

21 candidates vie for 7 councillor spots – 3 for mayor

'So many' candidates set 45-year record, most now going door to door

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

When Westmount voters head to the polls for the municipal elections November 2, they will be faced by what is believed to be a record number of candidates, at least as far back as 1981.

This year's total of 24 includes three for mayor.

At the close of nominations October 3, only District 3 councillor Jeff Shamie's candidature remained uncontested, thereby electing him by acclamation for four more years on city council. He has already served

two terms. Since de-merger in 2006, there has never been an election in District 3, which spans from Sherbrooke to south of The Boulevard, and east of Aberdeen/Church Hill/Mt. Stephen to city limits.

"I am honoured to answer the call to serve," he told the *Independent*. It is "both humbling and inspiring. It reflects the confidence and trust that our community places in me to continue working toward a strong, inclusive, and forward-looking city."

While there was no formal vote, he noted, "please know that I don't take for granted election by acclamation. I recognize that this outcome carries great responsibility. I remain committed to representing every resident fairly, listening with openness, and making decisions that serve the best interests of our entire community. I will con-

continued on p. 14

Mayoral candidates answer questions about demonstrations near Israeli consulate, p. 18-19

October is the spooky month!



October 7 was a beautifully clear sky at 8:30 pm, perfect for observing the full harvest moon.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Drinker ditches drink, flees but gets caught

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A man described as a non-Westmount resident was issued two tickets related to consuming alcohol on city property when spotted in a group of five or six on the south side of city hall October 4 at 12:23 am, Public Security officials said. The tickets totalled \$240.

When the officer stopped to question them, one was seen with an open bottle in hand, which he threw into bushes. When he refused to identify himself, police were summoned. During subsequent question-

ing the man "took off" on foot, causing him to be apprehended.

He was issued one ticket for prowling, and another for possessing the open container of alcohol.

UN-INTERVIEWED MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES –

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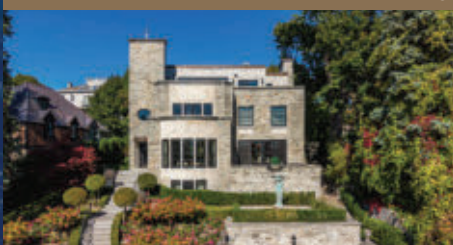
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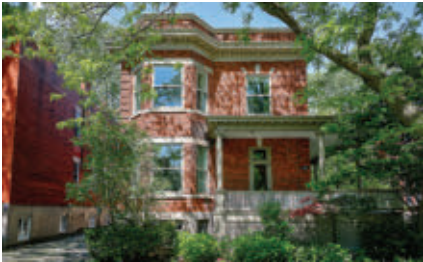
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Police Report

Burglars steal jewellery, fashions from Summit Circle home

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Although criminal incident reports kept at the Montreal police's Station 12 indicate there were almost no household break-ins in recent weeks in Westmount, one of the few exceptions was a burglary last week at a house on the summit.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit, the perpetrator managed to get in during the early evening through a basement window at the home on Summit Circle while the owners were away travelling.

While a report on the intrusion was filed by the owners at Station 12 on October 6, it's likely the break-in actually took place over the preceding weekend.

Finding their way out by the same route as was used to get in, the suspect or suspects managed to make off with jewellery, fashion accessories and clothing.

Young woman pickpocketed

While many recent accounts from Westmount about pickpockets and stolen wallets have involved senior citizens, one of the most recent victims was a woman in her twenties.

The woman, who filed a complaint at Station 12, said she was passing through the mall at Westmount Square around 1 pm on October 7.

At some point while there, her wallet was stolen, although she was unaware of it until her cell phone rang, according to the police report.

"She was walking around Westmount Square when she received a phone call from her bank to confirm some transactions," said Cst. Yigit. "That's when she realized her wallet was missing."

Although she couldn't pin down exactly where the wallet most likely was stolen, she said in her account submitted to investigators at Station 12 that it may have been while she was using a public washroom or as she was walking around the mall.

But there was no doubt about the fact that someone used a credit card in the wallet to charge \$700 in purchases at several retail establishments in downtown Montreal, including a Maxi grocery store, an SAQ liquor store and a Pharmaprix drug store.

On a more positive note, the charges were reversed when she confirmed to the bank that the credit card had been stolen.

Contractor backs into city lamp pole on Sunnyside

A city lamp pole was damaged October 7 when accidentally hit by a construction vehicle backing into it during work outside 94 Sunnyside near Upper Lansdowne, Public Security officials said.

A public safety officer attended at 11:09 am, and the driver was described as "cooperative." Hydro Westmount subsequently arrived and the damage was repaired that afternoon. – LS

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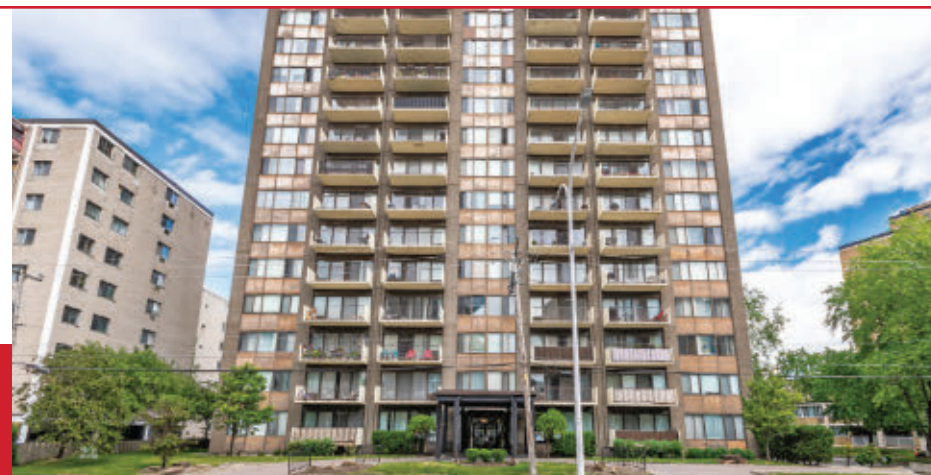
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Jonathan Chomski enters council race for District 2

To make life easier: ‘A focus on garbage, streets, services’

By Laureen Sweeney

Jonathan Chomski declared his candidature for city council last week representing District 2, where he lives. This is the seat currently held by retiring councillor Elisabeth Roux.

Focussing his campaign on “streets, services and choices,” he said these are the “local things” that can make life a little easier such as garbage collection, upkeep and services.

“The most common concern I’ve heard from residents is the loss of weekly garbage service [in winter],” he explains. “District 2 is mostly single-family and semi-detached homes that produce more waste and thus struggle with bi-weekly pick-up.”

Regarding parks and green spaces, he said that King George (Murray) Park is a vital community gathering place that should be revitalized, including restoring its fountains. Summit Woods, while not in District 2, “is an important space used by our residents and I want to keep it open for all users.”

Describing himself as a real estate developer and former chief operations officer of a national student health and benefits organization, Chomski says his leadership



Jonathan Chomski photographed October 8 in King George (Murray Hill) Park.
PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

experience has prepared him to serve on council. Recently, he has been working on practical solutions “to meet today’s housing needs by developing multi-family residential apartments in areas off the island

of Montreal.” He also advocates for AI-based traffic systems for The Boulevard to ease morning traffic such as the municipalities of Kirkland and Charlemagne “are implementing.”

