

Thanks, April – Freezing rain brings down trees, branches across city



This tree at Greene and Dorchester came down April 5 due to the widely predicted freezing rain that day. The former “nurses building” on the streets’ southwest corner is in the background.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MO RAHIMI.



York St. west of Victoria was completely blocked by this massive tree April 6. See more photos of the storm on p. 10, p. 12, p. 14 and p. 15.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK MARTIN.

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City: Short-term rental of principal residence okay (with certificate)

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's longstanding regulations regarding short-term rentals, including via Airbnb, were outlined last week on the city's website, but remain essentially unchanged following recent fire deaths in Old Montreal and a report regarding a rooming house on St. Antoine St. in Westmount.

“We’ve had a few enquiries,” Mayor

Christina Smith told the *Independent*.

According to the city website, “the city of Westmount by-law and current provincial legislation” state that “Westmount residents may rent their dwelling or part of their dwelling on a short-term basis (less than 31 days) for tourism purposes only if the dwelling is their principal residence.”

A classification certificate issued by the Corporation de l'Industrie
Touristique du Québec

continued on p. 22

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Susan Lloyd (Leduc)

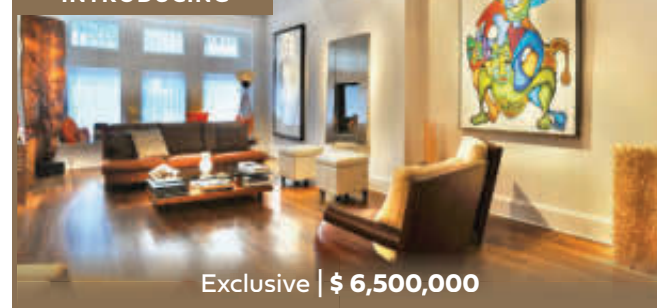
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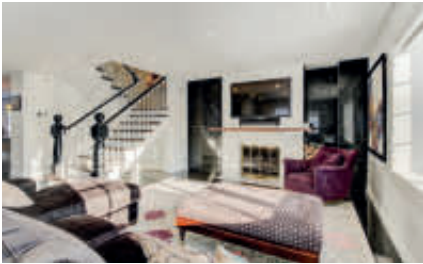
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Lower Westmount campers facing another eviction order

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A group of more than a dozen campers who have been living in tents beneath an overpass on the Ville Marie Expressway on the eastern edge of Westmount – some for more than a decade – are facing an ultimatum from the Quebec Transport ministry to leave this Wednesday morning (April 12), failing which they will be evicted.

Transports Québec, which owns the site, has been trying to evict the squatters in order to carry out repairs to the underside of the overpass in accordance with provincial worker safety regulations.

A notice served to the occupiers last week advised them that the encampment would be dismantled and cleaned up after 10 am on April 12 and that they should remove their personal belongings.

The notice also told them that medical help and social workers were available from the CIUSSS du Centre-Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal to provide guidance and assistance.

A Quebec Court judge was expected to render a decision on Tuesday, after press time, on whether to grant the squatters yet another stay of their eviction. Transports Québec has previously ordered them out, but lawyers managed to obtain reprieves.



Jacco, a camper who has been living for the past 10 years under the Ville Marie Expressway deck west of Atwater Ave. in Westmount, is seen here on April 6 holding the eviction notice from Transports Québec.

For Jacco, who says he has been living in a tent under the overpass for more than 10 years, leaving will be much the same as being forced out of his own home.

Although he's previously lived in dwellings in various neighbourhoods of Montreal, including NDG and Lachine, he said he reached a point when he could no longer afford the cost of rent.

"The problem is the prices are really high, there are too many cockroaches and the owner doesn't want to pay for anything," he said, noting that whatever accommodation is available at that level is usually sub-standard.

Jacco is well liked by others within the encampment, often making meals from an improvised community kitchen.

He earns a meagre living as a handyman doing odd jobs, as well as by gathering and selling recyclable materials, many of which have gradually accumulated in an enclosure at the site.



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Taryn Mizrahi: hockey player of the month

Quiet style of leadership an inspiration to teammates

By Laureen Sweeney

The Westmount Minor Hockey Association announced at the end of March that Taryn Mizrahi had been selected as the player of the month for the end of the 2022-2023 season, according to Andrew Maislin, operations manager for the Westmount recreation centre (WRC). Aged 14, Taryn has been in the city’s hockey program since playing in Termite M7 and this year, as the captain of the M15-A Wings, has led his team in a “remarkable” season in which they won a finalist “silver” banner in the Eastern Hockey League championships (see story and photo April 4, p. 12).

Inspiration to team

Maislin said Taryn’s coaches, Marcel Bélanger and Pierre-Olivier Perras, stated that Mizrahi has been an inspiration to all his teammates throughout the year and greatly contributed to their success in March as they finished with glory in the EHL conference. “His quiet style of leadership by example had inspired everyone and impressed his coaches,” Maislin explained. “His



Taryn Mizrahi on the ice.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT SPORTS AND RECREATION.

love of hockey is unparalleled as he manages to play for both Westmount M15-A and Selwyn House School teams.” Taryn is described as shining on the ice as a player, but just as much off the ice as

“a really nice young man. For all these reasons, the coaches were thrilled to nominate Taryn as player of the month.” The player of the month is recognition program launched in November 2019 to

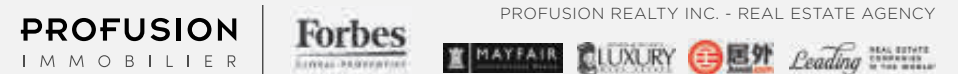
acknowledge how, through hockey, and sports as a whole, children are able to develop sportsmanship, teamwork and discipline, which they can then transfer into other areas of their lives, Maislin said.



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Bank HQ mum on long-term future of location

Flood closes ScotiaBank's Greene branch – no word on re-opening date

BY JENNIFER BALL

There was a flood at the ScotiaBank branch on the west side of Greene Ave. north of de Maisonneuve recently and a sign in the interior window reads: "Branch is closed indefinitely."

The signage also provides addresses for the closest alternative bank branch locations: 1002 Sherbrooke St. West and 5679 Sherbrooke St. West. The cross streets are Metcalfe downtown and Harvard in NDG.

Daniela Da Silva, a senior manager at the Canadian banking communications division of ScotiaBank, was asked for the exact date of the flood, but she did not answer that question; nor was she able to comment on whether there are plans to have two Westmount locations for ScotiaBank: the existing one on Greene Ave., and a new location on Sherbrooke St. near Grosvenor Ave. that has already been announced with signage.

Da Silva said "the [Greene] branch is closed temporarily and I can reach out to share a re-opening date once one is confirmed. These are the details I have to share."

The industrial cleaner and property res-



Belfor's cleaning equipment at the ScotiaBank branch at 1326 Greene Ave. on March 31.

toration company Belfor was hired for the clean-up job.

A representative on site told the *Independent* on March 31 that it is highly unlikely the branch will be able to re-open

before April 21.

The reason? Belfor's website reads: "water is the single most long-term destructive substance in the indoor environment."



On April 7: where a ScotiaBank branch will be on Sherbrooke west of Grosvenor, where the Pier 1 was.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT..

Belfor's workers were seen using drying equipment – air movers, air scrubbers, dehumidifiers, moisture meters – on March 31, as well as deploying more traditional mops and brooms.

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sur la politique linguistique
on Linguistic Policy

RESIDENTS SHOULDN'T HAVE TO BE ACTIVISTS FOR STATUS QUO

Thank you for publishing your editorial on the proposed Château Maisonneuve zoning change (April 4, p. 8).

It does look like the zoning exception process has been stood on its head, so that exceptions are normal and the status quo is not to be taken for granted.

In their defence, council and staff are in the business of providing polite and helpful service to residents, both commercial and residential, so it's not surprising that it looks like they are supporting an application when in fact they are merely supervising the process.

