

'A plan to make a plan'

City imposes 90-day interim freeze on southeast/Tupper lot development

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The long-discussed future of St. Catherine St. and the Tupper lots was resurrected after a COVID hiatus when city council August 21 imposed a 90-day freeze on building activity in the southeast sector.

Impacting the area bounded by St. Catherine, Atwater, Dorchester and Wood, the future of the area had been a hot issue

No strike: City, white-collars agree on contract

See p. 3

going into the 2017 election, followed by dormancy during the pandemic and the election of 2021.

Called a resolution of "interim control for the southeast sector," last week's freeze adopted by council was moved by Councilor Conrad Peart, commissioner of infrastructure, urban planning and architecture. It applies to all processes involving new building construction, extensions, demolition, conversions of buildings, cadastral operations, lot subdivisions and occupancy.

"This is 'step one' we're announcing tonight," Peart said. It is "a framework to pull all plan- *continued on p. 14*

Remember when TVs were thick?



As seen on Victoria Ave. near Windsor August 23.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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Exception: 3-hour power outage

New by-law bans burning wood in fireplaces Sept. 1, 2024

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Five months after giving notice of motion of the city's intent to ban the burning of wood in Westmount fireplaces, council at its meeting August 21 adopted By-law 1600 to do just that. It is to come into effect a year from now, September 1, 2024. The main exception is when a heating failure has lasted more than three

hours.

This is a generalization given that the by-law, which applies to all residential buildings in Westmount, also applies to the use of any "solid-fuel, heating and cooking device" though the impact has long been reported as having a direct effect on wood-burning fireplaces. These generally tend to be used in West- *continued on p. 6*

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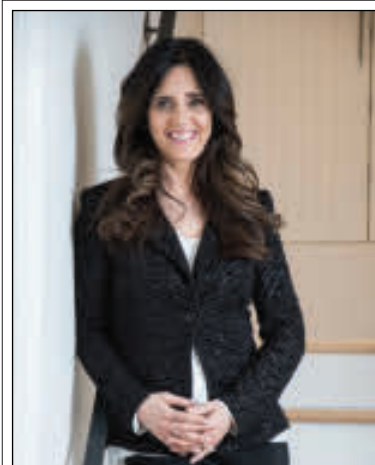
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3 tickets among those given for off-leash offences

Public Security cracks down on wayward dog owners

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Three Westmount dog owners were among those ticketed recently in an on-going campaign by Public Security to enforce the city's leash and licence regulations, director Greg McBain said last week. This follows a number of complaints, especially concerning Summit Woods.

"It's getting crazy up there," he explained. This is despite signs outlining the regulations being posted not only at the entrances to the park but inside the park/nature preserve as well. All dogs are required to be on leash between 10 am and 5 pm at this time of year.

On August 23 at 2:55 pm, for example, two large dogs were spotted off leash walking behind their owners on a trail in the woods. Each was given a ticket for \$230. One of the dogs was a German shepherd while the other was described as a Rotweiler-type.

Earlier the same day at 8:46 am, a man was seen playing with his dog in the



The dog run at the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG), as seen August 27, is one place where dogs are allowed off leash in Westmount. There are also fenced dog runs in Westmount and Murray parks.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

children's splash pad at Prince Albert Park. Nearby, a woman played with a child in the playground.

Not only could the dog's licence tag not be seen on the collar, but the owner turned out to be a non-Westmount resident. A ticket for \$230 was issued for the dog being unleashed.

The fact that a child was playing nearby emphasized the importance of dogs being leashed, McBain said.

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White-collar workers vote to accept new contract

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's white-collar workers August 22 voted "overwhelmingly" to accept an agreement in principle concerning a new five-year contract, Mayor Christina Smith told the *Independent* August 24.

These are the city's administrative staff who had voted 88 percent on July 5 to give their union, the Syndicat des fonctionnaires municipaux de Montréal (SCFP), a mandate for pressure tactics and possible unlimited strike (see story July 11, p. 4).

The tentative white-collar settlement is described as a five-year collective agree-

ment retroactive from January 1. It now moves to the drafting stage before ratification.

"White-collar workers are an essential link in the municipal administration," Mayor Smith said in a statement on the city's website, "They are present in all city services to provide quality services to the population."

The news comes on the heels of a return to work August 10 by the blue-collar workers who had been on strike for seven weeks and whose contract at that time also moved to the drafting after an approval vote of 90 percent (see story August 15, p. 1).



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Resulting from blue-collar strike

Temporary exemption granted for leaf blowers

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

If anyone should see or hear the use of leaf blowers before the permitted fall clean-up period (October 1 to December 1), it may be as a result of the blue-collar strike. This has resulted in a temporary exemption granted by city council August 21 to allow for a clean-up of accumulated debris in city parks and on streets.

The seven-week unlimited strike that took place between June 22 and August 9

ended with workers back on the job the next day.

According to last week’s council resolution on leaf blowers, this is “a necessary exemption to allow for a city-wide clean-up of public spaces, such as parks and streets, and to avoid further delays in preparation for the winter season.”

While the resolution went without comment at the meeting, Councillor Anitra Bostock, public works commissioner, who moved the motion, confirmed to the *Independent* that the exemption applies not only for city workers “but also for the contractors.”

