WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly Vol. 19 No. 4b

We are Westmount

April 8, 2025

Camp/swimming/tennis registration starts April 22 Summer Sports & Rec sign-up opens for local residents April 15

By Laureen Sweeney

It's next week starting Tuesday, April 15, that Westmount residents get a head start for signing up for many of the city's summer programs, followed by registration April 22 in the sought-after summer camps and numerous sessions of tennis and pickleball activities as well as swimming instruction.

New this year to the summer's pool programming is the introduction of Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross courses.

Selwyn buys building on edge of Villa Maria campus See story p. 6 These are the first steps to getting individuals certified as lifeguards.

"They have not been offered here in a long time but are being re-introduced in an effort to build lifeguards from the Westmount community," explained Andrew Maislin, Westmount's division head of operations and sports facilities.

The two-week camp sessions are open to youth ages 6 to 14 starting June 23, with training for those aged 15-17 as CITs (counsellors in training).

The camp sessions are described as "filled with sports, team building and leadership activities, arts and crafts, swimming and water games, active outdoor play time, and time to relax and hang out with friends."

Among other special activities aimed at youth *continued on p. 10*

Rhinos enter federal election: 'Everything is our Number One priority'



NDG-Westmount Rhinoceros Party candidate Stephen Hensley does his best rhino impression at the Local 75 bistro on Monkland Ave. in NDG. See story on p. 8.



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Drop off garments at Vic Hall April 10 and 11 City's third Earth Day Clothing Swap set for April 12

By Laureen Sweeney

Getting ready to switch from winter to summer? The city's third annual Earth Day Clothing Swap on Saturday, April 12, "is such a fun way to celebrate and upcycle your wardrobe sustainably and for free," said Donna Lach, the assistant director of Westmount Public Library and Community Events. "The entire Community Events team and a number of volunteers are already preparing for the event," she said. It takes place at Victoria Hall on Saturday from 1 to 4 pm.

People with cleaned, unwanted items to provide are asked to drop them off at Victoria Hall Thursday and Friday, April 10 and 11 between 8:30 and 11 am. *continued on p. 10*



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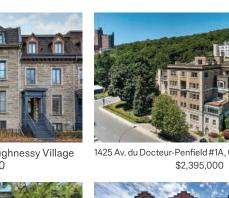
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Public Security reports 2 vehicles collide at Sherbrooke, Redfern

By Laureen Sweeney

A collision between a car and a pick-up truck March 27 on Sherbrooke at Redfern was reported to have caused heavy damage to both, according to Public Security officials. No injuries occurred. The accident took place about 12:20 pm bringing police, Urgences Santé, firefighters and Public Security to the scene as well as two tow trucks.

It was described as having resulted when the pick-up, turning off Redfern, struck the eastbound car.

Intoxicated man found on Barat at 3 am

A man found lying on the sidewalk on Barat March 29 was taken to hospital by Urgences Santé, Public Security officials said. Alerted by Public Works, patrollers had responded and described him as in an advanced state of intoxication at 3:06 am. He was placed in a recovery position until arrival of an ambulance. No information was available regarding his age and address.

Emergency crews called for running water

Various emergency crews were summoned March 29 at 2:23 pm for water

Letters to the Editor, *p*. 4

Spring Social Calendar, p. 7

Police Report, p. 10

Pet page, *p*. 12

Art: Dallegret and Modernism, p. 13 coming from a house under major exterior reconstruction at Metcalfe and Melbourne. Public Security officials said the source was found to be a faucet left running in the basement. No major damage was reported. The exterior masonry has been stripped from the house (see story April 1, p. 1 and 18).

April 1 reminders for parking

Now that the calendar has turned to April, Public Security officials are reminding motorists to check for applicable street maintenance signs when parking. Days and times can vary even from block to block on the same street.



A typical sign regarding no parking for street maintenance. This one is on Lansdowne south of Sherbrooke.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INDEPENDENT AMPLIFIES THE NEGATIVE, MISCHARACTERIZES PRO-HOUSING QUESTIONERS

I have long enjoyed reading the *Independent*, but I must express my concern that your publication often amplifies the voices of naysayers and detractors, giving them undue prominence.

In your coverage of the March Westmount council meeting, you devoted several paragraphs to objections raised by a small number of residents concerning bike lanes. However, there was no mention of the compelling reasons to support bike lanes, such as cyclist safety and the disproportionate amount of public space currently allocated to cars.

Your article briefly mentions that other topics raised at the council meeting included "the need to construct residential housing, possibly more conducive to younger families than high-rises, in the southeast" (March 25, p. 16). As one of the two individuals who raised the issue of housing, I would like to clarify that we did not oppose high-rises. The suggestion that we did is an unfortunate editorialization by the *Independent*.