I agree with you that citizens should not have to mobilize against unwelcome changes to the urban planning rules that govern their neighbourhood, nor should they have to become activists for the status quo. It's up to their local elected representatives to act on their behalf, in the belief that most residents like things to stay the way they are. That means paying attention to the people who don't make their opinion known, as well as the ones who do.

It is, as always, unfortunate that people who don't want change find themselves cast as the "Party of No."

GEORGE BOWSER, COLUMBIA AVE.

Editor's note: George Bowser was a city councillor from 2006 to 2009. – DP.

CONTRADICTIONS, LACK OF PLANNING CHARACTERIZE VIC VILLAGE PROPOSALS

Two current proposals for zoning changes in Vic village appear to be supported by contradictory logic.

Creccal, the owner of 4998 de Maisonneuve Blvd., is requesting permission to convert empty office space to rental apartments. It claims little demand for office space but much more for housing. A challenge to this claim are nine large apartment buildings on Claremont between de Maisonneuve and Sherbrooke, all with "for rent" signs posted.

At the same time, council is proposing to now allow medical offices in certain commercial locations within Victoria village, currently disallowed under a restriction approved by council nine years ago. Property owners in this area see medical offices as a promising option for vacant space, even with no available additional visitor parking.

Creccal rejects this view. It has four floors of [largely] empty commercial space at 4998, that could be renovated into medical offices with more than ample parking for all patients. However, Creccal sees a less risky future in residential apartments.

If permitted, this conversion will cost the residents of Westmount anywhere

LETTERS (CHÂTEAU MAISONNEUVE)

from \$150,000 to \$300,000 annually in lower property tax revenue from Creccal (Councillor Peart in an email to me) because residential tax rates are lower.

Also critical, as pointed out by David Price – the editor of the *Independent* (April 4, p. 8) – a conversion to residential will intrude on our stable community and could generate problems with unknown consequences possibly harming the quality of life of Vic village residents.

I am concerned that our Urban Planning department has not fully assessed these two proposals. We have seen three different directors of Urban Planning as well as three directors general within the last three years. Do they have a solid handle on the interests of our community? What urban master plan are they using as a guideline? What decision-making tools are they using? These proposed by-law changes seem to come out of the blue, with residents now thrown onto their heels to defend themselves.

"Why should this way of working be the practice?" David Price asks.

Well, it shouldn't be. Residents must have the opportunity upfront to collectively reflect on the future of Westmount from the perspective of a complete living environment. Five years ago, our council launched Imagine Westmount 2040 to do just that. After pausing it for COVID-19, it announced a re-start. Instead it vanished.

Residents demand to express their collective interest. Council, show courage. Deliver on your commitment to Imagine Westmount.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

ZONING SHOULD BE INFLUENCED BY COLLECTIVE NEED – NOT INTERESTS OF THE FEW

Well, this is awkward. I rely on Mr. David Price to publish my occasional letter to the editor in the *Westmount Independent*, our community's most popular sounding board, so my opposition to him regarding this particular issue may be compromising. But here goes...

Mr. Price, the editor (and gatekeeper of information) of our community newspaper, is opposed to zoning modifications for Château Maisonneuve. In his recent (3,000 word!) editorial, Mr. Price, an immediate neighbour to the building in question, contends that the proposed zoning changes are bad for residents and undemocratic. His arguments are a classic case of NIMBYism ("not in my back yard").

Despite Mr. Price's assertions, zoning by-laws, like most laws, are not fixed concepts. They evolve and adapt to reflect present-day social, demographic and environ-

mental forces. The current situation with the building in question is a perfect example.

Given the post-pandemic shift in workplace habits, the need for office space has diminished, and Montreal's growing need for residential housing must be met with greater housing supply. Yes, this means an increase of population in the neighbourhood of Château Maisonneuve.

However, Mr. Price's NIMBY stance suggests that such increased density be shifted outside of his backyard. "Who should be addressing the issue...Why not pick a less-dense area on the island of Montreal...?" While his concerns about construction noise and traffic may be valid, the fact remains that urban living comes with certain trade-offs. We must all do our part to address the housing crisis, and this may require some discomfort and inconvenience.

Mr. Price's arguments relating to parking ratios are also questionable. Our public transport system has developed considerably over the years, lessening our dependence on the automobile. This is highlighted in Château Maisonneuve's statistics with only about 50 percent of its tenants requesting parking. Again, our current by-law that requires a ratio of 1:1 parking spaces to residential units does not reflect the current reality.

Opposition to the increased ratio of smaller apartments is also without merit. According to Statscan, the number of people living alone has increased by 26 percent Canada-wide since 1981, and our province of Quebec has the highest ratio with 19 percent of individuals living alone in 2021. Our city's outdated by-laws concerning apartment size do not reflect the resulting need for smaller apartments.

Mr. Price objects to the "vogue-ish" proposals related to this project. (Communito vehicles, electric vehicle charging stations, promotion of public transport, *et cetera*). Such measures are not fleeting fashionable gestures; they reflect a move towards more socially and environmentally sustainable practices that our city has an obligation to promote.

Surprisingly, Mr. Price claims that, "...council members did not run on this change...They have no mandate in this matter." In fact, I voted for our officials to make intelligent decisions that would benefit our society – and not merely cater to a select few with the loudest or most powerful voices.

Château Maisonneuve enjoys excellent access to the Vendôme Metro and commuter train, which are just a few minutes away. Various levels of government have invested substantial resources in develop-

ing our public transportation network, with the goal of serving the increased density in our metropolitan area. Local communities should not hinder this progress by imposing strict zoning regulations that limit development. The "not in my backyard" stance of some constituents is concerning, as it risks perpetuating an image of Westmount as an elitist, exclusionary and selfish community. As a city, we must be committed to equitable and sustainable growth that benefits all residents island-wide.

It is unfortunate that the tradition of local zoning regulations often prioritizes the interests of wealthy and privileged neighbourhoods over the common good. This practice has a long history, but positive changes are being made in many areas. In Ontario and some US states, such as California and Oregon, municipal powers to establish zoning guidelines have been reduced. These states and provinces have taken measures to override municipal jurisdiction in certain cases, so that affluent self-serving communities can no longer protect only their constituents' interests. Unfortunately, our province has yet to follow.

After listening to the owner's presentation at city hall on March 22, it became clear that the proposed zoning changes are reasonable and necessary. Moreover, the owners have expressed their willingness to consider constructive suggestions from those present at the meeting.

The city council seems inclined to adopt some of these proposals, such as the installation of public electric charging stations and updating the exterior parking area to include permeable surfaces to reduce the urban heat-island effect. It is encouraging to see property owners taking steps towards sustainability and working collaboratively with the city council to improve the community.

The Westmount I would like to live in – and the city that I hope our elected officials strive for – is one that is progressive, inclusive and responsive to our current social, demographic, and environmental challenges. I encourage the city council to approve the zoning change for Château Maisonneuve.

RICHARD DUFOUR, ANWOTH RD.

Editor's reply: I have no issue with changing laws. But I do oppose unelected employees working with a company to change the citizens' laws, without any known support or interest from the public.

And what's wrong with NIMBYism? Don't you care about what is in your backyard? Regardless, isn't this a case of NEMIMBYism? I.e. "not even more in my backyard." How much more density will you wish onto residents of Westmount-below-Sherbrooke to make yourself feel "progressive, inclusive and responsive"? – DP.

City follows democratic process to update laws, meet stakeholder needs

Mayor's Column

CHRISTINA SMITH

The information session held on March 22 concerning the zoning by-law amendment request for the building located at 4998 de Maisonneuve (Château Maisonneuve) generated great interest among nearby residents, who turned out in relatively large numbers to attend the evening.

I want to thank all those who came to the event. Citizen participation can only be welcomed and encouraged. This information session and the request for a zoning by-law amendment were also the subject of an editorial by Mr. David Price in the April 4 edition of the *Westmount Independent* (p. 8).

