WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount Weekly, Vol. 4 No. 6d June 22-23, 2010

Street to remain open for business during reconstruction

\$2-million Greene reno starts next week

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

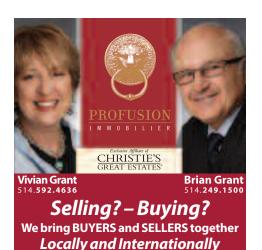
The \$2-million facelift of Greene Ave. starts the week of June 28 with the installation of new electrical conduit under the sidewalks and a city commitment to help encourage shopping and business during the work.

The refurbishment project is the first large-scale update of the street in 30 years.

Branded by distinctive crosswalks of bicoloured granite strips, the two-block stretch from Sherbrooke to St. Catherine will receive new lighting, wider and smoother sidewalks, more trees, and new seating areas and street furniture.

A highlight is the creation of a village square at the site of current terrasse outside 5 Saisons that will take place as part of

The aim is to create a more pedestrianfriendly street and gathering place by adding "more green to Greene to create a jewel that will help build community," said





New proposed condo development would incorporate 5 Saisons at ground level.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, Westmount's Urban Planning commissioner.

Starting with the conduit work at Sherbrooke, the city has arranged for an onsite

History uncovered at site of 'West Mount' residence

New Murray Park courts open

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Tennis players may already have tried out the two newly refurbished clay courts in Murray Park over the weekend without realizing a historical discovery had been made, including a possible lucky charm.

An old horse shoe, along with pieces of pottery and dishes, were dug up in early May during excavation work for the major remaking of the courts, said Public Works director Marianne Zalzal.

They are believed to have come from the Murray family whose residence, called

"West Mount", was built on the approximate site of the courts in 1857. Foundation walls were also unearthed.

The city is awaiting the report of an archeologist, who attended the work site and is reported to have initially described the find to be of "minor archeological significance."

The work to redo two of the four courts in clay and two in asphalt involved extensive excavation to install drainage and sprinkler systems. While the clay courts were scheduled to open June 19, the asphalt

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project manager to liaise with merchants and coordinate the work section by section, she said.

A banner across the street at Sherbrooke will announce that the street is open for business. The east side of Olivier will be opened to parking for the duration of the work, said Public Works director Marianne Zalzal.

Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed this year except for a small section from de Maisonneuve south to the entrance to Westmount Square. Work here is expected to be carried out once construction of a large condo development, including 5 Saisons, permits, probably next year (see story June 15,

The roadway will

continued on p. 2

Canada Day holiday The Independent will be celebrating Do-

minion Day next week, so don't look for an issue on June 29-30. We will be back the week of July 5 with a new issue.

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No more paving stones on Greene

continued from p. 1

be reopened along the top of the trench dug last year for replacement of the water main for the addition of permanent concrete base before the street is repaved.

Merchants provide input

Details of the final plan were announced to merchants and residents June 2 at a third public meeting on the project at Centre Greene. Input from merchants, in particular, was very helpful, Lulham explained. "They brought up the need for ashtray containers, for example, and were very concerned about the process."

Plans include new sidewalks made of concrete rather than paving stones. These proved difficult for snow removal and walking on in high heels.

Groupings of trees at crosswalks will be planted in Silva cells, a technique to ensure they will benefit fully from rainwater. Landscaping and trees will adorn the four corners of Greene and de Maisonneuve, including the new village square.

The proposed rezoning of the four corners at Greene and de Maisonneuve will

Trent welcomes Montreal's endorsement of CN route

By Laureen Sweeney

The city of Montreal's announced choice June 17 of using the CN track and Central Station for the airport shuttle is welcome news for Westmount.

"That's fantastic," Mayor Peter Trent told the *Independent*. The option of using the CP rail line linking up with Vendôme station would result in trains running through Westmount every 20 minutes, he explained.

Trent hastened to point out that the decision by Montreal "doesn't mean that's the way it's going to go" as far as Quebec is concerned. The provincial government is reported to be contributing some \$200 million to the project.

Westmount's choice "puts me in an awkward position as president of the Association of Suburban Mayors," he said, "because Montreal West and the West Island favour the CP route which could be extended to the west."

There may be a hybrid solution, he added, suggesting "a way of combining the two routes by switching over to the CP track at Lachine or Dorval."

In closed-door meetings with transit authorities, Westmount has made its preference known, Trent said. "I can make it public now. We're in favour of the CN line because it does not go through Westmount."

According to the Montreal announcement, Montreal's choice is based in part on Central Station lying in the heart of the economic district and a "concensus" of users, the tourist industry and other "partners"

Trent said it was confirmed at a meeting May 20 with transit authorities that the shuttle service would run trains of four or five cars every 20 minutes.

allow for the opening of restaurants to further the community spirit, Lulham said.

Some details of the plan may require "rejigging," she explained. Benches and

garbage cans have yet to be chosen. The \$2-million cost includes \$400,000 for the electrical work by Hydro Westmount.

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Public to hear height and restaurant changes

Greene re-zoning proposed

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Plans to create a new building zone for part of Greene Ave. will be outlined at a public consultation meeting Monday, June 28, to allow for a proposed six-storey condo development to incorporate Les 5 Saisons.

The changes also include lifting a freeze on restaurants in the new zone to encourage the establishment of cafés in buildings on the four corners of Greene and de Maisonneuve, according to Councillor Cynthia Lulham, Urban Planning commissioner.

Starting at 7 pm at city hall, the meeting will explain new zoning measures unveiled in the first draft by-law presented at the mid-month meeting of city council June 14.

The proposed new zone, numbered C5-24-13, is to be carved out of the centre of what is now one entire zone (C5-24-4) that covers all of Greene from Sherbrooke to St. Catherine and west to Olivier.

This existing zone limits the height of all buildings to three storeys, and does not allow for the establishment of new restaurants.



The new zone would cover buildings on all four corners of Greene and de Maisonneuve including the proposed condo development of 24 units above the new 5 Saisons, as well as the Old Post Office, Bank of Montreal and TD Canada Trust.