In fact, I specifically mentioned that many residents are open to buildings taller than 25 storeys at Atwater and St. Catherine, given that this is an urban area with close proximity to the Metro.

Unfortunately, your coverage misrepresented the council meeting. While a handful of residents opposed to bike lanes were given several paragraphs, those of us advocating for more housing were given just one sentence, and our position was inaccurately framed.

The naysayers and detractors are given too much attention as it is. Let's also hear from those of us advocating for practical solutions. The March council meeting would have been a great place to start. JAMES MURPHY, MELVILLE AVE.

Editor's correction & reply: (1) I think that the sentence that you quote above was attempting to summarize questioner Jessica Winton's opinions, not yours, but I do agree that it misrepresents her remarks, without intended malice. After reviewing the tape, I think that Winton was saying that the proposed tall buildings needed to be better presented in plans, not discarded. If we were wrong then, or now, she is most welcome to clarify her remarks in these pages. (2) It is my opinion, after 18 years experience at this job, that residents' questions at council meetings (and the letters to the editor in this newspaper) are disproportionately negative. Even your own presentation at the March 17 city council meeting was, at least in part, complaining, i.e. you said that you did not think that the city's summary report (see February 18, p. 1 for our coverage of it) on the November 14, 2024 southeast consultation faithfully reported on your use of the term "housing crisis" at the event or your advocacy for more housing at that time. To take another manifestation of this phenomenon, whatever actual percentage of the population is against a certain city action (minority, 50 percent or majority), I would expect the percentage of such voices in these forums to be greater. While I will not apologize for summing up question periods, I advise people not to use such coverage as a poll (which we don't present it as) and to skip both council-question articles and our Letters section if you want to avoid negativity. For clarity, positive comments about the city's actions, including support, thanks and gratitude, are most welcome in our Letters section. – DP.

BUILD THE INDOOR POOL

The pool should be built for all of the reasons outlined in the letter to the editor (March 4, p. 6) supporting the investment in the indoor pool. Thank you to Diana Hernandez for her clear and concise letter. IVAN SPECTOR, ARLINGTON AVE.

CITY COUNCIL, PLEASE APPROVE MOUNTAINSIDE PROJECT

A slightly longer version of this letter was sent to Westmount city council members on March 19, and then forwarded to the Independent by the writer April 2.

Our proposed project to re-develop the vacated former Mountainside United Church property has garnered the support of Westmount residents in the neighbourhood. This support was documented during a public meeting with invitations to all interested residents, particularly homeowners, in order to voice their opinions [see July 9, 2024, p. 12]. The presentation received a very favourable response, including from immediate neighbours. In sum, your constituents are in favour.

Our proposed project was well received by the city of Westmount Urban Planning, with the requirement to present those architectural plans at a public meeting/ presentation to gather residents' opinions. Urban Planning seemed to favour the new project, which would breathe life into an empty, undeveloped site.

Our proposed project was also presented to the mayoress with encouragement, as well as to the city's Mme. Director-General, and M. Neault, director of the Urban Planning department. Encouragement was received, with a vision to resolve and finally to populate the abandoned former church – after six years of work. [...]

In Westmount and throughout the city of Montreal, there are numerous examples of abandoned churches being converted to other uses that better serve the overall community, and needs of the surrounding neighbourhood. Notably, this precedent had already been set in Westmount. The Mountainside United Church congregation, around 2017, put its property on the general market for sale; recognizing that its sale to another religious institution, or even rental, was unfeasible due to changed community practices and the surplus of (even abandoned) church buildings in greater Montreal, Westmount [and] Quebec.

An individual stepped forward to save the fragile congregation. With the city's understanding, good faith and minimal support, he can now save the former church's beauty, and re-populate the abandoned buildings compatibly with the immediate neighbourhood. It is important to note that the owner's willingness and capability to occupy the monumental building as his family house is a wonderful opportunity for all Westmount and its neighbouring residents.

As you probably do know but should be alerted, at the time of its acquisition by the current owner, the property was zoned residential. During the on-going discussions with the city of Westmount's director of Urban Planning of the time to re-develop a residential project on the property, the city of Westmount unilaterally re-zoned the site (including amalgamating the land into one huge lot), thus causing significant prejudice to the buyer.

The property was purchased on the condition of residential zoning – confirmed at the time by the city's director of Urban Planning. [...]

