Weekly Vol. 19 No. 9e We are Westmount September 30, 2025

Witness: Someone set fire deliberately

# Arson squad investigating fire at homeless encampment behind 4024 St. Catherine

BY JENNIFER BALL

A fire broke out on September 20 in the lane behind 4024-4032 St. Catherine, just west of Atwater. The large building, initially a Packard car dealership, is located between an empty lot and the Bureau en Gros. The east-west alley starts at Atwater and runs between St. Catherine and Tupper St..

The back of 4024B St. Catherine, just to the west of where the majority of the fire damage can be seen, has a small metal balcony affixed to its exterior. When the *Independent* visited the alley on September 22, it was clearly someone's residence because a man and a woman were on the balcony, partially obscured behind a blue tarp, get-

ting changed.

Another man, who said he was an eyewitness to the fire, agreed to speak to the *Independent* as long as he could remain anonymous. "There is a bunch of homeless here and one day I am walking by here [pointing to the debris at 4024A St. Catherine] and [the tent serving as a temporary residence] was set on fire."

The *Independent* asked him to confirm that someone set the temporary housing on fire, to which he replied "yes."

### Police involved, looking at video

The Montreal police media relations department was contacted on September 23 and continued on p. 8



The exterior of 4024 and 4024A St. Catherine seen from the east-west alley between St. Catherine and Tupper St. on September 22.



Attendees fêted for 15, 20, 25 and 35 years

### **Quarter Century Club recognizes** 'milestone' service city employees

By Laureen Sweeney

Five long-serving city employees were inducted September 17 into Westmount's Quarter Century Club at its annual banquet at Victoria Hall, principally to recognize employees marking 25 years of service but also citing milestones of 15 and 20 years. This year as well, Helen Jay of the library, already a 25-year member of the

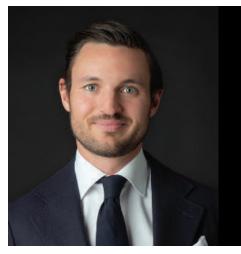
club, was cited for 35 years.

The event provided an opportunity for many retirees to get together and exchange experiences they shared on the job and after retirement. The banquet took place earlier in the year than usual given the upcoming municipal election November 2.

Opening the dinner, Mayor Christina

Smith spoke about the importance of the city's continued on p. 20





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### Q: What does real estate mean to you?

A: Real estate is truly my passion. With over 16 years of experience in the field, I have cultivated a deep love for working with my clients, developing relationships, and building trust. Guiding people through the buying and selling process is more than just a transaction—it's about helping them achieve their real estate dreams.

My strong interest in design and architecture allows me to see the full potential of every home. Having renovated over 15 properties—both for clients and personally—l've developed a keen understanding of structure, layout, and design possibilities. This experience enables me to provide valuable insights that help my clients make informed decisions. Additionally, I curate unique pieces to stage and elevate my listings, ensuring that each home is showcased at its absolute best.

Buying or selling a home is one of life's most significant journeys, and I take great pride in making that process as smooth, enjoyable, and successful as possible.

### Q: Why Westmount?

A: Every morning, before heading out to help clients find their dream homes, I walk my three kids and two dogs to school, and I'm reminded of just how special Westmount truly is.

This beautiful neighborhood is unlike any other—each home has its own unique charm, and the combination of historic architecture, tree-lined streets, and natural light makes it an exceptional place to live. Westmount's parks, schools, and sense of community create a magical environment for families, professionals, and investors alike.

Beyond its beauty, Westmount is an incredible place to invest. Within these four square kilometers, you'll find a real estate market that consistently holds and increases in value. The walkability is another major advantage—residents can easily access top schools, boutique shops, specialty grocery stores, gyms, and countless extracurricular activities for children, all within minutes.

For me, Westmount isn't just a place to live; it's a lifestyle, a community, and a long-term investment. Helping others find their perfect home here is an absolute privilege.

### At Roslyn and ECS

### City council helps Public Security 'drive home' school safety

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's back-to-school safety measures reported every year at the start of the new school year were to be re-emphasized this week at two local schools, Public Security director Greg McBain told the Independent.

This involved members of city council preparing to provide a high "safety profile" around Roslyn School September 29 and the following day at ECS on Mount Pleasant at Cedar, he said.

Along with dates and sites, the safety efforts were reported to include the distribution of pamphlets by council members to parents and those dropping off students reminding them to adhere to recommended drop-off areas.

These include away from school entrances and in locations where the younger students, in particular, will not have to cross a street (see story August 26, p. 3).

A list of safety measures tips was issued at the re-opening of classes but now that the students and parents are into this year's routine, the council participation is taking place to "drive home" the points.

### City hall lawn not a dog run, ticket given

A Westmount woman was ticketed \$664 for playing ball with her dog off leash on the lawn in front of city hall September 24 at 5:41 pm, Public Security officials

The large white unleashed dog had been spotted running after the ball, leading officers to speak to the woman. No other details were provided.

### **Police Report**

### Vic village thief orders 48-pack of cola, but leaves with wallet

By Martin C. Barry

A Victoria village restaurant employee who momentarily left a customer standing near the cash register while retrieving an order from a back room lost a day's worth of tips and had no choice but to cancel her credit cards after her wallet was stolen.

According to a complaint filed by the victim at the Montreal police's Station 12 about the September 21 incident, the male suspect walked in around 6 pm and placed a take-out order for 48 cans of Coca-Cola.

"The lady walked to the back to prepare what he asked for," said Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Mike Yigit. "He saw her purse, went through her purse, stole the wallet, stole her tip jar and left," he added.

Attempts were made to complete fraudulent transactions with the stolen credit cards, and the police were able to trace where the attempts were made. They were able to verify the suspect's actions through a video recording made by the restaurant's security system.

#### Car doors locked – just in time

After a lull of several months, car thieves appear to be active once again in Westmount.

On September 20, three suspects riding

in what police believe was a stolen white Porsche Macan or Cayenne SUV stopped outside a home on Roslyn Ave.

As seen in a security system video, they approached a Mercedes Benz parked in the driveway.

"Two of the men went towards the property and opened the door of the Mercedes," said Cst. Yigit, adding that the car's owner had forgotten to lock the doors.

However, by chance the owner happened at that very moment to remember he hadn't locked up the vehicle, and did so just as the suspects were about the enter. As a result, the car's alarm went off when the intruders were opening the doors and they were scared off, according to Yigit.

As for the fact the suspects were driving such an expensive ..... vehicle, he said car continued on p. 4

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**Social Notes:** Chez Doris, p. 21



**Social Notes:** Ken Reed golf, p. 22

InfoWestmount, p. 16

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### Running again for District 7 councillor

### Aronson announces platform to build, expand on his first term

By Laureen Sweeney

Councillor Matt Aronson announced his decision recently to seek a second four-year mandate on city council representing District 7 in the municipal elections November 2. His platform is evolving from his current commissionership, which has been dealing with climate and sustainability, citizen engagement and communication, as well as economic development. "I've proven I can deliver results," he said.