Foumagerie closes



Longtime Victoria village cheese shop Foumagerie, located on Sherbrooke at Prince Albert, is closed, as seen August 25. A somewhat aggressive note on the door, not pictured, from the trustee in bankruptcy explained that taking items from the establishment is an offence under the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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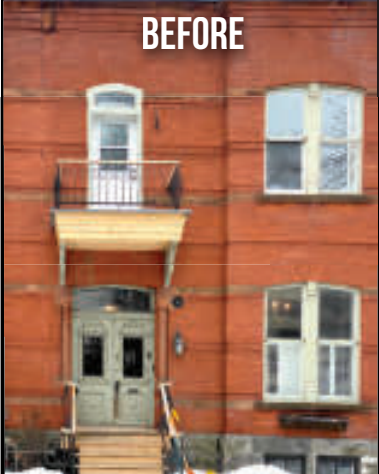


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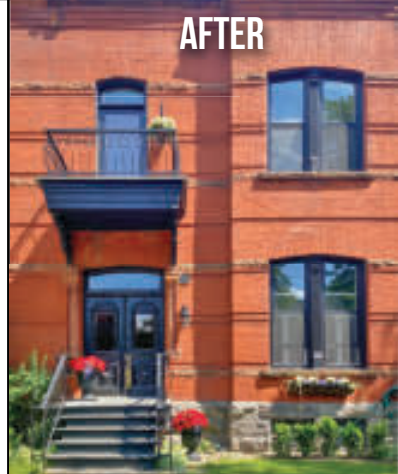
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No referendum based on low register results

Council turns back the clock to allow more clinics

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Low voter opposition to a city effort to remove restrictions on the size and number of medical offices and clinics in Victoria village resulted in council's unanimous adoption August 21 of a by-law to go ahead with allowing the status quo from before 2014 to prevail.

That is when the limitations had been imposed.

As previously reported, a two-day reg-

ister in opposition to removing the restriction resulted in 36 signatures, whereas 181 had been required to force council to either hold a referendum or to withdraw the proposed changes in the new by-law (see story August 15, p. 6).

The aim of the changes was to remove the restrictions in an effort to fill resulting vacancies and "revitalize" Victoria village.

Councillor Conrad Peart, whose commissionership includes urban planning, explained the council's decision to move forward with the changes stating that the registry vote was "far from close."

This, he said, was despite "a little discussion in the neighbourhood" concerning

possible confusion over the dates of the register and that some voters may have stayed away given that the *Independent* was closed over the holiday period and not able to provide up-to-date reminders. "We don't shut down for the local newspaper," he said.

The city, he explained, had "acted within the parameters of the law" and had "erred on the side of caution" to avoid confusion over the dates by extending the date of the registry from the usual one day to two (July 19 and 20).

Tight parking

Opposition from some residents and

resulting petitions had been based largely on the impact that more medical offices might have on already tight parking.

This was the same concern that had initially caused the city to impose the limitations some nine years ago when the MUHC super-hospital was being built (see story February 11, 2014, p. 1). This did not materialize, leading to the recent move to remove the restrictions.



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Removing a stump, from the side



These workers at the eight-residence, under-construction Albert Square development on de Maison-neuve at Prince Albert were photographed August 24.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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Québec

Fireplaces, cont'd from p. 1

they provide.

The new By-law 1600 was presented by city clerk Denis Ferland, moved by Councillor Anitra Bostock, and unanimously adopted by the council.

It was addressed by Councillor Matt Aronson whose commissionership includes sustainability and climate change. Its aim, he explained, is to reduce the amount of fine particles that go into the air “so we are not contributing to the air we share with others.”

A high concentration of these fine particles from the burning of wood and other

solid fuels has been attributed to respiratory health problems including asthma. This is true especially on days of heavy smog. This has been experienced this summer over the prevalence of forest fires.

The by-law contains many technicalities including emission rates set by Canadian and American standards. These can be checked on the city’s website at Westmount.org/solidfuel where a mandatory declaration form can be downloaded.

Going back to 2011

Given that so many Westmount homes have prized fireplaces, this has been a discussion point on and off since at least 2011.

This is when then-mayor Peter Trent, as president of the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM), had told the *Independent* that Westmount and the other suburbs had been asked to join a Montreal ban but declined (see story August 30, 2011).

Retired city councillor Cynthia Lulham who spoke on the issue in 2015 had said she was concerned about the emergency use during an outage of possibly defective fireplaces that may have been neglected and not recently inspected. She cited the example of a house fire on Kensington during the ice storm of 1998 that had been pressed into use for prolonged heating despite presenting undetected defects.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ALL THIS SHERBROOKE ST. DISRUPTION – FOR WHAT?

About a month ago, construction workers set up barricades along Sherbrooke St. from Metcalfe to Redpath, narrowing the traffic lanes, eliminating all parking spaces, restricting turns, and inconveniencing every driver and cyclist who passes through or lives in the area. During that month, I had the vantage point from my

apartment of being able to look down on the area that they had fenced off and in all that time saw *nothing* done other than to dig a hole in the grass in front of the lawn bowling field, only to fill it in a week later.

Why were thousands of people inconvenienced and frustrated for a month, for two day's work that actually took a week to do?

Total mismanagement.

JEFF GILMAN, SHERBROOKE ST.

Un-wired since last fall



These wires on Victoria Ave. near the Metro grocery store parking lot have been exposed since at least October 31 last year, left, as also seen August 24 of this year, right.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

Overheard

Man to woman at the Société des alcools du Québec (SAQ) on Sherbrooke St. between Victoria and Grosvenor, August 25 at around 4 pm:

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The Two Sandras

Exercising my way to happiness

By Sandra Hendlisz

When I was 30 years old, I started to exercise. At that time, I was a single mother with two children, five and three, and was teaching high school in Montreal. I was an anxious person with a lot of energy and no outlet.