In response to the last and shocking rejection by the city through its anonymous* general committee last month, the owner has since agreed to and presented to Urban Planning, a new, simplified, lesser project for residential use, and subdivision into a handful of lots – a smaller number of lots than what had existed previously in the zone designated as R-04-01, the adjacent zone still in existence. The church property should be re-integrated therein, as it had been before 2019.

Note above all that reversal of the 2019 change of zoning prohibiting the owner's as-of right to build and occupy as "residential" should be implemented. The six or seven years of meandering for approval must come to an end with your positive intervention.

We strongly urge the city to take advantage of this critical opportunity to address a rapidly escalating situation before it reaches a crisis point. By approving and holding a decisive meeting that includes all stakeholders – including those who have not yet voiced their concerns – the city can facilitate a constructive dialogue. This will allow all parties to work towards a solution that not only mitigates the negative

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT We are Westmount

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PRESSTIME: Monday at 10:30 am (except before long weekends, Friday at 10:30 am).

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

impacts of past hard challenges but also prevents significant future costs. Taking swift action now will ensure a more sustainable and cost-effective outcome for the community.

We are asking you, as the representatives of the city of Westmount residents who support the project, and considering that the city of Westmount Urban Planning collaborated on and appeared to support the project, as well as the mayoress to our understanding, to support the proposed development. With zoning having been changed under the nose of the owner while he was working with the city on his as-of-right zoned project, and with facing exposure to a major conflict with a wellmeaning citizen of Westmount who has already had to pay years of expenses - I ask under what guise of representation does council justify refusing the project? Who does this council truly represent?

The Westmount Mission Statement is attached [to the original letter] as a guide.

To each of you I also forward the new architectural plan [for four residences in total, namely one in Leslie Hall on Roslyn Ave., one in the former church itself and two detached houses in new buildings on Lansdowne Ave.]; as well as the email that had been sent to the city, addressed to M. Neault and the mayoress dated March 17, 2025. It would be most informative.

THOMAS ROBERT REINER – ARCHITECTE & URBANIST, GROUPE TRRIA Architecture & development CONSULTANT/V.P. FOR THE OWNER. M. DANIEL REVAH

*Editor's note: As explained March 18, p. SL-23, when city council meets in closed session it calls itself "general committee." It is not anonymous. - DP.

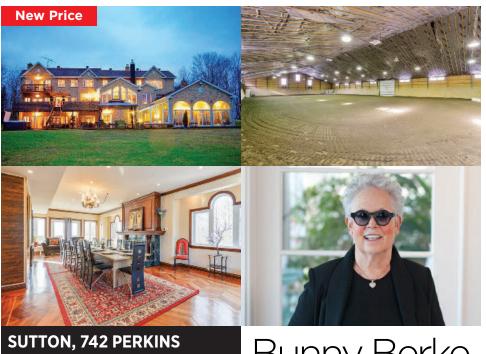
THANK YOU, DR. VAILLANCOURT

We are grateful to Dr. Vaillancourt and the staff of Westmount Veterinary Hospital who provided 14 years of exceptional and compassionate care to our dog Molly and to us, all the way to the very end of her life.

PAUL KRUSZEWSKI & MELANIE DIRKS, PARKMAN PLACE

We welcome your letters

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Headmaster Downey hopes to conclude St. Matthias transaction 'shortly' Selwyn House buys building on southern edge of Villa Maria campus

By David Price

Selwyn House School has purchased a large building – 4120 Vendôme Ave., located on the southern edge of the Villa Maria campus – from the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame.

The story appears to have been broken late last week by the Coolopolis website on its TikTok account.

It would seem from the deed that the building is not one used or leased by the

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O REFERRED FOR A REASON



Collège Villa Maria high school, but an April 4 email to the school inquiring into this matter and others was not returned by press time April 7.

The transaction, for \$5 million, was inked on December 27, 2024 between the Sisters and the "Selwyn House Association," the legal name of the school. Selwyn House's main campus is in the heart of Westmount at 95 Côte St. Antoine. This new building is just west of the Westmount-NDG border.

When replying April 7 to questions from the *Independent*, Selwyn headmaster Michael Downey wrote, "Selwyn House holds a number of buildings in its portfolio to meet its current and future needs. The composition of this portfolio may change from time to time. The school has nothing to confirm regarding its asset portfolio at this time.

"The decision to secure the building in

question, will have no impact on the constructive negotiations currently ongoing with St. Matthias, which both parties hope to conclude shortly."

St. Matthias, at 10 Church Hill (corner Côte St. Antoine), is slightly west of Selwyn's three existing buildings.

Its possible purchase for use by the school's then-new grade 12 program was first announced about two years ago (see May 30, 2023, p. 1).

