regularly at the summit (except for April 16 to June 15 [i.e. during the bird-nesting season]) since 1978, all the while following the various restrictions as to when a dog can be un-leashed. Many fellow dog walkers will remember Willa (1978-1991), Tessa (1992-2005), Tacha (2005-15) and now Emma (2016-).

In all these years, I have never witnessed a dog fight or an attack on a fellow walker. In fact, dog-free walkers are rare during the hours when un-leashed dogs are permitted. Most dogs (including mine) rarely stray from the paths. Inspections by members of Public Security are even rarer—although I have seen numerous bicycle riders on the paths and several camp fires in the woods.

Summit Woods desperately needs horticultural attention and more monitoring by Public Security – not a new and unnecessary ruling on the freedom of un-leashed dogs.

JO LAPIERRE, METCALFE AVE.

Version 2

Version 2 of the sentence (changing portion in italics) was: *"As dog presence and barking cause birds to abandon nests (Gompper 2014), conservation necessitates a quiet 'nature reserve' of dog-free trails along Warbler's Walk in the southwest corner."*

Here is what I meant by "Gompper 2014."

Since dog scent – as well as presence and barking – repels more low-nesting birds such as robins or cardinals than woodpeckers, I referenced Gompper's 2013/2014 book *Free-Ranging Dogs and Wildlife Conservation*, in which he wrote: "ground-dwelling, and especially ground-nesting birds are most likely to interact with dogs" (p. 102) and "evoke antipredator behaviors, commonly vigilance, flight, retreat to refuge, freezing behavior, or hiding... and often involve ceasing normal activities (e.g., foraging, parental care, resting, display)" (p. 94).

Even more info

If you are interested in this fascinating subject, my talk "Scents: Sense & Survival" will take place at the Westmount Public Library on Tuesday May 14 at 3:30 pm. All nature lovers are welcome! – HB.

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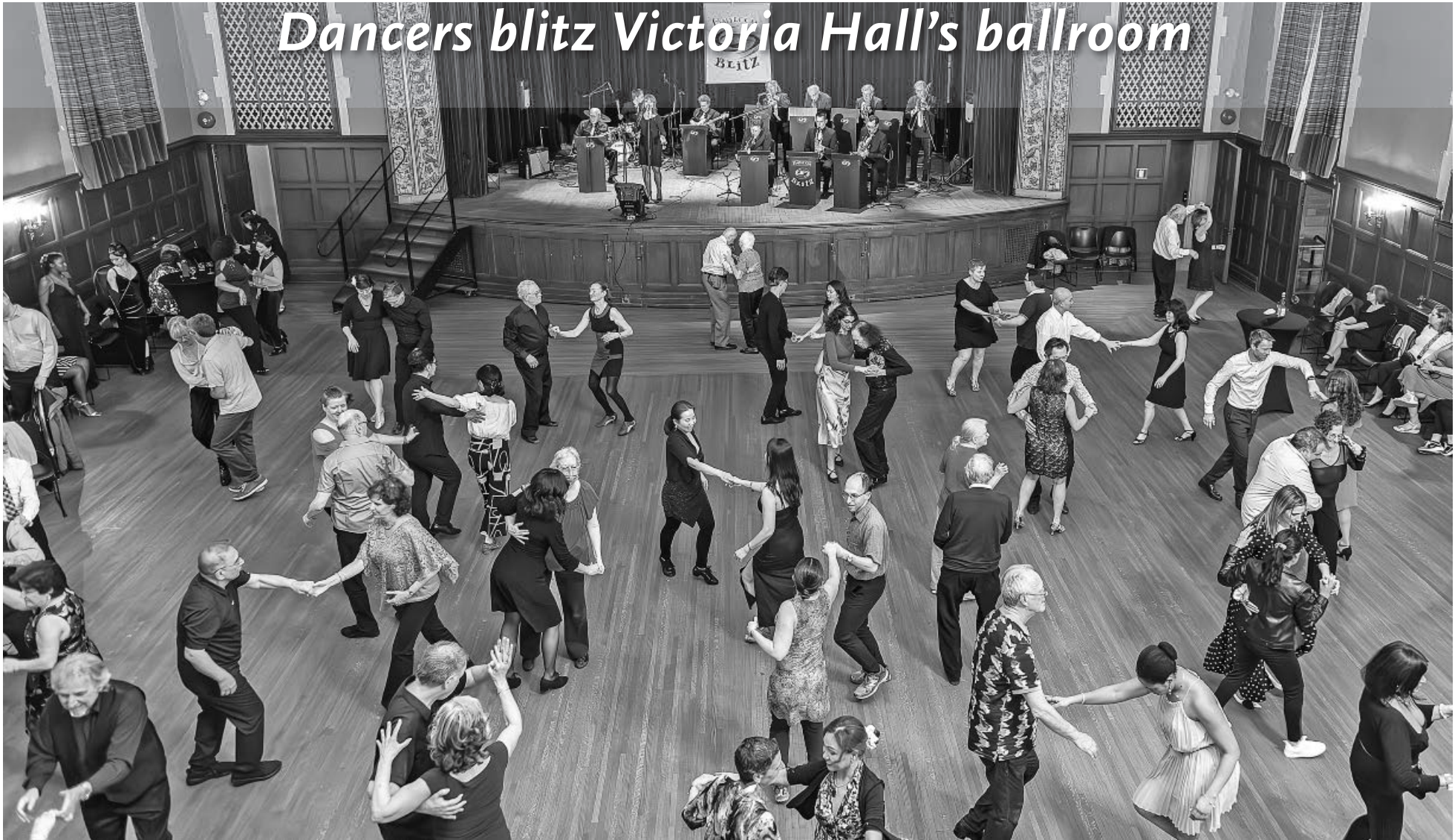
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Dancers blitz Victoria Hall's ballroom

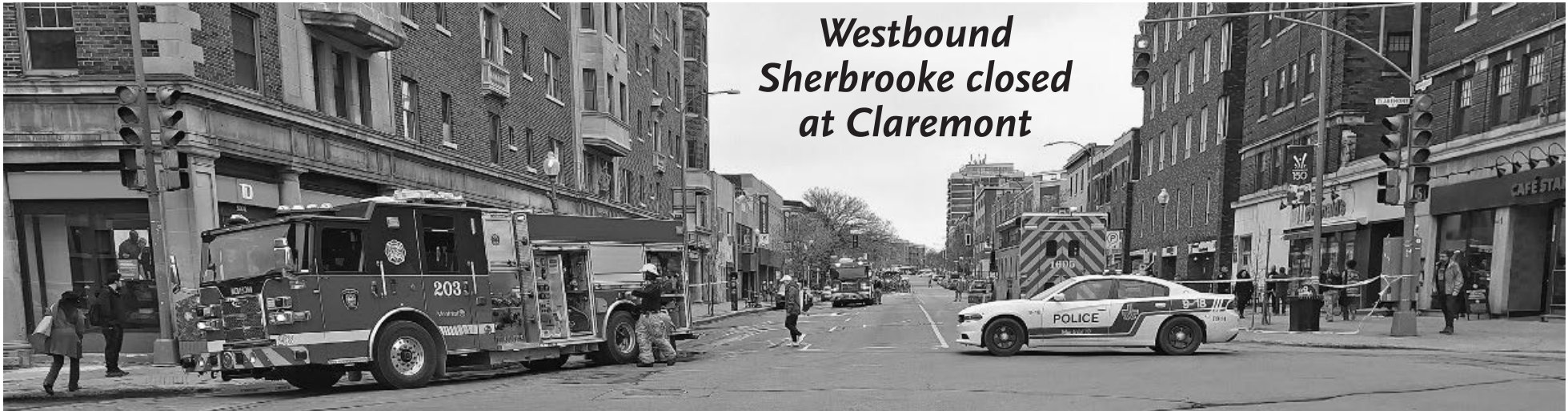
BY RALPH THOMPSON

Victoria Hall was rocking the evening of May 4, but not with rock-and-roll. For one evening, the hall stepped back to its *raison d'être* as a graceful post-Victorian-era centre for big-band dances, stylish dresses and tasteful good manners. But with a modern touch and a few Nike sneakers. Local Arthur Murray Dance School

owner Christopher Panasuk and teacher Jennifer Roy spent an hour demonstrating the basic steps, body movements and turns of foxtrot and swing to a largely experienced group of dancers. Novices quickly picked up on the essentials. Even before the band started, couples were connecting and sweeping onto the floor for a dreamy waltz. By 8 pm, the elegant Victoria Hall was

alive with music from the 11-piece Blitz Combo ballroom band, and with fluid footwork, twisting torsos and sunny smiles. The young and the old intermingled in perfect harmony. The enthusiasm was palpable, no apprehension, strangers met, smiled, took up their positions and the party started. City of Westmount organizers Emily Gamble, agent, community events & logis-

tics, and Méliissa Denis-Daigneault, technician, art gallery and events, were busy all evening serving up lots of refreshing drinks. Tickets were \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Over 100 people registered beforehand but close to 200 turned up ready to dance. And dance they did until midnight.