Teaching in the public school system in inner-city schools with difficult students didn't help. Somehow, I discovered swimming. As a child, I had always enjoyed swimming, but this was different. Swimming filled a need in me and I became obsessed.

In spite of the fact that I had no car, I managed to find a pool near the school where I taught. On weekends and in the summer, I swam at the Y. I needed my daily swim. During the school year, I would swim at lunchtime or during a spare between classes.

When I taught at St. Laurent high, I bought a three-month pass, which turned into seven years. I went five days a week and never missed a day. The pool employees would always ask my opinion about cleanliness, the water temperature, the quality of the towels, the new staff etc as if I was a manager!

The only time I missed was when my third child was born, two weeks before the birth and four weeks after.

In the summer of 1985, my husband and I drove across Canada on the Trans

Canada. I insisted on finding a pool every day.

Swimming pool tour

The drive took eight days. Let me tell you, it was hard to find a pool in northern Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. I made my husband stop at every motel that advertised a pool and I would ask the manager if I could swim for an hour. I always managed to get my swim in.

In the late 1980s, I met a woman who was a jogger. We became instant friends and have been running and now walking partners for the last 37 years. In winter, we ran along Côte St. Antoine or de Maison-neuve in snow and ice and slush. In summer, we would do the mountain, from

McGill medical school to the cross and back. School started at 8 am. I made breakfast for my children, and got them ready for school. My husband made their lunches. My friend and I met at 6:15 in the morning, and we ran, often when it was still dark.

The running for me was a form of relaxation. I entered into a meditative state and approached the day with focus and positivity. When running or swimming, I find solutions to the challenges of the day. When I finish, I feel refreshed and renewed. My husband claims that if I do not exercise, he needs to keep his distance from me.

Now in my 80s, I have transitioned into walking. My daily walk is over two hours,

and then I try to fit in a swim or a city walk. Often, I meet friends and walk in Westmount Park.

It is true that I don't get the exhilaration that I had from running or swimming, which are more strenuous and focused. Since my retirement, we start at 7:15 am and walking is a different scene. When running or swimming, one is self-focused, and when walking, one is focused outside oneself. This is why I have made many new mountain friends, like Bob Cranshaw, the late bass player and arranger for Sonny Rollins. It is interesting that walking has a social element, and walkers find satisfaction in this common drive. Somehow, when I am in the midst of nature, I feel a connection with the entire community.

Ukes are wasted on the young

By Sandra Feldman

To play a musical instrument well it helps to start when you're young. But you're never too old to play an instrument badly.

My husband Ron and I are in our eighties, and these days our social calendar tends to revolve around visits to doctors: the internist, the cardiologist, the endocrinologist, the podiatrist, the otolaryngologist.

So it's a nice change of pace, on Monday afternoons, when both of us attend a group class at the Cummings Centre, where we are learning to play...the ukulele.

Yes, the ukulele. It may not be the most beautiful instrument, but it had pleasant associations for us: the sweet nostalgia of Vaudeville, the tropical ease of its native Hawaii.

Also, it seemed less difficult to pick up than the guitar: smaller and lighter, with only four strings instead of six. We remembered the novelty singer Tiny Tim in the 1960s, who strummed a uke to his falsetto rendition of "Tiptoe Through the Tulips."

How hard could it be?

As it turns out, learning the ukulele is no walk in the tulip bed. It is challenging, and sometimes frustrating, to wrap our aging fingers into chords on the uke's tiny neck. Ron, who is hard of hearing, regularly frets that he is tone-deaf as well. He's not, though he might be slightly rhythm-impaired. (He tends to play about a quarter-note behind.) And the daily routine between classes can be demanding: I feel pressured to practise, and guilty if I don't.

But along with these challenges come a growing sense of accomplishment and even pride. "Do you like the ukulele?" a grandchild of a classmate asked early on. "I will," she answered. We share her sense of determination. Thanks to a talented and patient young teacher – who, at 23, is six decades our junior – we have learned to play classic songs by the likes of Elvis Presley, Bob Dylan, James Taylor and the Beatles.

It has changed the way we listen to music; we are now more alert to the different rhythms and structures of the songs

we hear.

Impact of playing music

"Music has a powerful effect on emotional well-being, including improving mood, decreasing anxiety and managing stress," our teacher has said. In our experience, that has been true. We began our journey during the enforced isolation of COVID's worst period, when our days lacked structure and we needed something to occupy our time and stimulate our brains. The lessons helped, and now that they have moved from Zoom meetings to in-person sessions, they offer the additional boon of social time in a small, like-minded group. Everyone laughs a lot in class, and we all enjoy the work.

There are also physical pleasures: when chords that once seemed daunting become familiar, and the little finger that initially stuck out begins to bend and respond to one's commands. We marvel that our nerve cells are still able to make new synapses, that our muscles and joints attend to our wishes, and that learning is still possible, confounding the conventional wisdom about older people.

And when we have shown off our tentative new skills for family and friends, the response has been gratifying. Instead of the eye rolls we feared, we get loving encouragement and something like respect for the work we have clearly put into our project. No one says we are good yet, exactly. But apparently we are adorable and a little inspirational, and at our age that seems to be enough.

If we keep practicing, maybe one day our doctors will let us entertain the crowds in their waiting rooms.