Villa Maria's campus is for sale, wants to stay

At the time of the Marianopolis sale in early 2024 (see below), the Sisters announced that the rest of their very large contiguous site was for sale. Villa Maria high school occupies a substantial part of it.

The Montreal *Gazette* reported on February 6 of this year that the high school's



4120 Vendôme Ave. in NDG on April 4.

compound was leased until 2030 from the Sisters and its real estate would be for sale in 2031.

On its website, Villa Maria high school currently affirms its desire to stay, including a press release from October 21, 2024 saying, among other things: "Regardless of who ultimately acquires the estate, our commitment to the community remains total and unshakable: the school will be pursuing its educational mission on its current site."

Marianopolis bought its campus

Marianopolis CEGEP purchased its Westmount campus – 4873 Westmount Ave., on the southeast edge of the Villa Maria campus – on March 21, 2024 (see May 14, 2024, p. SL-26), also from the Sisters.





Spring Social Calendar



Social Notes

Veronica Redgrave

APRIL

Thursday, April 10

• A Taste of Montreal, hosted by The Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Foundation. Montreal-inspired menu by Chez Mylo. 6 pm to 8 p.m. Entrepôts Dominion, 3970 St. Ambroise St. (parking lot behind). General admission: \$250. Young professionals (35 and under): \$150. batshawfoundation.kindful.com/e/a-taste-of-saveursde-montreal

• Plural Contemporary Art Fair Première. Organized by the Contemporary Art Gallery Association featuring 44 galleries from seven Canadian cities. Opening-night benefit cocktail and art viewing. 4 pm: Mécène/ patrons, \$525. 5 pm: Philanthrope, \$325. 6 pm: VIP, \$225. Friday to Sunday, April 11-13 open to the public with timed entry. General \$25. Seniors \$23. Students \$20. Free for children under 15. All tickets plural.art

Wednesday, April 23

La SAMS Human Resonance benefit gala. Société pour les arts en milieu de santé (SAMS) brings the benefits of music to people who are vulnerable, elderly or living in healthcare environments. Honorary chair Suzanne Tremblay, vice-president and regional head Quebec and Atlantic, TD Private Wealth Management. Hosted by Sophie Fouron. Cocktail/concert features tenor Frédéric Antoun accompanied by Esther Gonthier, as well as artists from La SAMS. Tickets \$250. 6:30 pm. Théâtre Rialto, 5723 Park Ave. Valet parking. Information and reservation: info@sam sante.org. 514.508.8908. Samsante.org/ soiree-benefice2025/

MAY

Thursday, May 1

• UP BEAT for Mental Health. A fashion evening raising funds for UP House, Montreal, aiming to end the stigma of mental health. Show producer Hans Koechling. Creative cocktails/mocktails. 6 pm. Fashion show 7 pm. Maison Alcan, 2200 Stanley. Valet parking. Tickets \$150. Information: paradisurbain.org. devon.reid@paradis urbain.org.

• McCord Stewart Museum Grand Ball

'Allegory'. Honorary co-chairs Manuela Goya, vice president, destination development, public affairs and industry, Tourisme Montréal; Vickie Joseph, cofounder/ CEO of V Kosmetik, and Marie Ginette Lepage, senior vice president, Transformation, Cogeco. Cocktails 6:30 pm. Dinner 8 pm. Dancing 10 pm. Théâtre Cartier, 2330 St. Catherine East. Valet parking. Dress: black tie. Tickets \$1,400. Tables (10): \$15,000. Information catherine.bournival@mccord-stewart.ca 514.861.6701 local 1278.

• Geordie Theatre presents Dance, Drink and Drama, a showtime cabaret cocktail. Emcee Bijuriya. Starring a myriad of talent. 7 pm. Le Balcon, 463 St. Catherine St. West. Inside the renovated St. James Church. Tickets \$150. Anna@geordie.ca. geordie. ca/cabaret-fundraiser/

Friday, May 2

Scapegoat Carnivale presents readings of hilarious *Fawlty Towers* episodes starring George Bowser, Peter Blaikie, Betsy Mitchell, Philip Johnston, Vincent Prager, Roberto Menegati, James Loye, Krystyna Tomiule, plus Elsa Bolam and Maurice Podbrey, whose daughter Alison Darcy, coartistic director of Scapegoat Carnivale, is director of the fundraising evening. Performances 7:30 pm. (Doors open at 7 pm). Segal Centre for the Performing Arts, 5170 Côte St. Catherine. Tickets \$75. Scape goatcarnivale.com.