Westbound Sherbrooke closed at Claremont

There was an electrical fire underground somewhere west of Claremont, an agglomeration firefighter told the *Independent* May 2.

PHOTO: BETH HUDSON.

Spring means birdsong, mixed reviews

Lucy Tyson



@lucy_and_tyson

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Chabad opens Alain Abraham Music Room



From left, guitar student Zachary Rehany with Holocaust survivor Ted Bolgar.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHABAD OF WESTMOUNT.

The Chabad Westmount Jewish Community Center and Experience recently announced the creation of the Alain Abraham Music Room.

It was named by benefactor Dov Amzallag for his late father, an accomplished pianist who in his later years played piano at local seniors’ residences.

Dov’s connection to music was summarized by Chabad’s press release in this way: “For Dov Amzallag, music is a memory – For Dov Amzallag, music is a connection – For Dov Amzallag, music is giving.”

Dov’s search for a way to memorialize his father led him to Chabad of Westmount, located in Westmount Square.

“The Chabad Westmount has everything I’m looking for in a centre,” Dov is quoted as saying in the release. “The rabbis are dynamic, their vision is inspiring, and the location is excellent.

“I cannot think of a better venue for a musical space dedicated to my dear father Alain Abraham Amzallag. The world could certainly use a little more love, a little more kindness, and certainly a little more music.”

Through Chabad of Westmount’s Project Together, which will be one of the users the room, seniors and students are paired, “bridging together generations today for a kinder, wiser tomorrow,” summed up the release.

No plans to close again Cabot Square entrance to Atwater Metro station re-opens

BY JENNIFER BALL

The Atwater Metro entrance in Cabot Square was closed for security reasons from April 19 until April 30 (see April 30, p. 13).

It re-opened on May 1 but not early enough for the commute to work.

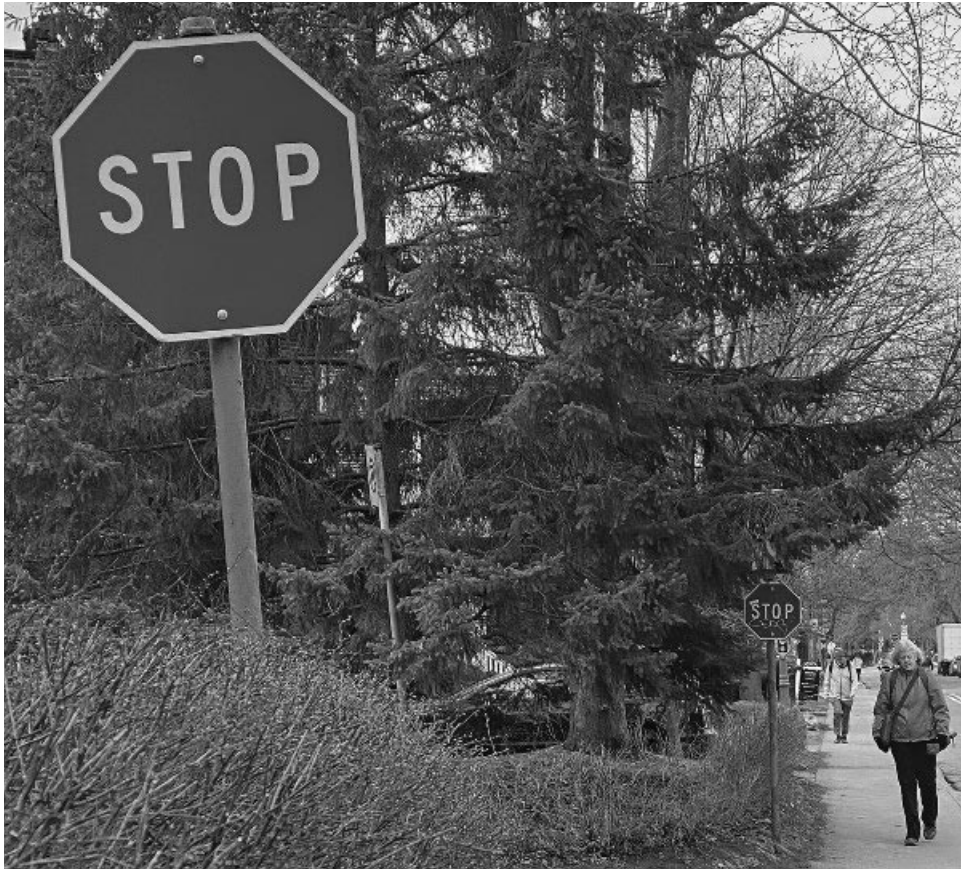
The Metro entrance is found in Cabot Square at the corner of Atwater Ave., and

St. Catherine St., and is east of Westmount’s border with downtown.

Re-opening

A spokesperson for The Montreal Transport Company (STM) provided information on the re-opening. Laurence Houde-Roy, corporate advisor of public affairs and assistant general manager of strategy, partner relations and communications at the STM,

Stop twice? And not at all?



The de Maisonneuve bike path at the corner of Kensington Ave. on April 10.

BY JENNIFER BALL

Travelling east on the de Maisonneuve bike path on the morning of April 10, the *Independent* observed two confusing stop signs at the corner of Kensington Ave. There was no stop sign for east-travelling cyclists on the bike path, whereas there were two stop signs in a row for west-travelling cyclists: one stop sign was posted on the east side of Kensington Ave., and one stop sign was on the west side. Presumably one had been turned around on its post. Cyclists are not famous for stopping at stop signs in any event, but the *Independent* notified Westmount Public Security anyway.



Correction: Library organized Hanna rail talk

While David Hanna’s talk on the evolution of the railways in Canada (April 30, p. 18) was historically focused, contrary to what we wrote, it was not a Westmount Historical Association (WHA) event. The library organized it. – DP.

Moving in for at least 28 days

Three ducks spotted nesting, hanging out at Manoir Westmount

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

New residents? Two nesting ducks were attracted to the courtyard patio at the Manoir Westmount seniors' residence on the fringes of Westmount Park last week. The site is near the city lagoon in Westmount Park, but for now the ducks appear to have chosen quieter company.

"One of them laid its egg right in front of a resident's window as the curtain was being opened," said Naomi Cohen, resident relations supervisor. "We have contacted the city and were instructed by them that these ducks must remain here, un-

touched for a period of 28 days," she said.

The first egg was spotted May 2 in one of the nests and others were expected. The ducks' choice of the Manoir seems to be a recurring experience, she added. "I'm told it's probably at least the fifth or sixth known time, though I know of one previous year."

She suggested the location was sought out because the patio garden is near the lane bordering the park.

The next day, a second egg was found and a third duck was spotted.

See photo on p. 1.

Demolition by-law, cont'd from p. 1

include the impact of a demolition on the neighbourhood and the re-use of building materials.

In summarizing the changes, Mayor Christina Smith singled out the importance being placed on involving the Westmount Heritage Council and more precise criteria on what constitutes a demolition.

City: Previous by-law was open to interpretation

In presenting the new by-law at the draft stage October 16, Councillor Conrad Peart, as commissioner of infrastructure, urban planning and architecture, had described the city's existing demolition by-law as leaving too much for interpretation, especially when it comes to what constitutes a demolition (see story October 24, 2023, p. 8).

Among some of the new criteria are that any changes to a Category I* heritage building – even a minor alteration – would constitute a demolition.

He had also recalled what had happened in re-developing the office building at 4898 de Maisonneuve, at Prince Albert, into con-

dominiums when the developer initially avoided a demolition meeting by meeting certain criteria five years ago (see August 13, 2019, p. 1), but the job turned into a legal "demolition" three years ago as work progressed (see October 19, 2021, p. 1). This project is still under way.