He cites these as including to help "modernize how citizens interact with their city government through the new Citizen Portal, the centralized Assistance Westmount service, and increasing public consultation as well as helping to obtain funding for the city's two merchant associations in Victoria village and the Greene Ave. area."

Calling his new campaign platform "Building for our future together," he describes it as creating a "frictionless city" that is "safe, clean and well maintained," invested in housing, and making the city "even more sustainable and climate-change resilient." To help move this forward, he advocates the city hire a professional sustain-

ability director to coordinate climate initiatives

Aronson pitches for "upfront" communications from city hall that are easy to find and understand, "real-time responses to resident questions, streamlined permits and minimized disruptions" from city projects and operations.

### Safe, well-maintained

In "safe and well-maintained," he includes "enhanced protection" for the most vulnerable residents through more proactive access to social services. "Let's invest in a Westmount we can call home with affordable and attainable housing for seniors on community land as well as a fair rental market through a residential lease registry." He also includes creating more community gardens and "re-balancing" major infrastructure projects to prioritize urgent surface re-paving for roads and lanes.

A lawyer by profession, Aronson works with Adesky Attorneys. He obtained his law degree from McGill in 2007.



Matt Aronson photographed in the window of his office on St. Catherine St. September 25.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

### **Police report,** cont'd from p. 3

thieves are known to travel around and steal cars while using stolen vehicles. Security cameras captured images of only one of the suspects, who appeared to be a young male, added Cst. Yigit.

### Thieves get into car, can't start it

Around 4:20 am on September 23, a Toyota RAV4 compact crossover SUV as seen in a security video, stopped in front of a home on Oakland Ave. in upper Westmount where a Porsche was parked.

"Two suspects, young, I would say in their twenties, got out and one seemed to have something in his hand that was able to unlock the doors of a Porsche," said Cst. Yigit, adding that the object was almost certainly a burglary tool.

After opening the doors and seating

themselves, they tried to fire up the ignition, but were unsuccessful, got out, returned to the RAV4 and departed.

He said the captured images are being sent to the Montreal police's vehicle theft department, where a database is maintained with cross-referenced information and images of the suspects' faces.

While some of the video cams the police increasingly rely on during investigations are located in private homes, cameras mounted in cars can also provide useful images, Yigit continued.

"We get a lot of help from 'Ring' doorbells," he said, referring to one of the world's better known home security brands manufactured by an Amazon subsidiary. Video security technology has vastly improved case resolution for the police, according to Yigit.



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Retail Review
Veronica Redgrave

Go-to destinations for great food are growing in Westmount. Two are opening at the end of September and one has just launched.

**D** Gelato is now open on Victoria so you can imagine my eagerness as an Italophile to sample its wares. Not only are there wonderful flavours with *nomi divertenti* (fun names), there is a selection of sprinkles, ensuring a must-visit for children. (Okay. Adults too. It's so much fun!)

They also sell *caffè*: namely D Coffee, their house blend. And when *gelato* may not be so sought after in winter months, they'll serve hot chocolate.

Chatting with Nadia Bilodeau, I discover she is a partner with executive chef Takeshi Horinoue. They are co-owners of what is turning into an eating empire: D Burger, D Gelato, Spuntino ("snack" in Italian) and the original Donato on the north side of Sherbrooke, a high-end Italian restaurant celebrating four years this December. It is renowned for crowds at lunch and dinner as well as Sunday brunch. Future plans include Casa Donato in Toronto.

Opening soon, **D Burger** will offer "milkshakes, sodas and smashed burgers

### Vic village acquires/acquiring four new food venues

with a choice of sauces," Nadia explains.

**Spuntino** will be a "café-restaurant with home-made croissants, sandwiches and salads – and pizzas, of course – and *aperitivo* spritz for 5 o'clock meetings." Exciting to see the neighbourhood flourish. *Complimenti!* 

Another exciting restaurant bringing European tastes to town is **Amalia**, offering "Portuguese-inspired cuisine." Recently opened, it is already a success. Foodies love the diverse range of tastes including *bacalhau* (the Portuguese word for "cod") and octopus (my favourite).

The wine list features interesting Portuguese wines, including an orange wine and, of course, classic Porto. In fact, speaking with co-owner Desmond Murphy, I learn that a "tasting of different ports" is in the works. He has partnered with Xavier Faubert-Didier in this upbeat project.

(Desmond knows the restaurant business: he also has "Sel Noir, a downtown steak place.")

Chef Baba has created delicious dishes for lunches (Tuesday to Fridays) and dinner (Tuesday to Sunday) "And we'll soon be part of Uber Eats."

The oyster bar beckons as one leaves the terrace area festooned with flowers and herbs. "Soon, we are adding traditional Portuguese dishes, like sardines."

As I leave, lunch groups arrive, moving upstairs to welcoming tables where the



décor has a whimsical Portuguese touch: the country's symbolic rooster, whose blue and white is echoed in the pretty plates.

### Open already

Donato Gelato, 343 Victoria. Open every day. 12 noon to 9 pm. donatogelato.com



Amalia, 4922 Sherbrooke St. Amaliamontreal.ca. Closed Mondays.

### Opening soon

Spuntino, 4858 Sherbrooke St. (west of Victoria) Spuntinomontreal.com D Burger, 4862 Sherbrooke St. Donatoburgers.com



Open

EPENDENT.

Portugal's iconic rooster at Amalia.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THANK YOU, PUBLIC SECURITY

As one of the victims of the recent series of water-bombings in Westmount, I would like to thank Westmount Public Security and Director Gregory McBain for their attentive and very diligent follow-up on this matter.

I am truly appreciative of how responsive Westmount Public Security was in dealing with this, and how quickly and seriously this was addressed.

CLAUDETTE BELLEMARE, STRATHCONA AVE.

### WE NEED MORE VOTING LOCATIONS

At the council meeting on September 18, the mayor bemoaned the low voter turnout in municipal elections – including Westmount's. Surely a large part of this problem is due to the very limited number (four) of voting locations.

For example, how many of the large number of elderly residents of the vast 4300 de Maisonenuve apartments and those in Westmount Square can be expected to get to Selwyn House School on Côte St. Antoine on election day?

There are a limited number of locations for so-called "mobile voting" in homes for senior citizens but the large number of elderly or disabled citizens in other locations are equally in need of more convenient places to vote.

With an unusually large number of contested positions in this year's election, it is especially important that there be a large voter turnout.

I propose the city increase the number of voting locations from four to eight – one

#### EIGHT YEARS OF PATCHWORK - TWO DAYS TO FIX



Caution! August 27 at 12:27 pm.

Jo LaPierre, Metcalfe Ave.

for each council member.

**FACT OVER FICTION** 

**ELECTORATE SHOULD VOTE** 

FOR POLITICIANS WHO VALUE

The southeast debate has been deeply

Mayor Smith recently transported me

into an Alice in Wonderland world, [in



Neglect ran deep. August 27 at 5:56 pm.

which] Humpty Dumpty says: "When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean – nothing more nor less."