Adapting to change

He obtained a bachelor of commerce degree from McGill in 1997. “The biggest takeaway” was “a strong foundation in finance, technology, and data-driven decision-making.” He said this includes “learning to adapt to change and to apply practical problem-solving skills that remain essential in responding to today’s and tomorrow’s municipal challenges....And I look forward to bringing my skill-set to council.”

He said he had served for more than two decades as chief operating officer for ASEQ (Studentcare), a company that partners with post-secondary institutions and student associations to provide health and dental plans, insurance and various well-being services for students in Canada.

He also stated that residents around Greene Ave. and Wood “have been repeatedly impacted by ongoing disruptions to the neighbourhood.

“For many, safety isn’t about street

lighting – it’s about feeling secure in daily life. I want to work with the new council to restore peaceful enjoyment to these areas.”

Practical solutions

While District 2 is clean and tidy, he pointed out, “when residents report a problem, sometimes they have to call the city multiple times before it’s resolved. We need an easier way to get information directly to Public Works such as a 311 app that can capture a photo and GPS location of an issue that would allow the city to respond in a fraction of the time” it can now. “We need to give them better tools to succeed and [be able] to treat residents like customers who should expect reliable services.”

Chomski and his wife have lived in the district for the past 11 years. “Before that, we lived on Upper Lansdowne near Devon Park, starting in 2004. Westmount has been our family’s home for more than 20 years, where we’ve raised our three children.”

He also recalled how quickly Hydro Westmount had replaced his electricity meter when it erroneously indicated a sharp increase in electrical consumption. “It’s one of the reasons we choose to live in Westmount,” he is quoted as having said of city services (see story February 18, 2014, p. 4).



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District 4 candidate Gurveen Chadha

Calling for long-term plans, economic vitality, year-round care of Prince Albert Park

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Having grown up in Westmount, Gurveen Chadha has launched her bid to seek the council seat in District 4, saying “we need both fresh energy and experienced leadership at the council table.”

The city, she adds, is now “at a pivotal moment, balancing the upkeep of essential infrastructure with the need to plan for the city’s next 150 years.”

Because of these, she says, her decision to run for council comes from a lifelong connection to Westmount and a belief that her professional experience in both business and government “can help the city plan and deliver more effectively for residents.”

“My background in public policy and business has taught me how to turn ideas into action and navigate complex issues responsibly. I want to bring that skillset to help our city grow thoughtfully, sustainably, and in ways that reflect what residents value most.”

Her electoral platform calls for economic vitality that includes the challenges faced by small businesses, commercial arteries and “an appreciation for the challenges small businesses face from high overhead costs to navigating city dynamics.” She also states “the importance of the realities of climate change and the need to keep the district’s Prince Albert Park well programmed and well maintained year-round.”

In the community

Chadha was born and raised in Westmount, learned to swim at the YMCA and to skate here. She attended activities at Victoria Hall and was a former merchant in Victoria village.

She worked for the late minister of Transport Marc Garneau as his director of policy and, more recently, has worked for software and online operations at Shopify and now Jobber.

“I care deeply about Westmount and I want to give back to the community that shaped me. Over the years, I’ve volunteered and participated in local initiatives, and knocked on hundreds of doors during campaigns here. Those conversations with residents – hearing their pride, their frustrations, and their hopes – remind me how much people care about Westmount and how important it is to have councillors who listen and act thoughtfully.”



Gurveen Chadha photographed outside the Westmount Public Library September 23.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

In a detailed resume of her life, Chadha writes that she attended Lower Canada College from kindergarten to grade 11. She obtained an international baccalaureate from United World College in 2009 followed by a BA in government from Dartmouth in New Hampshire in 2013 and, in 2020, a master’s degree in public policy from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. Bilingual, she also speaks “basic Punjabi and Hindi.”

Worked for Trudeau, Garneau

Her entrée to politics came when “A friend first asked me to volunteer on a Liberal nomination campaign in Montreal in 2014 and I quickly got the political bug, moving to Ottawa to work in politics,” she told the *Independent*. This included working in the office of Justin Trudeau until December 2015 and from there to Marc Garneau’s office when he was minister of Transport until June 2018 when she left for Harvard.

Chadha has been a board member of Canada 2020 (a think tank in Ottawa), vice-chair of the Liberal Party of Canada in Quebec, a director of the NDG-Westmount Liberal Party of Canada Riding Association and vice chair of the United World College of Canada, which is a global network dedicated to cross-cultural education and peace.

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WESTMOUNTERS SUPPORT THEIR LOCAL PAPER! THANK YOU.

I recently (September 16, p. 8) asked for support for returning the city of Westmount's purchase of ads in the *Independent* to its 2014 level (\$80,000 in today's dollars, or \$4 per Westmount resident).

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of our supporters on this issue! Every email counts. If you would like to add your voice, it is not too late. **Email me at editor@westmountindependent.com.**

DAVID PRICE, EDITOR

*

WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT THE *INDEPENDENT*?

I don't want to be dramatic but what would I do if there was no more *Westmount Independent*? Every Tuesday evening, I do my grocery shopping at Metro and on my way out I grab two *Westmount Independents* so that both my son and I can read at the same time when we get home.

Now, I read in this week's *Independent* that the city of Westmount is making less use of it and this saddens me, especially if there is a slight possibility that we may lose this wonderful local paper.

Don't let the *Westmount Independent* die. I need this paper to find out what is happening in my neck of the woods. The other local papers such as *The Suburban* are mainly for the West Island and contain very little about what is happening in Westmount.

If the city can spend millions to renovate my street when myself and my other neighbours did not want the "New and Improved" version of Lexington, I am sure that they could find the funds to put more notices and advertising in the *Westmount*

Independent and help support this great and wonderful newspaper.

I share our editor's view and hope a strong public response in the *Westmount Independent* will persuade the city to return to the former budget.

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LITTLE JEWEL *INDIE* IS FREE, PACKED WITH NEWS

On an annual basis, I pay in excess of \$300 to subscribe to the *Montreal Gazette*. I pay nothing to be privileged to be a reader of the *Westmount Independent*.

I would venture to guess that in a single issue of the *Indie*, I get more local news and opinion than I get of local news in a month's worth of *The Gazette*.

If the cost of Westmount's budget to support advertising in the paper is only \$4 per resident, please simply add that \$4 to my tax bill. It will be very gladly paid by me and by most of my friends, relatives and neighbours.

We in Westmount waste substantially more than \$4 per resident on failed or unnecessary projects (such as the Claremont triangle, bike paths uphill to nowhere, etc).

Our investment in our little jewel of a local newspaper should not be abandoned.

JOE RUSSO, SHERBROOKE ST.

INDEPENDENT KEEPS RESIDENTS INFORMED

The *Westmount Independent* is a fact-filled, interesting and important neighbourhood means of keeping Westmount's

citizens informed.

It is very short-sighted of this municipal government to be so stingy with its advertising budget to this valuable means of communication. It would be a pity to see this newspaper "fold" due to lack of advertising funds caused by the Westmount municipal government!

Please re-consider your budget. David Price is working very hard to keep the *Indie* in print. He needs our help.

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON, KITCHENER AVE.

INDEPENDENT PROVIDES FACTS, FIGURES, OPINIONS

I couldn't agree more with your recent editorial (September 16, p. 8) concerning advertising revenues.