It would allow new restaurants and maximum heights of six storeys but require the sixth floor to be established within a mansard roof. See photo p. 1.

There are also restrictions on the height of rooftop mechanical equipment and new criteria governing building lines, vehicular access from Greene and frontages.

Zoning would remain unchanged to the north and south of the new zone. These would be re-numbered as C5-24-12 and C5-24-14 respectively.

The zoning change is a trade-off to the condo developer, Jacob Attias, allowing him to build higher in compensation for leasing the ground floor to a supermarket that requires two storeys in height, and for allowing part of the property to be used as a public square or plaza (see story June 15, p. 1).

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Metro – a great place to lose your stuff...and are you the owner of an expensive lost watch?



Graham Fletcher and Lyne Laperle.

By Isaac Olson

When it comes to Westmount's Metro supermarket, just about everything, ranging from cell phones and medications to dogs and irreplaceable historical documents, have been lost, found and very often returned to the rightful owners.

Be it picking through bits of glass in the parking lot for a lost diamond or scrolling through security camera footage seeking the owner of an envelope containing \$3,000 cash, store staffers are dedicated to reconnecting people with their lost items.

In fact, the store's owner and manager, Graham Fletcher, recently contacted the *Independent* requesting the public be notified about a valuable lady's watch found in the store. For now, he said, the watch will be kept in the safe until someone provides an accurate description.

From a pair of child's boots to countless scarves, hats, gloves and even shirts, head cashier Eileen Ball said the store recently donated a bag full of unclaimed clothing to a homeless shelter.

Along with glasses, toys and jewelry, Fletcher said canes are commonly found.

"We perform miracles here," joked service manager Lyne Laperle. "They come in with their cane and leave without it."

Laperle said a woman recently loaded her groceries into the wrong car and, when she realized her error, unloaded everything but her purse. She called the store in a panic, so Laperle unsuccessfully searched the vehicles in the lot based on a vague description of what the car may have looked like. Later, a patron tracked down the purse's owner and returned it intact.

"You would not believe, be it a purse or a wallet, how many people have everybody's phone number in there but their own," said Fletcher, who described searching though somebody's wallet as a "very personal thing."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AGED, CONCUSSED (AND FEELING UNSAFE), BUT **RELIABLE**

Here is a response to Laureen Sweeney's article "Park was patrolled when attack occurred," June 8, p. 2. I'm the "84 year old woman" savaged by a robber in the park on May 1. I reiterate my claim that there were no dog walkers, regular walkers, definitely no PSO patrol and no setting up for that day's Scout-a-thon.

The tacit claim of Sweeney's article is that an aged woman who has suffered a concussion cannot give reliable testimony.

I was knocked out momentarily. When I awoke I did a full body check on myself. I had a bloody cut on the bridge of my nose, and my wrist and knees, having borne the brunt of my fall, ached and were bruised. My right foot was streaming blood because the big toe nail had been ripped off. The wound was visible through my sandal. Despite screams and subsequent calls, there was no succor.

I cut across the Melville soccer pitch. With the support of light standards, park benches, I eased my way there and was grateful as I dragged my foot across the pitch for the dew, which diluted the blood on my foot. Ensconced in my apartment at the corner of Hillside and St. Catherine, I cleansed my wounds with antiseptic.

Mr. Bourdon is correct: he received no calls for assistance. I have no cell phone. I

didn't call Public Security because it would have meant up to 12 hours in a hospital waiting room, recalling the nightmare to countless hospital reps. However, Director Bourdon should know that I now eschew the park paths for the safer sidewalks of Melville, as do many of my Y friends.

Tragic that Frederic Law Olmsted's "people's park" in the middle of Westmount must be a discarded notion because people aren't safe to walk in his park anymore!

KIM LAPONSEN, ST. CATHERINE ST.

IS MAYOR FOR CN OR CP?

Mayor Tremblay, the Aéroports de Montréal (Trudeau Airport), the Montreal Board of Trade and the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) all support Central Station (the CN route) as the downtown terminus of the proposed airport shuttle.

The Quebec government seems to have stepped back from the fray and has asked the stakeholders to come to a consensus. This is a new position because as recently as a month ago Jacques Chagnon, the MNA for Westmount, was quoted in the Westmount Independent as favouring Lucien l'Allier (the CP route) as the, sort of, in-town terminus.

It is time that Mayor Trent and the Westmount city council enunciate their positions publicly.*

continued on p. 16

City orders structural study of 4300 garage

By Isaac Olson

Westmount's Urban Planning department has ordered the structural integrity of an underground parking garage's concrete slab be evaluated by an engineer. The request was made based on a city building inspector's findings.

The 50-year-old, city-block-long luxury apartment complex, located at 4300 de Maisonneuve, has been undergoing renovations for several years – renovations that have led to numerous court battles rooted in complaints over a lack of peaceable enjoyment by many of the approximately 600 residents occupying the building's 317

"The city has asked for a report by a structural engineer that attests to the structural integrity of the slab," said Joanne Poirier, director of Urban Planning.

Poirier said she was unable to assess the depth of the situation without the engineer's report which, she observed, must be conducted by the building's owner and should be available soon. Older parking garages all need to be repaired, she continued, after years of salt degradation and other physical factors.

"The city is monitoring the situation to ensure that, at all times, the residents are safe," said Poirier.

In the last few months, hundreds of temporary support poles have been installed on both levels of the extensive parking garage. Most of the more than 400 poles appeared in the last month.

A resident who requested anonymity cited an underground parking garage in St. Laurent that collapsed two years ago, killing one man. In that case, news reports indicated residents complained of flaking cement and rusted support beams in the years leading up to the incident.

Upon visual inspection by the Independent, rebar was protruding from crumbling concrete in multiple areas. Many cars were covered in dust and, in some places, sheets of plastic hung from the ceiling like hammocks collecting flakes of paint and debris.

The source also indicated safety concerns with the largely senior citizen-aged residents, who pay about \$160 per month to park, trying to navigate the dense jungle of metal poles that, in some cases, are pressing temporary I-beams against the ceiling.