The mayor insisted that she had consensus on the final southeast design. Yet just before the pivotal council vote on September 18, four councillors expressed preference for a "pause and refine" option instead of immediate approval. A resident even presented the mayor with a 1,000-signature petition opposing plan approval. Mayor Smith's claim of consensus is fiction

A resident emphasized that no independent architect or urban planner supported the plan. Mayor Smith's rebuttal was that all Planning and Advisory Committee (PAC) members loved it, neglecting to mention that all are paid by Westmount for city work.

When asked, Councillor Aronson said no incentives will be offered for top environmental design. Westmount has decided to instead introduce new environmental guidelines for all buildings across the city.

Great! These can be tacked on to the renovation guideline update, endlessly promised but already delayed more than eight years. Even the recent \$331,000 contract for a new roof on a city building does not specify a white roof.

Finally, Councillor Gallery re-capped her recent visit to the old Reddy Memorial building that houses vulnerable people. She described the back lane view toward St. Catherine as an "absolute horror."



Solid footing at last. August 29 at 1:04 pm.

NATASHA ARORA, WOOD AVE.

Perhaps an exaggeration. Councillor Gallery then added she was "stunned at so much opposition to us trying to solve this problem." Spoiler alert. All Westmount residents want the city to re-develop the area and have repeatedly said so. But they don't like being told what they want and insist on quality.

Leadership is lauded as paramount by many election candidates. Let's commit to those who value facts over fiction.

Denis Biro, 5000 de Maisonneuve, NDG

### WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

troubling.

We are Westmount

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### Correction

Contrary to what we wrote last week (p. 13), Jane Gonçalves spent 18 years in foster care, but was not adopted. The *Independent* apologizes for the error. – DP.

#### 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

# All okay with distribution during postal strike — If you want the city to buy more of our ads, please write

Dear reader,

Last week, the federal government directed Canada Post to cease door-to-door delivery of mail over the next 10 years, presumably to be replaced by street-side "super-boxes." In response, Canada Post's union immediately moved from a limited strike (which had already interrupted the *Independent*'s usual method for the door-to-door delivery of newspapers to houses and duplexes) to a complete one.

To mitigate the effect of the strike, we will continue with the measures already described, and tested successfully during the early winter strike of last year. They are kept up to date on our website. In short, I have more volunteers than ever, and together last week we distributed more newspapers to more corners of the city than at any time during this strike and the winter

I will have to think more and get

more information about the longerterm effects on the *Independent* of the government's elimination of home delivery. (One thought: Flyer/newspaper delivery, called "Neighbourhood mail," has been a revenue bright spot for the corporation. I wonder if the politician-in-charge has asked himself if clients will pay the same for delivery to a super-box as they do for real doorto-door delivery?) More to come from me and others on this topic, I am sure.

Meanwhile, my more pressing thoughts regard something that you, our reader, and you, the municipal voter, can do something about. Please read my re-published editorial on p. 18-19

If you agree, I would love to hear from you, for publication. We are in an election. The time to lobby politicians is now.

David Price is the editor of the Independent.

### Low-interest loans provided

### MP Gainey's office shares some info on feds' role in NDG rental projects

BY JENNIFER BALL

A spokesperson's statement received September 25 on behalf of MP Anna Gainey explained that the government of Canada is providing low-interest loans to help build new rental housing. The document would seem to be in answer to articles about two NDG rental projects in the *Independent* (see September 16, p. SL-14 and SL-18) for which the MP's office provided no more comment than an already available pamphlet.

The headline of the pamphlet was "494 new affordable housing units." This referred to two NDG rental projects: Exal and Station C. The text had the amounts of \$70.9 and \$100 million for these projects appearing next to Canadian flags and the word "investment," but it was not stated what exact form that money would take.

Exal was almost complete when spokespeople were interviewed for the story. It is found at 7300 St. Jacques at the corner of West Broadway, in southwestern NDG. Station C is in the early stages of construction and yet to be priced. It is at 5315 Crowley Ave., at its northwest corner with Decarie, opposite the MUHC super-hospital.

#### What Gainey's spokesman says

"Rental construction in Canada hasn't kept pace with city and population growth," said the September 25 statement from Gainey. "That is why the government of Canada is providing low-interest loans to help build new rental housing that will benefit families in Montreal and our community in NDG...

"We are committed to bringing down costs for Canadians and helping them to get ahead. The projects referenced in the community mailings were announced in October 2024 and March 2025...

"I would also like to draw to your attention the CMHC's information about affordable housing."

### What is affordable housing?

According to the CMHC's website "housing is considered 'affordable' if it costs less than 30 percent of a household's before-tax income. Many people think the term 'affordable housing' refers only to rental housing that is subsidized by the government. In reality, it's a very broad term that can include housing provided by the private, public and non-profit sectors. It also includes all forms of housing tenure: rental, ownership and co-operative

ownership, as well as temporary and permanent housing."

The summer mailing had stated, "The Exal NDG development will offer belowmarket rent with a focus on resident wellbeing in its 207 units" and "Station C will offer 287 affordable rental units."

The spokesperson's September 25 statement did not specifically address why or how the summer mailing determined that

Exal's rent would be "below-market."

The *Independent*'s September 16 story found two of Exal's "starting at" prices to be above the average found on Centris, a multiple listing service used by the real estate industry.

The *Independent* won't be able to determine how "affordable" Station C's rents are until they are priced in the autumn of 2026.

### **St. Catherine fire,** cont'd from p.1

asked to check their file of the incident. Jean-Pierre Brabant, a media relations officer, confirmed via a telephone call that the police were on site on September 20 to assist the fire department. He said, "It was the encampment near the YMCA [residences at 4039 Tupper St.] that caught on fire." That building lies to the south of the alley and provides initial, short-term housing to refugees (see "Refugees find temporary shelter at Y's Tupper St. residence," November 20, 2018, p. 10).

The *Independent* disclosed to Brabant the witness' account how the fire was started, to which he responded: "Yes, that is what we have. It was a homeless encampment and there were homeless people in that encampment. They were not injured. They were able to get out. I know that there is footage of the event, and it was given to the investigators of the arson squad to try to determine what the circumstances were that caused the fire...

"At this moment, we're still investigating and there were no arrests made."

The *Independent* asked Brabant if he could provide a ballpark date for when the arson squad would complete its review. He replied, "There's no time frame. Maybe it will be weeks before we get all the information and understand the cause of the fire...

"From there, we will see if there's any

### suspect that we can locate, if there is one." *Fire department at work too*

Guy Lapointe Jr., division head of communications at the Montreal fire department, told the *Independent* by telephone on September 24, "I cannot go into the cause because the investigation has officially not concluded. Our part is to determine the cause and if it is something criminal [the Montreal police will handle it.]"

The block of buildings 4024-4032 St. Catherine is in the southeast sector of Westmount where there is a zoning freeze, and no building permits are currently being issued. According to Lapointe, the owner still has obligations regarding the property.

He said, "It is always the owner's responsibility to make sure that the building is adequate as regards to the fire code...