The *Westmount Independent*, like its predecessor publications, provides all residents with vital news, facts, comment and perspectives. Without the newspaper, many of us would be in the dark as to what is going on in Westmount.

The activism and engagement that many Westmounters are involved in is fueled, to a large extent, by getting the facts, figures and opinions that the *Independent* provides.

If the cost of the city's advertising amounts to less than \$5 per citizen, as the editorial states, I think it is money well spent, and I wholly support Mr. Price's position.

ALLEN RUBIN, LEXINGTON AVE.

WELCOME SOURCE OF NEWS, OPINION

I strongly agree that the city of Westmount should increase its financial support through advertising to \$80,000 annually for the *Westmount Independent* to match its level of support in 2014, adjusted for inflation.

The newspaper is a welcome source of local news and opinion and helps promote and strengthen our sense of community.

KIRK KELLY, VICTORIA AVE.

LOCAL ISSUES COVERED THOROUGHLY

I would like to add my support to the recent editorial (September 16, p. 8) by the publisher of this newspaper regarding the importance of the city of Westmount maintaining its advertising in the newspaper.

A local newspaper plays a very different, and important, role from national newspapers. Local stories, news, social and sports events are covered thoroughly, rather than being issues of minor importance elsewhere.

City legal notices, and other notices to the public, have a much better chance of being seen in a local newspaper. The requests of continuing advertising being

made seem to be of a reasonable cost, within the context of the total budget of the city of Westmount's annual budget.

So many subjects being discussed during the week, by so many of us, are based on articles in the *Independent*.

Hopefully, all will be resolved successfully, and we can look forward to many more years of the *Westmount Independent* being available.

BERNARD SHUSTER, WOOD AVE.

SHOCKING DROP IN THE CITY'S ADVERTISING IN THE *INDEPENDENT*

This issue has been raised before, quite vehemently, with the soon-to-be ex-mayor. The *Independent* provides a key role in fostering community togetherness. Her Worship's tactic seems to be to reduce costs by expecting residents to consult the "News" file on the Westmount.org website, essentially placing the onus on citizens to remain informed, a neat trick of what forthright democracy is about.

Not surprisingly, related to the lack of information dissemination, question period at council meetings rolls on forever. We don't get full disclosure about the state of things. Trivial perhaps, but when will the sidewalk curb be completed on the south side of Sherbrooke? Next spring with yet more disruption? After eight years, still no sign of a master plan for our beloved Summit Woods.

And as to the bi-monthly garbage collection foisted on us. What are the benefits? The idea, apart from savings, was to encourage Westmounters to recycle and compost more. Is this happening?

Public notices [within city-published newsletters] cluttering our mailboxes – into the blue bin they go! Announcements posted in the *Independent* are important. We return to our local newspaper during the week to discuss issues.

The loss of community togetherness coincides with the budget cuts to the *Independent*. Astonishingly, the 11-year period of 2024 to today, presents a grim picture. "City notices" and "Communications" apportioned to the *Independent* fell from \$34,112.60 and \$25,034.00, respectively, to \$4,415.35 and \$16,941.20. Yeowch! This, in a year of tremendous construction activity when we needed to know more.

The community-committed *Independent* donates FREE space to councillors and the mayor for "profile" stuff – photo and "pontification." I say: Charge them \$5,000 a pop for the honour. Unless of course the administration reconsiders its priorities and sails like a vessel that graces the *Independent* with a favourable breeze.

JOHN FRETZ, LANSDOWNE AVE.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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Support, cont'd from p. 6

HUGE, LOYAL FAN OF INDEPENDENT

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I've been a very loyal reader since you started in 2007. I remember [my late husband and former city councillor] Stuart [Robertson] was so thrilled he offered his weekly gardening column in case you needed a page filler.

I hope this all works out for you with a new administration in the city.

DONNA BANKS, LANSDOWNE AVE.



In recent years, the city has taken to publishing its own pamphlets and newsletters instead of buying ads. Are these high-tech sandwich boards another way of not buying ads? This one was photographed October 3 at the summit lookout.

PHOTO & CAPTION: DAVID PRICE

We welcome your letters

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them.

Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Email us at: editor@westmountindependent.com

REMEMBER THE NAYSAYERS!

After asking for support in restoring the city's previous advertising budget in the Independent, I did receive one negative letter. Here it is. –DP.

Hi David; A few points. Since the Canada Post strike, I have been getting two copies of the *Independent* – one on Tuesdays and one on Wednesdays marked “[]” – obviously needs correcting.

Concerning your moaning about the loss of city advertisements – three pages counting your own ad in the latest issue. I don't think this is the way to get the city to spend money. My own view is that the paper has become increasingly dull and I think the city knows fewer people are reading it.

We used to have that fun column about where the fire trucks were going and details about all the building permits. Now – just a ton of real estate ads.

Also though you suggest letters to the editor be 300 words long (many are not) your own editorials are endless – maybe 3,000 words?

Food for thought?

Editor's reply: This double-distribution “problem” has since been sorted out, I think, along with eliminating in future the additional content that one distributor was adding to the paper without our consent, knowledge or endorsement.

It may come as a shock to some people, but business is not always genteel and cerebral. It can be repetitive and workaday and downright boring. For instance, salespeople have to make their case over and over again – including when they would rather not and/or when it looks undignified.

This phenomenon includes me. Much as I would rather not use precious content space to make PBS-esque “sponsorship pitches,” I do not apologize for making my case, including repetitively, and letting the residents of Westmount know how the municipal government is, and is not, spending their money.

In my view, the people who should care about civic life, i.e. the city's politicians and unelected employees, have been quietly reducing the municipal government's financial commitment to one aspect of it, i.e. this paper. And it's not even their own, personal money!

Others can work to influence the city in other ways. It's a free country.

I also do not apologize for having a lot of real estate ads. Brokers make the paper possible. Is a little gratitude to this group so hard?

Oh yeah and the factual assertions in this complaint letter are wrong. We have never had a “fun column about where the

firetrucks were going.” By the time the *Independent* was founded in 2007, the city of Westmount's fire department had been permanently merged with Montreal's, a huge organization that does not want to talk to us about every toaster-oven malfunction. (And I don't blame them.)

For clarity, the city of Montreal's fire department does a wonderful job of explaining large fires, including the one – ironic timing! – covered on p. 1 of the issue that this malcontent cites (September 30). Is a possible arsonist's fire at an abandoned building, which could have spread to many others, too “dull” for this person's tastes?

Regarding the publication of building permits (which not everyone finds exciting, by the way), the city made it difficult and then impossible for us to find and then publish them. Should I write an editorial about that, or would that be more “moaning”?

I let letter writers go on longer than our word recommendation and express themselves as they choose – and this is a problem? If this person doesn't like reading long letters, don't read them. They can be sized up before all the “effort” of reading them. Same goes for my editorials. They are well marked.

Coiffure Jean John

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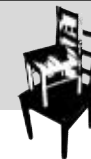


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM IN WESTMOUNT

I recently wrote to *The Montrealer* asking why a half-sheet p. 2 quasi-editorial highly profiled Mary Gallery as candidate for mayor with no mention of other candidates anywhere in the paper. I asked whether a pre-election edition would be available for the other two candidates.

The response from [publisher and editor] Peter Kerr indicated that no [other] *Montrealer* distribution would be made before the election, and that “I am in agreement that a candidate for mayor should have served on the city council...other candidates have opportunities during the campaign to present themselves.....”