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Another way to fix a car



Someone appears to have fixed the back of this car with foam insulation or “Could this be another global incurable virus, [this time] attacking cars?” – as one Westmounter asked. As seen on Arlington July 6.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Seasonal summit hazard



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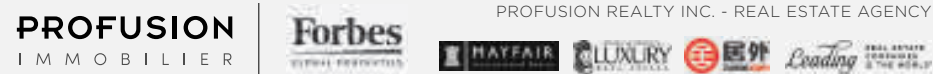
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Police Report

One suspect believed responsible for three break-ins on Greene

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Police investigators at Station 12 on Stanton St. think a single perpetrator may have been responsible for a series of break-ins that took place at two businesses and a residential address on Greene Ave. over a 24-hour period.

In the first instance, around 5 am on August 18, a perpetrator attempted unsuccessfully to break into a gift and décor boutique on the west side of Greene between St. Catherine St. and de Maisonneuve Blvd. through the front door.

According to a police report of this and another incident on the same night, the suspect had more luck around 15 minutes earlier at the Jean Coutu pharmacy on the same stretch of Greene, where a glass front door was shattered, allowing the suspect to get in.

Station 12 community relations officer

Cst. Mike Yigit suggested the pharmacy appeared to have sustained the most damage out of the three incidents.

Although there was no mention in the police report of the branch's pharmaceuticals being targeted, he said glass display cases containing consumer merchandise, such as electronics and perfumes, were smashed and items were taken.

On August 19 also during the early morning hours, a residence on Greene Ave. was broken into and robbed of jewellery.

The police report suggested that a crowbar possibly was used in all three incidents.

Yigit suggested the investigators have good leads towards identifying the suspect. Security cameras captured video images, and footprints were also found, as were traces of blood, possibly from cuts caused by the broken glass.

In recent decades, investigators have found blood evidence especially useful as DNA analysis can greatly help to identify suspects.



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Fire in Westmount Park



The remains of this small fire were photographed the morning of August 27 in Westmount Park just southeast of the Westmount Public Library. The smell of ashes was still detectable.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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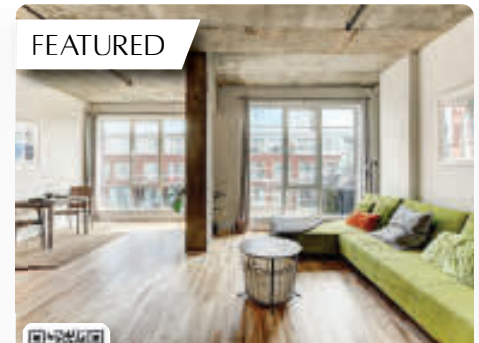
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infoWESTMOUNT

2023.08.29 • Vol. 4/15
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NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL

Mardi 5 septembre

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Tuesday, September 5



Collecte d'items encombrants la semaine du 11 septembre
La collecte s'effectue en bordure de rue seulement. Les items ne seront pas ramassés dans les ruelles. Pour connaître le jour de collecte pour votre secteur, visitez westmount.org.

Collecte des résidus de jardin
L'horaire habituel de collecte est maintenant en vigueur. Placez vos matières en bordure de rue avant 7 h le jour de collecte dans votre secteur. westmount.org

Hausse des amendes de stationnement
La Ville a adopté des modifications aux amendes de stationnement qui entreront en vigueur le 1^{er} septembre. Plus d'informations : westmount.org.

Sports et loisirs — on recrute !
Plusieurs postes à temps partiel d'arbitres, de chronomètres, de moniteurs et de préposés sont disponibles aux Service des Sports et loisirs. Envoyez votre CV à recreation@westmount.org.

Secteur sud-est : annonce d'un PPU
La Ville de Westmount annonce son intention de lancer un Plan particulier d'urbanisme pour le secteur sud-est de la Ville. westmount.org.

Nouveau règlement sur les poêles et foyers à combustible solide
La Ville de Westmount a adopté un règlement qui interdit l'installation ou l'utilisation d'appareils de chauffage, de cuisson ou de foyers à combustible solide (ex. bois). Informez-vous à westmount.org.

Inscription d'automne en cours
Inscrivez-vous maintenant à vos activités préférées de sports et de loisirs. westmount.org



Bulky item collection the week of September 11
The collection takes place at the curbside only. Items left in lanes will not be picked up. To find out the collection day for your sector, visit westmount.org.

Garden waste collection
The regular collection schedule is now in effect. Place your materials at the curbside by 7 a.m. on the collection day for your sector. westmount.org

Parking fines increase
The City adopted modifications to its parking fines. The new amounts will come into effect September 1st. Find out more at westmount.org.

Sports & Recreation — we're hiring!
The Sports & Recreation Department is recruiting referees, instructors, timekeepers and pass attendants. Send your resume to recreation@westmount.org.

Southeast sector: SPP announcement
The City of Westmount announces its intent to launch a Special Planning Programme for the southeast sector of the City. westmount.org.

New by-law on solid-fuel burning devices and fireplaces
The City of Westmount adopted a by-law that prohibits the installation or use of solid-fuel heating or cooking devices and fireplaces. Find out more at westmount.org.

Fall registration underway
Sign up now for your favourite sports and recreation activities. westmount.org

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Club de lecture d'été TD 2023
Il est encore temps de s'inscrire et participer à des rencontres d'auteurs et plus ! westlib.org

Vernissage
Mercredi 30 août, 18 h, Galerie du Victoria Hall. Œuvres de Nathalie Guez et Irma Alvarez.



Club de lecture d'été : fête de clôture
Samedi 9 septembre, 14 h, Victoria Hall. Avec Ensemble La Cigale. Les membres du CLÉTD peuvent obtenir leurs billets gratuits au comptoir des enfants de la Bibliothèque.