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PINK TEA

VENDREDI 10 MAI (14 H) FRIDAY, MAY 10 (2 PM)

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**La mairesse Christina M. Smith et les membres du conseil
invitent le public à l'événement de « finissage » de l'exposition
« Les femmes sont des personnes ! » de la Fondation Famous 5,
qui est exposée à l'hôtel de ville de Westmount jusqu'au 15 mai.**

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Mayor Christina M. Smith and Council extend an invitation
to the public for a Pink Tea "finissage" of the Famous 5 Foundation's
"Women Are Persons!" exhibit, on display at Westmount City Hall
until May 15.

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to be leaders and nation builders!

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of the "Women Are Persons!" maquette exhibit.



Q: Do you know where, when this photo was taken?

A: At an Eaton's department store employee-awards ceremony on the ninth floor of the downtown Montreal store c. 1935. In the detail at right, Lily Kutzin is in the middle. In the large photo, she is in the front row, seventh from the left. The arrow has been added by the *Independent*. Find out more about her on p. 23.



Cars collide outside Alexis Nihon, Dawson

A city parking inspector reported a two-car collision on de Maisonneuve outside Dawson College May 1 at 5:55 pm, Public Security officials said. One was a Hyundai Electra; the other a Toyota Camry that had to be towed. The incident occurred when one was exiting the ramp of the parkade at Alexis Nihon Plaza. – LS

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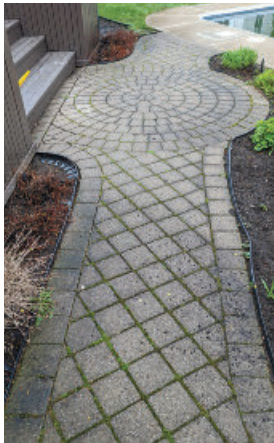


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Jakarta maps city, for city



This Jakarto vehicle was photographed on Park Place April 9. What is it doing? For whom? As Félix Laroche, CEO, explained to us Aprill 11 by email, “The data we collect (Lidar and 360 imagery) is to create an engineering-grade digital twin of the territory, in this case for the city of Westmount. This 3D digital twin allows municipal employees ... to avoid travelling ... This allows them to drastically reduce travel within the territory, better manage assets and improve the service provided to citizens.”

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in November 2023, gleaned from city and non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 20

Three Westmount home sales were registered for more than \$4 million last November, but in fact without those three to pull the average price over \$3 million, there were no registrations in the \$2 to \$3 million brackets, and five sales were between \$1,695,000 and \$1,990,000.

The top three were relatively new houses, by Westmount standards, built between 1965 and 2013, the top price, for 51 Surrey Gardens, at \$6,100,000 and the lowest of the three at \$4,800,000.

The lowest price among house sales in November was for 9 Winchester Ave., \$1,695,000, among the highest minimum

More real estate transfers this issue!

December analysis, p. 18

November list, p. 20

December list, p. 21

November transfers: Three big ones

prices in Westmount’s history; that sale also represented November’s highest home price mark-up over city valuation, at 23.3 percent.

The biggest mark-down of the month was recorded by the sale of 475 Côte St. Antoine Rd., whose \$1,750,000 price represented 29.4 percent less than the city tax assessment.

The eight November transfers represented an outlay of \$25,805,000 for houses with a total municipal valuation of \$25,802,800, thus almost exactly zero over-all average mark-up.

The average of all the sales is \$3,225,625, the fourth time in five months that the average had been higher than \$3 million.

One condo

Quite surprisingly, only one condominium sold in November, Apartment 1402 at Château Westmount Square, 4175 St. Catherine St., which had been owned by Giuseppe Trimarchi since 2006. Angelo Trimarchi is credited with building the 22-storey skyscraper in 1989.

Four condominiums with an average price of \$698,750 sold in October, so the one sale in November boosts the average price to \$924,500 for the fourth quarter of 2023, excluding December.

The only other sale registered in November involved 67 Stayner St., the smaller of two units at 67-69 Stayner, which counts for 37.7 percent of the duplex and sold for \$755,000, or 33 percent higher than its proportionate share of the valuation. That was, in fact, the highest mark-up for any of the sales transacted in November.



51 Surrey Gardens.



475 Côte St. Antoine.



67-69 Stayner.



9 Winchester. All photos April 23.

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NEWLY PRICED

471 AV. LANSDOWNE, WESTMOUNT
4 BEDS, 3+1 BATHS | **\$2,395,000**



NEWLY PRICED

427 AV. LANSDOWNE, WESTMOUNT
4 BEDS, 2+2 BATHS | **\$2,290,000**



17 CH. DE CASSON, WESTMOUNT
6 BEDS, 3+1 BATHS | **\$2,190,000**



4025 AV. DE MELROSE, CDN/NDG
4+1 BEDS, 2+1 BATHS | **\$2,075,000**



339 AV. GROSVENOR, WESTMOUNT
4 BEDS, 3 BATHS | **\$1,698,000**



NEWLY PRICED

3568 AV. MARLOWE, CDN/NDG
5+1 BEDS, 2+1 BATHS | **\$1,649,000**



NEWLY PRICED

33 PLACE UPPER-TRAFALGAR, VILLE-MARIE
3+1 BEDS, 2+2 BATHS | **\$1,495,000**



3 RUE WESTMOUNT-SQUARE #516, WESTMOUNT
2 BEDS, 2 BATHS | **\$1,440,000**



4212 BOUL. DE MAISONNEUVE O. #1, WESTMOUNT
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December transfers: Volume soars, mark-ups tumble



Real Estate
ANDY DODGE

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in December 2023, sales, gleaned from city and non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 21.

Volume soared but mark-ups took a tumble in Westmount real estate sales registered in December last year, rounding out the year with 16 sales and including only the second case of a house price at less than \$1 million in 2023.

While the last month of the year is usually sedate, averaging just over 12 one- and two-family sales, and after Westmount recorded only eight sales in November, December's volume was the highest for that month since 2018 (21 sales) and, before that, 2001 (17 sales).

The highest price in December involved 48 Delavigne Rd., at Westmount's eastern border (in fact, a small amount of land and building is in the city of Montreal), which sold for \$3,275,000.

Prices went down from there to \$900,000 for a semi-detached house at 4490 Sherbrooke St., just east of Melville Ave.

Only six of the sale prices were above municipal evaluation, going up to 64.7 percent for 379 Olivier Ave., while the biggest mark-down was nearby at 358 Olivier Ave., 43.7 percent below tax value. Overall, the average price:valuation ratio was 96.2 percent, only the second time in 2023 that the

monthly average was a minus figure, after June tallied a 93.8 percent average.

As with November's sales list, only one condominium sale closed in December, at 12 Park Place which, again, went for less than its 2023 valuation. The November and December sales add to five in October to bring the fourth-quarter average price (for condominiums) to \$1,019,500, its lowest quarterly average since mid-summer 2020, when the pandemic lock-down was at its peak and only four condos were sold.

Olivier Ave. experienced a third sale in December, as a 60-percent share of the duplex at 330-32 Olivier changed hands for \$1,200,000, some 23 percent less than the proportionate share of the building's valuation. The price includes the use of 330 Olivier, the ground floor and basement of the duplex.



48 Delavigne Rd.



379 Olivier




4490 Sherbrooke St. All photos April 23.

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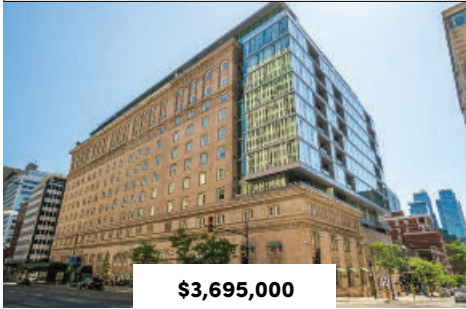
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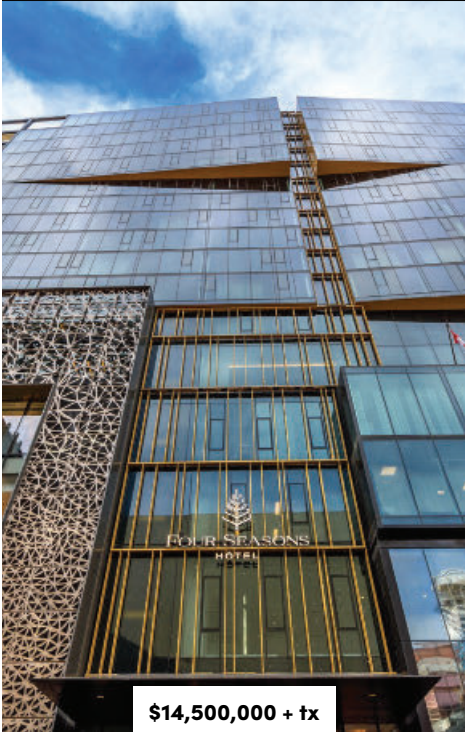
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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in November 2023