So Mr. Kerr alone decides who qualifies for mayor?! NO! The voters decide.

Unlike the *Westmount Independent*, *The Montrealer* has chosen to unilaterally promote only one candidate and thus provide a great disservice to its readers, itself and its credibility. I/we have the right to expect more from “journalism”. Unacceptable and irresponsible.

CHARLES KAPLAN, CLARKE AVE.

THINKING OF SIMPLER TIMES, COMPLEX COMPONENTS

Seeing the old tramway tracks on Claremont re-appear during street re-construction, below left, brings back memories of watching tram cars going up and down the hill in my youth. Simpler times.

The contractor told me today that the rails will not be removed, which surprised me. It seems counterintuitive to have steel married to asphalt, as they behave differently under heavy loaded vehicles and react differently to temperature changes. What assurance do we have that the street will not crack longitudinally like it has along the two kilometers of The Boulevard, below right, accelerating road degradation?

PATRICK MARTIN, THE BOULEVARD



WHERE DO CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES STAND ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES?

As the municipal election approaches, most candidates have outlined their platforms in broad terms – promising increased infrastructure spending, transparency, accountability and fiscal responsibility. Yet few have clearly addressed their stance on environmental stewardship, an issue that deserves far more attention.

Previous letter writers have asked candidates to clarify their positions on development in the southeast sector, Summit Woods, and matters like parking and public security.

I would like to expand this conversation by including environmental concerns that are no less urgent.

The current council recently adopted a set of recommendations from the [volunteer] Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee – a group of informed and experienced experts. How familiar are the candidates with this report? More importantly, which of its proposals do they intend to act on if elected?

Take garbage collection as one example. While some residents are calling for a return to weekly pick-up, the current bi-weekly schedule has led to increased recycling and reduced landfill waste. Where do the candidates stand?

Too often, well-researched recommendations from advisory committees are quietly shelved and forgotten. Let's hope the next council does not repeat that mistake by ignoring a thoughtful and evidence-based report.

Candidates, we want to hear your SPECIFIC goals and commitments regarding environmental sustainability. Voters are paying attention, and these choices will shape the city's future.

RICHARD DUFOUR, ANWOTH RD.



Corrections Candidate Winton: I would have more time than most councillors

Contrary to what we wrote (“would probably” – October 7, p. 9), District 2 candidate Jessica Winton said at the time that she “*would* have more time for citizens than most councillors who have full-time, jobs, spouses and children” (emphasis added).

We also erroneously identified her post-graduate program, despite getting it right at the end of the article when we wrote: she is “at the University of Ottawa for an MSc in environmental sustainability...” – DP.

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Editor's note

Letters to the editor policy for end of election period

In keeping with our practice during the previous four municipal election campaigns, letters to the editor published in our last issue (October 28) before the November 2 election that mention a candidate *will be shown* to that candidate for possible rebuttal in the same issue. There will be no second “right of reply” to this possible reply. – DP

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The Westmount Independent's next Spotlight on Real Estate

issue is October 21

Real estate brokers and other
industry participants: Don't miss it!

Ready for campaign that never was



As seen October 9 on Wood Ave. near de Casson. Sitting councillor Jeff Shamie had already been acclaimed.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

*We are taking this opportunity to wish all of our clients,
friends and family
Joyous & Healthy Thanksgiving*



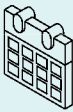
*Sincerely,
Charleston & Black Rose, Bunny, Larry & Charles, Romeo & Juliette
October 2025*

The Municipal
Election Is on
the Horizon!



**Are you
on the list
of electors?**

Most electors are entered on the list of electors at their domiciliary address and do not need to take any action.
To be sure, you can confirm your entry on the list with your municipality.
On election day, you will not be able to register or make any changes.



**Where
and when
can you
vote?**

To find out the address of your polling place, check with your municipality.
Advance polling:
Sunday, October 26, from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Election day:
Sunday, November 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
In certain municipalities, there are other days to vote.



**What do
you need
to bring
to vote?**

The following pieces of ID are accepted:

- Health insurance card
- Driver's license
- Canadian passport
- Indian status card
- Canadian Forces identification card

You do not need any other document to vote.

1 888 353-2846

www.electionsquebec.qc.ca

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Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

A petite sweetheart, Ivy is the best of companions. She is presently in a foster family for the volunteer animal rescue group Gerdy's Rescue & Adoptions.

Doing very well in adapting to the change of home environment, this tiny four-pound fawn-coloured Deerhead Chihuahua is ever so sweet, quiet and calm.

She is cuddly and an adorable nesting companion on the couch and in the bed. Ivy is confident and playful with dogs big and small, so her walkies are friendly and neighbourly. She is both outdoor and indoor pee-pad trained, so adapting to the weather of the day. Since she is delicate, Ivy would be best in a family where children would be over 12 years of age.

Ivy is a very healthy eight-year-old, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. She has also had her dental check-up recently. If you would like more information on Ivy, please refer to the Gerdy's Rescue & Adoptions website at www.gerdysrescue.org, then fill out their adoption form at the link on her information page or go directly to www.gerdysrescue.org.

Adorable little Ivy



cue.org/adoption-form.

You are also most welcome to reach out by email to the rescue volunteers at info@gerdysrescue.org to present your interest, obtain more details and receive wonderful new photographs of her. A perfect little companion, Ivy is waiting for you to reach out for her.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

How to resist Cheetos? Just can't ... and the more you are with him, the more you want him!

This wonderful orange marmalade fellow is presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery, where they are trying so hard to find homes for all their rescues. Cheetos is a classic red-haired moggy, very healthy at eight years of age, up to date on his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

He is playful and cuddly, most affectionate with all and keen on being part of the family's routine.

To find out more about handsome Cheetos, please search the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, then refer to his information page by his identification number, 2000154152.

Do not hesitate. Cheetos is available at the cattery for a visit and you can plan your trip to the shelter any day of the week as they are open daily from Monday to Friday, from 3 to 8 pm, as well as Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm.

The SPCA is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West, Côte des Neiges, Montreal H4P

Love Cheetos?

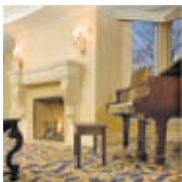
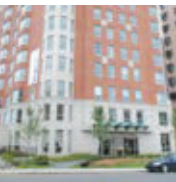


1X4. The adoption coordinators are looking forward to discussing your interest and making arrangements to bring Cheetos home with you.

Please bring your carrier or choose one from the models on offer at their in-house boutique, where you can also get Cheetos some food, toys and accessories to bring home with him.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

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For sound barrier, no strong view on city’s southeast project

Christian Laurin hopes to win Westmount’s District 8 council seat

By Martin C. Barry

Christian Laurin, who is running for the District 8 seat in the upcoming Westmount city council elections, grew up in Westmount and has a rather diverse and eclectic professional background.

After initially obtaining a bachelor of music degree, Laurin, 52, decided to re-orient his life a bit. He became a personal trainer, massage therapist and yoga instructor.

He teaches a course in the latter discipline at École internationale de Montréal on Côte St. Antoine Rd. He is also currently studying to complete a diploma in naturopathy.

A firm believer in self-determination and learning by doing, he says he renovated parts of his Stayner St. home without any specific knowledge of construction.

“I’m very manual and I like to do things my own way,” he said in an interview with the *Independent*.