In this editorial, entitled "Proposed Château Maisonneuve zoning change bad for residents, undemocratic," Mr. Price questions the democratic nature of the procedure for a zoning by-law amendment request, criticizes the city for what he considers to be its support of the project, and also expresses serious reservations about the benefits of this particular amendment request for residents.

As a reminder, the zoning by-law amendment requests by the developer Creccal is to allow the conversion of commercial space between the second and fifth floors into residential units slightly smaller than the current regulations allow and to reduce the parking ratio per unit from 1:1 to 0.66:1.

The zoning by-law in this area already allows for residential uses, and the building already has 243 residential units. During its presentation, Creccal indicated that if the request is approved, the work will be carried out inside, and there will be no changes to the architectural character of the building. A video of the information session, which includes the project presentation, is available on the city's YouTube channel.

I will not comment here on the arguments put forward by Mr. Price against the project itself. The council must follow a well-established procedure before it makes and communicates its decision.

Council has not taken position

I only want to address a few points Mr. Price raised about to the impartiality of the administration, the democratic nature of the procedure and the legitimacy of a zoning by-law amendment request.

First, it is important to specify that when the information session occurred, the council had not yet taken a position on the application filed by the developer. Therefore, contrary to what Mr. Price implies, the city had not yet ruled whether this application was "bad" or good for the residents.

In his editorial, Mr. Price writes, "(at the information session) a city employee kicked off the proceedings by helpfully dispelling rumours about the proposed changes," which, in his view, demonstrates that the developers have "effectively enlisted" city employees on their "team."

That is not true.

The city's Urban Planning department employee simply reminded the audience that the proposal to be presented did not include any demolition of the building. This clarification was only intended to clear up some misinformation so that the public could form an opinion on the project based on factual information. It was not an endorsement of the proposal.

As for the "positive feedback" that the developers would have received from the city, this is a subjective assessment by the developers as the application had not yet received any orientation from council.

Is the procedure democratic?

The general procedure for a zoning by-law amendment application begins with a meeting between an Urban Planning department employee and the applicant to assess the admissibility of the application.

The Urban Planning department then analyzes the request considering many factors, including the impact on the neighbourhood's quality of life. The March 22 information session was also part of this analysis to assess the project's social acceptability.

This analysis is then transmitted to the council to give a favourable or unfavourable orientation. If the council gives an unfavourable orientation, the procedure ends. If the council gives a favourable orientation, a first draft of the by-law is adopted, and a public consultation notice

is issued.

During this public consultation, citizens can ask questions and comment on the first draft by-law. Following this consultation, and depending on the type of zoning amendment request, the council adopts a second draft by-law, and another public notice is published.

In this public notice, citizens are informed that residents of concerned and contiguous areas entitled to vote can sign a registry to request that this second draft resolution be put to a referendum.

Depending on the number of signatures collected, or the outcome of the referendum, the council will proceed with the adoption of the resolution or abandon the project.

The procedure can therefore be considered relatively democratic, as it involves the participation of citizens in the decision at several stages of the process: during the public consultation, and (depending on the type of zoning amendment request) the signing of the registry and the referendum.

The council, which is a democratically elected decision-making body, makes the final decision. The procedure itself emanates from a democratic process, as it is governed by the *Act respecting land use planning and development* adopted by the l'Assemblée nationale du Québec.

Moreover, the information session held on March 22 was not an obligation within this procedure. This session was an additional element that the city wanted to include in the process to further encourage citizen participation and promote dialogue between all stakeholders.

Why request a change to zoning law?

In his editorial, Mr. Price also expressed his concern that zoning by-laws are subject to requests for changes, particularly by developers. While a municipality must ensure that its by-laws are respected, it must be careful to update them to better meet the needs of the community.

For example, suppose an abandoned building causing many problems cannot be revitalized because the current zoning by-laws prevent new use. It is the municipality's responsibility to think of solutions to address these problems. And among these solutions, a change in the zoning by-law to allow new usages should be considered.

A municipality's regulations should not be reduced to a block of ossified regulations. It has to adapt as the environment and the need of the community evolve.

I would also like to remind that zoning by-law amendment requests are not exclusive to developers. Residents can also submit an application for a zoning by-law amendment.

Zoning by-law amendments can, indeed, be a controversial issue, as they can affect the surrounding community. Therefore, it is expected that some people may object to a zoning change if they believe it will have a negative impact on their neighbourhood. For this reason, the city follows a rigorous and legislated process and also listens to the community to ensure that the proposed zoning change is appropriate and meets the needs of all stakeholders.

CHRISTINA M. SMITH
MAYOR OF WESTMOUNT

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INTO THE GROUND

I drove up Roslyn the other day to see city workers filling in the double speed bump, the only one in Westmount and the only one that actually works to slow down cars!

You would think that they would be busy filling in the potholes that we have on every street and the natural speed bumps that run up and down each street like a scene from a war-torn city! Thankfully we don't have bombs dropping, but we do have what looks like the results of multiple air raids on our streets!

I know we are not alone in this province with what amounts to an uncontrollable virus that is ravishing our streets, but over the past 15 years I have seen our streets in Westmount and the infrastructure continue to deteriorate to the point where I need to ask: is it meant to be this bad for a reason or is it just incompetence on behalf of those running this city into the ground?

ALLAN GOLDBERG, LANSDOWNE AVE.

SANTA CROCE'S JEWISH CONNECTION

"Florence is a cradle, and a school" (March 28, p. 25) was a well-informed article on my favourite church in Florence [Santa Croce]. I visit it more often than "Il Duomo" for other reasons.

I call it "The Westminster Abbey of Italy" for all the famous people interned

there. But more important to me is the exterior.

Look carefully at the photo at right and notice the very large Jewish star of David [on top]. Why on a Catholic church?

When the plans for the church went out to many architects, the winning design was by Niccolo Matas, a Jewish architect.

Knowing that the church was destined to hold the remains of famous Italians, he insisted that he would accept the job on the condition that he be interred there upon his death.

When that time came, the bishop went to the Jewish burial society and, showing the contract, requested Niccolo's remains.

A huge argument erupted between the chief rabbi and the bishop. The rabbi argued that a Jew must be buried in a Jewish cemetery. The bishop said he was bound by the contract.

Luckily, during those times, the Jewish community got along very well with the Catholics. The argument became debates, debates became negotiations and ultimately a compromise.

Walk up the stairs of Santa Croce, stand half way between the top stair and the doors and you are standing on the grave of Niccolo Matas.

A contract was "somewhat" honoured, a Jewish community (and Niccolo) were satisfied.

MORRIE NEISS,
ST. CATHERINE ST.



PHOTO: VERONICA REDGRAVE

HYDRO WESTMOUNT IS WESTMOUNT'S INSURANCE POLICY

Quebec just had a fire and Westmounters all had fire insurance. The freezing rain of this past Wednesday (April 5) caused close to one million Hydro Quebec customers/households to lose their electric power. In Westmount, a mere three outages affected 225 dwellings. The outages were repaired almost instantly by Hydro Westmount.

It's reliably predicted that days from writing this letter there will still be tens of thousands of neighbouring Montrealers without electricity. The reason is very simple. In Westmount, we may pay more for our electricity. Hydro Westmount designates areas of tree branch concern to Public Works and is then charged annually for the trimming of trees near powerlines.

Hydro Quebec does not perform such maintenance in the same diligent fashion. In fact, I have seen power lines behind homes in some Montreal municipalities that are serviced by Hydro Quebec that have veritable forests growing around the power lines.

A debate exists as to whether or not we Westmounters should pay the premium it costs for Hydro Westmount. I am an unpaid, voluntary member of the *ad hoc* advisory committee that will be advising our city council on the worthiness of continuing with our own separate utility, as opposed to hooking up with Hydro-Que-

bec.