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (±%)
27 Barat	Philip Hazan	\$1,990,000	\$1,639,600	21.4%
75 Belvedere Place	estate Thomas Nacos	\$4,800,000	\$3,893,700	23.3%
475 Côte St. Antoine	Lilian Stein Howick	\$1,750,000	\$2,479,300	-29.4%
252 Metcalfe	Andrew Reid-Workman	\$1,895,000	\$1,911,400	-0.9%
74 Summit Circle	estate Lyner Strulovitch	\$5,775,000	\$6,673,900	-13.5%
51 Surrey Gardens	Lilian Léonard	\$6,100,000	\$5,860,900	4.1%
9 Thornhill	Itanying Diao & Hanghang Xu	\$1,800,000	\$1,969,300	-8.6%
9 Winchester	Stéphane Rapoport Schwartz	\$1,695,000	\$1,374,700	23.3%
CONDOMINIUMS				
4175 St. Catherine #1402	Giuseppe Trimarchi	\$1,827,500	\$1,385,400	31.9%
OTHER				
67-69 Stayner, 37.7%	Jason Opal & Holly Stuart Boss	\$755,000	\$566,744 ¹	33.2%

¹Valuation is 37.7 percent of \$1,503,300. Exclusive use of 67 Stayner



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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in December 2023

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2023 VAL	RATIO (±%)
650 Belmont	René Douville & Sylvie Cardin	\$2,185,000	\$1,910,300	14.4%
41 Burton	Simon Azar & Nadia Soubra	\$1,640,000	\$1,588,700	3.2%
78 Chesterfield	Dr. Céline Laferrière	\$1,905,000	\$2,140,900	-11.0%
7 Côte St. Antoine	Zhen Ni	\$1,388,888	\$1,617,000	-14.1%
48 Delavigne	Michel Couture & Donna Lutfy	\$3,275,000	\$3,245,500 ¹	0.9%
322 Elm	Jeffrey Feifer	\$2,120,000	\$2,480,200	-14.5%
4314 Montrose	Felice Ackman	\$1,750,000	\$2,160,600	-19.0%
4371 Montrose	Rozalia Mayer-Vexler	\$1,998,000	\$1,978,000	1.0%
358 Olivier	Helen Dzus-Birmingham	\$1,070,000	\$1,899,000	-43.7%
379 Olivier	Carl Remillard-Fontaine & Lindsay Neufeld	\$2,905,000	\$1,764,100	64.7%
43 Prospect	Sarah Broccolini & Gordon Milligan	\$1,845,000	\$1,470,100	25.5%
333 Redfern	Sheila Rosenbaum & Lawrence Scolnick	\$2,615,000	\$2,792,400	-6.4%
4490 Sherbrooke	Patrick Tee	\$900,000	\$1,228,900	-26.8%
473 Strathcona	Diana del Motte, Marieke Dacia Andranovitch & estate Ion Andranovitch	\$1,800,000	\$2,200,100	-18.2%
512 Victoria	estate Edda Bini	\$1,865,000	\$2,047,200	-8.9%
4358 Westmount Ave.	estate Marilyn Sussman	\$2,750,000	\$2,752,800	-0.1%
CONDOMINIUMS				
12 Park Place #1	George Klein	\$650,000	\$667,000	-2.5%
OTHER				
330-32 Olivier, 60%	Nicolas du Bouëtiez de Kerorguen & Liliana Margarita du Bouëtiez de Kerorguen	\$1,200,000	\$1,551,780 ²	-22.7%

¹Valuation is a combination of \$2,904,000 in Westmount, \$341,500 in Montreal. ²Valuation is 60% of \$2,586,300. Exclusive use of 330 Olivier.



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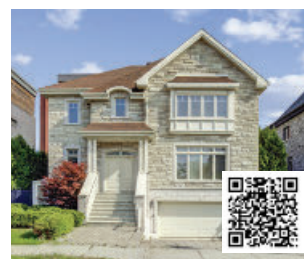
 

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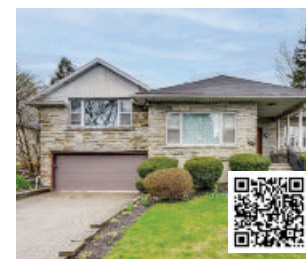
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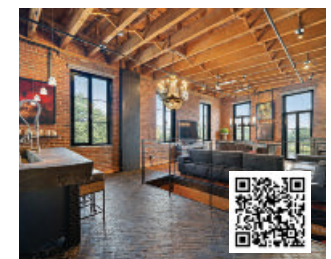
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The Two Sandras ... remember mothers

Rae Yanofsky (1915-2004): Extroverted, generous, welcoming

BY SANDRA HENDLISZ,
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

My mother, Rae Yanofsky, was born in 1915 in Novoselytsia, at the time Moldovia, now Ukraine. She passed away in 2004, just shy of her 90th birthday, after a life of good health. She was a typical mother of her generation. In the 1940s and 1950s, women were defined by their abilities to be mothers and housewives. They were obliged to care for their children, clean the home and take care of all domestic responsibilities.

My mother took care of the house. She cleaned every day. The carpets were covered with plastic runners and the furniture was covered in plastic. In those days, only 15 percent of women were in the workforce compared to 70 percent now.

Women becoming majority

At present, university departments like medicine are majority women. Law, architecture, accounting and engineering will no doubt be the same in a few years in every way.

My mother was proud of her children and there is no doubt that we were the main focus of her life. I wanted to please my mother even though I may not have valued some of the goals she had for me.

We all knew her expectations and I know I wanted to meet them. My mother wanted me to do well in school, get married, have children and never get divorced.

I wanted to go to university, even though my grandparents thought it was unnecessary for a girl. When I was accepted at McGill, they decided that I should go as I



Rae Yanofsky.

would find a better husband.

When I married at the age of 21, my mom was delighted. We moved to Ithaca, New York, where my husband at the time was a graduate student at Cornell. My parents often came to visit and, when they did, my mother was eager to participate in campus life.

She was happy to meet our friends and she accompanied us to parties where she danced the night away.

She always, even when I was in high school, welcomed my friends. My parents used to rent a cottage in the Laurentians. I would go on weekends and she often awoke in the morning
with five of my friends *continued on p. 24*

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 and August 23, 2022 for their previous reminiscences.

Lily Kutzin (1914-1986): Quick learner, saleswoman, feminist

BY SANDRA FELDMAN, GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Almost 100 years ago, when Lily Kutzin, my mother, was 12, she and her family settled in Montreal, leaving behind their *shtetl* (village) home near Kiev.

Behind them were anti-Semitic pogroms, plagues and poverty. Ahead were freedom and opportunity.

She quickly learned English and French and completed grade 7 at Bancroft School. Not yet 15, beautiful and poised, she got her first and only job selling draperies at Eaton's. To do their "window treatments," she visited large Westmount and Outremont homes and acquired a fine sense of taste.

Prizes were awarded to successful salespeople and, in a very proud moment, she shook the hand of the nephew of Canada's "royal family," Robert Craig Eaton. The ceremony took place on Eaton's ninth floor, in the famous 1930s Art Deco dining hall currently about to re-open as a restaurant (see photo p. 14).

In the audience that day was her best friend at the store, another Lily, who was the only other Jewish female employee. That Lily's granddaughter recently published a small paperback novel and her daughter gave my grandson a copy. Called *The Most Amazing Department Store*, it is a thinly disguised story of those two Jewish girls and their working life. How proud my mother would have been to see this!

She had stopped work to marry, leaving behind much of her identity, income and independence.

Kept maiden name

Not completely, however. She kept her maiden name on her joint bank account with my father and she regularly took me downtown for visits with her friends still working there. Afterwards, the reward was dessert and a drink on the ninth floor of Eaton's.

I believe she was an early feminist. She thought "women and men are equal, except women are perhaps a little better because we can have babies."

Adjusting to motherhood cannot have been easy since one of her two daughters (me) was a picky eater and often sick. Not fulfilled by the idea of "women belong in the home," she nevertheless was influenced by the prevailing boundaries of "No wife of mine will ever have to work."