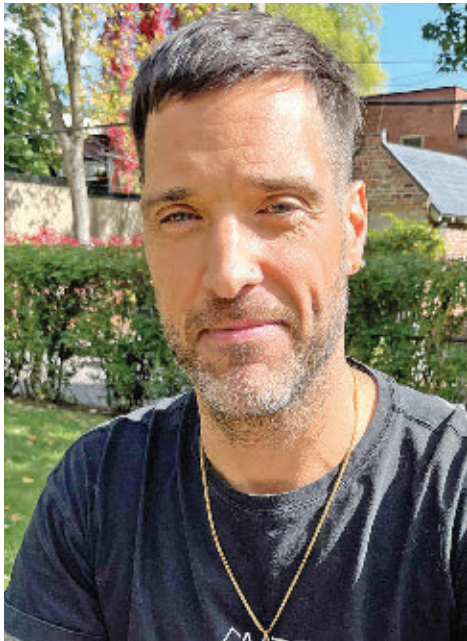
“I would say I am more like an artist, which is why I have said to a lot of people I’ve met while going door to door that I’m not a politician. I’m an artist who is trying to get into politics because I want some change in my district.”

Laurin said he was not impressed with incumbent District 8 councillor Kathleen Kez’s performance over the past four years, while maintaining that she paid little attention to him when he approached her with specific problems he had with the city.

Laurin said a neighbour who was also dissatisfied with the incumbent councillor urged him to run for the District 8 seat.

Regarding the city’s controversial Special Planning Program to revitalize the southeast sector, including a significant portion of District 8, Laurin said the views of residents he met while out canvassing door to door seemed evenly split.

He said he has no particular opinion on the plan for re-development and higher



Seen here in Stayner Park on October 8, District 8 candidate Christian Laurin hopes to erect a sound barrier along Prospect Ave. if he is elected on November 2.

density, including taller buildings, except to help facilitate an outcome that is satisfactory to as many people as possible. “Where do I stand? To make everybody happy,” he said.

The sound barrier along the Ville Marie Expressway on Prospect Ave. is another issue Laurin said he became acutely aware of while canvassing for votes.

“I live on Stayner just in front of the tennis courts and I hear it,” he said, noting that it’s impossible to even walk along Prospect without having to endure the roar coming off the highway. “For the people who live there, it’s hard for them to even open a window because the noise is so loud.”

He said the erection of a sound barrier in that spot would be one task in particular he would like to accomplish if elected on November 2.

For housing development in southeast

District 8 candidate Chamlian focuses on young Westmounters

By Martin C. Barry

Although he’s only 22, Alec Chamlian already has a pretty good idea what it’s like to hold an elected office.

The District 8 city council candidate was still in grade school when he first acquired a taste for leadership.

In 2016 while in grade six at École St. Léon on Clarke Ave., Chamlian launched a fundraiser in conjunction with the Red Cross for victims of the wildfires that swept through Fort McMurray in Alberta.

Later, while in secondary school at Collège de Montréal, he served as a class representative on the student council, after which he was also co-president of the student government.

He is currently president of the student union at the University of Montreal, where he is studying for an undergraduate degree in communications and political science.

“I’ve been interested in politics and political engagement for a very long time,” he said in an interview with the *Westmount Independent*. “Now I’m committed more than ever to giving back some of what I’ve learned.”

Chamlian said he wants to raise awareness of issues that stand to especially impact a younger generation of Westmounters, on whom the city’s future could well depend.

Two of his particular concerns are the sound barrier issue in lower Westmount, as well as the city’s revitalization program for the southeast sector. “There are lot of issues that affect young people, especially in this district,” he said.

“It’s the future of Westmount. And I think it’s important to make certain that everyone’s issues – especially young people’s – are heard. Because it’s all about making sure young people like me will be able to afford to live in Westmount.”

Noting that the southeast sector has been dormant for the past half-century, he



Twenty-two-year-old District 8 candidate Alec Chamlian believes city council needs an injection of youth to deal with issues that stand to impact a younger generation of Westmounters in the not-too-distant future.

suggested that housing would be one of the most appropriate forms of development for the area. “Now we have a chance to say to young people, ‘Hey, we listened to you and we will provide you with housing so you can live in Westmount,’” said Chamlian.

Regarding the sound barrier, he said his plan if elected would be to create a committee of residents from districts seven and eight, which would also include stakeholders.

“That way we could really hear what the citizens have to say about the current noise, and work together to make sure that the MTQ [Quebec Transport ministry] takes responsibility and finally provides us with a sound barrier that is desperately needed,” Chamlian said.

The *Westmount Independent*’s next
Spotlight edition

is October 21. Advertisers: Don’t miss out!

Canadiens sighted



Montreal Canadiens Alexandre Carrier, left, and Mike Matheson, right, enjoyed a morning coffee last month at Café Olimpico on Victoria with Harry Griffiths, Westmount resident and former Quebec provincial tennis champion.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RAE TURLEY.



Medieval and Renaissance Art: Treasures Big and Small

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Election, cont'd from p.1

tinue to go door to door and listen to my residents' concerns."

No date had been set for his swearing-in, he said. "I have been notified that they will contact me shortly."

2 sessions to meet them

The large number of candidates means the Westmount Municipal Association has had to divide up its usual "Meet the Candidates" sessions for councillors at Victoria Hall on Wednesday, October 15, explained WMA president Nigel Goddard.

The first group is set for councillor candidates in Districts 1 to 4 from 7 to 8:15 pm.

Those in Districts 5 to 8 will follow from 8:15 to 9:30 pm.

The three mayoral candidates will "tee off" on Thursday, October 23 from 7 to 9 pm.