The building's tenants association recently hired a lawyer to lead a joint lawsuit against the owner in relation to the ongoing, slow-moving construction. However, according to Jean-Pierre Le Blanc, a Régie du logement spokesperson, the lawsuit has yet to be filed.

The building is owned by British Columbia Investment Management Corporation (BCIMC) under the numbered company: 3630005 Canada Inc. Torontobased Great West Life Realty Advisors is the building's asset manager. The company's vice president of corporate resources, Michele Walkau, has not returned several phone messages left over the last

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A photo of the second floor of 4300 de Maisonneuve apartment complex's two-storey underground parking garage taken on May 23. The image shows plastic hanging from the ceiling, crumbling concrete, exposed rebar and some of the more than 400 poles scattered between the two floors.

Demolition hearing for 11 Hillside

Noise, parking concerns raised

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A handful of residents attending the demolition hearing for 11 Hillside voiced little opposition to the potential loss of the former Caledonia Curling Club building.

But they questioned how much attention had been given to the impact on an already congested area, including noise and additional parking during the destruction process and after the building of a proposed condo development of 42 units.

Even Councillor Patrick Martin, who chaired the meeting, voiced concerns over maximizing the site and suggested that to provide condo residents with only one full-size parking space each would cause "a heck of a problem on the street."

While city planning officials explained that the new building conformed to bylaws and would integrate well architecturally with others on the street – namely Place Kensington next door as well as St. Margaret's and 80 Hillside across the street – it was the human element that kept resonating.

"Place Kensington has no objection to the construction but has concerns about the noise level from compressors on the roof to provide air conditioning to 42 units," said Sylvia Zagury, its director. Many of the 180 residents like to open their windows, she explained.

She was also concerned over the proximity of bay windows looking onto the existing residence.

Gerald Glass, a nearby resident of Metcalfe Ave., said parking, which is already difficult, "will get even worse" if some condo owners were to have two cars.

Pursuing the issue, Councillor Martin noted that additional cars might require on-street parking. Would Public Security issue on-street permits for second or third cars, he asked. And had a parking study been conducted? "I wonder why you would build a building with so little parking?" he said.

Architect Marc Rasmussen, who presented a design of the proposed building, said that in addition to 42 parking spaces, 17 of the spaces would allow for another "small" car to be parked in tandem.

Plans for the three-storey development by Propriétés Belcourt, call for 25 two-bedroom units and 17 with three bedrooms (see story June 8, p. 1).

Councillor Kathleen Duncan asked if the demolition was absolutely necessary. Construction of an underground garage was one reason why the original building cannot be saved, Rasmussen said.

Andrew Cook-Jolicoeur, whose apartment at the back of the large building at 4400 St. Catherine St. overlooks the Hillside site, said he was "a little appalled" to discover that the building where he lived and the adjacent one at 4460 had received no mention in the city's explanation of the proposed development.

He deduced that "no forethought had been given to a number of residents" who would be impacted by the demolition and construction noise. These people had views, balconies and terraces. As it is, any sound of hammering reverberates loudly

Old foundation under courts

continued from p. 1

ones will only be available for play once a special surface coating is sufficiently cured.

All four courts are to be coloured green in keeping with the park environment.

Archeologist hired

After the foundation walls were discovered during the work, "We hired an archeologist to stay on the site because of the historical sensitivity of the area," Zalzal explained.

The current site goes back to 1857, when William Murray bought the Leduc farmland and built a country residence he called "West Mount," according to the city's new parks guide book (see story p. 16). Its name was chosen by the citizens of Côte St. Antoine in 1894 as the new name for their growing town.

By 1927, however, when much of the surrounding land had been developed, the city purchased the remaining acreage from William's son, Alexander Murray, who also had a house on the property.

While the Murray name was originally



Old horse shoe and fragment of plate from under the tennis courts are displayed by Allen Idle, junior engineer.

given to the new park, it was officially renamed as King George Park (KGP) in 1939 in honour of the visit of King George VI and his wife, Queen Elizabeth (later the Queen Mother).

It is still known to most residents by its original name.

through what amounts to a giant courtyard at the back of the buildings, causing annoyance to people like him who are retired and may be home during the day.

He finally asked that contractors minimize the impact of dust.

Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier said workers had to use water to keep the dust down but explained that a certain amount of disruption could be expected.

"Should we not inform people in the congested area of demolition days – just as a courtesy so they would be aware of it?" asked Councillor Theodora Samiotis.

"It would be appreciated if residents could be notified," Cook-Jolicoeur added.

Councillors Martin, Samiotis and Kathleen Duncan adjourned to deliberate at the end of the meeting. It was not known when their decision would be announced.





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ArtNow features work of Haitian artist to raise funds for school in her home country



An art auction organized by the Independent's columnist Heather Black and Westmount's ArtNOW to raise money for a school in Haiti was held in the lobby of 1 Westmount Square on June 17. The auction featured the work of Haitian artist and architect Genevieve Lahens (who goes by the name Iris) and other members of the ArtNow group that meets at the Westmount Library. Lahens is currently working on a new school to be built in Haiti. From left to right are Flora Lee Wagner, Iris, Jorie Richman Rosenthal and Hannah Franklin.

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Panhandlers' stories as diverse as residents' views

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

At 7:30 am at the start of a sultry summer day, Jean-Guy Hébert, a panhandler who has become a familiar fixture at the corner of Victoria Ave. and Sherbrooke St., is taking up his usual spot to ask for small change or the occasional bill outside the Royal Bank.

Six days a week throughout the year, he remains discreetly in his place. A cardboard sign and a styrofoam cup for the coins that come his way are the tools of his trade. Hébert, once a successful businessman who ended up going bankrupt under a burden of unpaid taxes and casino debts, went through a period of deep depression, then landed on welfare.

However, finding that he can't afford to pay rent from his welfare cheque, he now lives at the Old Brewery Mission. While he used to panhandle downtown, an escalation of police intervention there motivated him to relocate to Westmount, where he finds the intervention isn't quite as aggressive.