Often, she stressed the importance of education for security, saying marriage could not alone guarantee anything. "A man can leave, get sick or die."



Lily Kutzin.

Fervently devoted to her parents, she visited them daily and was also close to her family in New York.

And she continued to work, this time with my dad in the evenings helping with business decisions. He relied on her logical, calm reasoning.

Anxieties

Emotionally, she was anxious all of her life. She had a wide range of fears: swimming, cold milk from the fridge, thunder and lightning, cold weather, the pressure cooker, fried foods and driving in the car's passenger seat going up and down hills.

Because she feared bad weather would lead to disease, one rainy day in grade 5 she embarrassed me by knocking on the door of my classroom holding my rubber boots.

She cooked certain things well: cabbage soup, cabbage rolls, stuffed veal, apple pie and cake. We ate meat twice a day.

My mother and I spent all our time together until I started school. She let me help her hang laundry on the clothesline on our apartment house roof. She tried, and failed, to keep me from peering over the edge.

Ambitious for us, she stayed up past midnight coaching me with old exams so that I could succeed in school. As a teen, I found her sometimes over controlling and judgemental (she called it "discriminating"). We had monumental arguments.

But I also remember how empathic she was. A healthy person her whole life, and still beautiful, she died of a heart attack at 71. To this day, I am grateful for her love, her influence and her devotion.

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Rae Yanofsky, cont'd from p. 22

asleep on the floor. My mom loved all of this and embraced all my friends.

From Cornell, we often returned to Montreal for Passover. I often brought guests from foreign lands. These guests were warmly accepted and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. She cooked and cleaned for them.

My parents were shocked and very disappointed when they learned of my divorce. My mom often referred to divorced women as “floozy,” until I became one. She was embarrassed and told her friends that I was just visiting Montreal when, in fact, I was living here with two children.

In spite of the evident joy in my mother, she was plagued with anxiety and was constantly worried and nervous. When I said that I would arrive at her house at a designated time and I was five minutes late, she was outdoors in her housedress looking and waiting for me.

Because my mom was a twin and weighed one pound at birth, I believe she developed a fragile nervous system. She had been wrapped in absorbent cotton as incubators were not available at the time. Her twin, a boy, died at birth.

My mom went to work when all three of her children were out of the house. She worked as a saleslady at a local children’s clothing store in a nearby shopping centre. Because of her extroverted personality, she befriended all of her customers, who were mostly young women. They would often not purchase anything if my mother was not in the store. When my youngest child was born, my mom found us a baby sitter, who she met at the post office when she was standing in line and chatting. That babysitter became a member of the family until she passed away.

Extraordinary grandmother

To my children, my mother was an extraordinary grandmother. She adored her grandchildren and participated in their lives as much as she could. She offered them a home-away-from-home. My son recently told me that the support my mother offered him is deeply appreciated and something he will never forget. My daughter Jen often went to my mom’s for lunch from school. Now, as a grandmother I feel she was a model to me.

My friends liked my mother for her warmth and inclusiveness. Her house was open to all and she was superbly generous. I accept and respect the environment in which I was raised and the motherly skills my mother provided.



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Police Report

Pickpockets, bike thieves more active with warm weather

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A recent wallet-snatching at Westmount Square serves as a reminder that with the arrival of spring, pickpockets may be active again in some of Westmount's busiest commercial gathering places.

The incident took place around closing time at 5 pm on April 27, when an elderly woman who was riding an up-escalator inside the basement-level mall was apparently bumped by a passing stranger.

Although she couldn't positively confirm there was a connection, she later realized that her wallet was missing from her purse, while she also remembered the slight jolt she felt on the escalator.

"We can't confirm that that's what occurred, but that's where she believes she was pickpocketed," said Cst. Mike Yigit, community relations officer at the Montreal police department's Station 12 on Stanton St.

As well, he continued, when the woman called the financial institutions responsible for her bank and credit cards to cancel them, she found that a \$1,000 purchase had already been made.

The police's advice to those hoping to protect their wallets from pickpockets in high-traffic areas is two-fold:

- If you're wearing slacks or jeans, carry the wallet preferably in a front pants pocket where it'll be tight and secure; for those stowing their wallet in a purse, strap it around the front of your body (rather than dangling from the shoulder), while making sure it's zippered or clasped shut.
- As an added precaution should your wallet get stolen, Cst. Yigit recommends keeping the number of banking or credit cards you carry around to a minimum.

"Some people have multiple credit cards – some of them they never use," he said, noting that, for example, carrying around a social insurance card isn't necessary. "Do you absolutely need five credit cards when you go out? It's good to limit the cards you keep in your wallet."

Warm weather means bike thefts, including one on Somerville

The warmer weather could be stirring up another kind of criminal activity that tends to rise in Montreal during the summer – bicycle theft.

During the night on April 27, a determined thief stole a bicycle resting on a second-story balcony behind a home on

Somerville Ave.

He did so even though the \$800 bike was locked and chained to the veranda. According to Cst. Yigit, the perpetrator was probably able to access the balcony by an outdoor stairway.

Yigit advises bike owners to be extra cautious when locking up, as the demand for bicycles (whether bought or stolen) tends to grow stronger this time of year.

"Because it's warmer weather, people will want to bike more and there's more of a demand," he added.

Ford F-150 pick-up stolen from Lansdowne Ave.

While a surge in recent months in stolen cars in Westmount appears to have mostly abated, there was yet another theft last week of one of the most sought-after vehicles.

According to a Station 12 incident report, a Ford F-150 light-duty pickup truck was stolen during the night on April 28 from a parking spot in front of the owner's home on Lansdowne Ave.

"He parked it during the evening of the 28th around 10 o'clock, and in the morning when he got up, it was gone," said Cst. Yigit.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada lists the Ford F-150 as number three on a list of the top-10 most stolen vehicles in Canada.

According to an earlier report in the *Independent*, a Ford F-150 was stolen under very similar circumstances on the night of February 12-13 from a parking spot also outside a home on Lansdowne Ave.

We also reported that a Ford F-150 that was parked overnight on Kensington Ave. on March 4 was stolen.

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DRAFT BY-LAW RESPECTING THE REMUNERATION OF ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

PUBLIC NOTICE is given according to Section 9 of the *Act respecting the remuneration of elected municipal officers* (CQLR, c. T-11.001) that notice of motion was given and that a draft by-law entitled "**BY-LAW 1622 RESPECTING THE REMUNERATION OF ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICERS**" was tabled by Councillor Jeff J. Shamie at the regular sitting of the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount held on May 6, 2024.

The current and proposed remuneration and allowances in the draft by-law are as follows:

Remuneration and Allowance

Current		Proposed	
Remuneration		Remuneration	
Mayor:	\$76,142.00	Mayor:	\$110,578.00
Councillor:	\$24,273.00	Councillor:	\$24,576.00
Allowance		Allowance	
Mayor:	\$19,422.00	Mayor:	\$19,422.00
Councillor:	\$12,136.00	Councillor:	\$12,288.00
Total		Total	
Mayor:	\$95,564.00	Mayor:	\$130,000.00
Councillor:	\$36,409.00	Councillor:	\$36,864.00

Additional remuneration

A refund may be granted to a member of Council who must use his motor vehicle in order to carry out a trip on behalf of the City, as follows:

- \$0.70 for each kilometer travelled up to a maximum of 350 kilometers in a month;
- \$0.64 for each kilometer over 350 kilometers during the same month.

The rate mentioned above will be adjusted annually, based on the automobile allowance rates published by the Government of Canada in September of the previous year.

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- \$0.64 for each kilometer over 350 kilometers during the same month.

The rate mentioned above will be adjusted annually, based on the automobile allowance rates published by the Government of Canada in September of the previous year.

The draft by-law provides that the above-mentioned remunerations will be indexed annually, as of January 1st, according to the consumer price index. The applicable minimum is 2.5% and the maximum is 4.0%, according to the statutory increases offered to management personnel.

The draft by-law provides that the Acting Mayor will receive an additional remuneration to that paid to her or him as a member of Council, in order that the total remuneration payable during the replacement be equal to that of the Mayor, on a prorated basis.

This by-law, if adopted, will come into force as of January 1, 2024, retroactively.