Wednesday, May 14

• Miriam Foundation's My Big Fat Greek Fundraiser #5. Co-chairs Linda Smith and Andrew Hops. 6:30 pm. Estiatorio Milos, 5357 Park Ave. Valet parking. Tickets \$375. Information: Miriamfoundation.ca

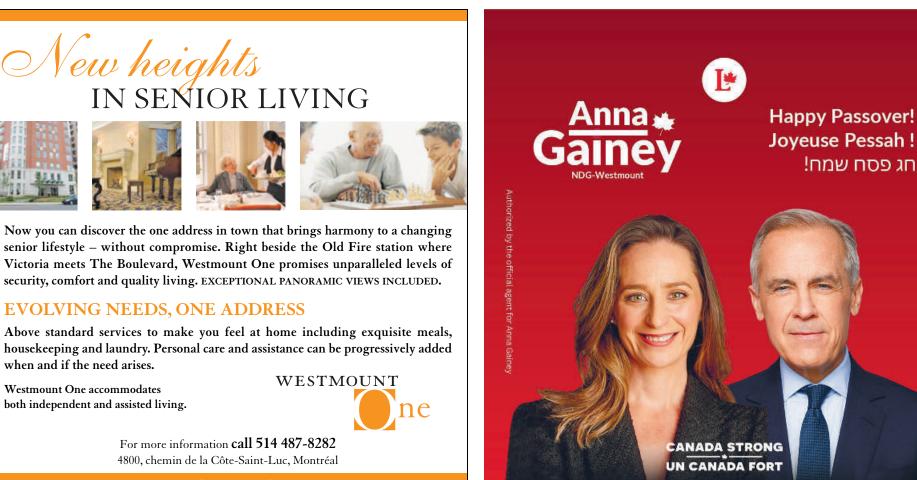
• Tyndale's Spring Fundraiser, hosted by Malik Shaheed. Cocktail *dînatoire* 6 pm to 9:30 pm. Le Richmond, 377 Richmond (valet service available at \$10) Tickets \$275 (includes two drinks, food stations and desserts) Tyndalestgeorges.com. Online auction May 5 to May 14.

Wednesday, May 28

Gala 2025 Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. Honouring Susan and Jonathan Wener. MC Neil Wiener. 5:30 pm cocktail *dînatoire*. 7:30 entertainment featuring Bowser and Blue. After party with Cuisine Opera Il Bazzali's Davide making cannoli. Dress: cocktail chic. 4100 Sherbrooke St. West. Valet parking. Tickets \$72. Students \$36. Sponsorships available. Contact Marcy Kastner 514.937.3575 local 201. marcy@templemontreal.ca

Friday, May 30

MUHC Le Bal Rouge. La Nesra, 2020 William. Tickets \$2,500. Corporate tables \$25,000. Reservations and information 514.843.1543. events@muhcfoundation. com.



www.westmountone.com

Federal election candidates Rhino Hensley: People prefer big numbers to small ones

By Jennifer Ball

Everyone knows that a rhino is stronger than a donkey or an elephant, so elect the Rhinoceros Party in the NDG-Westmount riding in the next general election, the candidate contended in a recent interview.

Stephen Hensley, an NDG resident, has thrown his hat into the ring for your consideration when you vote in April 28 federal election.

According to his LinkedIn profile, he is a software technician who standardizes products across sales platforms. The party he is running for was founded in 1963 and has never been in power so the *Independent* asked Hensley why it is still relevant some 62 years later.

"People should vote for the Rhinoceros Party if they're really unsatisfied with any other party, because we are the true alternative to all major parties...

"On a serious note, in Canada, [in effect] you can't spoil your ballot because then it does not count. There's no box that says "This is a protest vote'...

"If you're unsatisfied with the current electorate, vote for me."

Hensley said he comes from a very political family. "My parents had the largest Rhinoceros Party sign in Calgary in 1977. If we can't laugh about our politicians, then there's a problem in our democracy and I'm here to provide the laughs."

Double everyone's wages

According to its website, the Rhinoceros Party would double the wages of all Canadians, while cutting their taxes in half, if elected. This way, the government pockets the same amount, and you get more in your pocket! The *Independent* asked Hensley to unpack this economic strategy.

"It's all about the money flow," he

When

Where

What

quipped.

"Most people like big numbers rather than small numbers," he said. "We could make the bills instantly worth more, for instance a \$20 bill is instantly worth \$40...

"As soon as we're elected, people would instantly feel that they had more money in their pockets."

Sean Carson was the candidate for the Rhinoceros Party in the 2023 by-election in NDG-Westmount and received 97 votes.

Tax the methane

This "momentum" led them to establishing a Canadian environmental plan. While Mark Carney is repealing the carbon tax, Hensley wants to impose a new tax: the methane tax!