"If it is an abandoned building, it is his or her responsibility to ensure that the building is blocked off properly, and to ensure all measures are taken to protect the building, and make sure no one gets hurt or that no fire starts there. Normally in these situations, owners put up fences around these buildings to make it inaccessible."

According to the agglomeration of Montreal's *role foncier* site, the Tehrani Family Trust of Côte St. Luc is listed as the owner of 4024-4032 St. Catherine.

On September 23, a letter was posted to the mailing address of the trust asking for comment on the fire, and to know about any future plans they may have for the building in the aftermath of it. No response came in time for the *Independent's* press deadline.

Lapointe and Brabant said they would provide the outcome of both investigations to the *Independent* after they are concluded.

The whole southeast sector affected by the building freeze, including 4024-4032 St. Catherine, is well on its way to being "upzoned" for much larger buildings (see September 23, p. 1).

A resident at the same encampment or nearby was murdered two years ago in the same area (see "Homeless murder victim was living in new encampment" (October 3. 2023, p. 14).

See photos at right.



Exal is found at 7300 St. Jacques, corner of West Broadway, in NDG. This photo was taken from the north side of St. Jacques looking southwest on August 24.



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### **Arthur Younanian**

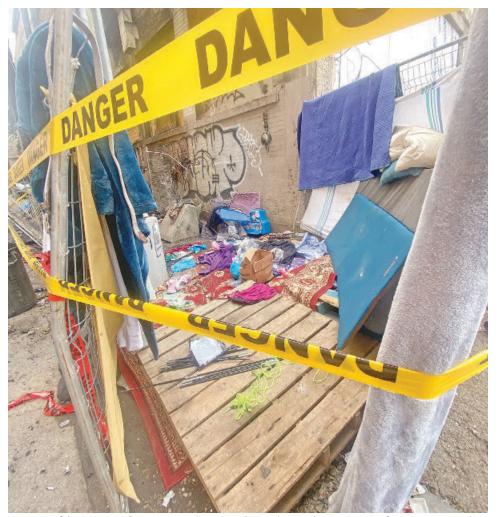
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### *Indie* coverage of 4024-4032 St. Catherine

- "Demolition impending for St. Catherine building [after negative structural review from RBQ]," January 24-25, 2012, p. 10.
- "Former Subaru dealership 'stable', but mostly empty," November 12, 2013, p. 17,
- "Powers to protect St. Catherine heritage building limited, says city official" January 22, 2019, p. 4
- "Nothing doing at 4024-4032 St. Catherine – What are owner's duties?" May 14, 2024 – p. SL-25



Just east of the exterior of 4024A St. Catherine and near the southwest corner of an empty St. Catherine lot, the belongings of an individual could be seen September 22 in the east-west alley.



The exterior of 4024B St. Catherine viewed from the east-west alley on September 22 showing a blue tarp being used as temporary housing.











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'Empowering resident voices' inspired by Roux

### Rolain enters District 2 race to 'bring city back' to core responsibilities

By Laureen Sweeney

Thomas Rolain has joined the District 2 race for city council to "empower resident voices" and "bring the city back to its core responsibilities," he said last week.

This means "saving costs by reducing unnecessary spending and drastically reducing the systematic reliance on consulting firms for nearly every project the city undertakes," he explained.

In launching a door-to-door campaign last week, his platform did not mention his firsthand experience countering the city's controversial and costly initial plan to re-configure Claremont, which was replaced by a more modest re-paving one. He did present a campaign platform stressing fiscal responsibility and "infrastructure that works."

Rolain described himself as "an active and collaborative" member of the community, regularly attending council meetings, engaging with residents and "working constructively" with elected officials.

He also founded a martial arts club at Centre Greene as "a personal initiative that continues to deepen my connection to local life," he adds.

#### Incorporating work principles

Rolain holds a PhD in biology from Oxford, completed a postdoctoral fellowship at McGill in 2017 and since then has worked "continuously" in Montreal for Contract Research Organizations (CROs) supporting pharma companies and focussed on managing clinical trials and medical affairs.

"This," he says, "has shaped my belief in evidence-based, team-oriented leadership – principles I will bring to city council."

### Safety, sustainability

"I will advocate for safer sidewalks, smoother roads and well-maintained parks," he said. In supporting environmental sustainable initiatives, "I'll push to preserve and enhance our tree canopy, install permeable pathways and ensure more frequent garbage collection in parks and public spaces."

Citing speeding as "a serious concern in District 2, especially near schools and residential zones, I will advocate for traffic-calming measures," he stated.

### Inspired by Roux

Rolain credits retiring District 2 councillor Elisabeth Roux for inspiring his electoral decision. Her dedication and responsiveness have given residents "a real voice,



Thomas Rolain on September 17 in King George (Murray) Park.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

especially during the Claremont triangle pilot project and the re-construction efforts. Without her leadership and the active involvement of many neighbours, our concerns might not have reached the council."

The Claremont triangle pilot experimented with closing the diagonal access from NDG Ave. to Westmount Ave. (see October 8, 2024, p.4). The change was not implemented after the trial.

În fact, Roux's "decision not to run again was pivotal for me," he says. "Witnessing her work firsthand – how she listened, engaged, and advocated – made it clear that every district needs a representative who truly speaks for its residents. That experience inspired me to step forward."



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express herself in healthy ways. She will benefit from patient, consistent caregivers who can guide her through these experiences.

With the right support and encouragement, she will thrive.

If you believe you can offer this child the warm, loving home they deserve, please contact Batshaw Youth and Family Centres at 514.932.7161 ext. 1169.

■One of the Batshaw buildings on Weredale Park road, as seen August 14. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT. We are taking this opportunity to wish all of our clients, friends and family Happy Rosh Hashanah and easy Yom Kippur



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370 Allée du Rabaska, Mont-Tremblant \$2,985,000 - INTRODUCING MLS 20375818



1 Av. Wood, Apt. 603, Westmount \$2,790,000 - NEW PRICE MLS 23095834



3970 Ch. de la Côte-des-Neiges, Ville-Marie

40 Ch. Belvedere, Westmount \$7,950,000 - INTRODUCING MLS 26753243



Westmount Square, Apt. 1612, Westmount \$2,400,000 - INTRODUCING MLS 18318375



Veronica Redgrave

### Artists shine at Liz

Recently, the Liz seniors' residence, located on de Maisonneuve just west of NDG's border with Westmount, hosted an exhibition with local residents submitting their art. Maxine Bloom headed the organizing committee, which also included Rhody Sadler, Mary Martha Guy, Darryl Kostin and Neicie Levi.

Works were inspired by a range of subjects, with flowers – ranging from hollyhocks to daisies – being a popular theme.

Ramesh (the artist's signature) did a shout-out to Cattelan's famous banana; Stephane's work caught the dopamine delight of candy; Kiki's ballerina wore a tutu and M. Troquet welcomed Degas' little dancers to the 21st century.



Rhody Sadler, Maxine Bloom, Mary Martha Guy and Neicie Levi.