The recent ice storm could not have come at a more opportune time to put the debate to its test. Yes, we may pay more just as we pay a premium when we insure our residence against fire. We do not expect to have a fire, and yet we pay a hefty amount for fire insurance without question. A far less onerous premium appears to be worth every penny with regard to paying for our own electric utility. As I write this letter, 24 hours after the blackout began, the government is saying that it may be weeks that countless Quebeckers (think NDG, Hampstead, Town of Mount Royal, Griffintown, downtown, etc) will be cavemen: no lights, no heating, no running water, no refrigeration, no stove etc. (at least the cave man had a place to build a fire and cook on it). Although I am of an open mind in regard to alternatives, we should keep in mind that Hydro Westmount's responsiveness to our electricity needs has always been superb.

STEPHEN LEOPOLD,
MEMBER OF THE AD HOC HYDRO
WESTMOUNT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

We welcome your letters

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Email us at: editor@westmountindependent.com

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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

LETTERS: We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit them to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic.

Please include your name and street for publication (or borough or municipality if you do not live in Westmount), but not your address (unless you want it published).

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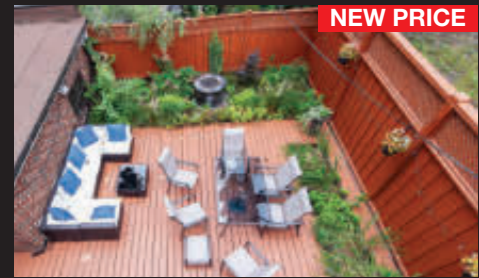
Six members of Westmount's M7 (under age 7) all girls' inter-city Wings hockey team who participated April 2 in a Lac St. Louis showcase for girls' hockey held in Pierrefonds were, from left, top row: Lyvia Armstrong, Aya Canel and Nehora Spence-Perron; and bottom row: Lila Domanko, Liv Ouelett and Hayley Frenkiel.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT SPORTS AND RECREATION

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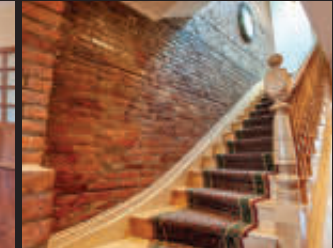
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An ice storm April 5 brought down branches on The Boulevard at Mount Pleasant, top left, Kit-chener, top, and Elm. PHOTOS: JENNIFER BALL, EXCEPT THE BOULEVARD PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK MARTIN

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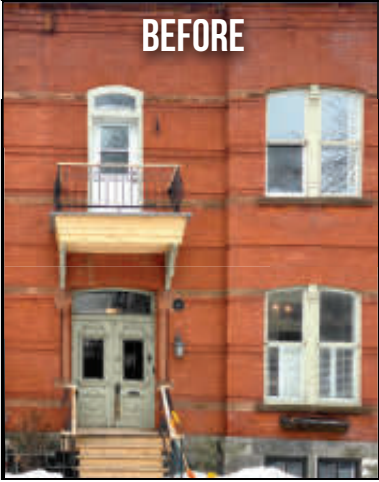
Contact Us: ADMISSIONS@NEUCHATEL.ORG



The April 5 storm created a frosted forest at Summit Woods, top, and covered this Japanese maple on Arlington Ave. with ice.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

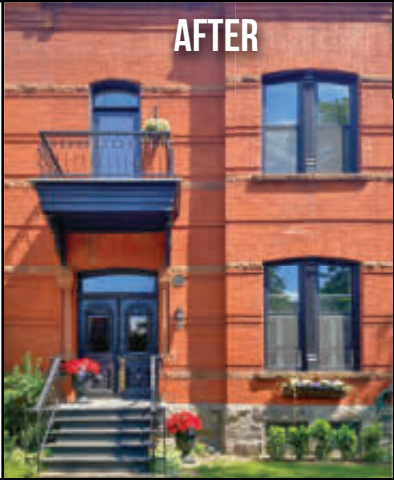
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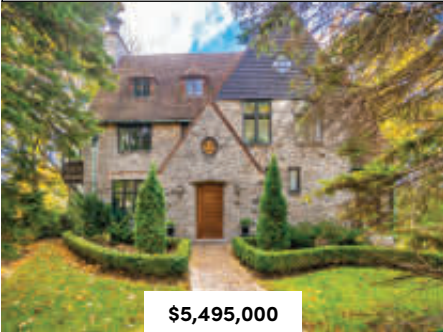
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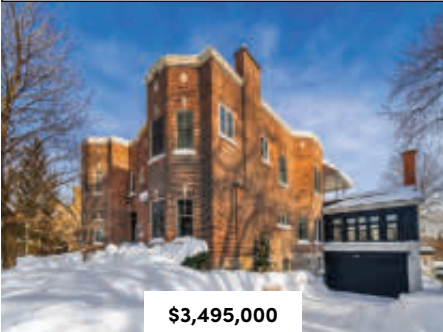
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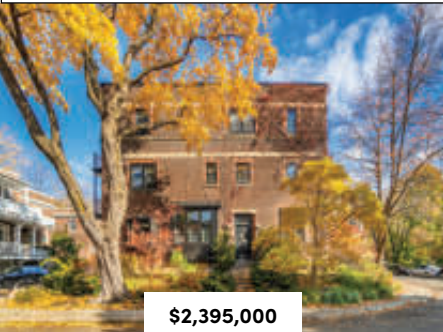
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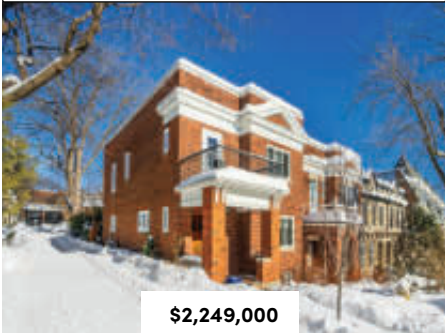
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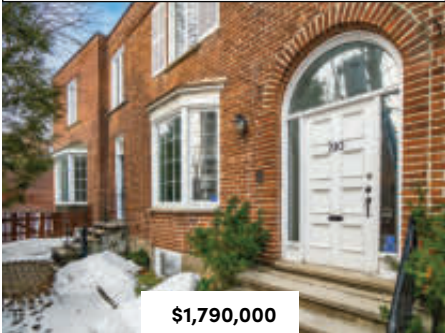
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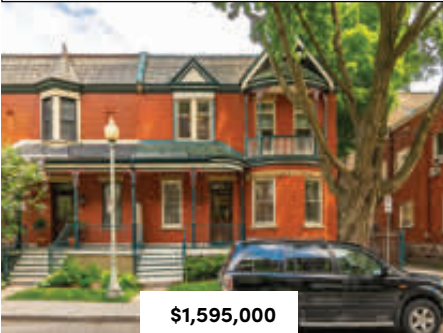
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Tree, branch down

This tree on de Maisonneuve near Roslyn, above, and this branch on Prince Albert at York, right, were photographed April 6, the day after the ice storm. The *Independent's* photographer heard and saw the Prince Albert branch fall the day before at 5:15 pm. If someone had been beneath it, he or she would have had an instant to make the right decision or die.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.