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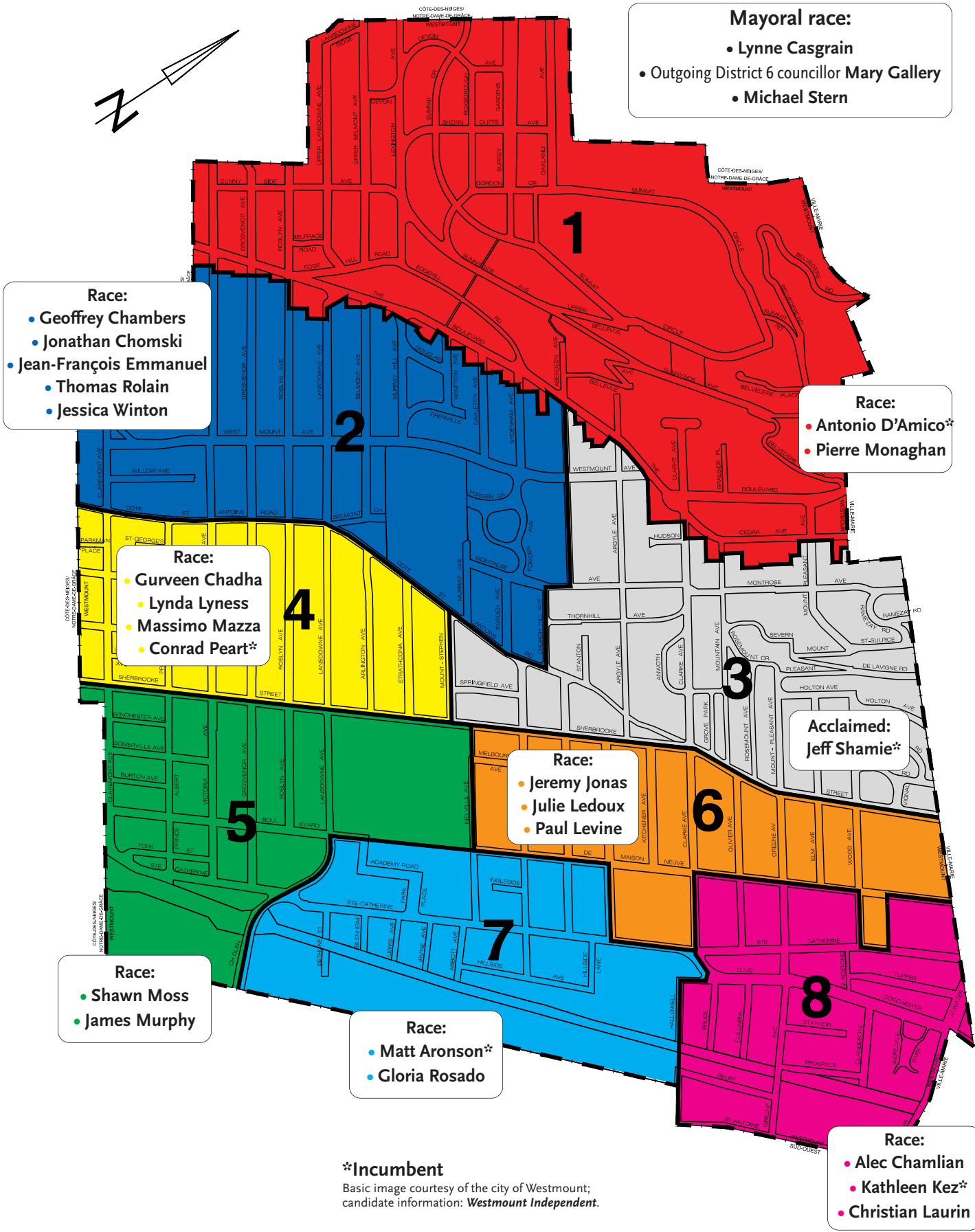


We welcome your letters

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week.

Email us at:
editor@westmountindependent.com

Municipal election 2025 – Who’s running?



October is the orange month!



As seen October 10 in the Metro grocery store parking lot.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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2025.10.14 • Vol. 6/18



VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT

NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 17 novembre

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, November 17



Abonnez-vous aux avis de collectes !

Créez votre compte dans le Portail citoyen ou modifiez vos alertes existantes pour recevoir des rappels la veille de chaque collecte prévue, par courriel ou SMS, à vous de choisir! westmount.org/collectes



Sign Up for Collection Alerts!

Create your Citizen Portal account or modify your existing one to receive notifications the day before a scheduled collection by email or SMS, as you prefer!
westmount.org/collections

Élections municipales 2025

En raison de la grève en cours à Postes Canada, le Bureau de la présidente d'élection a mis en place des mesures exceptionnelles afin de s'assurer que tous les électeurs reçoivent l'information nécessaire pour exercer leur droit de vote. westmount.org/elections

2025 Municipal Elections

Due to the ongoing strike at Canada Post strike, the Office of the Returning Officer has implemented measures to ensure that all voters receive the necessary information to exercise their voting rights.
westmount.org/elections

Bill Payment During the Canada Post Labour Dispute

Due to the labour dispute at Canada Post, Hydro Westmount reminds customers that the **Customer Portal** allows access to account balances at any time. It is important to pay bills within the prescribed deadlines.
westmount.org/hydrobill

Un projet pour améliorer la signalisation routière

La Ville a lancé cette semaine un projet de repérage et de remplacement des panneaux de signalisation endommagés ou illisibles, en cours jusqu'à fin janvier 2026.
westmount.org/actualites

Partez à la découverte d'un centre de compostage !

La Ville invite les résidents de 8 ans et plus à visiter un centre de traitement des matières organiques (compost) le **lundi 20 octobre** (9 h à 13 h). Départ du CLW en autobus.
westmount.org/evenements

Discover a Composting Facility!

The City invites residents aged 8 and up to visit a compost site in Saint-Laurent on **Monday, October 20** (from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Bus departure from the WRC. westmount.org/events

Project Launched to Improve Road Signage

The City has launched a project this week to identify and replace damaged or unreadable traffic signs, with work continuing until the end of January 2026. westmount.org/news

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Place aux contes : *Wheel Come Back Again* (8 ans et plus)

19 octobre, 14 h, Victoria Hall. En anglais. Venez vivre un moment unique en famille avec Jan Blake ! Connue pour son énergie et sa générosité, la conteuse Jan Blake vous fera découvrir *Wheel Come Back Again*, un voyage fascinant à travers des histoires provenant du monde entier. westlib.org

Storytelling Event: *Wheel Come Back Again* (8 years +)

October 19, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. Come enjoy a unique family experience with Jan Blake! Known for her energy and generosity, storyteller Jan Blake will take you on *Wheel Come Back Again*, a captivating journey through stories from around the world.
westlib.org

Exposition : Tyler Rozicki et Jessica Jane Roszler

La Galerie du Victoria Hall a le plaisir de présenter, **du 10 octobre au 9 novembre**, une exposition mettant en vedette les oeuvres des artistes Tyler Rozicki et Jessica Jane Roszler.
westmount.org/evenements

Exhibition: Tyler Rozicki and Jessica Jane Roszler

From October 10 to November 9, the Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present an exhibition featuring the works of artists Tyler Rozicki and Jessica Jane Roszler.
westmount.org/events

Ciné-club : *The Outrun* (2024)

28 octobre, 14 h, Victoria Hall. En anglais avec sous-titres en français. Après avoir mené une vie tumultueuse à Londres, Rona tente de se réconcilier avec son passé tourmenté. Dans l'espoir de guérir, elle retourne vers la beauté sauvage des îles Orcades, en Écosse, où elle a grandi. westmount.com/evenements

Film Club: *The Outrun* (2024)

October 28, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. After living life on the edge in London, Rona attempts to come to terms with her troubled past. Hoping to heal, she returns to the wild beauty of Scotland's Orkney Islands where she grew up.
westmount.org/events

Journée du film de famille 2025

12 novembre, 19 h, Salle Westmount. Participez à une projection de films maison accompagnée d'une conférence sur la conservation. Du 15 septembre au 31 octobre, déposez vos films familiaux à la Clinique de films de famille, au Studio. Les films sur 8 mm, Super 8, 16 mm, ainsi que les cassettes vidéo sont acceptés. Ne manquez pas cette occasion de faire restaurer et partager vos précieux souvenirs ! westlib.org

Special Halloween Screening: *The Thing* (1982) (16+)

October 29, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Get ready for a spine-chilling evening and join us for a special screening of the classic film by John Carpenter. With free popcorn, cash bar, tricks and treats. westmount.org/events

Home Movie Day 2025

November 12, 7 p.m., Westmount Room. Join us for a home movie screening followed by a lecture on film preservation. From September 15 to October 31, bring your family films to the Home Movie Clinic at the Studio. Films in 8mm, Super 8, 16mm, as well as videotapes, are accepted. Don't miss this opportunity to have your precious memories restored and shared! westlib.org



Does CAA cover this situation?



A young person's vehicle appears to have had a breakdown on The Boulevard at Grosvenor, as seen October 9.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Sidewalk to pedestrians: Get excited!