"I like it around here because it's quiet," said Hébert, who's 61. "I'm getting too old to be downtown. Most of the guys on the street, all they do is drugs or alcohol and I'm not into that. I prefer to be alone."

The weather appears to influence the generosity of donors. During the summer, Hébert scarcely makes \$10 after six hours. However, during the winter the take can be as high as \$40 for the same amount of work. Despite his hand-to-mouth existence, he owns a cell phone. As it turns out, panhandling isn't all Hébert does. He also takes calls from people who are responding to his classified ad offering a handyman's services.

Hébert may have another job, too. He recently received a certificate of appreciation from the Montreal police of Station 12 for helping catch a gang of debit card fraudsters he had noticed while sitting outside the Royal Bank branch on that corner.

Tony, another panhandler who is often

seen outside the Metro supermarket asking for change, told the Independent that he panhandles so that he won't be forced back into homelessness. "Before I was on the street, and two years ago I got an apartment," he said. At the age of 55, he's no longer able to pursue the work he did most of his adult life as a mover or helper on a delivery truck due to a stroke that has affected his health.

Confronted by complications at Quebec's welfare department, Tony stopped receiving a monthly support cheque from the government. He said he also endures the effects of a mini-stroke he recently suffered on the left side of his body, which blinded him in the left eye at the same time. "That's one of the reasons I have a problem working. I come here two or three times a week and whatever I get I save up for my rent."

Residents' views

Among residents and business owners in Westmount, opinion is divided when it comes to the issue of panhandling. "They're always pleasant – I've never been inconvenienced," said John Fretz of Lansdowne Ave., who often strolls along Sherbrooke. "I feel sympathetic towards them. They've never been rude to me. They just basically ask me for spare change."

Duncan McNeill, another Westmounter, who at one time chaired the board of St. Michael's Mission, which serves a clientele of street persons downtown, defends panhandlers even more assertively. "It's not their fault," he said. "To me it's obviously the fault of society that we have homeless people and panhandlers, but it's a fact of society. So if we can't get rid of the root causes, I think we have an obligation to take care of them."

Merchants weigh in

Some of the store owners and managers contacted by the Independent on Sherbrooke and on Victoria maintained that they're not disturbed by the presence of panhandlers. "It's not a negative thing," said Lorraine Sleiman, manager of the Pretty Ballerinas shoe store on Victoria.

"If they want to beg money outside

continued on p. 18



Jean-Guy Hébert, a panhandler who is often seen at the corner of Victoria and Sherbrooke shows a certiticate of appreciation he was given by the Montreal Police from Station 12 for helping catch a gang of debit card fraudsters he had noticed while sitting outside the Royal Bank branch on that corner.

A look at the panhandling activity on Greene

Just as the opinion on panhandlers varies among merchants in Victoria Village, the Independent found store operators on Greene Ave. similarly divided in their views.

"It's a big problem here," said the service manager at the 5 Saisons supermarket at de Maisonneuve and Greene. who did not want to be identified.

The de Maisonneuve/Greene intersection is perhaps Westmount's busiest for people asking for money, given the corner's proximity to Plaza Alexis Nihon and the Atwater Metro.

"Every time I turn around, they are there," she said, adding that at times up to three panhandlers ply their trade on the sidewalk just outside the grocery store's front door.

"They are really bothering our customers. Some of our customers are nice. Some have even bought food for them. But many others have complained." She maintains that public benches are only aggravating the problem by encouraging the panhandlers to loiter.

A few addresses away at the Mocassini women's wear boutique, Ahouva Toledano, who's owned the store for the past 15 years, maintained she's been seeing fewer panhandlers lately, and she's not bothered by them anyway. "They sit outside here, but they don't disturb, they don't bother anyone," she said. - MCB

An informal census taken of pahandling activity during the early afternoon of June 15, shows one person on Greene near the entrance of 5 Saisons, and one person on Victoria in his regular spot. The day was sunny and warm.



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Westmounters love the dynamic Denim and Diamond party



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Denim and Diamonds held its annual bash at Le Windsor – the perfect place to house the 700-plus guests. One ballroom was full of South Beach-style white lounge furniture. The other was turned into a disco with a huge screen projecting images from Walt Disney's *Alice in Wonderland* movie.

Jumpstarting the dancing mood were Canadian Idol '06 winner **Eva Avila** and **FADI King of Drums**.

The May 15 gala's theme was "Through the Looking Glass" – a nod to Alice in Wonderland, and what a wonderful wonderland it was. A long table was designed in the style of Alice's famous tea party. Teacups, a teapot, "eat me" mushrooms and the white rabbit's clock were witty touches admired by all.

The annual event raises money for Hope & Cope's Wellness Centre. Founder

of both, the ever-elegant **Sheila Kussner** attended with her husband **Marvyn** and Westmounters daughter **Joanne** with hubby **John Leopold**.

Honoree of the night was "gentleman Phil", **Phil Bloom** of Le Living Room.

Sponsors were Steve Madden, Parasuco, TD Bank, Tempo Logistics, Samcon

and Reitmans. Delicious food was graciously supplied by 18 of Montreal's top restaurants, including divine desserts! Beautiful young gals wore jeans, sexy short dresses and diamond bling of course! Hostesses were chicly clad by Jacob in little black and white frilly frocks.

Co-chairs Deborah Bridgman, Teresa

Izzo and Christal Agostino were praised for their detail-driven perfection.

Their committee and a myriad of volunteers helped raised \$162,000 for Hope & Cope's innovative psychosocial support programs for young adult cancer patients (18 to 35 years old) at the Wellness Centre.



Westmounters Joanne and John Leopold flank Sheila and Marvyn Kussner



Honoree Phil Bloom, with, from left: co-chairs Deborah Bridgman, Teresa Izzo and Christal Agostino



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Demystifying Westmount's Public Security

By Gary Ikeman, District 5 COUNCILLOR AND COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SECURITY

What is the history of the Westmount Public Security Unit?

Created 30 years ago after the city lost its own police department, the Westmount Public Security Unit provides our city with a wide range of services. It celebrated its 30th anniversary this past May.

What is the role of Public Security?