This draft by-law will be submitted for adoption at the regular sitting of Council which will be held in the Council Chamber at City Hall on **Monday, June 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**

Any interested person may consult the by-law on the City of Westmount's website, through the following link: <https://westmount.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Reglement-1622-projet.pdf>.

GIVEN at Westmount, this May 7, 2024.

Julia Levitin / City Clerk

www.westmount.org

City: Last week’s Upper Lansdowne work ‘not related’ to street re-do

Work to install a water valve required closing the intersection of Edgehill Rd. and Upper Lansdowne Ave. May 1, the city announced on its website April 30. The job was indeed started the next day, as was related work near Sunnyside.

Although the city site stated, “The work should be completed and the intersection re-opened to traffic in the afternoon or evening of Wednesday, May 1,” the site was still busy and Upper Lansdowne closed between Edgehill and Sunnyside on May 3 when the *Independent* went by.

On May 6, the southern portion of Upper Lansdowne was again closed to non-local vehicles as was its entrance at Edgehill. Edgehill was partially open to vehicles, but closed to pedestrians.

This job “is not related” to the major city project to re-do all of Upper Lansdowne, city director of Communications Sebastian Samuel told the *Independent* by email May 2.

That work is scheduled to start at the end of this month (see April 30, p. 4).

A resident of the area told the *Independent*:



Men at work May 3 on Upper Lansdowne.

dent: “Not sure about ‘work not having started,’ as they have already marked the water entries, gas, electrical chambers, cut the sidewalk and road where some of these go, and prepared for switching the water that comes into the house to the overland hose. And the ‘local traffic’ signs are all up.”

Given the sign at Upper Lansdowne and Edgehill, see photo at right, which would seem to anticipate the city’s major project, and the general level of activity, this resident’s skepticism is understandable. – DP.



This sign at Upper Lansdowne and Edgehill was photographed May 3.



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April 18



April 30

As seen on Victoria below Sherbrooke.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

Bank of Canada board member Leitão speaks at Rotary

When will the Bank of Canada cut the prime interest rate, and how quickly?

BY JENNIFER BALL

Who better to ask when the Bank of Canada will cut its key interest rate, and how quickly it will be reduced, than a central bank board member and former Quebec finance minister?

The Rotary Club of Westmount got to put this question to economist Carlos Leitão when he delivered a talk at its May 1 meeting at Victoria Hall.

In May of 2023, federal finance minister Chrystia Freeland appointed him as a director of the Bank of Canada. Leitão told Rotarians that “the mission of the Bank of Canada, being Canada’s central bank, is in fact two-fold: one is to preserve the value of money and by doing that, control inflation...aiming for two-percent inflation...

“But there’s also a second mission – which is equally important, if not even more so – and it’s interconnected: to assure the financial stability of the country...

“As you certainly know, we haven’t had a bank failure in Canada in many, many, moons, and I don’t think we’ll have one. That is largely because of the way the Bank of Canada manages the financial system.”

Leitão: Few banks in Canada? Good.

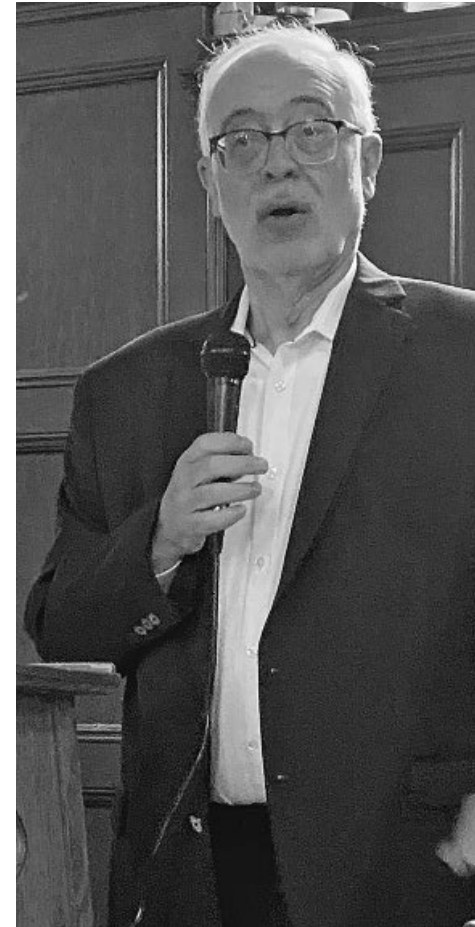
Leitão said a contributing factor to the stability of the financial industry in Canada is the small number of big banks. “It’s much easier if you need to knock heads and make sure that things work, by gathering six or seven bank CEOs in one room, than if you had thousands of banks...

“The role of the Bank of Canada is critical in maintaining the system and preventing financial crisis. Just as an example of what can happen in a financial crisis: we have 2008...

“In Canada in 2007, 2008, the financial crisis was managed and one of the reasons it was easily managed [in Canada] was the fact that the Bank of Canada, right from the outset, took a very active role in making sure that there was sufficient liquidity in the system. They made sure that the commercial banks could access all the required lines of credit from the central bank.”

Circling back to when the Bank of Canada will cut interest rates, he said there are continuing wrinkles, from supply-chain issues to globalization to increased production costs weighing on Bank of Canada considerations.

Leitão said it is still wait-and-see, “The central banks here and elsewhere have decided to be prudent and to see the impact of previous rate decisions on the



Leitão, who is a board member of the Bank of Canada, spoke at the Westmount Rotary club on May 1.

evolution of the economy...

“They all said that they will lower rates, but when will they lower rates? This is what is still up on the air.”

Down, but when? And how fast?

Interest rates will come down, perhaps sooner than we think, but as Governor Tiff Macklem has already pointed out in press briefings, do not expect the downward track of interest rates to mimic the upward one.

“Rates went up quickly. Don’t expect rates to come down quickly,” Leitão said.

Born in Péniche, Portugal, Leitão came to Canada with his family in 1975. He studied economics at McGill University and worked as an economist in the banking sector after graduation, eventually becoming chief economist with Laurentian Bank Securities in Montreal. In this capacity, he was ranked by Bloomberg as one of the top-tier economic forecasters.

In 2014, he was appointed finance minister in the government of Philippe Couillard. He left elected politics in 2022.

Canadiens’ Jordan Harris joins Westmount Park Elementary students for ball hockey, education/career talk

By Martin C. Barry

Although ball hockey matches on the floor of the Westmount Park Elementary School gymnasium aren’t rare by any means, a visit by a Montreal Canadiens defensive player is, and definitely also something that enthusiastic school kids can cheer about.

Habs defenceman Jordan Harris dropped by the school on the morning of April 24 to speak to the kids about himself and the sport. After answering some of their questions, he joined them on the gym floor, along with a few school staff members, for a friendly match of ball hockey.

An attempt was made to add a competitive edge to the game when some staff members donned Boston Bruins jerseys, referencing the historical rivalry between the Habs and that other NHL Original Six team hailing from Massachusetts.

“What do we think of the Bruins?” English Montreal School Board communications director Mike Cohen asked the students, who responded with a loud round of boos.

While many students showed themselves to be diehard Habs fans by wearing the team’s jerseys and colours, Harris chose to play the match dressed in a black Westmount Park Elementary School 2024 graduation hoodie, which was presented to him by school principal Marco Gagliardi.

Education preceded hockey career

Harris, who was selected in the third round, 71st overall, by the Canadiens in the 2018 NHL entry draft, was offered a contract, but decided to spend an extra year studying at Northeastern University in Boston to finish a degree in business administration.

“Hockey is important and development



From left on the playing floor, Montreal Canadiens defenceman Jordan Harris, Westmount Park Elementary student Isaac Khor Kyehing, and physical education teachers Christopher Lecouffe and Effie Kaldis tried to keep up with Harris who scored at least one goal during the ball hockey match.

as a player is important, but I think there’s no rush to get to the next part of your life,” he said, explaining his decision.

“And especially, from an education aspect, the chance to get that degree and get it now, you know, and have that. I guess I’ll never know. But you never know how long you’re going to play for.

“But something that my parents always stressed to me was to take my studies seriously and that always came first when I was growing up,” he added.

Another issue that came up – and which has become very current in professional sports – was concussion injuries. Harris, 23, has suffered concussions while playing hockey in university as well as in the NHL. He was asked about the overall impact.

“It’s definitely a little worrisome at first,” he said, noting that he lost his balance after one of the incidents.

“You definitely have to be careful with that kind of stuff, to make sure your brain is something you’re going to have with you past your playing career, so you can live a great life after you’re done playing,” he said.