Visite de l'apiculteur
Mercredi 13 septembre, 13 h 45, Jardin du conte de la Bibliothèque. Venez poser vos questions et

observer l'apiculteur et les abeilles au travail.
Parlons opéra !
Dimanche 17 septembre, 14 h, Victoria Hall. **Les Noces de Figaro**. En collaboration avec l'Opéra de Montréal. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

De notre table à la vôtre — Une soirée avec Lidia Matticchio Bastianich
Lundi 18 septembre, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Une conversation avec la célèbre chef, animatrice de télévision et auteure. Animation : Jonathan Cheung, chef et propriétaire de la librairie Appetite for Books. Entrée : 20 \$ ou 40 \$ avec une copie du livre. Inscription : westlib.org.

Conférence — Your Liver, Your Health
Mardi 19 septembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Avec Michael Betel, président de l'Alliance du foie gras. En anglais. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Concert : Trio Enzo de Rosa
Mercredi 20 septembre, 19 h, Victoria Hall. westmount.org

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

2023 TD Summer Reading Club
You can still sign up at westlib.org to participate in author events, storytimes, and more!

Vernissage
Wednesday, August 30, 6 p.m., Gallery at Victoria Hall. Works by Nathalie Guez and Irma Alvarez.

Summer Reading Club Closing Party
Saturday, September 9, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. With Ensemble La Cigale. TDSRC members may pick up their free tickets at the Children's Desk in the Library.

Beekeeper visit
Wednesday, September 13, 1:45 p.m., Library Storytelling Garden. Stop by with your questions and watch the beekeeper and the bees at work.

Let's Talk Opera!
Sunday, September 17, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. **The Marriage of Figaro**. In collaboration with the Opéra de Montréal. Register at westlib.org.



From our table to yours — An evening with Lidia Matticchio Bastianich
Monday, September 18, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. A conversation with the celebrity chef, television host and author. With Jonathan Cheung, chef and owner of Appetite for Books. \$20, or \$40 with a copy of the book. Register at westmount.org.

Lecture — Your Liver, Your Health
Tuesday, September 19, 7 p.m., Library. With Michael Betel, President of the Fatty Liver Alliance. Register at westlib.org.

Concert: Trio Enzo de Rosa
Wednesday, September 20, 7 p.m. Victoria Hall. westmount.org

Layla – a stunning beauty



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Miss Layla is stunning, a grey-and-white longhair with huge green eyes and precious pink toes and nose. She is a regal beauty, affectionate and calm. She is presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery, waiting for loving arms to take her home to a family life again.

Layla is three years old, very healthy, up



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Precious Topaz, settling into family



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LYSANNE FOWLER

Topaz is a very original girlie and adorably affectionate. She is only two years old, and has a lot of cuddling and family time to look forward to.

As a young female who had pups four months ago prior to being in foster care for Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions, Topaz is now in a normal framework for a dog her age and stage of adulthood.

She is a hound mix, a cur from the southern United States mixed with wire-haired terrier for some of that specific look. Topaz is a great companion as she is affectionate, intelligent and loyal. It is easy to see that she will fall into place in a new family very easily. Being a young adult, she will be worked with on leash easily in routine as she is great at bonding and response. She loves a home environment and enjoys interaction with everyone.



to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped. You can find out more about her by referring to the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com, scrolling to her information page from her identification number, 20000019748, then making plans to visit the shelter as they are open daily from 10 am.

The SPCA is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West in Côte des Neiges at H4P 1X4. Please bring a carrier for her. If not, you can select one at the boutique on site, where they also have a great selection of accessories and foods.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne

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The city's Tupper parking lots, looking east from Greene Ave. on August 27.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Freeze, cont'd from p. 1

ning aspects together such as zoning and buildings. It is a plan to make a plan.”

He said the area had been “lacking a cohesive vision,” explaining that to date various permits had been approved piece-meal, building by building, and that the city has been receiving more permit applications.

It will be “a long intensive project” called a Special Planning Program (SPP) in Quebec and would involve consultation with all city residents along with designated professionals. This was contained in a supplementary resolution.

Kez emphasizes ‘plan for a plan’

“It’s a plan for a plan,” District 8 councillor Kathleen Kez repeated and emphasized to the *Independent* after the meeting. On returning for the council meeting from

a summer vacation out of the country, she said she had not been aware of recent permit applications that Peart said the city had been receiving for the area in question.

“I made it very clear to the council that while St. Catherine St. may be commercial, the north side of Dorchester should remain low-rise residential with lots of green public space, especially given the high densification of St. Catherine.”

While developing the area, retaining green space north of Dorchester had been her main platform in the 2017 election. This had followed several consultations followed by an AGIL report on the revitalization of the southeast (see story February 12, 2019, p. 5).

This report had been commissioned by the then-outgoing council to consider ways

to integrate commercial St. Catherine east of Clarke with the residential area of Dorchester and to examine the development potential of the city’s Tupper parking lots in between (see October 30, p. 2018, p. 1). It had been deferred to the newly elected council.

In the meantime, extensive renovation took place on the seven-storey building at 1100 Atwater, the corner of Tupper (see story August 18, 2020, p. 1).

As well, previous plans to build a mixed-use highrise at 4014-4022 on St. Catherine just west of Atwater across from Alexis Nihon Plaza were abandoned. This resulted in the developer forfeiting a monetary construction guarantee of \$1.4 million and leaving the property vacant (see story March 14, p. 1).

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OVER 20 YEARS PAINTING EXPERIENCE

Myers books two film gigs, including in an inclusive 'Frankenstein'

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Alice Myers is two jobs into fulfilling her goal of becoming a professional actress.