The Public Security Unit supports peace, order and the general welfare of the city. As such, it is empowered to enforce all municipal by-laws. It not only acts as the eyes and ears of the police and fire departments, it also adds an additional level of community support and deterrence against unlawful behaviour.

For example, it:

- Routinely patrols streets, parks, municipal buildings and private property (on request) to act as a visible deterrent and intervene in the event of accidents, emergencies or suspicious activity,
- Assists persons in distress or in the search for missing persons,
- Searches for lost animals and assists in problems related to wild animals,
- Helps control traffic in emergencies,
- Enforces city by-laws (park curfews, noise, etc.),
- Issues parking permits and enforces parking regulations,
- Manages parking lots,
- Manages itinerant control,
- Assists police in various operations,
- Participates on the Traffic committee,
- Provides public education on safety and security,
- Deploys crowd control at special events,
- Offers CPR and defibrillation in emergencies,
- Helps in graffiti management and control,
- Provides fire evacuation assistance.

What training and qualifications do public safety officers have?

Public Security Officers (PSOs) are mostly trained in a three-year CEGEP police technology program. They are qualified for Class 4A driving licenses, which are emergency vehicles. They also receive training in the use of the telescopic stick, which includes self-defense techniques as taught by the police academy in Nicolet. All have been trained in the use of CPR and defibrillators.

How is the department organized?

The department is headed by a director, (currently Richard Bourdon) who oversees

six sergeants, five of whom have a team of two PSOs. These teams rotate through a work schedule to achieve 24/7 hour coverage throughout the city. During the summer, additional PSO "parks cadets" plus two fire prevention officers are hired to augment the force, with particular emphasis on parks patrol and fire prevention visits.

One sergeant is responsible for parking regulation enforcement and oversees a team of eight parking inspectors.

The dispatch department is the first level of contact by telephone. Dispatchers receive calls, counsel citizens and are trained to initiate the appropriate response.

Are there any new developments underway?

- A number of important new programs have been recently initiated.
- New simplified telephone system for dispatch: 514.989.5222. This will enable the caller to connect directly with the dispatcher and avoid being put on hold. Further, a direct link to 911 will be possible in an emergency. Implementation: June 2010.
- A new dispatch software program will dramatically improve the information available to dispatchers, and will improve management of the entire department. Implementation: June 2010.
- A new dispatcher training course designed to improve customer service and speed up response rates will be given in conjunction with the implementation of the new dispatch software.
- A new supervisor training program for sergeants to improve management, skills and effectiveness has been recently given by the police academy.
- A significant number of new parking meters are being purchased.

- Defective parking meters have been a major problem for citizens and the Public Security Unit. The new meters will contribute to smoother operations for both.
- Foot patrols and bicycle patrols have been initiated to increase street-level visibility and deterrence impact.
 Focus will be in the commercial areas of the city and also on bicycle path and parks.
- A revitalized graffiti control system is being implemented in June to include more reporting, larger budgets and faster clean-up times.

What areas is the Public Security Unit

not responsible for?

Public Security is an auxiliary department designed to serve Westmount and assist other departments. There are, however, certain legal restrictions on what Public Security cannot do, and it is important to recognize these.

- Public Security has no legal power or authorization to enforce the provincial Highway Code, which deals with automobiles, bicycles, pedestrians and their compliance with the law. Only the police department can do this.
- Public Security is not the police force.

 They are empowered to enforce continued on p. 14

Birthday boys give rather than receive



Instead of accepting birthday gifts, two six-year-old Selwyn House kindergarteners, Thomas Plamondon and Alessandro Damiani, raised \$1,227.73 for patients of the Montreal Children's Hospital's craniofacial surgery unit, which focuses on children with significant facial abnormalities. The boys raised the money with the help of family and friends, motivated by "embracing the fact that they are

helping children their age feel better," explained Allesandro's mother Raimonda Damiani. From left: Valerie Frost (director of special events and community groups at MCH), Dr. Mirko Gilardino (director, craniofacial surgery), Thomas Plamondon and Alessandro Damiani.

Photo courtesy of Raimonda Damiani

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Metro's lost and found

continued from p. 3

Laperle remembered a time a woman went to pay for her groceries only to discover her wallet was missing. She couldn't even pay for transportation. So the store's delivery driver brought the customer home and Laperle retraced the client's steps. She found it at the pharmacy across the street and, with the customer's permission, used the wallet's credit card to purchase the groceries. The wallet and groceries were delivered to the

One time the coffee grinder was acting up, recalls Fletcher, and when it was opened up for servicing, a gold bracelet was found chewed up inside.

Fletcher said he once found his head cashier crawling down each aisle in search of a woman's lost cell phone. Ball said she didn't want to tell the customer that she had honestly looked for it if she hadn't.

"Come do your grocery shopping here and don't worry if you lose something," said Ball with a smile. "It will be found."

'Green patrollers' back on duty

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Westmount's "green patrollers" are back on the streets of Westmount, providing residents with helpful information on water conservation, how to minimize waste and how to eradicate ragweed effectively.

Since last week, Jeanne Vachon and Chloe Landry, two students hired as patrollers by the city for the summer, have been working out of an office located at the Centre Greene.

This year, the patrollers will be running a kiosk at special events, as well as going door-to-door. Last summer, the patrollers concentrated on the western half of Westmount. Over the coming weeks, residents in the eastern section can expect a visit.

Part of the patrollers' mandate will involve sharing information with residents on how water can be saved in the home.

The use of rain barrels will also be promoted. A second aspect covers "zero waste." The patrollers will be working with daycamps to teach children about the benefits of garbagefree lunches, which minimize the amount of trash.

The patrollers will also be evaluating hazardous waste and providing information on different locations in Westmount where things like compact fluorescent light bulbs, used paint and expired medications can be brought for safe disposal.

Also part of their mandate is ragweed control. In July, the patrollers will be implementing a communications program to let Westmounters know what ragweed looks like and how it should be handled.

formation on the suffering ragweed causes some people who are allergic to it.