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The freezing rain of April 5 took down part of this tree, left, on Prince Albert south of de Maisonneuve. "There was a small white car" initially under the tree trunk, said one witness. "We saw the driver, one of the construction workers on the corner project [Albert Square]. He had small, minor damages ... and filed a report with Public Security." Above, this tree in Westmount Park sustained major damage, as seen April 6.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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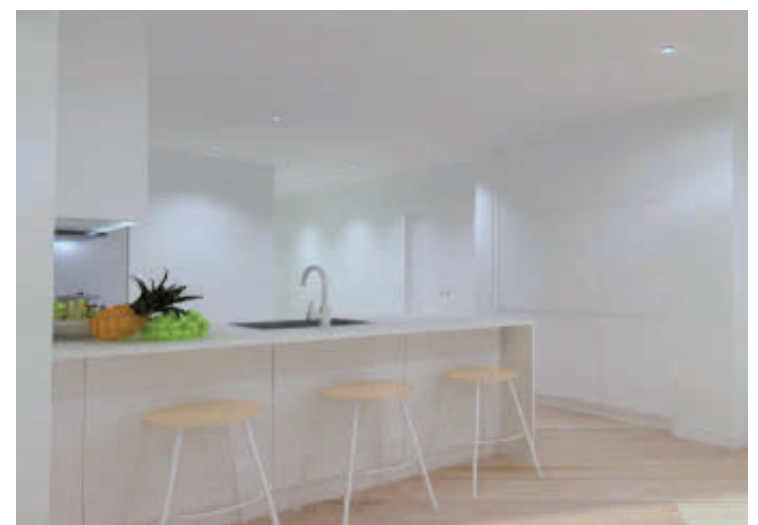
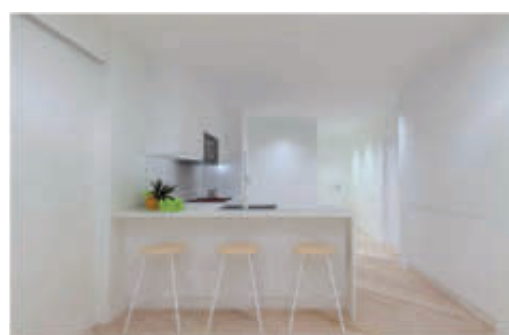
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2023.04.11 • Vol. 4/07
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Published by the City of Westmount

NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL

Lundi 17 avril

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, April 17



Collecte de résidus dangereux le samedi 22 avril

Entre 9 h et 16 h 30 dans le stationnement de la Bibliothèque. Apportez vos piles, vos restants de peinture, de solvants, etc. Apportez vos déchets électroniques la même journée. westmount.org



Hazardous Waste Collection Saturday, April 22

Between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the Library parking lot. Bring your batteries, leftover paint, solvents, etc. Electronic waste will be collected the same day. westmount.org

Collecte de résidus de jardin

La collecte reprendra **le 17 avril**. Placez vos résidus de jardin en bordure de rue dans des sacs en papier ou en vrac dans un contenant ouvert avant 7 h le jour de votre collecte. Trouvez les horaires de collecte à westmount.org.

Inscription pour les activités d'été

L'inscription débute le mardi 19 avril (8 h en ligne et 8 h 30 en personne au CLW) pour les résidents de Westmount. L'inscription pour le camp d'été débute le 18 avril, et celle pour les activités aquatiques et le tennis le 25 avril.

Collecte d'encombrants

Les collectes sont de retour en 2023 et se feront les premières semaines des mois de mai à octobre. Visitez westmount.org pour connaître les matières acceptées et les horaires de collecte.

Bois Summit : chiens en laisse

Pendant la période de migration des oiseaux, soit **du 16 avril au 15 juin**, les chiens au bois Summit doivent être tenus en laisse EN TOUT TEMPS.

Garden waste collection

The collection resumes on **April 17**. Place your garden waste at the curbside in paper bags or loose in an open container by 7 a.m. on your collection day. Consult the collection schedule at westmount.org.

Registration for summer activities

Registration opens **Tuesday, April 18** (8 a.m. online and 8:30 a.m. in person at the WRC) for Westmount residents. Registration begins April 18 for summer camp and April 25 for swimming and tennis.

Collection of bulky items

The collection will return in 2023 and take place the first week of the month from May to October. Visit westmount.org for the list of accepted materials and for the collection schedules.

Dogs on leash at Summit Woods.

During the bird migration period **from April 16 to June 15**, dogs in Summit Woods must be kept on leash AT ALL TIMES.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES



Exposition : Alexander Slim

Jusqu'au 14 avril, Galerie du Victoria Hall.

Appel aux artisans

L'édition 2023 du salon Artisans Westmount aura lieu les 11 et 12 novembre. Les artisans sont invités à soumettre une candidature au plus tard le 5 mai pour la sélection. westmount.org

Conférence : Westmount Train Station: CPR History and a Future Vision

Mercredi 12 avril, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Avec David Hanna, PhD, expert en patrimoine et ancien professeur d'urbanisme. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Club de lecture pour ados (13 à 17 ans)

Jeudi 20 avril, 17 h, Bibliothèque. *Annihilation* par Jeff VanderMeer. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Parc Westmount : corvée de nettoyage

Vendredi 21 avril, 13 h 30 à 15 h 30. Dans le cadre du Jour de la Terre, la Ville vous invite à participer. Inscrivez-vous à l'avance. westmount.org

Promenade guidée des arbres du Parc Westmount

Samedi 22 avril, 11 h, à partir du Conservatoire de Westmount. Joignez-vous à nous pour célébrer le Jour de la Terre et en savoir plus sur l'histoire des arbres du parc. Inscrivez-vous à westmount.org.

Jour de la Terre : échange de vêtements

Samedi 22 avril, 13 h, Victoria Hall. Renouvelez votre garde-robe de manière durable et gratuite! Inscrivez-vous à westmount.org.

Ciné-Club : Aftersun (2022)

Mardi 25 avril, 14 h, Victoria Hall.

À voix haute : What World is Left de Monique Polack

Mercredi 26 avril, 19 h, Victoria Hall. En anglais. Avec Holly Gauthier-Frankel et Eric Davis, ainsi que l'auteure. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Exhibition: Alexander Slim

Until April 14, Gallery at Victoria Hall.

Call to artisans

The 2023 edition of Artisans Westmount will take place November 11 and 12. Artisans are invited to apply by Friday, May 5 to this juried show. westmount.org.



Lecture: Westmount Train Station: CPR History and a Future Vision

Wednesday, April 12, 7 p.m., Library. With David Hanna, PhD, heritage expert and former professor of urban planning. Register at westlib.org.

Book club for teens (13 to 17 yr olds)

Thursday, April 30, 5 p.m., Library. *Annihilation* by Jeff VanderMeer. Register at westlib.org.

The Big Cleanup at Westmount Park

Friday, April 21, 1:30-3:30 p.m. As part of Earth Day, the City invites you to participate. Sign up in advance. westmount.org

Tree Tour in Westmount Park

Saturday, April 22, 11 a.m., from the Westmount Conservatory. Join us to celebrate Earth Day and learn about the history of the trees in Westmount Park. Register at westmount.org.

Earth Day Clothing Swap

Saturday, April 22, 1 p.m., Victoria Hall. Upcycle your wardrobe sustainably and for free! Register at westmount.org.

Film Club: Aftersun (2022)

Tuesday, April 25, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall.

A Live Reading: What World is Left by Monique Polack

Mercredi 26 avril, 19 h, Victoria Hall. With actors Holly Gauthier-Frankel and Eric Davis, as well as the author. Register at westlib.org.

Antoniou/Choremis family works to raise autism awareness

Anthony pays tribute to brother Constantine with *Le gros problème de Noah*

By JENNIFER BALL

Since 1984 in Quebec, April has been designated as autism month. Autism is a lifelong neurodevelopmental difference. Autistic people perceive the world, think, and interact with others in unique ways.

While there are numerous books about autism, the *Independent* was unable to find another book quite like *Le gros problème de Noah*, which originates with a Westmount family.

It is an illustrated children's book written by LCC student Anthony Antoniou for his brother Constantine.

Book dedicated to brother

Antoniou says that he wrote the book during the school closure in 2020 when he was 14. The dedication reads: "For you, Constantine. Even though every day is not easy, you make me laugh and I love your good mood. It is thanks to you that this book exists, because you taught me, without knowing it, the importance of diversity and inclusion."

"My dream today would be for people



From left, Anthony and Constantine Antoniou at home in Westmount on April 7.

to be more aware of the reality of people with autism and those around them. That's why I wanted to share this story with you, and many other children."