It takes into consideration all flatulence coming from households and farmland barns in our great nation. "We should be taxing that," he said.

The *Independent* encouraged Hensley to commit to declaring which files would be the first that he would familiarize himself with, were he to win the riding.

"[For the Rhinoceros Party] everything is our Number One priority!...

"[There is a housing crisis] and the Rhino party is committed to providing the building materials for everyone to build their own igloo, as housing is our Number One priority. The economy is also our highest priority. National defence is again our highest priority and the signing of defence pacts."

He said that while Canadians want their southern border protected from the USA and their northern border protected from Russia, he wants to counter-propose that we sign a defence treaty only with Switzerland.

"Stay neutral!" he enthused. *See photo on p. 1.*

Apparent message: Porches, railings of 'ensembles' can't be changed Permit refused for row house at 4840 St. Catherine



4840 St. Catherine St. is the house in the foreground with the black posts, as seen April 4.

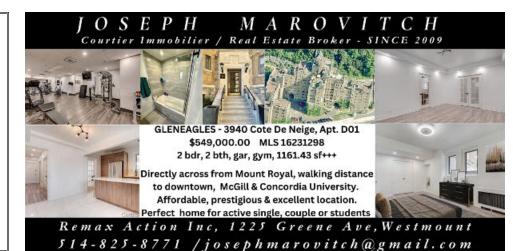
By Laureen Sweeney

A permit to re-do the front porch and railings of a house at 4840 St. Catherine was refused by the city council in upholding the recommendation of the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) at its meeting of January 14 and 16. The row is immediately east of Victoria in front of the currently unused train station building.

All the porches and railings of this Category III-rated "ensemble" of row buildings backing onto the Glen yards retain the original porches and railings as they were built and referred to at the time as the "Oblin homes" in 1998-99. Under the city's By-law 1305, "a group of buildings that were designed and built as a single venture (e.g. a pair of semidetached houses, a row of identical houses, a group of buildings forming one overall composition) is considered to be an architectural ensemble." All also have the original entrances.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

While Councillor Conrad Peart, whose commissionership includes urban planning, did not provide additional comment on the reason for the refusal, minutes of the PAC meeting cited the above reason for failing to give it a favourable recommendation. The permit denial was adopted unanimously by the council.



Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 7-9 PM

Victoria Hall, 4626 rue Sherbrooke West

Meet the Candidates 2025 Federal Election NDG – Westmount

The debate will be followed by a question and answer period.

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Dispute began over a cigarette – one man arrested, one other to be questioned Stabbing at Alexis Nihon sends two to hospital

By Jennifer Ball

There were several 911 calls placed April 4 at 4:50 am alerting Montreal police to a violent fight that broke out over a cigarette on Atwater Ave. outside the entrance to the Alexis Nihon shopping mall.

At 7:30 am, the Independent was on the

scene and Atwater Ave. between de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine St. was still blocked by police to cars travelling south on Atwater Ave.

Véronique Dubuc, media relations officer at the Montreal police, spoke with the *Independent* on April 4 to explain the situation.



Montreal police blocking cars at 7:30 am on April 4 on Atwater Ave. between de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine St.

"Police officers and paramedics were on site responding to a 911 call about two people who were injured. A 35-year-old woman suffered upper body injuries, and a 58-year-old man was found unconscious at the scene.

"Both victims were transported to the hospital by ambulance, and we have confirmation from the medical authorities that [both are now in stable condition]."

Dubuc told the *Independent* that it all

stemmed from a dispute between them over a cigarette.

"Allegedly, the man struck the woman with a pointed object, and it entered her upper body...

"When that happened, there were several people who witnessed the altercation who then decided to intervene. Police arrested a 48-year-old man for assaulting the 58-year-old man...

"The 48-year-old man appeared in court on April 4 and the 58-year-old man who committed the armed assault [on the woman] will be interviewed by investigators when his physical condition permits it."





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Police Report Station 12: Westmount's seniors targeted by wallet thieves

By Martin C. Barry

With more Westmounters spending time outdoors following the arrival of spring, police at Station 12 are reporting an upsurge in wallet snatchings, locker room thefts and pickpocket incidents – many involving senior citizens.

"What I've noticed recently is that a lot of older people in Westmount are being targeted for wallet theft," Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit told the *Independent*.

In one particularly egregious incident, a 92-year-old woman who had just left the Scotiabank branch on Greene Ave. with a considerable amount of cash around 3 pm on March 18 was followed by a suspect to her nearby home.

Before she went in, he snatched her purse and ran off, Cst. Yigit said.