"They're pretty flexible as to which days they're going to be out going door-to-door," says Marina Peter, the environmental coordinator at the Westmount Public Works

"When it's green bin day, they would take a look at how people are using their green bins, and if they're using the right type of bags. They'll knock on doors and ask people how they like the program or if they've encountered any problems."

Peter estimates the patrollers will have been able to contact around 500 homes by the time their mandate ends in early August. The patrollers are partly paid through an employment program run by the federal government. The city of Westmount provides an additional subsidy, which amounts to \$1,500 per student.



They'll be providing general in- From left: Jeanne Vachon and Chloe Landry

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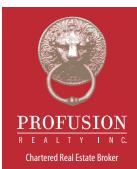




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DAVIDSON



Ikeman discusses Public Security

continued from p. 9

municipal by-laws. While they can make "citizen's" arrests regarding criminal cases, they are discouraged from engaging with dangerous persons. Nonetheless they have performed admirably in the past, in very difficult situations.

• Public Security is not a substitute for 911 or other emergency services.

In spite of the above restrictions, Westmount Public Security works very closely with the Montreal police force at Station 12 and the local fire department. In an emergency, there is a well-defined protocol for mutual assistance and support.

In summary, Westmount is very fortunate to have a dedicated and experienced corps of individuals who look out for our residents and assist in many situations. They add an important and valuable layer of community assistance, service and safety to our city.

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Zoe: Her name means life



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BY MARY LAMEY

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Some combinations are inarguable

eyes and as even a disposition as anyone No one who has met Zoe can under-

stand why her life has taken this turn. We've asked, but she just gazes back with melting brown eyes and wags her tail. No one knows how she wound up on the streets as a stray and eventually in the pound. Rosie Animal Adoption saved her from her sure fate and has placed her in foster care.

What makes Zoe an underdog? Not

time in foster care, which at some point, I am sure you can understand dear reader, wears on the spirit.

Here's what we know for sure. Zoe is affectionate and well-adjusted, clean in the house and good on a walk. Age seems to be the only reason Zoe continues to live without a forever family.

Yup, everyone loves a puppy. Too few people are willing to open their hearts to pooches rounding the bend on 50 in dog years. That's a big mistake as this is a healthy dog with many good years ahead of her. What's more, she's a grown-up dog ready to slip into the rhythms of your life.

That means no piddle puddles, no wrecked furniture and no making "Heel, Zoe, heel!" your new mantra. As advertised, she is a classic.

Could Zoe be the dog for you? If so, find out more about her and other dogs at www.underdogclub.org. You can call 1-877-43-DOGGY or send an email to contact@underdogclub.org.

As always, if you can't adopt, please consider fostering especially around the dreaded July 1 moving day when so many animals are left behind. Or feel free to make a donation so we ····· continued on p. 16 can provide the fund-





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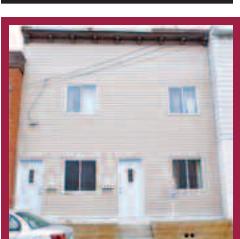


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Comin' Up

Tuesday, June 22

St. Matthias' Church's centennial celebration, lower hall, 7 pm for wine and cheese. Following the reception, a brief service at 8:45 pm. Info: 514.933.4295.

Monday, June 28

- Public consultation meeting on plans to create new building zone for part of Greene Ave., 7 pm at city hall. See story, p.
- Centre Greene has **summer day camp** for ages 5 to 14. The centre offers weekly sessions from June 28 to August 20. Info: www.centregreene.org, 514.931.6202.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23

Fête de la St. Jean festivities in Westmount Park, 5 to 10 pm. Bonfire at 9 pm. If rain, activities will take place at the arena. Info: 514.989.5226.

Wednesday, June 30

Canada Day celebration campout in Westmount Park, rain or shine. Reserve your tent site: 514.989.5393 from June 14 to 25. Info: www.westmount.org/calendar.

THURSDAY, JULY I

Canada Day celebration in Westmount Park: pancake breakfast, BBO lunch at 12 noon, and Family Splash Bash, 2 pm at the pool. Info: 514.989.5353 or www.westmount.org/calendar.

Monday, July 5

City council meeting, 8 pm, city hall.

RONDA BLY ESTATE & MOVING SALES Home Content Liquidation **CERTIFIED APPRAISER**





Not-so-

continued from p. 15

ing for the safekeeping of underdogs around the city until homes are found for them. Dog bless you!

Letters

continued from p. 4

I ask the mayor and council to declare clearly and unambiguously their support for the CN route, as others have.

I speak on behalf of myself and the Westmount Train Action Group (WTAG). The WTAG has for 15 years supported modern, technologically superior and environmentally friendly commuter mass transit, as opposed to the circa 1950s technology brought to us by the Agence métropolitaine de transport (AMT).

DAVID SCHACHTER, OF ST. CATHERINE St. & WTAG

* Ed.'s note: For the mayor's position, please



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underdog Zoe

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

An illustrated guide to Westmount's parks and green spaces is hot off the press and available at a cost of \$5 at city hall, the library, Victoria Hall and Public Works (1 Bethune). It features walking tours with maps and describes highlights and historical features.

Plan for children also being mapped out

'Our walking tour of gardens was so

successful that we decided to create one along similar lines for the parks," said Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who chairs the city's Horticultural Advisory Committee

Simplified discovery tours of Westmount and Murray parks are also under way for use by pre-schools and day camps, Lulham said. These are expected to be ready later this summer with an emphasis on trees and connecting children with nature.

In English and French,

Westmount Parks and Green Spaces, describes some 30 sites in three tour sections called the mountain, the slope and the plateau.

It provides a perspective on some of the smaller, often unnoticed areas such as the Forden islands created in 1930 or the "pocket of greenery" at the Olivier electrical substation.

The information draws on the city's

parks survey tabled last year and includes summaries from this report. The guide can also be used as a tool to promote a healthy lifestyle by encouraging the use of green spaces and public staircases, Lulham explained.

The booklet originated two years ago from Councillor Kathleen Duncan, who then chaired HAC, and George Bowser who, as a councillor at that time, was commissioner of Parks.