The 13-year-old Westmouter landed her first role (albeit a small one) in *You Are So Not Invited to My Bat Mitzvah*, a 2023 full-length feature starring Adam Sandler, which is due to be released on August 25.

More recently, she won a larger role in a short musical film called *Frankenstein: A Musical Comedy of Belonging*, which is now in production.

Revolving around themes of inclusion and acceptance, filming starts in October or November.

Divided into three acts although it runs less than 10 minutes, the low-budget film was written and is directed by Janine Parkinson, whose "day job" is as a content designer and copywriter in the entertainment industry.

Parkinson's previous short film, *Le Parking*, recently earned acclaim at the 2023 Make Me Laugh Film Festival for best comedy.

According to a summary of the *Frankenstein* film, "Frankenstein, labeled a monster, sparks a musical quest for belonging, revealing he's composed of the diverse hearts and body parts of those that fear him, inspiring a town's transformative journey of acceptance."

"I play a young girl (supporting role) in the village who accepts Frankenstein and gets the rest of the town to see that he is not a monster, but really just made of pieces of us all," Myers told the *Independent*.

As it is a short film, it likely won't be widely distributed, added Myers. However, it will be premiering in both Montreal and Los Angeles, so there will be attempts to get it into the film festival circuit. As Parkinson's last film can be viewed on YouTube, her latest effort may also be made



Thirteen-year-old Alice Myers, seen here in Westmount Park on August 10, feels drawn to acting as a profession having been cast in a full-length feature as well as a short.

available there.

Now enrolled in the drama program at Royal West Academy, Myers has no doubt about pursuing acting as a career. "I think I'd like to do drama no matter what I do," she said, while adding she might also like to enroll at NYU or Yale University, which have reputable musical theatre and drama programs.

As a sign perhaps of how the acting domain is evolving, the casting calls she's answered so far have all taken place

through Facebook, rather than on an in-person basis. Virtually every day, she scans the web for casting opportunities and answers as many as possible.

"Open calls during the first round of casting are quite rare nowadays," she said, noting that imposed isolation over the past three years during the COVID pandemic made a significant impact on casting methods.

Alice Myers has sold news articles to the Independent.



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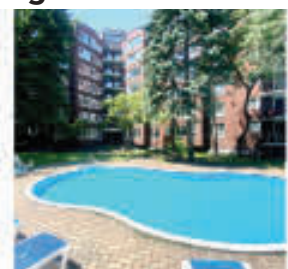
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Redstart ventures down the mountain



There was a rare sighting August 25 on Arlington Ave. of a female American redstart. Its distinguishing feature is its patched black tail. The male has red patches, but the female patches are yellow, as seen here. The redstart normally inhabits forested areas, according to Sibley Birds East. It flits around in the trees, rarely staying still for long. It has a high-pitched tsee-tsee song. They are seen in Summit Woods and maybe this one had inadvertently ventured away.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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City Views

VERONICA REDGRAVE

I decided to re-assess my summer travel given that news reports described soaring European heat, not to mention the shoulder-to-shoulder serial selfie takers.

Nova Scotia lured me. I know it well: I holiday there every year. Travelling via Air Canada, I thought: “No need to add my luggage tags. It’s a direct flight.”

Luckily, I did use a trustworthy baggage locator and on arriving in Halifax found the luggage – in Dorval! Air Canada simply did not put the suitcases on the plane.

Arriving in the internationally-press-covered tsunami tempest, luckily the bridges that were washed out were not near my residence. Next day, the sun came out, and calm prevailed. If you want to leave the high-velocity content of daily internet content, try guessing wind velocity as it gently pushes clouds and gives soaring opportunities to eagles and osprey. (I sighted osprey parents atop their massive nest precariously built on a telephone pole.)

Curb your enthusiasm for museum meandering: shell seek. Lucky beachcombers find *continued on p. 18*

Summer travels: Nova Scotia



Risser’s Beach boardwalk.



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Social notes, cont'd from p. 17

delicate sand dollars.
(Try Sand Dollar Beach. The name says it all.)

Drive the beach

Crystal Crescent is the only beach in Nova Scotia that allows you to drive your car on the sand the length of the beach. Here, as well as bringing your kite and boogie boards, hiking shoes are an option so you can clamber Pennant Point Trail, a much-loved seaside trail through woods. (Be wary of ticks.)
Thankfully, all other beaches are all pedestrianized. Risser's Beach Provincial

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LaHave Bakery.

Park is a discovery. A long boardwalk meandering over marsh lands leads direct-

ly to the beach, where there are rarely many wanderers.

Love to surf? Try Hirtle's Beach (or, on the Eastern Shore, 45 minutes from Halifax, Lawrencetown Beach is the province's renowned surfer site.)

Canoe-lovers will love Kejimkujik, aka Keji. No need to ship your canoe (and it might not get put on the plane anyway!). You can rent what you need by the day or overnight, as well as paddleboards and kayaks.

Discover Cherry Hill Beach, with its alluring curve of fine grey sand; a nesting refuge for endangered piping plovers.

Take a cable ferry

Along with sandy beaches, Lunenburg County offers unique areas. Since 1832, the

community of LaHave has been connected to the opposite side of the LaHave River via a cable ferry that takes only a few fun minutes (schedule online).

The LaHave Bakery is a go-to destination for its inimitable mood and food. Grab an Adirondack chair behind the bakery and listen to the whisper of the waves as they caress the wharf. Neon "open" signs are rare. Most are a touch more charming and often hand-painted.