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721 AV. UPPER-BELMONT, WESTMOUNT 4 BEDS, 3+1 BATHS | \$2,495,000



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WESTMOUNT

2025.09.30 • Vol. 6/17

**NOUVELLES** 

PROCHAINE SÉANCE DU CONSEIL

Lundi 1 octobre



NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, October 1



**Elections municipales 2025** 

sur le site Web de la Ville.

westmount.org/elections

des séances du Conseil

La période électorale est en cours à

Westmount, Les personnes souhaitant se

présenter peuvent déposer leur déclaration de

candidature jusqu'au vendredi 3 octobre 2025

Avis public: modification au calendrier

d'octobre a été modifié. La réunion aura lieu le

L'horaire de la séance du Conseil du mois

à 16 h 30. Le formulaire SM-29 est disponible

### Rappels saisonniers

Consultez les rappels saisonniers pour l'automne à Westmount! Découvrez des rappels sur les services et règlements municipaux, ainsi que de l'information sur les activités de sports et loisirs et les collectes. westmount.org/automne

### Reconstructions des trottoirs sur la rue

Depuis le **lundi 29 septembre**, des travaux de

westmount.org/travaux

### Sainte-Catherine

réfection des trottoirs sont effectués du côté nord de la rue Sainte-Catherine, entre l'avenue Wood et la limite est de la Ville.

### Partez à la découverte d'un centre de compostage avec la Ville!

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

### Seasonal Reminders

Explore the City's seasonal reminders for fall in Westmount! Stay informed about municipal services, by-laws, sports and recreation programmes, and collection schedules. westmount.org/fall

### 2025 Municipal Elections

The election period is underway in Westmount. Individuals interested in running for office can submit their nomination papers until Friday, October 3, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. The form SM-29 is available on the City's website. westmount.org/elections

2025 Council meeting schedule The time of the October Council meeting has been modified. The meeting will now be held on October 1, 2025, at noon.

**Public Notice: Modification to the** 

#### **Sidewalk Reconstruction on** Sainte-Catherine Street

A sidewalk reconstruction project has been underway since Monday, September 29, on the north side of Sainte-Catherine Street, between Avenue Wood and the eastern limit of the City. westmount.org/works

### **Discover a Composting Facility with** the City!

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

#### 1<sup>er</sup> octobre 2025 à midi. westmount.org/evenements

**BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES** 

#### Rencontre d'auteure : Carol Off

9 octobre. 19 h. Victoria Hall. En anglais. Avec Carol Off, journaliste et auteure de At a Loss for Words: Conversation in an Age of Rage. La journaliste radio et gagnante d'un prix littéraire explore la signification de six mots dont le sens a été modifié dans les dernières années. westlib.org

### 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

### Projection spéciale d'Halloween: The Thing (1982) (16+)

29 octobre, 19 h, Victoria Hall. En anglais. Préparez-vous à passer une soirée terrifiante et soyez des nôtres pour une projection spéciale du film culte de John Carpenter. Avec du pop-corn gratuit, un bar payant, des surprises et des friandises, westmount.com/evenements



### Appel de candidatures : Comité de la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount

CAROL OFF

LOSS FOR

Le Conseil municipal cherche à combler deux postes au sein du Comité de la Bibliothèque publique. Nommés pour trois ans, les candidats retenus devront offrir leur temps et leurs compétences de façon bénévole. Veuillez soumettre une lettre de motivation par écrit avant le vendredi 10 octobre 2025 à l'attention d'Anne-Marie Lacombe, directrice: amlacombe@westmount.org et de Lauren MacLean, directrice par intérim : Imaclean@westmount.org.

### Contes et bricolages pour enfants

Découvrez la programmation automnale d'activités en français et en anglais pour les enfants de 6 mois à 6 ans. Des moments ludiques et éducatifs à ne pas manquer! westlib.org

### **LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS**

#### **Author Event: Carol Off**

westmount.org/events

October 9, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. With Carol Off, journalist and author of At a Loss for Words: Conversation in an Age of Rage. The award-winning radio journalist explores the meaning of six words that have been twisted in recent years. In collaboration with Paragraphe Bookstore. 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

### **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

### Call for Candidates: Westmount Public **Library Committee**

City Council is looking to fill two positions within the Public Library Committee. Appointed for a 3-year term, successful candidates are expected to volunteer their time and expertise. Please submit a letter of interest by Friday, October 10, 2025, to the attention of Anne-Marie Lacombe, Director: amlacombe@westmount.org, and Lauren MacLean, Interim Director: Imaclean@westmount.org.

#### **Storytimes and Crafts for Children**

Discover the fall programme of activities in French and English for children aged 6 months to 6 years. Fun and educational moments not to be missed! westlib.org



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### Savage-Pollock wins singles men's championship at Mount Royal Tennis Club

BY JENNIFER BALL

On September 19, Nick Savage-Pollock, who works at Daisy Exclusive in Westmount Square, won the singles men's championship at the Mount Royal Tennis Club (MRTC) in NDG, beating Phil Courteau whom he lost to last year in the same event.

The MRTC is located at 2106 Grey Ave. in NDG.

Nick has now won the title fives times

and last year he also won the Tennis Canada's 2024 Masters Tennis Championship in the 35-40 age category at the Granite Club in Toronto on August 30, along with Westmounter Nick Martin. See also September 10, 2024, p. 12.

► From left: Phil Courteau, Nick Savage-Pollock and Nick's 15-month-old son Théodore on September 19 at the Mount Royal Tennis Club, which is found at 2106 Grey Ave. in NDG.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MONICA SAVAGE.



### Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

As a stylish Chinese crested, Julien is quite a little charmer. He is presently settling well in a foster home for the volunteer animal rescue group Gerdy's Rescue & Adoptions.

His foster family reports that Julien has a warm and engaging personality, settling in as a gentle and sweet soul. He enjoys his walkies and is quite elegant on leash. Car rides are also great fun.

As a very healthy six-year-old, Julien is up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. Being small and delicate, Julien would be best in an adult home with older children. He has separation issues, which are getting better, but advocates hope for him to be in a family where someone is at home or works remotely. He enjoys other dogs and dog-friendly cats so a buddy would also be nice.

If you would like more information on little Julien, please do not hesitate to search

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### Welcoming Julien



the rescue's website at www.gerdysrescue. org and refer to his presentation page with updates and more precious photographs. You can then provide your contact information and discuss your interest through the site's adoption form gerdysrescue.org/adoption-form/. From this, a volunteer will be pleased to contact you and follow up. You could also write to them directly at their email address, info@gerdysrescue. org, and start a conversation about Julien, presenting your interest in him as your best companion in your daily routine at home.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Young one-year-old Queen is most striking and elegant. A calm and gentle beauty, her sleek demeanour and stunning onyx face contrast with her huge yellow eyes.

Queen is presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery, awaiting visitors for adoption. She is so sweet, a beautiful friend to bring home to share affection and joy.