Parks walking tour now available

When the Bell Rings: Westmount Students Speak Up

COMPILED BY PHILIP CUTLER AND MICHELLE WARNER

We asked students who live or go to school in Westmount to answer the question: How do you study when it is 25 degrees and sunny outside?

Here is what some students had to say.

You don't study! When it's that hot, you go outside, have fun, enjoy life and get cool. Studying can wait until later.

Jason M., grade 8, Selwyn House

I study outside. I go in my swimming pool with a slush and put my books on the deck of the pool.

Justine H., grade 7, Vanguard Intercultural High School

This is our last column of the year. If you have any suggestions for next year, please email us at whenthebellrings@ ymail.com.

Have a wonderful summer! We'll be back in September.



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Tipline

Rewards of \$250 will be awarded for tips regarding crime, mischief or intended crimes in Westmount that lead to arrests, until the fund is exhausted.

Please contact the Independent with your information.

See story "\$1,000 donated for crimefighting fund," March 30, p. 6, for details.

Tipline will run any reward-for-information notices being offered by residents, whether as part of the fund mentioned above or directly.

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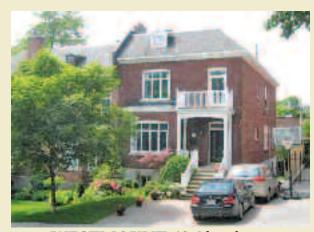
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WESTMOUNT 642 Murray Hill; Large 3-storey 5 bedroom, 3+ 1 Baths, \$1,489,000 MLS#8328516



WESTMOUNT 27-29 Churchill; 2,200 sf/unit, Dbl occ. Can be co-prop \$1,495,000 MLS#8364903



WESTMOUNT 60 Aberdeen; Very bright 5+2 Bdrms, private backyard \$1,395,000 MLS#8370528



WESTMOUNT Claremont; Funky charm, 4 bedrooms, below Sherbrooke



WESTMOUNT 300 Lansdowne #5; 1st floor, pieds-a-terre, 35% down \$165,000 MLS#8277309



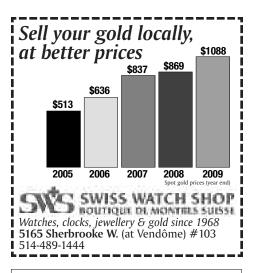
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Views differ on panhandling

continued from p. 7

that's alright with me," insisted John Benoît, co-owner of Ben & Tournesol on Sherbrooke.

But other merchants on Sherbrooke are far less patient. "We understand that these are hard times, but as merchants we are also having a hard time," said Shelley Kerman, the owner of the children's wear shop LMNOP. "To alienate the pedestrian traffic and to make people feel uncomfortable walking on the street – which some of these guys do – is a problem for us."

Kerman, who's been running her store more than 18 years, maintains that Westmount's Public Security department used to do more about the problem.

"As a general policy, the city is not responding now when somebody says there are panhandlers on the sidewalk," said Gerard Fellerath, the owner of the nearby Folklore I store. "They should be keeping people moving and not allowing them to settle in."

City policy

During a Westmount city council meeting last December, Mayor Peter Trent re-

sponded to a resident's complaint about panhandling, by calling it "a societal problem," while adding that panhandlers "exist because people give them money" and "there are people out there who encourage" them.

In an interview last week with the *Independent*, Trent said again that he never gives money to panhandlers. "I never have and I never will. This is a personal thing, and I don't necessarily think that everybody else should follow my lead. Certainly it's not a Westmount policy. Far from it. There is no question, however, that if people did not give money to beggars, they wouldn't beg."

According to Commander Stéphane Plourde of the Montreal police department's Station 12, which serves Westmount, the police can only intervene with panhandlers who are behaving aggressively. "But if they are passive and are doing nothing, there is not much we can do," he said.

He said the extent of police intervention with panhandlers now is to offer the assistance of a social worker, but ticketing is out of the question.

"We have to work within the law and we don't have many tools to work on passive

vagrants," said Plourde, who claims a clause in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms could be used as the panhandler's main line of defense.

The related clause in the "the Canadian Charter of Rights gets read to me every time I bring up the subject (of panhandlers) with the police," said Westmount city councillor Gary Ikeman who is responsible for Public Security. "The police won't arrest anybody for sticking their hand out. Now the by-law of the city says you can do it if you have a permit. But our Public Security cannot arrest anybody. They're not police. They can't even ask for identification."

Ikeman said Westmount's public safety officers can give panhandlers tickets when they are being uncooperative. PSOs have also been instructed "to encourage the panhandlers to move along," he added. "We're talking about passive panhandlers, which is very important. If anybody in any way makes any aggressive action, then we can immediately call the police. In other words a panhandler who interferes with a person, who yells, who blocks their way, who harasses them, that is immediately an aggressive act."



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Baseball or soccer?



Off-Sidel

It's a battle that's been going on for as long as the two sports have been played side-by-side – and it's an argument that probably has no right answer. Baseball vs. soccer: which is better?

Growing up in the area in the 1980s when the Expos were huge and the Impact were still just a twinkle in Joey Saputo's eye, baseball reigned supreme.

Soccer was always big in NDG and other parts of the West End, but in Westmount it was all about hardball.

I was, and always have been, a baseball guv.

I grew up playing at the Westmount Athletics Grounds (WAG), at NDG's Patricia Park, putting together pickup games on – ironically – the soccer field at Murray Park. I was playing hardball before the idea of a "soccerplex" ever existed.

On the other side of the coin was soccer.

There have always been many fields in the area, but in the 80s and early 90s, there was nothing like the amazing surfaces at Westmount Park or the idea that a baseball diamond could be replaced by a soccer pitch.

In fact soccer wasn't even on my radar until World Cup '94 in the US. Probably the first game I ever watched was the final that year when Roberto Baggio kicked the ball over the net, and Brazil beat Italy 3-2 to capture the tournament.

So which is better?

When I was a kid, the battle raged on. Of course, we all played hockey, but in the summer most of us broke off into either the baseball or soccer camp, and when we crossed paths it was always an argument.