As seen September 28 on Westmount Ave. near Carleton Ave.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

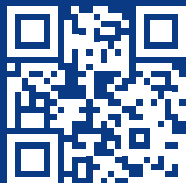


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Independent asks mayoral candidates about demonstration near Israeli consulate

Questions: The protests in front of, and in the neighbourhood of, the Israeli consulate on Wood Ave. near St. Catherine St. concern many Westmount residents, regardless of religious affiliation, background, or where they live and work in relation to the demonstrations. The municipal government of Westmount does not control the

agglomeration of Montreal police or federal criminal law. Outgoing mayor Christina Smith has repeatedly dialogued with Montreal authorities on the issue, without obvious success.*

What is your view of these protests?

What, if anything, would you do to regulate or deal with them if you were to be

elected?

Candidates were given a limit of 750 words and a strict deadline of October 10 at 10 am to reply. Lynne Casgrain's reply arrived at 12:20 pm. Mary Gallery and Michael Stern's answers are on p. 19.

***Editor's note:** When re-reading this preamble, I realize that it might seem as though I blame Mayor Smith for her lack of success. I do not. As I have written before, the major culprit, in my view, is the undemocratic nature of the agglomeration. Westmount pays for police services through it, but has no say over its operations. Who is to blame? Former premier JEAN CHAREST, who created the agglomeration. – DP



Palestinian supporters in front of 1 Wood on October 13, 2023.

PHOTOS: JENNIFER BALL.

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Mayoral candidates respond to p.18 questions on demonstrations near Israeli consulate

Mary Gallery responds:

The demonstrations have gone on for far too long and are negatively impacting residents living near the Israeli consulate as well as businesses in the neighbourhood. Westmounters have too frequently felt intimidated, harassed, and the targets of hatred and anti-Semitism. As mayor, I will take steps immediately to address this unacceptable situation.

What began as lawful protest two years ago has too often become disruptive, blocking traffic, hurting local businesses, and leaving residents to endure noise and intimidation on a regular basis. Many Jewish and non-Jewish residents have told me they no longer feel comfortable in their own neighbourhood. That is unacceptable.

Peaceful protest is a protected right in Canada, but it ends when it threatens the safety, dignity or freedom of others. What we have seen is not free expression but repeated disturbances that undermine our community's sense of security. Protecting the safety and security of our community will be a top priority from day one.

And as your mayor, I will act decisively:

- *Advocate forcefully* with the mayor of Montreal and with provincial and federal authorities to ensure this issue is treated as a priority. With a new mayor of Montreal coming into office, I am confident that as mayor of Westmount I can work quickly with Montreal police and government partners to ensure demonstrations respect the law and do not cause unreasonable disruption.

- *Re-establish direct coordination* with Montreal police and Westmount Public Security, ensuring a stronger and more visible police presence near protest zones.
- *Ensure that Montreal police enforce existing laws* against blocking streets, harassment, intimidation and excessive noise, while also working with them to apply Westmount's by-laws on noise, obstruction and public order wherever possible, so residents are protected from disruption and intimidation.

- *Work with other demerged cities* to push



Mary Gallery on July 6 in Westmount Park.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

for changes to the current approach, as regular protests impose both financial and social costs on residents and taxpayers across the island.

- *Support a ban on face coverings* at demonstrations, with reasonable exceptions for health or religious reasons, to reduce intimidation and ensure accountability.
- *Advocate for protests to require a permit.* At a minimum, the SPVM [Montreal police] should require a permit and a pre-approved route for the safety of residents and those protesting.
- *Keep residents informed* through regular updates, building transparency and trust.

These demonstrations touch on deeply emotional global issues, but Westmount must remain a model of civility. We can and must stand firmly against hate and harassment while upholding the principle of peaceful expression.

Leadership in moments like this requires clarity, courage, and action. As mayor, I will restore safety, order, and respect so every Westmounter can walk their streets without fear.

Michael Stern responds:

We are optimistic that the very recent progress towards peace in the Middle East will meaningfully reduce the suffering in the region. While we hope that this may lead to a decrease in the level of protest activity in Westmount, our Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the freedom of peaceful assembly and the freedom of our citizens to express their views. These are important rights that are fundamental to how our society engages in critical conversations about crucial issues and the use of our public spaces to express a diverse set of opinions is a hallmark of a healthy democratic community.

However, the right to peaceful assembly in our constitution does not provide a right to impede our citizens' daily lives. Our constitution certainly does not protect violence, intimidation or other risks to the safety, security and freedom of movement of the many people who use Westmount's public spaces every day.

It is revealing that when you click on the link to "Community Safety" on the Westmount municipal website, the page is blank [the screen capture of westmount.org/en/services/municipal-services/community-safety provided to the *Independent* by the respondent is not reproduced here].

Simply put, we are not doing enough to ensure that Westmount is using the tools that we already have, developing new approaches to challenging situations, and being flexible enough to adapt to emerging risks.

When I am elected mayor, I will prioritize a review of all city by-laws related to the use of our public spaces. I will ensure that we have the means to balance the rights of the different groups that our city welcomes every day.

I will also continue to work with law enforcement authorities at all levels of government, including the SPVM [Montreal police] and federal and provincial author-



Mayorality candidate Michael Stern photographed in his back garden August 25.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

ities, to guarantee that Westmount receives sufficient resources and timely assistance to manage lawful protest activities, and to stop any criminal behaviour quickly and assertively.

In addition, Westmount already has by-laws, like the by-law concerning noise levels, that can be more strictly enforced to ensure that protest activity does not unreasonably disturb the peace of our community.

I will consult with Westmount Public Safety to ensure that our by-laws are being enforced, and that any lawful demonstrations are being appropriately supervised in order to prevent, and if needed to coordinate the response to, any criminal activity that may occur. We will explore logical approaches to these events that maintain the peace and security of our community while protecting the important civil rights of all our citizens.

As mayor, I will ensure that Westmount will be a place of peace and safety for all.

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Spotlight on Real Estate

issue is October 21

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**Q&A with Lynne Casgrain,
candidate for mayor of Westmount**

Questions: *The protests in front of, and in the neighbourhood of, the Israeli consulate on Wood Ave. near St. Catherine St. concern many Westmount residents, regardless of religious affiliation, background, or where they live and work in relation to the demonstrations. The municipal government of Westmount does not control the agglomeration of Montreal police or federal criminal law. Outgoing mayor Christina Smith has repeatedly dialogued with Montreal authorities on the issue, without obvious success.*

What is your view of these protests?

Every Canadian has the right to free speech and assembly. However, this fundamental privilege must be balanced against everyone’s right to walk unimpeded and unthreatened on our streets and in our public spaces. Hate speech, verbal harassment, and physical intimidation cannot be tolerated.

Although the Westmount Independent focuses on the problems outside the Israeli consulate, the Jewish community in Westmount has been subjected to hateful demonstrations elsewhere in the city. We have two synagogues, a Chabad centre and several primary schools and daycares that service the Jewish community. All of these institutions have to be protected and people must feel safe in them and around them.

Take for example, what happened outside of the Shaar Hashomayim synagogue just about a year ago. Despite the masked protestors threatening passers-by and blocking access, the police stood by. They did not enforce the court injunction that protestors maintain a distance of 50 metres from the entrance to the building for a few days. All this played out on a quiet residential street. Neighbours - Jew and non-Jew - felt scared.