The book is currently only available in French. It has text by Antoniou, illustrations by Baptiste Amsellem and the publisher is Éditions Bayard, with all the proceeds going to Constantine's school, Giant Steps.

What he really wanted to convey by writing the book, Antoniou said on April 7, is "you really shouldn't ostracize autistic kids. Include them and maybe you can create a

better society for autistic people."

In this work, we follow the story of Noah and his autistic brother Gabriel. The younger brother reacts fiercely to triggers like loud noises and unexpected sensations, while Noah tries to find ways to engage with him.

He remembers that his brother loves balls. What if they built on that and played basketball together? (It was a big orange ball that brought the Antoniou brothers together in real life.)

Antoniou pondered what the biggest misconception is about children on the autism spectrum. "I guess many people think that they're just people who can't really be included in society... I feel like they can really have an impact on society in many different ways if they're given the tools and opportunities."

Choremis: More support needed

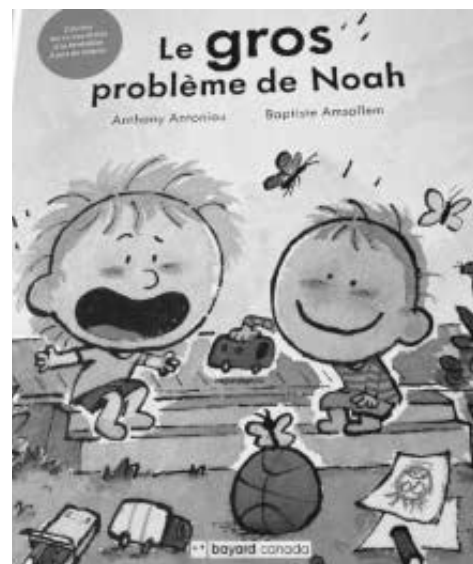
Johanna Choremis is Anthony and Constantine's mother. "Constantine, 15, has a fairly significant form of autism," she said. For children with this neurodiversity, she believes not enough is being done, and most certainly not enough for lower- and middle-income families.

Founded in 1980, Constantine's school is Giant Steps, which used to be located in Westmount on Hillside.

It is a private school recognized and subsidized by Quebec's Ministère de l'Éducation. The school welcomes students aged four to 21 years old with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

According to Choremis, even after government support, Giant Steps has "to raise so much money just to keep the school running privately..."

"I have to pay privately, and I still pay privately for speech therapy every week and applied behavioural analysis therapy... it's sad that that some parents [just don't have the funds available.]"



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History follow-up

Was Harry Molson even a Westmounter?

By David Price

Westmounter Peter Trent is best known as a municipal politician and long-serving mayor of Westmount, but he is also a keen-eyed local historian.

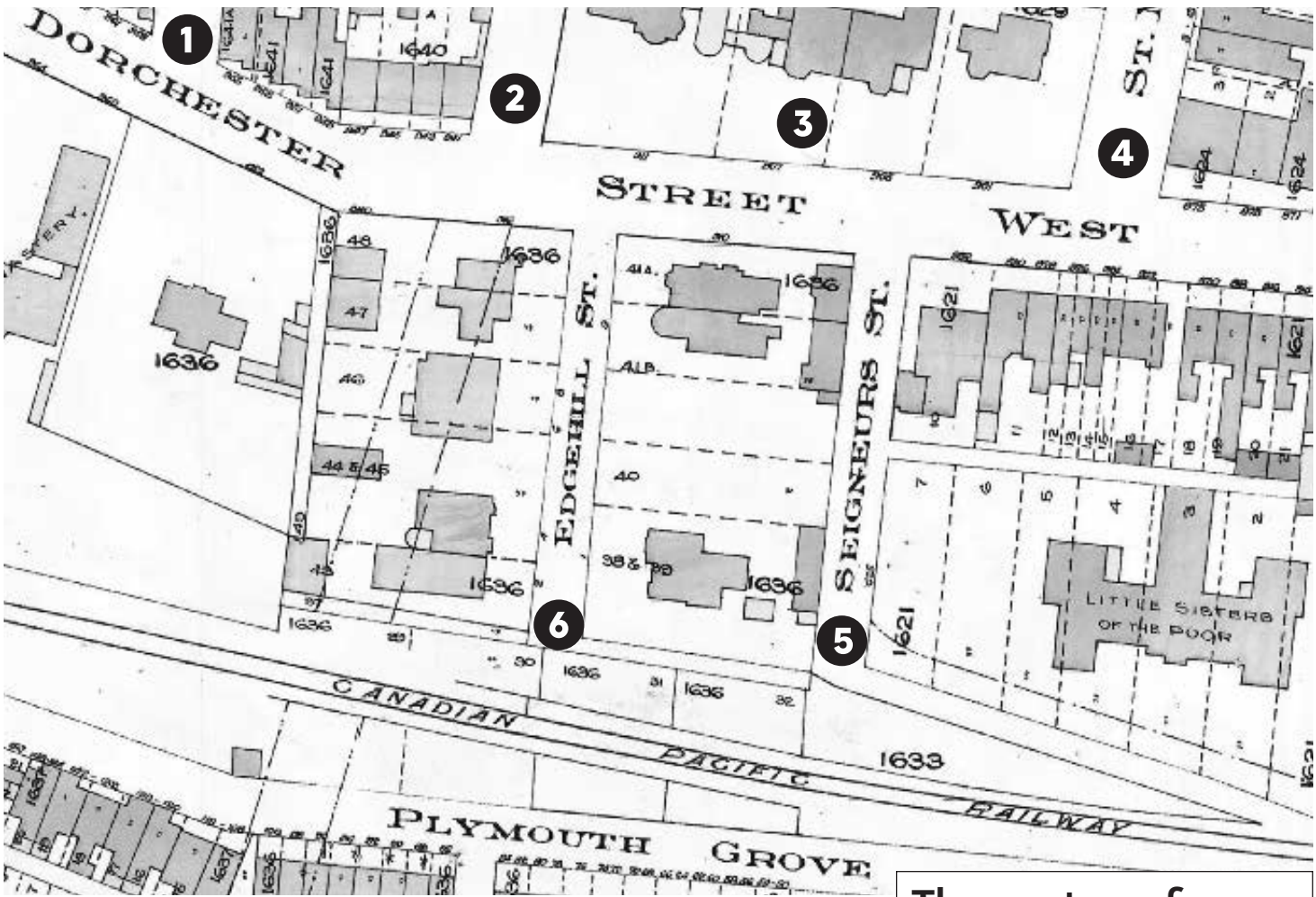
It was in that spirit that he read Craig Cormack’s story “Harry Molson: Westmounter, businessman, sailor, *Titanic* victim” (March 28, p. 18). Molson lived from 1856 to 1912, dying in the waters off the *Titanic*. What piqued Trent’s curiosity was the accompanying item about Molson’s urban address: “The mystery of #2 Edgehill Rd.,” reproduced at bottom right.

Molson’s alleged Westmount addresses, with the Ogilvy family as neighbours, do not exist now and don’t seem to fit today’s Edgehill in upper Westmount.

Trent’s memory and research led him to another Edgehill street, located south of what was then Dorchester (now called René Lévesque) in downtown Montreal, just east of the (still in the future at the time, now in the past) site of the Montreal Children’s Hospital. The street was located between Fort and St. Mark south of the current Canadian Centre for Architecture, where the Ernest Cormier Esplanade, and exits and an entrance for Autoroute 20, are now.

The long-gone street at the top of the *falaise* probably had pleasant views of the St. Lawrence River, like the current esplanade.

Trent’s research led him to “A map from 1881, before the CP tracks went in,



show[ing] an A. W. Ogilvy lived at 38 and 39 Edgehill Ave. in Montreal.

“In a Goad map from 1890,” Trent continued, Ogilvy “was still there after the railway was bunged in.