Queen is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. You can find out more about her by scrolling to the SPCA's website at www. spca.com, referring to her information page by her identification number, 2000311346.

After that, it is convenient to plan your trip to visit her as the shelter is open every day, from Monday to Friday 3 pm to 8 pm, and 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.

### Queen of Hearts

<u> Արդիոսանակ Միրոսանիանում</u>



Please bring your carrier or drop by the onsite boutique where you have a varied selection of models to choose from. You would also find an array of foods, toys and accessories to be well equipped for precious Queen, who will have warmed your heart by then.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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### **EDITORIAL**

Re-published from September 16, p. 8.

**Declaration of interest:** I have a financial interest in every advertisement sold by the *Independent*. Read on at your peril. – DP.

\*

Well, this is awkward.

There has been a city of Westmount story brewing for years but that I have tried to avoid because it involves the newspaper and the newspaper's finances directly. But things never seem to get any better, and I think that Westmounters ought to know the facts and get the chance to share their opinions with the election candidates.

In short, the municipal government has gone from being a major advertising client when the paper was founded in 2007 to a valued, but much less important one.

For clarity, the municipal government has never been a 50-percent or similarly important client. The *Independent* is primarily made possible by the sale of ads to real estate brokers.

For further clarity, the drop in spending preceded the current council, although it continued under it.

All that I am requesting is the restoration of the city's former budget with us, which works out to about \$4 per Westmount resident per year.

#### I am an ad salesman

I write "awkward," but I am not ashamed of selling ads by any ethical method, including appealing to voters over the heads of the city of Westmount's politicians and unelected employees. It's your money. What do you want done with it?

I thank in advance everyone who is of like mind and, regardless of their opinion on this matter, I thank again everyone who has ever had a nice word to say about us, me or this newspaper, **including at the city**.

I share two letters with you at right. Looking at the March 2007 one, written before we started, I believe that we have lived up to my hopes as expressed to the council of 2005-9. What do you think?

Over the years, I have sent several versions of the 2022 letter to various council members, without changing the overall downward trend of city advertising.

Indeed, in recent years, the city has accelerated the use of its own pamphlets and flyers (see photo above), which it distributes by Canada Post, the same service that we use for door-to-door delivery.

I can't tell you what a slap in the face these mailings are! (Intentionally?)

There is a Westmount-owned, Westmount-headquartered, Westmount-focused newspaper going out to residents, and – instead of buying its ads – the city uses

## Voter: Do you support the city's former, larger budget for ads in the *Independent?*

the same delivery method to deliver paper publications that it creates from scratch.

Even the city's 2013 study, completed by IPSOS, concluded "The Westmount Independent is the main vehicle via which residents keep informed about current events" (p. 15). At that time, "official websites" were at 19 percent and the Independent at 42 percent as the primary means of "keeping up with Westmount current events." The IPSOS study is available on our website. It is ironic that the city dramatically

cut its advertising support soon after.

#### More ads, more content

But it is more than that. As a print publication, every advertisement that we sell allows us to have more content.

Why? As we sell more ads, we add pages – and articles – to the paper.

Now, wait a minute, you might say. Doesn't some of the *Independent*'s content have nothing to do with municipal government? Yes. Isn't some of it quite light or even fluffy? Yes!

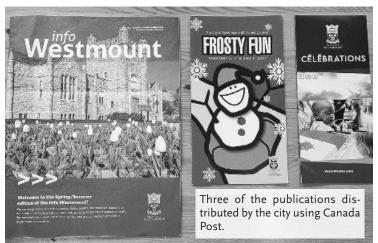
Why should a government want to advertise in such a publication when it can have its own? My answer: if we are doing our jobs properly, our blend of content – serious and fluffy, budgets and ball gowns, jabs and jokes – gets readers of all kinds reading, and gives the ads value, which is relevant even for government. A government-issued publication, on the other hand, cannot have the same personality, or much personality at all.

Some of you may remember that I am a free-market advocate. Is "Mr. Free Market" now asking for a government subsidy?

No! I am not talking about a subsidy. I am talking about advertising purchases.

Is Mr. Free Market talking about a government buying ads for the sake of buying ads, in effect creating a subsidy?

No! I can think of so many instances when the city has had a message that could be better communicated and so help change the targetted behaviour. Whether it is something that is illegal (e.g. wheels not to curb, gravel/dirt on a sidewalk, any number of things without a permit), or something that the city is offering (e.g. an open day, a celebration, a Sports and Rec program, hazardous items drop-off), or something that citizens could do better (e.g. differentiating between garbage, compost and recycling), the city has many,



many messages that could be reinforced with advertising – including repetitive advertising, something it does not do.

This is not some academic or solely self-serving point. In advertising, *repetition works*. Have you ever seen a specific ad by a major brand many times in a short period of time? The world's most expert marketeers obviously have the same view.

### A good newspaper creates community

Additionally, unlike all our other clients, the city has a community-building mandate. Having a good local newspaper helps make community possible.

I ask you: Is it better for Westmount municipal life that we exist?

Also, unlike most (but not all) private sector entities, a government can take notice of its spending's impact.

Consider a municipality buying snowploughing services in a remote community with one possible supplier. Would it want to sign a contract that awarded no money at all in the event of a no-snow winter? In such a case, "Bob's Ploughing" would likely not be there the year after a warm winter. Such a municipality should think win-win, and should use its budget strategically.

We are not in the shoes (or trucks) of "Bob's Ploughing," but there are times of year when a larger consistent government client would make a difference. *Did anyone mention January*?

Another possible counterpoint to a larger advertising budget is that the *Independent* frequently carries the view of government critics, including sometimes me.

This is a point worth considering, but it is not as though the newspaper is 100 percent critiques. I offer plenty of free column space to Westmount's in-power politicians. And I routinely publish views on both sides of an issue, including where I have a clear, known opinion.

But let's address it: Is it weird to ask a government to fund its own opposition?

Well, people are weird and democracy is weird, so it wouldn't bother me if such a funding policy were weird.

But upon reflection, I don't think it is odd for a democratic government to fund opponents, in some way, some of the time. At our two higher levels of government, the in-power government routinely leaves in place opposition-funding legislation.

The federal and provincial governments also have all sorts

of checks and balances that they fund, including auditors general, enquiries, reports, research and media through outright ownership.

I am not asking the city to buy us! I am just asking for the old ad budget.

And I am not asking for a fortune, just \$80,000 in Westmount's \$137-million budget – the inflation-adjusted amount of the city's spend in 2014. Just \$4 per Westmount resident per year.

### Useable by everyone

One last point: unlike many city of Westmount services, the *Independent* (which is an independent service only partially "paid for" by the city, and that through the purchase of ads that have value) can be enjoyed by everyone. Not everyone can skate, or wants to. Not everyone uses the library. But everyone can get a copy of the *Independent*: at home, online or at a distribution point. Readers can be diehard fans or very casual readers.

Many, in my experience, use us as an insurance policy. Municipal politics is one big joke to these people, until *they* have an issue. And, from that moment on, every word about it is of utmost importance.