CNN suggested on August 15 that we "stop trying to be happy and have more fun."

Try a new 5-à-7 location. On a Nova Scotia beach. (More waves and wanderings next week.)

Please send information on your upcoming events to veronica@redgravepr.com.



VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT

BUREAUX MUNICIPAUX FERMÉS Lundi 4 septembre 2023

Les bureaux administratifs et la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount seront fermés le lundi 4 septembre en raison de la fête du Travail. La séance ordinaire du conseil aura lieu à l'Hôtel de Ville le mardi 5 septembre à 19 h 30.

La collecte d'encombrants aura lieu la semaine du 11 septembre. Vérifiez votre secteur de collecte à westmount.org/collectes. Toutes les autres collectes de matières résiduelles auront lieu selon l'horaire habituel.

Veuillez noter que l'horaire régulier de bureau est de nouveau en vigueur dans les édifices municipaux, soit de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30 du lundi au vendredi.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES CLOSED Monday, September 4, 2023

Westmount's administrative offices and Public Library will be closed Monday, September 4 for the Labour Day holiday. The regular council sitting will take place at City Hall on Tuesday, September 5 at 7:30 p.m.

The collection of bulky items will take place the week of September 11. Check your collection sector at westmount.org/collections. All other waste collections will take place according to the usual schedule.

Please note that the regular office schedule of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday has resumed in City buildings.

westmount.org



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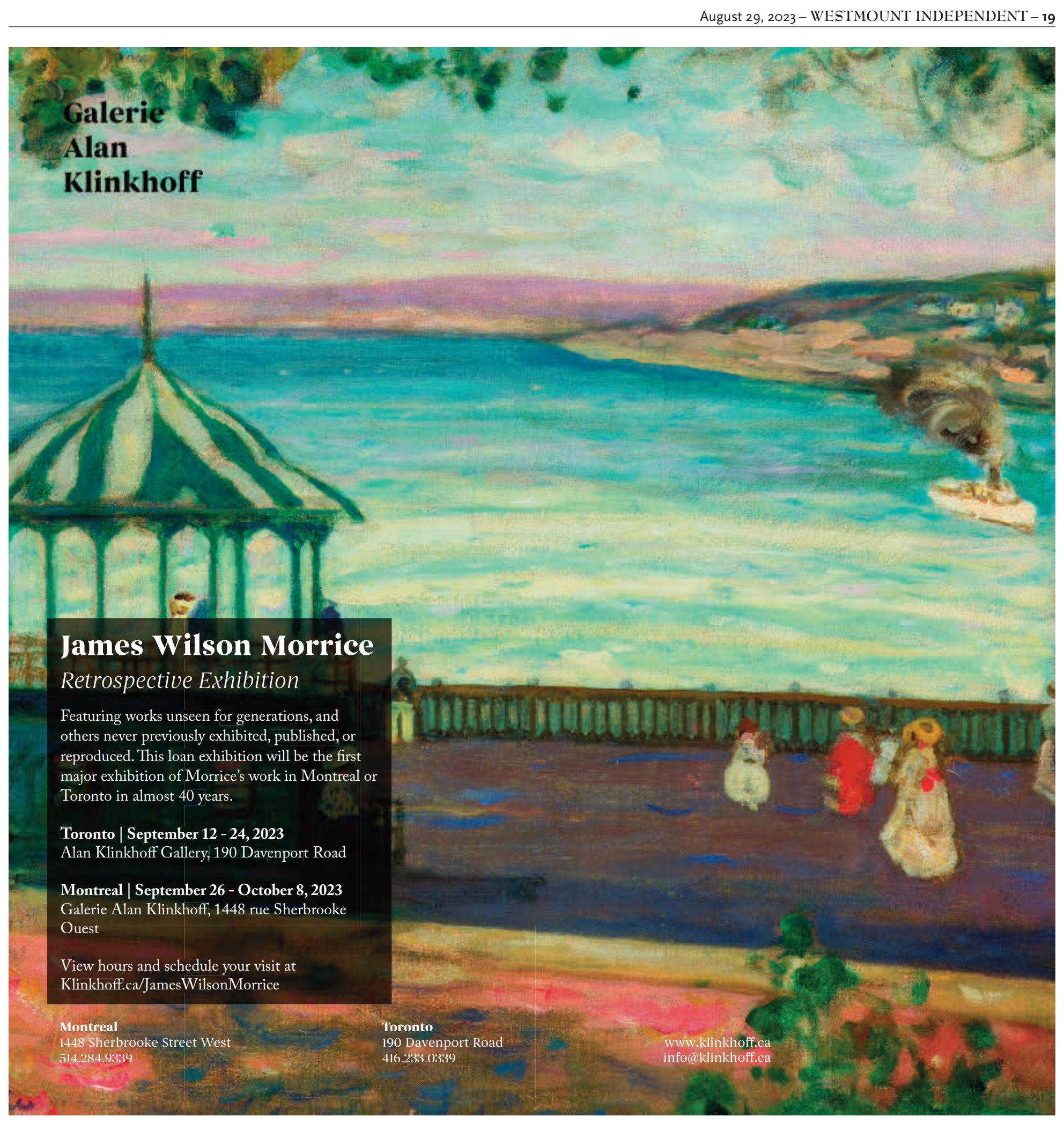
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Retrospective Exhibition

Featuring works unseen for generations, and others never previously exhibited, published, or reproduced. This loan exhibition will be the first major exhibition of Morrice's work in Montreal or Toronto in almost 40 years.