Loffreda awarded Star of Italy



Westmount resident and senator Tony Loffreda was recently inducted as an honourable officer of the Order of the Star of Italy. Loffreda is the first Canadian-born senator of Italian descent. He is not an Italian citizen, nor does he have dual citizenship, so it was an exceptional tribute conferred on him by the president of Italy and the minister of foreign affairs. Andrea Ferrari, ambassador of Italy to Canada, presented the award at his residence in Gatineau. “I am grateful and humbled by this honour,” Senator Loffreda noted, adding that his family joined him for the ceremony. – VR

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Approximately 20 players come from here

NDG Baseball draws a following from Westmount

By MARTIN C. BARRY

More than three years ago when Nicolas Langevin was looking for a junior baseball association offering action all season long, the sole resource in Westmount at the time was a league that only played matches at the Westmount Athletics Grounds in May and June, and wasn't involved in inter-city competition.

His mother, an athlete in her own right, wanted Nicolas, 12, to get as much as possible out of the sport that he seemed to be enjoying so much.

"When we wanted to register for baseball, we were told NDG Baseball was really the place where we should go if we were interested in leagues that were big and competitive enough to play seriously," said Vanessa Langevin.

Although NDG Baseball is the official minor baseball association for the Montreal borough of Côte des Neiges-NDG, it also serves the neighbouring cities of Westmount, Côte St. Luc, Hampstead and Montreal West.

Vanessa grew up playing soccer and had initially hoped her children would follow, since she looked forward to returning to the sport as a coach. But as it turned out, her children developed a liking for other sports.

In Nicolas's case, it was baseball. However, his interest in the sport awakened something in his mother and Vanessa now serves as a girls' coach with NDG Baseball.

With a history stretching back more than 60 years, NDG Baseball is regarded as West End Montreal's most important minor league baseball association. It has a current membership of around 365 players



Westmounter Nicolas Langevin, 12, who's been playing with NDG Baseball for more than three years, is seen here on April 14 at the NDG Sports Centre where the association was holding its annual tryouts.

ranging from four to 22 years of age, including up to 20 from Westmount.

NDG Baseball alumnus Russell Martin, who played with the association during the mid-1990s, went on to a 14-year MLB career, including a five-year \$82-million contract with the Toronto Blue Jays, before spending one last season in the majors in 2019 with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

According to NDG Baseball vice-president Noah Sidel, the association has the largest baseball program for girls in the Lac St. Louis sports region, and possibly also on the island of Montreal.

The association underwent a major rebranding last year, so that 'B' level boys' teams, known for years as the Lynx, were renamed the Wildcats.

Similarly, a division for girls has been renamed the Bobcats.

Since last year when NDG Baseball joined Baseball Québec and formalized its girls' program, girls' membership has soared well past the 65 mark, having previously been no higher than 15 girl players.

"We are really putting a big emphasis on girls' baseball," said Sidel, while adding, "We very much believe that the future of growth in any sport is female."



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McKenzie launches *Every Time I Go on Vacation, Someone Dies*

Westmounter Catherine McKenzie, second from left, launched her 18th novel, *Every Time I Go on Vacation, Someone Dies* (published under the pseudonym Catherine Mack), April 30 at the Indigo bookstore downtown. The Italian vacation mystery is published by Minotaur, an imprint of Macmillan.

Her friends, from left, Sophie Perron, Christie Brown and Tanya Bergevin were among those who dropped by to buy a book (or more).

The book is the first of a series. McKenzie is the wife of the *Independent's* editor.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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Paca and Sarabito, sister-and-brother kitten love



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

It is so exciting to have sibling kittens in the family, love and play in one bundle of cuties.

Paca is a pretty grey-and-black tabbie, a bit smaller than her brother Sarabito, whom she adores. They are a dynamic kitten lovefest, cuddling each other and expecting affection from everyone in the home.

They sleep, eat and play throughout days and evenings of silliness. That phase of kittenhood gifts happiness every day to all. Little Paca and Sarabito are presently in foster care for the Montreal SPCA.

They are very healthy, up to date for their age with their kitten inoculations, sterilization and microchipping.

If you would like more information on them, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website (www.sPCA.com), scroll to Paca and Sarabito's information pages from their



identification numbers, A200003244 and A200003246, and click on the "Fill out the form" black rectangle to present your contact information.

Adoption coordinators will contact you shortly in return, and you can discuss your

interest and obtain more information and photographs of the kittens. They are growing every day into incredible little companions who will bring joy to a very lucky family.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Cuddling Joy



A sweet little miss, Joy is a Jack Russell terrier type, bringing smiles to all those she meets. Pretty as can be, Joy is ready for a new family as she is presently in foster care for the Montreal SPCA.

The foster family reports that she is very affectionate and bright, keen on attention and play indoors and outdoors. Joy is a very healthy eight-year-old, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

If you would like to find out more about her, please feel free to refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, visit her information page through her identification number, 2000048350, then click on the black rectangle "Fill out the form" to provide your contact information and details on your interest in Joy.

Adoption coordinators will contact you to discuss a family environment for Joy and adoption application details moving forward. Joy is happy and playful, a wonderful little soul to share everyday happiness with.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

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infoWESTMOUNT

Publié par la Ville de Westmount • Published by the City of Westmount • 2024.05.07 • vol. 5/10



NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 3 juin

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, June 3



Rinçage des conduites d'eau
Du 22 avril au 1er septembre, la Ville effectuera des travaux d'entretien sur son réseau d'aqueduc, ainsi que le rinçage et l'inspection des bornes d'incendie. Détails à westmount.org.



Work on City's water mains
The City will be carrying out maintenance work on its water main network, as well as fire hydrant flushing and inspection, from April 22 to September 1st. Details at westmount.org.

Subventions vertes
La Ville de Westmount offre des subventions pour vos achats durables. Les résidents peuvent demander un remboursement pour l'achat de produits éligibles. Détails à westmount.org/subventionsvertes.

Changement aux collectes dès 1er mai
À partir du 1er mai, toutes les collectes se feront uniquement en bordure de rue ou dans les ruelles accessibles aux camions de collecte. La collecte obligatoire des résidus alimentaires pour les logements de 9 à 29 unités commencera également le 1er mai. Détails à westmount.org.

Green Grants
The City of Westmount offers a number of grants for your sustainable purchases. Residents who meet the general conditions can request a subsidy for eligible products. Details at westmount.org/greengrants.

Waste collection changes as of May 1st
As of May 1st, all waste materials will be collected streetside or along waste truck accessible lanes only. Additionally, mandatory food waste collection for buildings with 9 - 29 units begins. Details at engage.westmount.org.

Le « Pink Tea » des Famous 5
La mairesse et le conseil vous invitent au « PINK TEA », **le vendredi 10 mai à 14 h à l'hôtel de ville**. 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.

Bois Summit : Chiens en laisse
Rappel : les chiens doivent être tenus en laisse en tout temps au Bois Summit pendant la période de nidification printanière, jusqu'au 15 juin. Détails à westmount.org.

The Pink Tea for the Famous 5
The Mayor and Council invite you to the PINK TEA this **Friday, May 10 at 2 p.m. at City Hall**. 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.

Summit Woods: Dogs on leash
Reminder: dogs must be kept on leash at all times at Summit Woods during the spring nesting period, until June 15. Details at westmount.org.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Ciné-club : Nouvelle date !
Mardi 21 mai, 14 h, Victoria Hall. *You Hurt My Feelings* (2023). Venez partager notre passion pour le cinéma ! Joignez-vous à notre Ciné-club où nous regarderons un film sur grand écran, dans une ambiance décontractée. Inscrivez-vous à westmount.org.



Concert – Duo Perendosi : Dark Tales
Mercredi 5 juin, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Le Duo Perendosi explore le côté sombre des contes de fées en combinant une narration littéraire et musicale. Inscrivez-vous sur Eventbrite.

Visites de la Bibliothèque
Jusqu'au 22 août, Bibliothèque. Pour célébrer le 125e anniversaire de la Bibliothèque, nous vous invitons à y faire une visite. Vous pourrez y découvrir son histoire, admirer des éléments clés de son architecture et en apprendre plus sur les activités qui sont planifiées cette année. Visites en français ou en anglais. Veuillez vous inscrire individuellement. Le nombre de places est limité à 15 par visite. Ouvert à toutes et à tous. Info : 514 989-5355 ou refdesk@westmount.org

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS




Robert Oppenheimer will be used to illustrate this point. For more info, contact: 514 989-5530 or dmiguez@westmount.org. Register on Eventbrite


Concert – Duo Perendosi: Dark Tales
Wednesday, June 5, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Duo Perendosi explores the dark side of fairy tales, combining the arts of written and musical storytelling. Register on Eventbrite.