All this to say: Westmounters, we are here, 18 years on, in an era when many communities do not have a dedicated local paper. I am proud of our quality level, although mindful of every shortcoming. We are not asking the municipal government to fund us to the tune of 50 percent or anything close to that. But I would appreciate a level of spending equal to what it was when we started. Voters, are you with me?

Every year in the newspaper business has its general and specific dangers, including – I predict – the ones to come. It would be nice to know that I had a partner in the Westmount electorate. If I don't, that is important information to have as well. –DP

### Addendum #1

March 9, 2022 Letter to a city councillor

To answer your question of late 2021, please find a summary of the city's spending with us in recent years from our accounting system. Thank you very much for your interest and, very importantly, for your business to date.

Items of note include:

- The largest drop occurred from 2014 to 2015, mainly in city clerk notices.
- A variety of other factors likely caused the further drops in subsequent years (2015 to 2018), including Bill 122 and the city's practice of publishing only English versions of some notices, which continues to this day (e.g. January 11, 2022, p. 13).

We have many francophone readers (as evidenced in letters to the editor and letters of support over the years). Language has never been an issue at the paper, and I think our francophone readers value a local newspaper that exists and works as much as our anglophone ones. Shouldn't their municipal government speak to them in their language in the municipally focused newspaper that comes free to their door?

My pitch for more business from the city remains the same as it has ever been:

- 1. Spread city's message. Ads in our newspaper are seen, and they are a great way to let residents know what the city is doing with their money, from sports and recreation to street repair, urban planning and public security. They can also convey messages about safety, rules and procedures that save time and increase security.
- 2. Community building. In addition to getting value for its ads, it has also always been my contention that the city, as a government that values community building, should take notice of the effect of having and supporting a local newspaper. Buying our prod-

uct is not like buying more salt for Public Works or wire for Hydro Westmount. It helps bring people together in a moderated and information-disseminating forum.

In this regard, I think that we are a very popular resource for Westmounters, which they all receive free at home and on the internet. Even for habitual non-readers of our paper, we are an "insurance policy" when – all of sudden – municipal politics matters to them.

We are not a city service, but what city service (WRC? Library? Victoria Hall? The Gallery? Public Security?) has such a broad array of users? We reach everyone, every week.

- 3. We value all ads, but especially appreciate load-levelling business. We have always relied principally on non-government revenue, although the city was initially a very large client with a larger mitigating effect during slow periods of the year (e.g. January, July) and a possible one during any advertising recession (which then actually happened during the first COVID lockdown in spring 2020 and the city's increased spending thank you! which you see in the increase from 2019 to 2020).
- **4. Inflation bites us all, even before COVID.** If the base 2014 amount of \$61,232.60 were increased by inflation, it would now be \$72,275.36, as opposed to last year's amount of \$42,206.47 (a 42% decrease).

All this to say that increased spending from the city would be a good thing for its messaging and a popular use of residents' money. I encourage you to ask them!

If you have any questions, please call, and thanks again.

Best regards, David

### Addendum #2

March 26, 2007 Letter to city councillors

I am writing to ask the City to support a new community newspaper with some of its advertising budget. I have codenamed this new newspaper "the Herald." [...].

#### Why should the City support "the Herald"?

Quality. "The Herald" will be a great community paper. I take pride in all of my products; but, in this case, quality is also a business necessity. It would be pointless to compete with the 4+ existing community papers by joining them in a race to find the cheapest possible content (including in some cases "negative cost" advertorial). I think there is a place in the City for a well-written and well-edited paper that people read and are excited to receive. From a business point of view, I believe that quality draws readers and that readership (ultimately) drives advertising sales. Although quickie publications can make money, quality and profit are not mutually exclusive. Quality consciousness was the reason I contacted and signed Laureen Sweeney to be the principal "Herald" reporter.

Local writers. I already work with many current and former Westmount writers and editors. "The Herald" will focus even more on local talent. Is this decision mere parochialism? No. Local writers are a great resource because they know the people who make news. They know what is going on. Their neighbours are interested in reading their material. The existing Westmount papers rely heavily on non-Westmounters who miss all sorts of great material and who are known, at best, as bylines. Among others, I intend to work with la list of former team members].

**Local ownership.** My Westmount home and business addresses will not determine your decision, but local ownership does help avoid many problems. I will *personally* care about quality. I will *personally* care about making "the Herald" a business success and it will be a significant asset in my portfolio. I will be responsive to community issues. You can't beat hands-on management. [...]

Thank you for taking a look at my proposal. I hope we can build this newspaper together.

Best regards, David Price President [Sherbrooke-Valois Inc.]

### City of Westmount advertising purchases in Westmount Independent

	Jan-Sept 15, 25	Jan-Dec 24	Jan-Dec 23	Jan-Dec 22	Jan-Dec 21	Jan-Dec 20	Jan-Dec 19	Jan-Dec 18	Jan-Dec 17	Jan-Dec 16	Jan-Dec 15	Jan-Dec 14
City Clerk notices	4,415.35	4,554.58	3,291.12	3,678.00	7,859.15	3,720.50	3,644.30	2,230.86	9,904.22	13,051.63	15,323.08	34,112.60
Communications	16,941.20	29,424.19	29,346.91	25,694.34	33,090.92	39,953.40	25,151.02	24,851.51	22,411.52	25,169.30	23,397.68	25,034.00
<b>Events Office</b>	0.00	1,122.27	325.7	426.39	284.26	0.00	1,219.50	954.00	410.00	0.00	272.00	245.00
Human Resources			325.7	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	223.00	0.00	
Public Works	0.00	545.55	545.55	972.14	972.14	452.00	452.00	1,350.00	452.00	1,127.00	1,275.00	1,841.00
Urban Planning			0	1,980.86	0.00	820.16	449.75	0.00	0.00	223.00	0.00	
TOTAL	21,356.55	35,646.59	33,834.98	32,751.73	42,206.47	44,946.06	30,916.57	29,386.37	33,177.74	39,793.93	40,267.76	61,232.60
Change	na	5.4%	3.3%	-22.4%	-6.1%	45.4%	5.2%	-11.4%	-16.6%	-1.2%	-34.2%	

### Notes on these numbers:

- (1) The March 2022 letter included the results until 2021 only. The other years were added for this editorial.
- (2) There was an uptick of city spending on *Independent* advertising in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic.
- (3) With inflation, the base 2014 amount of \$61,232.60 would be \$80,328.21 in 2025 dollars.

### **Autumn Story Walk unveiled**



PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT CHILDREN'S LIBRARY.

A new Story Walk was unveiled September 19 in Westmount Park by the Westmount Public Library featuring *Jackie's Drawing* by author Andrew Katz. Some 40 children were on hand to hear Katz read the story. Illustrated by Tony Luzano with the French version translated by Juliana Léveillé-Trudel, the story is described as

"an environmentalist fable that celebrates the resilience of both the natural world and human creativity."