On a municipal level, this is not about a particular conflict. It is about an increasing atmosphere of violence and hatred. It is about Council making every effort to ensure that all Westmount citizens, no matter what their religious affiliation, can have daily, safe access to their dwellings and institutions and can enjoy peace and quiet.

What, if anything, would you do to regulate or deal with them if you were to be elected?

In Montreal, parading protestors and concentrated demonstrations happen on the public arteries of the downtown and in large public squares, such as Dorchester, Dominion, and Victoria. In Westmount, we do not have such separation between commercial areas and the residential ones. They are one and the same. In consequence, the recent demonstrations outside Westmount Square and the synagogues have become intolerable for the residents and the neighbours. No matter what one’s background, there is simply no relief from the noise, the blockages, and the animosity. The size and the noise levels of these demonstrations must be brought down and strictly regulated.

Westmount joined others in denouncing the hands-off policing of anti-Israel demonstrations. The calls for enforcement of municipal bylaws, trespass and criminal code provisions have so far gone unanswered. I will renew the calls to Valerie Plante’s successor to enforce the present laws against unlawful assembly, hate speech, mischief, disruption of religious worship and intimidation of worshippers and blocking of roads. I support the initiatives to train the SPVM officers in the current legislation, and in specialized training to understand the terrible effect of hate crimes.

There are some other measures that can be taken. I describe five actions that can be taken at the municipal level and an action at the provincial level, which I invite you to read further about on the Q&A section of my website at www.lynnecasgrainwestmount.ca. I believe the approach I outline can reconcile both the rights to freedom of expression and the imperative right to security in Westmount.

Une version française de cette lettre est disponible dans la section FAQ de mon site web au LynneCasgrainWestmount.ca.

— FOR MAYOR

LYNNE CASGRAIN
It’s time for a change



Authorized by Claude Bismuth, Official Agent

Time capsule buried at Westmount Public Library



From left, Anthony Chiasson, Councillor Matt Aronson, Mayor Christina Smith and councillors Conrad Peart, Mary Gallery, Anitra Bostock and Jeff Shamie with the time capsule in front.

BY RALPH THOMPSON

In 1922, the city sealed a time capsule and buried it securely into the walls of city hall. A century later, the capsule was found, opened and the contents were presented publicly in front of a full house in Victoria Hall (see October 18, 2022, p. 1).

On October 1 of this year, Mayor Christina Smith and councillors Mary Gallery, Jeff Shamie, Conrad Peart, Anitra Bostock and Matt Aronson attended a small ceremony to entomb a new time capsule deep in the ground beside the Westmount public library, to be opened in another one hundred years’ time, i.e. 2125.

“Today, history repeats itself,” said Mayor Christina Smith, “as we bury another time capsule, sealing away a piece of our lives, not just for ourselves but for those who follow.”

The chief of archives for the city of Westmount, Anthony Chiasson, explained that the solid, stainless-steel time capsule is very secure. It came from a New York company that archives documents for the Library of Congress and is guaranteed for

a remarkable 400 years, to temperatures of -80°C. It is air tight and weatherproof.

Chiasson and his assistant included some of the items taken out of the previous time capsule, such as the trowel that was used to lay the foundation stone of city hall.

But it also includes works of art, letters, photographs and contributions from Westmounters who participated in a local competition.

Mayor Smith went on to say that “it also contains newspapers and magazines that include headlines and anxieties of our era. The photos and letters we’ve written reflect our personal joys and struggles. Also [included is] technology that is part of our daily lives, knowing that in a few decades, it may even seem as quaint as a horse-drawn carriage.”

The time capsule was then buried, not to be opened for another century.

“Imagine the faces of those who will open it,” said Mayor Smith. “We are not just burying memories. We are planting seeds of history for all of Westmount. May they blossom into stories that inspire and connect us for generations to come.”



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Showstopper honours Kussner



Suzanne O'Brien and Janice Kussner.

That late philanthropist Sheila Kussner was influential is well known. So no one was surprised when the evening honouring her was splendid, and the downpour only dared to appear the next day.

Billed as a “classic Sheila summer showstopper,” Butterflies & Bubbles was hosted by Costas Spiliadis and the Milos team to honour the legacy of Sheila Kussner and to help raise funds for the programs about which Sheila was so passionate.

The elegant eve was chaired by **Suzanne O'Brien**, Sheila's long-time friend and past chair of Hope & Cope. She worked with committee members **Eden Polansky**, **Sheryl Miller**, **Lillian Vineberg Goodman**, **Alissa Anzarut**, **Deborah Bridgman**, **Linda Smith** and **Lorne Levitt**.

Speaker of the evening was Sheila's daughter, **Janice Kussner**.

Arriving guests admired the Bloom Bar, where the McKenna Florist team, led by Kevin Camara, crafted beautiful bouquets later presented as the evening's parting gift. The floral designers worked in front

of a mirror on which was written Sheila's grateful – and graceful – quotation: “Thank you for all you are and all you do.”

The *soirée* signalled a seasonal transition. Although some wore summery white and florals, other ladies sparkled in early autumnal styles: sequined skirts and blazers and the fashion fad of the moment: bomber jackets.

Amidst the classically chic LBD (Little Black Dresses), trendy punches popped up. Peplum tops and *über* wide trouser suits were noted amidst short and sexy: sassy summer memories.

Although many wore trainers, stilettos rocked. Hope & Cope's new executive director **Romain Rigal** chatted with one and all including retired president JGH Foundation CEO **Myer Bick**, there with his wife **Carole**.

Noted in the SRO (Standing Room Only) crowd were Hope & Cope board chair **Barry Pascal** and his wife **Susan**, **Jewel** and **Paul Lowenstein**, **Mia** and **David Goodman**, **Linda Smith**, **Therese** and **Morton Brownstein**, **Sal Guerrera**, **Sandy** and **David Martz**, **Lillian** and **Morris Goodman**, **Marlene** and **Joel King**, **Eden Polansky**, **Cheryl Polansky**, **Nan** and **Bill Lassner**, **Marlene** and **Leonard Sanders**, **Evelyn Wacjer** *continued on p. 22*



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Mike Flinker, Bill and Nan Lassner.



Eden Polansky.

Social notes, cont'd from p. 21

and Larry Vatch, Sheryl Miller and Mark Adessky, Nancy and Harry Bloomfield, Bernice and Michael Brownstein, Heleena and Eddy Wiltzer, Alta and Harvey Levenson, Sylvia Vogel, Nancy Wiseman, Joy Bultz, Andrea Aisen, Marci and Jeffrey Katz, Heather Adelson, Gail and Alan Marcovitz, and Vivian and Howard Stotland.

Also seen were Marcia Gillman and Mike Flinker, Felicia Wexler Karis, Janet and Jeff Solomon, Susan Alper and Barry Kotler and leading make-up artist Jacques-Lee Pelletier.

Event designer was Lorne Levitt (Total Events). Singing sensation Shahara ensured the dance floor was packed. A magic Milos memory that raised over \$250,000 (net) – and counting. Leaving the delicious *dinatoire*, I recalled the many thoughtful floral gifts I received from Sheila – always in my preferred white. In memory, I chose my departing gift bouquet in a whiter shade of pale. It sits eloquently recalling an icon whose path still resonates.



Morris Goodman and Lillian Vineberg-Goodman.



Evelyn Wacjer-Vatch, Howard Stotland and Larry Vatch.



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