“In the 1912 map, now called Edgehill Street, 38/39 were still there.

“Lovell’s from 1912 reads as follows: Edgehill avenue [sic] off 912 Dorchester West, St. Andrew ward. So obviously the house numbers changed,..... and the 912 Edgehill re- *continued on p. 19*

- ① Current name = René Lévesque.
- ② Fort St.
- ③ The current Canadian Centre for Architecture, originally the Shaughnessy house.
- ④ St. Mark St.
- ⑤ This northern continuation of Seigneurs St. is now also gone. The street still exists south of the tracks and the 720/20/138 highway.
- ⑥ The general location of Harry Molson’s address. This map is from 1912.

The mystery of #2 Edgehill Rd.

By Craig Cormack (reprint)

While researching Harry Molson’s life, the address #2 Edgehill came up time and again as his Westmount residence. I attempted to photograph his home but found out that the address never existed, even though it had been repeated in historical record for over 100 years.

Karen Molson kindly helped me find out that Harry lived at two different times on Edgehill. According to the census report, he was listed as Harry Markland and he had a house at 138 Edgehill.

The other address was an apartment complex addressed at 912 Edgehill apt #2 (he was neighbours with Mrs. Ogilvy of the Ogilvy family). The house at 138 was willed to his brother when Harry died. His home included the aforementioned beautiful wooden furniture, china and a collection of clocks in his billiard room.

#2 would seem to allude to the apartment number, but neither of these addresses exist today on Edgehill.

Were the houses re-numbered? Torn down? Does one refer to another Edgehill? Who knows?



Looking northeast at the Canadian Centre for Architecture on René Lévesque at St. Mark, as seen March 31. Downtown’s Edgehill would have been in the foreground and to the right/south. Fittingly, “Edgehill” was on the edge of the *falaise*.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Molson, cont'd from p. 18

ferred to in the *Indie* article was a Dorchester address.

“Perhaps the ‘138 Edgehill’ mentioned [in the *Independent’s* story] was really 38 *tout court*?” concluded Trent.

In 1912, Molson is mentioned by Lovell’s as living at 912 Dorchester West #2, with the Ogilvy family (also “Ogilvie”) at #1.

It would seem that the Edgehill addresses were re-numbered to become part of 912 Dorchester in the style of courtyard addresses – perhaps to make them easier to find? Did they have pizza deliveries in Montreal in 1912?

Conclusions?

It would seem that “912 Edgehill” was never an address, but a misconception given that 912 Dorchester stood at the corner of Edgehill and Dorchester.

Was the digit “1” added to 38 Edgehill in error in some sources to make it “138”? Perhaps because 38/39 Edgehill was also

#1 of 912 Dorchester? See map on p. 18 with “38/39” horizontally and a “1” vertically.

Why Molson’s house was associated with “38,” and what the buildings at 38 and 39 *were* (semi-detached? both used by the Ogilvys?) are other nuances.

In the same map, one can see a small vertical “2” across the street from 38/39/#1, on the west side of Edgehill. In my opinion, this location is likely where Molson’s house was, although maybe his was either 38 or 39 on the east side of Edgehill.

Most importantly, the existence of a single downtown location for Harry Molson’s residence, with many real and erroneous addresses, seems like the most likely scenario – as does the possibility that Molson never lived on Westmount’s Edgehill, or in Westmount at all.

At least future researchers can look in the right place.

Are there any other local historians out there? We’d be happy to hear from you.



Looking west to where the houses of Harry Molson and the Ogilvys’ stood, as seen March 31.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

Delivered winter clothes to hospital patients

‘Operation Winterize’ announces results for 2022-23



As “Operation Winterize” began last fall, modelling a small selection of some of the winter wear that had already been purchased for MUHC patients were, from left, JoAnne Booth; Westmounters Laura MacFarlane, Anthea Dawson and Mary Spencer; Joanne MacPhail and Westmounter Ana Maria Plata. They are all board members of the Friends of the MUHC.

PHOTO COURTESY OF A. DAWSON.

The “Operation Winterize” campaign to outfit needy hospital patients, especially newcomers to Canada, with cold-weather clothing (see October 18, 2022, p. 24) released its results April 4. The final count of items delivered was:

- 106 coats,
- 48 pairs of boots,
- 152 sweat pants/shirts,
- 152 pairs of socks,
- 87 hats,
- 123 scarves,
- 70 pairs of gloves/mitts,
- 116 pairs of undergarments,
- 100 yarns from Biscotte Yarns for hats, scarves and mittens

“We made a total of seven separate deliveries (starting inventory and re-stocking),” said organizer and Westmounter Anthea Dawson the same day, “directly into the social service departments at the Glen [hospital], Lachine General, Montreal General, The Neuro and The Allan Memorial.

“We used our hands, hearts (and several unoccupied wheelchairs) to bring this mountain of warmth through busy hospital corridors and into the arms of the smiling social workers. Every delivery was a happy one.

“Many thanks to generosity of Westmounters for their support.”

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Moose came from a litter that was initially pronounced to be of small to medium breed pups.

Well, guess what? Maybe the other ones were small-boned and dainty, but Moose has surpassed that expectation. Surprise! He is a chunky puppy heading for a large-breed physique and lifestyle.

There is some Bernese, some terrier and maybe a glimpse of something else in the way he carries himself.

The one important thing is his temperament, as Moose is very sweet, affectionate, social and keen to please.

At six months of age and already 60 pounds, he is very healthy, up to date with his puppy inoculations, neutered and

A big puppy, funny Moose



microchipped. He is presently in foster care for the volunteer animal rescue group Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions.

Moose is very bright and well socialized with some basic commands and affectionate interactions. He is a big fellow, yet still a puppy, so he needs a timely framework at this stage for leash walking, exuberance when greeting and interaction with other dogs.

It would be wonderful if the family that adopts him were able to have someone present for a bit during the day, have a home environment with a fenced backyard, older children and possibly a cat who knows his way around big dogs.

For more information on Moose for adoption, please refer to the Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions website at www.gerdysrescue.org, and write directly to the volunteers at info@gerdysrescue.org.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Simone Garneau longlisted for short story prize

Westmounter Simone Garneau has been longlisted for the 2022 CBC Short Story Prize. For the CBC website, she summarized her entry "State of Being" in five-ish words: "One's essence is what matters."

The shortlist will be announced April 12 and the winner April 18. The prize, from the Canada Council for the Arts, is \$6,000 and a two-week writing residency at Artscape Gibraltar Point on Toronto Island.

In her life as an engineer, she has been covered by the *Independent* in 2015 ("Sunmetrix named co-winner in US solar energy competition," February 24, 2015, p. 18) and 2007 ("Launched into new film career – Simone Garneau explores weaponization of space," December 19, 2007, p. 19).

She is the daughter of recently retired MP Marc Garneau.

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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER



Bailey and 52369010 for Marley, then check the visiting hours on the day you would like to drop by to visit them at the shelter. Opening hours are as of 10 am every day and the Montreal SPCA location is 5215

Jean Talon St. West.

Just a note to bring your carriers or you can purchase what you need at the accessories boutique on-site.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Could they be cuter?

This is a wonderful opportunity to adopt two marmalade tabby kitten brothers, great companions and playmates.

Each has an original, yet similar, pretty pink nose – and stunning amber-coloured eyes. These classic charmers, hilarious and affectionate, are ready for adoption from the Montreal SPCA cattery.

Bailey brother is on the left and Marley brother is on the right of the photograph, cuddling in their carrier at the shelter.

They are both very healthy, up to date with their kitten inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

Please refer to the Montreal SPCA website at www.spc.ca, scroll to Bailey and Marley's information pages from their identification numbers, 52369012 for

Comin' Up

Wednesday, April 12

The Westmount Historical Association presents "Westmount Train Station: CPR History and a Future Vision," by David Hanna, PhD, heritage expert and former professor of urban planning. Free but, register on Eventbrite. If you do not have an email address, call 514.989.5355. Victoria Hall. 7 pm.