"Baseball is sooooo boring and lazy" ...
"Nothing ever happens in soccer" ... "Baseball players are fat" ... "Soccer players fall down like they've been shot when a fly lands on them"...and on it raged.

Personally, I've never been able to get into soccer. For the most part, I find it

lacks action – a bunch of dudes with faux hawks and hair bands running around for an hour-and-a-half to score, like, two goals? No thank you.

But I do understand when soccer people find baseball boring – it is a very slow game.

There's no real answer

The truth is there's no real answer as to which sport is better. Just like Carey Price and Jaroslav Halak, they both have their good and bad sides, but in a pinch either is just as likely to impress as they are to be shockingly unimpressive.

A low-scoring ballgame with a pitcher who takes his sweet time before every throw can suck the life out of even the most ardent fan. I've been to four-and-ahalf hour games and almost fallen asleep – granted, being at Olympic Stadium didn't help the cause.

On the other end, I've tried with an open mind to watch soccer on TV and just can't do it. And we're talking major games here – World Cup, Euro, Olympics. It doesn't matter if it's the two best teams in the world or the two worst, the fact that basically nothing happens for 90 minutes plus drives me nuts.

And let's not even get into "injury time," which might be the dumbest concept in sports this side of the fair catch.

In the end, baseball is more like chess in that it's almost as much of a head game as it is a sport. Soccer, on the other hand, takes extreme athleticism and the ability to stay pumped even when nothing is happening. Both are very challenging.

This July 11, I'll spend more time watching my New York Mets play the Atlanta Braves than I will trying to find out if Italy or Brazil is going to win the World Cup.

For those of you who prefer "the beautiful game" however, I certainly wouldn't begrudge you for tuning in to South Africa 2010.

Maybe after both games are over, we can all get together for a game of soccer-baseball and celebrate our favourite sports together.

You can always reach me at noahsidel@gmail.com.



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BUILDING PERMITS # What's permitted

In presenting building permits for approval at the June 14 meeting of city council, Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Urban Planning, explained that the first two relate to the construction of the new house to adjoin 495 Lansdowne, where the owner now wishes to build longer garages than proposed, all within allowable parameters.

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were all subsequently approved.

- **495 Lansdowne:** to extend the proposed semi-detached garage by an additional five feet resulting in a total length of 25 feet and to build a deck in the same rear yard, and to landscape;
- Vacant lot on Lansdowne: to extend the proposed semi-detached garage by an additional five feet resulting in a total length of 26 feet;
- **659 Belmont:** to replace basement windows;
- **564 Claremont:** to install a swimming pool at the rear and landscape;
- **4855 Sherbrooke:** to make a new opening for a side door at the new location for Hogg's;
- **526 Victoria:** to enlarge the rear balcony;

- **4833 Sherbrooke:** to install two new signs; **626 Belmont:** to build a smaller deck and rear fence:
- **20 Thornhill:** to make exterior renovations including the front entrance, also to landscape;
- **16 Thornhill:** to build a fence in the back vard:
- **658 Lansdowne:** to replace the existing metal railing with a traditional wooden one:
- **3223 The Boulevard:** to do some land-scaping;
- **552 Roslyn:** to replace a patio door and a side window;
- **4859 Sherbrooke:** to redo storefront;
- **54 Summit Circle:** to replace a door;
- 23 Willow: to replace most of the windows;
- **492 Mountain:** to replace front and side downstairs windows;
- **4156-4158 Dorchester:** to replace most of the windows;
- **134 Clandeboye:** to build a wooden portico at the front;
- **1 Winchester:** to replace the front and side windows;
- **52 Roxborough:** to replace several windows.

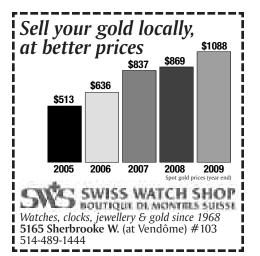


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Local Classifieds

Public Notice of Change of Name Please be advised that Marie-Eve Roy-Paquette, and Raphaëlle Cohen (her minor daughter) residing at 671 Roslyn, Westmount Quebec, have applied to the Directeur de l'état civil to change her name to Marie-Eve Roy and her daughter's to Raphaëlle Roy-Cohen.

Properties to love ...



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A Rebirth of a Classic Westmount Semi-detached

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WESTMOUNT 625 BELMONT Price Upon Request Sitting Pretty on the Park

This remarkable residence has been meticulously renovated and is styled for living. As you enter the front door, you feel the welcome of a family that loves to live. The home is complete with California shutters, beautiful wood floors, a gourmet kitchen, lots of bedrooms, a terrace above the double garage and with all of this, you are only steps to Murray Park. An interior designer would be jealous!















Marie Sicotte

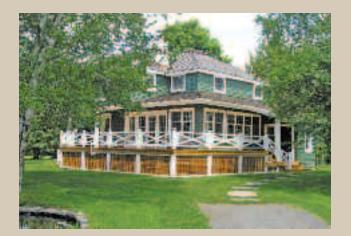
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Asking \$1,395,000





DES PINS OUEST

A very special one! Soaring 14' ceilings, industrial style beams, original wood flooring, contemporary finishing. Spectacular, very bright, perfectly designed space — double unit of two bdr, 2 bth, large living area with double sided fireplace. Impressive building in a perfect location. Rented parking available. Visit is needed!

Asking \$675,000



ROCKLEDGE COURT

First time on the market in 39 years! Semi-detached 3-bedroom home with private, hedged garden, and shared courtyard space. Westmount-adjacent, just steps from Parc Mont-Royal, public transit, and the Priory and St Georges schools.



WILLOWDALE AVENUE

Immense condo in a 50's gem! 4+2 bdr/3 bth, perfect intergenerational space plus integrated garage and lots of storage. Experience 2500 sf on this tucked away Outremont street. **Asking \$639,000**



STE-CATHERINE 0

Westmount Park Towers: 2 bed, 2 bath, 9' ceilings, gallerystyle hall, floating floors. Two garage spaces, two big lockers. Special feature: six French doors to two private, hedged terraces.



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