Following the launch, those attending were invited back to the Westmount Room "to create an art piece and enjoy a treat," said children's librarian Wendy Wayling. – LS

### Confessions of an amateur newspaper distributor, part 2b

By David Price, Editor

Canada Post is on strike, which eliminates our usual door-to-door delivery method for houses and duplexes. (All other residences are unaffected. See our website for up-to-date details.) As a result, 12 volunteers and I delivered about 3,500 newspapers last week. Thank you to all of them!

\*

A volunteer with younger knees, and legs, and lungs, took over the dreaded east sides of Upper Belmont and Upper Lansdowne last week, allowing me to get to the hitherto undiscovered "stair country" that is the north side of Sunnyside between Lexington and Upper Bellevue, the latter of which I also covered 100 percent for the first time ever. Advertisers, I am working for you.

I also got to all of Bellevue from the "elbow" up and some killer-stair houses on Summit Circle for the first time ever. Advertisers, I am working for you.

In addition, I found the previously undiscovered mailboxes at three of Westmount's larger shacks, including one with a Mt. Everest of stairs leading to a landing with no mail slot. It had also confounded me last November during the strike. I thought about it all of last week and then tried another approach on Friday, only to find a nice, civilized mailbox at ground level. Advertisers, and real estate brokers especially, I am working for you.

\*

There are so many funny design choices at Westmount houses, which I won't share (too much) to avoid offence. I will tell you, dear reader, about the seemingly abandoned house. And the other one. And the seemingly VERY abandoned house. What is the story behind each of these? Value is not even being retained, never mind maximized.

.

My favourite encounter of the week was with a stone mason, who was, I think, very surprised to find me working away at one of Westmount's smaller cul-de-sacs. We had my longest conversation of the week. "Lâche pas, David" he told me as we parted, which is actually one of my favourite French expressions.

Thank you for the encouragement!

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REFERRED FOR A REASON

Quarter Century Club, cont'd from p.1

long-service employees, many being well known to residents in their various work capacities.

#### 25 years

This year's special 25-year honourees were: Public Security assistant department director Kimberley Colquhoun, public safety officer Kaushi Patel, as well as Collette Connors of the library and Community Events, and Daniel Giroux and Antonio Masucci of Public Works.

Introducing the two honourees from Public Security, department director Greg

McBain said that throughout the past 25 years, "Kim [Colquhoun] has been involved in organizing virtually every event [involving the city] that has taken place," from Family Days and St. Patrick's Day parades to Remembrance Day ceremonies and anniversary department celebrations.

He described PSO Patel as "the heart and soul of our team" and "someone who steps up when the community needs him most." McBain recalled a photo from the shooting emergency at Dawson College in 2006, "showing Kaushi in the heat of action alongside police officers when it wasn't safe [even] for Urgences Santé to enter the area.

"Kaushi was helping police and was ordered to transport one of the shooting victims to meet an ambulance outside the perimeter."

### 20 and 15 years

Employees celebrating 20 years were: Timothy Collum, Daniel Imbert and Antonio Poliziani of Public Works, along with Pierre Thibault and Sgt. Yook Yen Wong, both of Public Security.

Marking 15 years of service were: Philip Dunwoody, Jayme Gerbrandt and Ralph Palmer of Public Works; Claude Ladouceur and Hong Yinh Li of Finance; Raphael Leider and Jessie Zhou of Sports and Recreation; Lucian Stauccanu, Hydro Westmount; and Jason Souza of Public Security; along with Frank McMahon and Marie-Ève Parent of Urban Planning.

In concluding, Mayor Smith said: "If Westmount is what it is today, it is – in significant part – thanks to you. This city proudly bears the imprint of your efforts, your leadership, your sense of public service.

"Westmount has been an integral part of your lives, and you are an essential part of the life and history of this community."



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Social Notes
Veronica Redgrave

Media celebrities **Cindy Royer** and **Mark Shalhoub** hosted a fabulous fund-raiser for Chez Doris at the Salon Richmond. The signature event was themed "Cultivating resilience."

Organizing committee members were Elizabeth Wirth (chair), Alexandra Bilhete



Mark Shalhoub and Cindy Royer.

### Cultivating Resiliences raises \$222k for Chez Doris



Jill Hugessen, Jennifer Curran, Diane Pilote, William Brock, Mila Mulroney, Elizabeth Wirth, Jacques Maurice and Carole Croteau.

(vice-chair), Jennifer Curran, Sylvia Martin-Laforge and Diane Pilote, executive director Chez Doris.

Chez Doris' board members present

included **Carole Croteau** (chair) and **Jill Hugessen** (vice-chair). Noted among the chic guests were **Mila Mulroney**, **Pascale Bourbeau** and **Jacques Maurice**.

The \$225,495 raised will support Chez Doris' mission. The organization has been helping women avoid homelessness since 1977



### Ken Reed golf tournament raises \$330k for Old Brewery Mission



Social Notes
VERONICA REDGRAVE

Held to raise funds for the Old Brewery Mission, the recent Ken Reed Golf Tournament was a sunny success at the Beaconsfield Golf Club, thanks to organizing committee members Paula Shannon, John Castellarin, Diane Drury, Jim Wilson and Graeme Joel.

Attendees had the opportunity to watch a video presenting Tenaquip Place. The new 18-unit permanent re-housing project in Lachine will accommodate couples – a first for the Old Brewery Mission's re-housing services.

The innovative project was made possible by, among other things, an exceptional \$4.5-million donation from the Tenaquip Foundation, a longstanding partner and major donor.

"With the unprecedented housing crisis we are facing, it is imperative to invest in long-term solutions," said **Michael Fitzgerald**, executive director of the

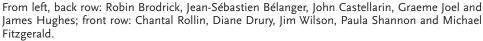




Tenaquip Foundation.

"The current homelessness crisis calls for bold responses," added James Hughes CEO the Old Brewery Mission. Partners contributing to the sold-out tournament were Anbec Construction, CIBC Wood Gundy, Comax Construction, Le Square Phillips, Phipps Dickson Integria Group Inc. (PDI), and Pipe & Piling Supplies Ltd.

The record amount raised (\$334,091) will support the Old Brewery Mission's prevention, emergency and re-housing services. On behalf of the organizing committee, Jim Wilson presented a thank-you gift to co-founder of the Ken Reed Golf Tournament Jim Ross for his dedication.









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**CONTACT:** 

514-972-7655



Jim Wilson presents a thank-you gift to Jim Ross.

### Letting off steam on Greene



As seen September 26.

Photo & headline courtesy of Charles Anderson.

### Rally headlights?



As seen on Sunnyside Ave. September 24.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT











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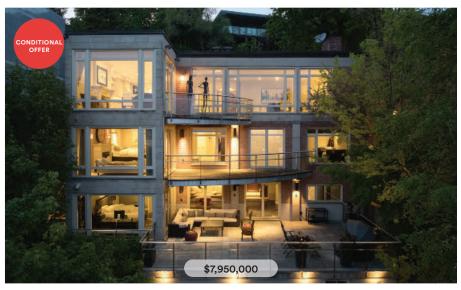




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