Another wallet taken

According to some of the Stanton St. station's latest crime incident reports, a woman who was sitting in a Victoria Ave. café around 5 pm on March 28 got her wallet taken out of her purse while she was having a cup of coffee.

Rec sign-up cont'd from p. 1

are break dance, and preparation for the upcoming hockey session with camp and hockey tune-up programs registering August 18 to 22.

Among the summer adult courses registering next week are classical ballet, belly dancing, body design, line dancing, yoga and Zumba. Others also offered online are "yogalates," gentle movement and body design aimed at seniors.

Throughout the summer, ice time will be available for general skating and hockey for the entire family at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) where a detailed schedule is to be available at its office. When Station 12 investigators examined captured security camera video taken inside the café, they saw a couple sit down at an adjoining table, following which a heavyset female suspect was seen surreptitiously withdrawing a wallet from the victim's purse.

Shortly afterwards that same day, according to a complaint filed by the victim, there was at least one attempt to make a purchase with the stolen banking and credit cards, although it was declined by the victim's financial institution before it could be processed.

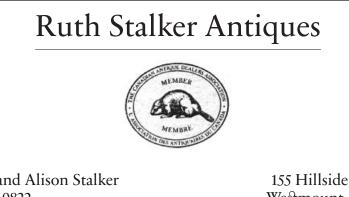
Pocket picked

On April 2 around 1:30 in the afternoon near the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Victoria Ave., a pickpocket managed to steal a \$20 bill out of the purse of a female victim.

This follows at least one previously reported pickpocketing incident at a nearby supermarket, where a retiree's wallet and smartphone were allegedly stolen from her purse by a suspect who distracted her briefly under the guise of making conversation.

While lawn bowling and croquet are not offered by the city, the club next door to city hall is closely associated with the municipality and its activities are included with others mentioned in the activity brochure. These feature an open house on May 24, weather permitting, from 9:30 am to 2 pm. All are welcome to go and give lawn bowling and/or croquet a try.

For people interested in becoming club members, free instructional classes will be offered between May 26 and June 24, on Monday and Thursday evenings as well as Saturday mornings. Registration for these classes takes place during the open house event.



Jamie and Alison Stalker 514 931-0822 alison.stalker@bellnet.ca 155 Hillside Avenue Westmount, Quebec H3Z 1W1

Yet another wallet snatched

In yet another wallet theft incident in Westmount in recent weeks, a student at Marianopolis College on Westmount Ave. reported in a complaint filed at Station 12 that they had a wallet containing identification stolen out of a bag that had been stowed inside a locker.

To deter locker thefts, police recommend the use of a reasonably strong lock, regardless of how secure or well-supervised a locker room may seem.

Better yet, they suggest never leaving highly sensitive items like wallets or cell phones in lockers, as the damage to personal security can be nearly irreperable in the event of their theft.

Clothing Swap cont'd from p. 1

"We are really looking as forward to this year's edition as last year," when almost 400 people participated, Lach said. "The community brought clothes to exchange with their neighbours and to give them a second life. They also perused the items brought by the community and shared laughs and smiles as they selected their new fashion finds."

Unsold, useful clothes will be donated to the Resilience Shelter and the rest to Renaissance.

"This event has been a big hit with participants and we are thrilled to bring it back this year," said Rachel Conover, the Community Events organizer. "It's great to see all this perfectly good clothing getting a second home instead of being sent to the landfill."



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'Flamen Cohen' was a hit with Victoria Hall audience



From left, percussionist Miguel Medina, vocalist/vocalist Alvaro Echanove and guitarist Jheinsen Montalvo were warmly received at Victoria Hall on March 26 when they performed songs by Leonard Cohen with a flamenco emphasis.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Whether they were there out of love for flamboyant flamenco or the dark and moody songs of Leonard Cohen, the crowd attending a concert combining the two at Victoria Hall on March 26 responded with overwhelming enthusiasm.

Billed as Flamen Cohen, guitarist/ singer Alvaro Echanove, along with guitarist Jheinsen Montalvo and percussionist Miguel Medina, explored the special relationship between Leonard Cohen and flamenco with new arrangements of the singer-songwriter's pieces.

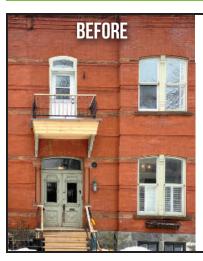
The show gave the audience of fans an opportunity to re-discover the late singer/ poet's already well-known work, while introducing Cohen's emotionally-charged and lyrically-rich universe to flamenco aficionados.