Library Tours
Until August 22, Library. To celebrate the Library's 125th anniversary, we invite you on a tour of the building. You will learn about the institution's history, view its architectural highlights, and hear about the activities happening throughout the year. Available in French or English. Please register individually. Space is limited to 15 per tour. Open to all. Register: 514 989-5355 or refdesk@westmount.org.

Film Club: New date!
Tuesday, May 21, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. *You Hurt My Feelings* (2023). Come share our passion for cinema! Join our film club where we will watch a great film on our large screen in a relaxed atmosphere. Register at westmount.org.

Lecture – Oppenheimer and Oppenheimer: Braiding History and Film
Thursday, May 30, 7 p.m., Library. In the Westmount Room with Gary Evans, retired professor at the University of Ottawa, will talk about the visual impact of cinema on the presentation of biographies. The example of J.





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Air bnb possibilities in Wentworth – Spacious 2022 home w/notarized access to Lake Louisa (motorboats)! 3 bedrooms, 2 offices, 3 bathrooms, one w/sauna shower, garage, veranda with spa, finished basement, wood stove & fireplace. On 58,638 sqft lot with large balcony overlooking the backyard & pond. Short term rentals allowed & home registered w/municipality and Quebec. Excellent opportunity for a revenue generating cottage 1 hr from Montreal and 25 min from all services. Centris 12805616

Lakefront in the Laurentians @ 529000\$ – Beautifully renovated lakefront property with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Features a sandy beachfront with dock, 4 season solarium facing the lake, large carport, patio with gazebo and spa, large shed. Open concept first floor with wood stove and skylights, master bedroom with ensuite bathroom, fully finished basement with second bathroom and 2 bedrooms. 1 hour from Montreal and 15 minutes from the ski hills. Centris 17569890

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These signs on Sunnyside near Upper Lansdowne were photographed May 3. Maybe we should all just have “Detour” engraved on the inside of our corneas?

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Defiant guests dented the strength of an unexpected snowstorm: The wanton gale deterred no one. Ladies simply donned boots and carried their strappy stilettos.

Best boots? **Helen Papakostan's** *couture* knee-grazing leather, gleaming due to her son **Christopher**, who helped her over the snowbanks. Guests for ORT Montreal's Ted Wise Benefit Gala for Jewish Education gathered under the Windsor's Versailles-style crystal chandeliers. (I want one!)

There was no *Dune* dressing or the trend to *latte* shades of sandy beiges. The go-to glamour was black: the best backdrop to highlight those sparkling in sequins, including event organizer **Elana Fogel**, director Montreal ORT, there with **Josh Cummings**.

Co-chairs were **Jill Chandler-Climan** and **Greg Wise**. (The event was named in honour of his grandfather.) Event commit-



Greg Wise, Elana Fogel, Ricky Wellen, Mayer Ghoddoussi and Jacob Kinler.

tee members were **Linda Argalgi**, **Hymie Fichtenbaum**, **Mayer Ghoddoussi**, **Jonathan Goodman**, **Barry Kotler**, **Marilyn Krelbaum**, **Brian Pinchuk**, **Stefanie Rosenblatt-Bergman**, **Lorne Wiseman** and

Leah Zylbering.

During the cocktail hour catered by Marguerite, Total Events' Triplets – three acrobats – entertained agilely. Show girls with massive white wings starred in selfies

and an electric harpist played to great applause.

The evening's Las Vegas-casino theme included an Elvis impersonator. Top chip earner of continued on p. 34



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Jill Chandler-Climan and Jacob Kincler.

Social notes, cont'd from p. 33

the evening won a seven-night stay in an Acapulco villa courtesy of **Frank Motter**. Enjoying the eve were **Jacob Kincler**, national president ORT Canada and his wife **Dida Berku**, Côte St. Luc city councillor; **Anna Gainey**, member of parliament NDG-Westmount; **Mike Yuval**, co-founder TIDAN; **Mia** and **David Goodman**, Pharmascience; **Linda Smith**, **Richard Stern** (Olympic) and his mum **Shirley Stern**; sisters **Orly** and **Lilah Goodman** with dad **Jonathan Goodman**, executive chair Knight Therapeutics; **Bradley Steinmetz**, BMO Nesbitt Burns, Steinmetz Wealth, and his daughter **Kelly Steinmetz**; **Charlie Flicker**,



The committee: Ricky Wellen, Jonathan Goodman, Greg Wise, Brian Pinchuk, Marilyn Krenbaum, Stefanie Rosenblatt-Bergman, Leah Zylbering, Jill Chandler-Climan, Elana Fogel, Jacob Kincler, Barry Kotler and Mayer Ghoddoussi.

CEO Wener Family Office; **Susan Libman** and **Barry Pascal**, Bell Pascal Insurance Services; **Ali Paperman** and **Joe Dubrosky** and his brother **Phil Dubrovsky** with his wife **Lindsay**; **Barry Kotler**, president

Monit, and **Ron Bernbaum**, CEO PearTree Canada. The innovative fun eve raised \$400,000 for the ORT Canada Israel Emergency Campaign supporting mental health ser-

vices and trauma counselling for students and staff, and offering financial aid to students and staff directly impacted due to the loss of a family member.

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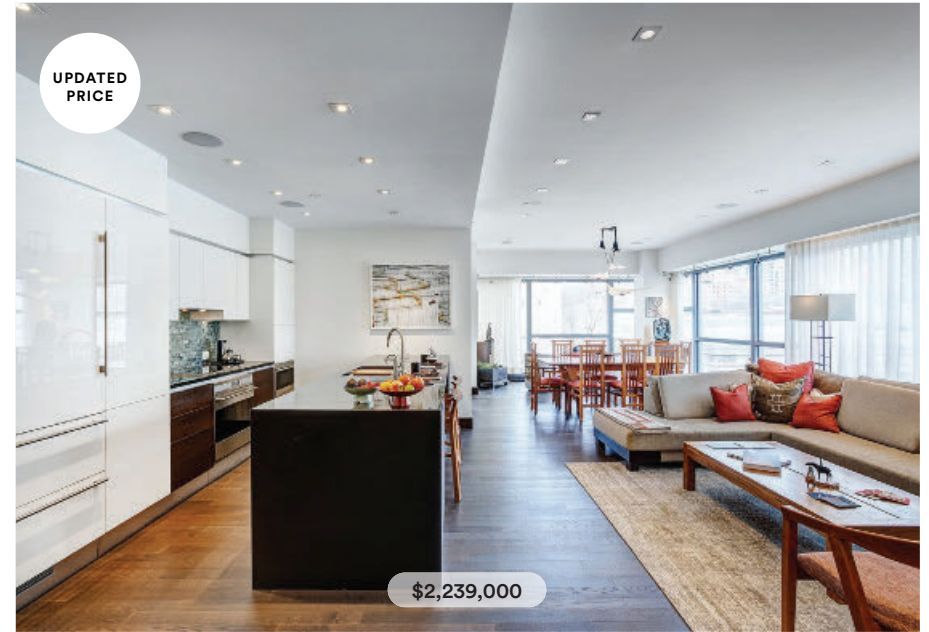
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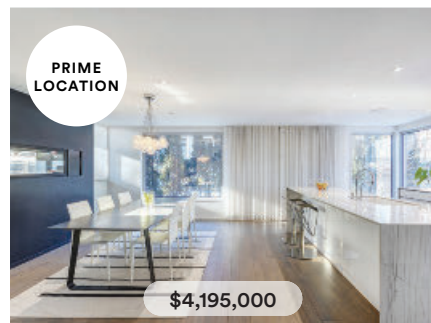


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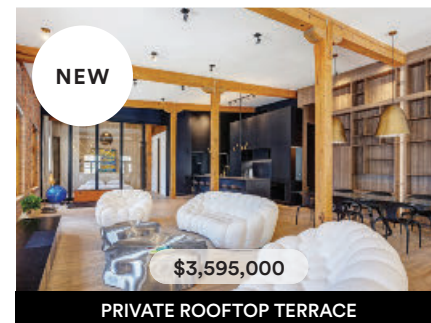
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