Toronto | September 12 - 24, 2023

Alan Klinkhoff Gallery, 190 Davenport Road

Montreal | September 26 - October 8, 2023

Galerie Alan Klinkhoff, 1448 rue Sherbrooke Ouest

View hours and schedule your visit at
Klinkhoff.ca/JamesWilsonMorrice

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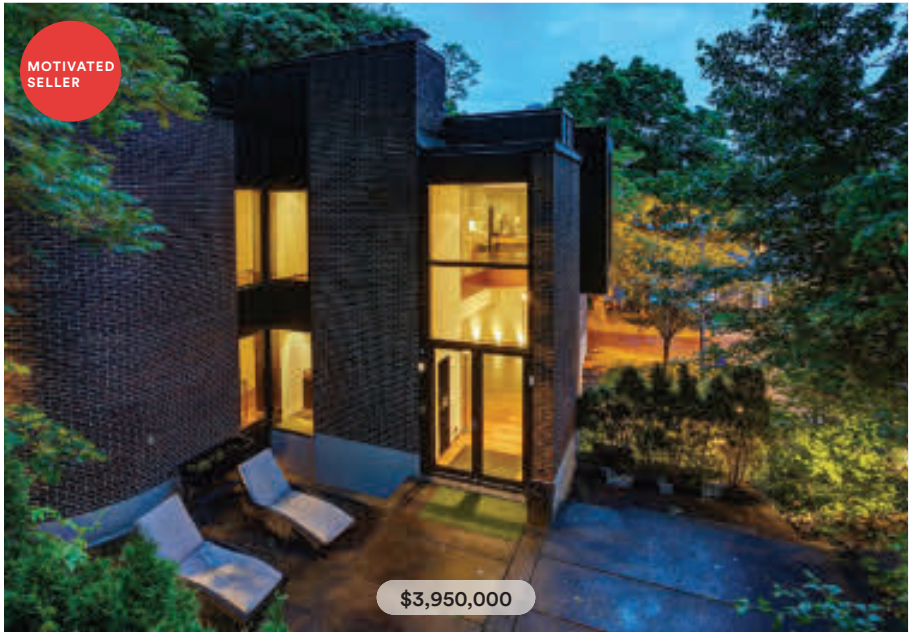
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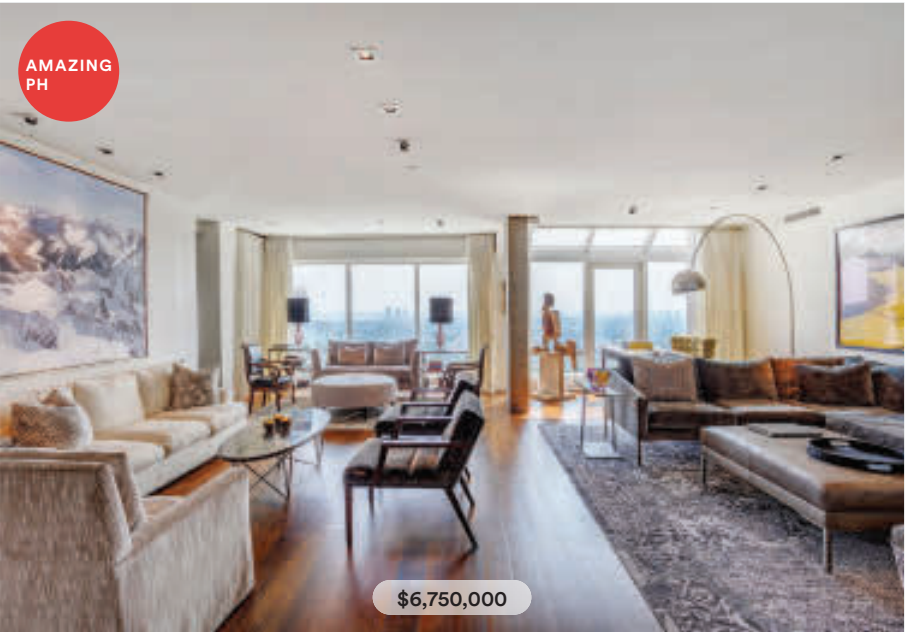
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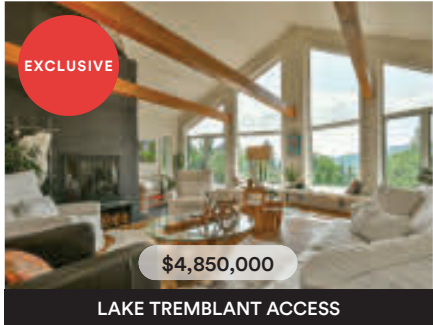
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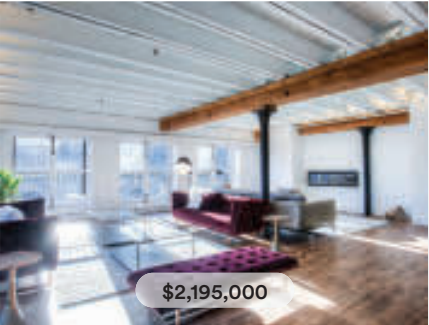


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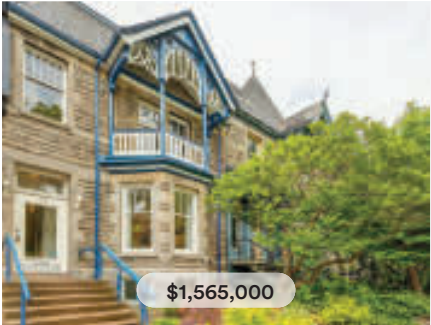
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