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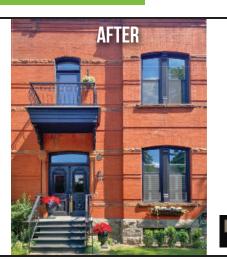
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Smiley is so cuddly



An affectionate and handsome marmalade-and-white tabby, Smiley is such a cuddly fellow. He is presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery and he is ready for a forever family to share lots of love and companionship.

He is very healthy at nine years of middle age, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

If you would like more information on Smiley and feel like meeting him, please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at



At two years of age, elegant Kelly is a delightful example of her breed as a German shepherd. So intelligent and affectionate, she is doing well in foster care for Gerdy's Rescue & Adoptions.

Her foster family is enjoying its time with her in the home, and she is happy to play in the fenced backyard. I am also pleased to report that Kelly participated in

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 www.spca.com, scroll to his information page from his identification number, 2000238434, then plan your visit to the cattery and meeting with the adoptions coordinators.

The shelter is open every day, from Monday to Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm, also Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm. The SPCA is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West, Côte des Neiges, Montreal H4P 1X4.

As I always mention, please bring a carrier and, if you do not have one or would like to look at other models, please drop by the in-house accessories boutique to browse through its selection of accessories and foods.

Smiley is looking forward to your visit. Do not hesitate to drop by to see him and bring him home.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Precious Kelly

a board-and-train course as well, at which she learned eagerly and conformed beautifully. She has been spending time in a supervised professional daycare as well, in order to mingle with more people and other dogs at play.

Kelly is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. As a young shepherd, she is at the fine-tuning stage of leash training, during which puppy reactivity to people and other dogs is being addressed on regular walks to establish the new adult routine.

If you would like more information on Kelly, please refer to the Gerdy's Rescue & Adoptions website at www.gerdysrescue. org or fill out an application for her at gerdysrescue.org/adoption-form/.

Kelly is a beauty. She enjoys her active days and looks forward to a forever family soon.

Your neighbour, Lysanne





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Art

Veronica Redgrave

Skyscrapers by the Roots – Reflections on Late Modernism at the MAC at Place Ville Marie explores late modernism through works by Shannon Bool, Kapwani Kiwanga, Rachel Rose, Jonathan Schouela, Lynne Cohen and François Dallegret.

Present at the exhibit's premiering evening were the MAC's Stéphan La Roche, director general; Audrey Genois, director conservation and programming; and François LeTourneux, curator and head of public programs.

Born in Morocco, trained in Paris (architecture at the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts), long-time local resident Dallegret is renowned for his fabulous automatist drawings, as well as sculptures, objects and *ephemera*.

His visionary imagination was behind Le Drug on Mountain St., sadly now long gone. There, his remarkable décor for the then-acclaimed dance-club-gallery-pharmacy-café was prescient. Today, such multiuse art spaces are part of the urban fabric.

His unique creativity is still relevant. Recently continued on p. 14

Modernism's long history, and local connection



Audrey Genois, artists François Dallegret, Jonathan Schouela, Shannon Bool and David Hartt, and François LeTourneux and Stéphan La Roche.



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Social notes, cont'd from p. 13

the Parc olympique de Montréal commissioned a re-issue of his furniture, updating his 1976 creations.

Dallegret's work has had a notable international presence. The touring exhibition GOD & CO: François Dallegret Beyond the Bubble was presented in London in 2011, and in Los Angeles in 2016 and then in 2023 at the Yale School of Architecture Gallerv and in Venice.

A book published for the occasion marks the culmination of his Art Fiction cycle. In September 2025, the Centre Pompidou will present a French-language publication - a sort of Art Friction manifesto ushering in a new phase with a deliberately political turn, reflecting Dallegret's commitment to current events.

This April, you can listen live to this whirlwind of inventiveness.

The MAC is holding a walkthrough with François Dallegret and Alessandra Ponte, professor at the School of Architecture at the Université de Montréal.

Place Ville Marie. April 16, 5 pm. Reservations : Macm.org.







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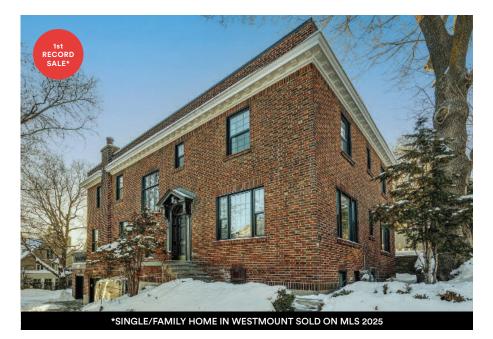
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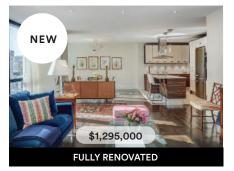
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