Police Report

Cst. Yigit takes over community relations at Station 12

By MARTIN C. BARRY

An official at the Montreal police dept.'s Station 12 says Cst. Mike Yigit is taking over as community relations officer following the retirement of Cst. Adalbert Pimentel (see April 4, p. 1).

Cst. Pimentel confirmed two weeks ago

to the *Independent* just before retiring with 30 years service that Cst. Yigit will be assuming his functions at the Stanton St. police precinct. Cst. Yigit has wide experience as a patrol officer in Westmount and downtown Montreal. He has also worked extensively with homeless people dwelling in the Atwater Ave. and St. Catherine St. area.

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City Views

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Lemons, limoncello & libri



Easter elegance.

of this tale – and to the more-important limoncello part – my flat was 30 seconds away from a lively little piazza with tiny outdoor restaurants and where I could also buy *über*-fresh fruit and vegetables from the tiny tented daily market. And, five minutes from a grocery store.

So, although my arrival was a challenge, everything worked out. Furthermore, I was far from the madding crowd.

More limoncello? At the Scuola, my teachers were great. Cesare gave me private lessons, trying valiantly to correct my English pronunciations. And I had the opportunity to meet a man related to Giorgio Giorgini, the founder of the “Made in Italy” campaign.

One of my professors was Neri Fadigati, curator of his grandfather’s book (*libro*) *G.B. Giorgini and the Origins of Made in Italy*. As my firm had handled identity-building campaigns for Italian brands such as Stefanel, I was fascinated to read this story. It has been re-visited through contemporary eyes, beautifully co-published with Promoda, a fashion school in Florence. The coffee-table style book is an archival treasure with photos of the fashions presented during those 40 years. Not only *continued on p. 22*



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.....
City views *cont'd from p. 21*
can it serve as a classical marketing study, it documents the changing styles through the decades.

Fashion week
“Fashion week in Florence was my grandfather’s idea. Initially presentations were held at his home with an elegant after-party. At that time, buyers paid to attend!” explained Neri.

Finally, the shows were so successful, they were held at the Palazzo Pitti. The rest is history. Another of my teachers – *conversazione* – Vincenzo Reale is also an author. He told me about his books (*libri*) *La fortuna del Greco* and *Bar Bar Bar*.
“I’m an Italian whose heart is split in two: I was born in Tuscany but my parents are from Calabria.”

Then to even school choices out a bit, I visited the Scuola Leonardo da Vinci. Also about five minutes from the Duomo, it recently won the 2022 Star Award (Study Travel Magazine).
I met with founders Chiara Poggi and Hans Gedeon Villager. There are also Leonardo schools in Milano, Torino and Roma. Their daughter Geraldine Villiger noted that offering *arteginale* courses was an attraction. As part of the chosen curriculum, students can work with different arts academies: leather-making,



Neri Fadigati.



Vincenzo Reale.

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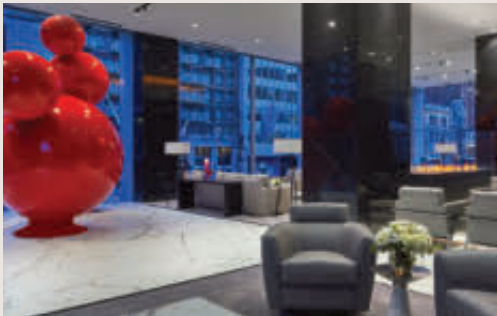
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ceramics etc.
I left the school to buy cake. Easter is *über*-important in Italy. Weeks before, beautifully-wrapped chocolates are everywhere as are special cakes called *colomba di Pasqua*.
Interestingly, while Italians are used to cooking labour-intensive dishes, *colomba* is almost always purchased. Mine was delicious.

.....
Rentals, *cont'd from p. 1*
(CITQ) is required.
Through the years, many residents have been known to do this when away over the summer, for example. The only reported complaints that have been brought to the attention of the *Independent* dealt with parking.
Renters requiring on-street parking are in the same situation as overnight visitors

of residents. They must register with Public Security by calling 514.989.5222.
According to the city website, “If you know of a person or business that is illegally operating a tourist residence in Westmount, you can file a report with Revenu Québec, which has inspection and investigation powers. To report an illegal tourist residence, call 1-855-208-1131” or fill out an online report form.

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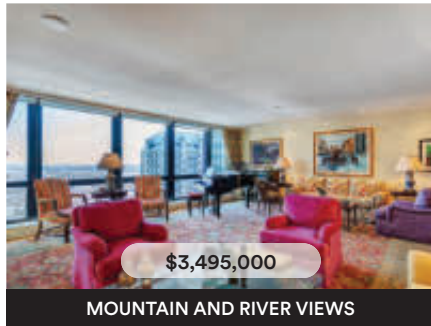
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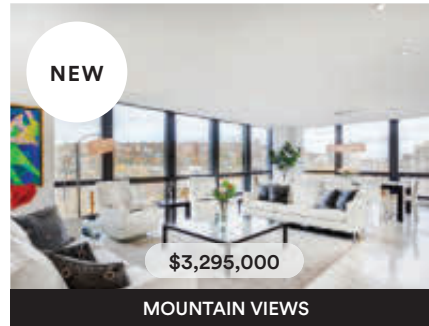
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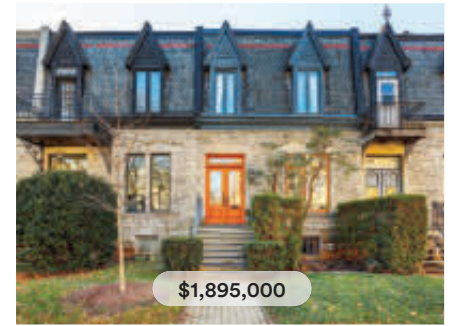
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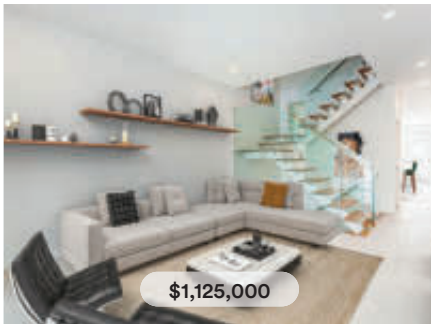
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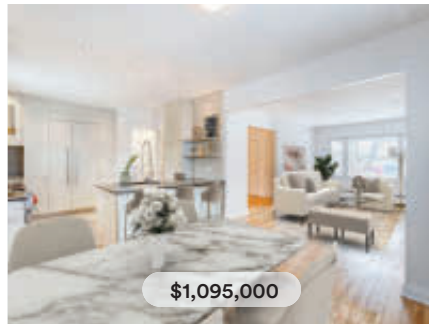
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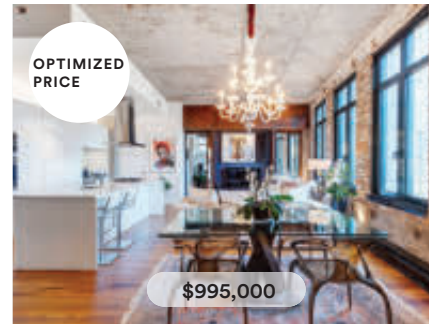
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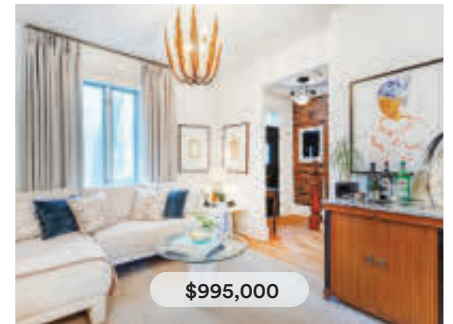
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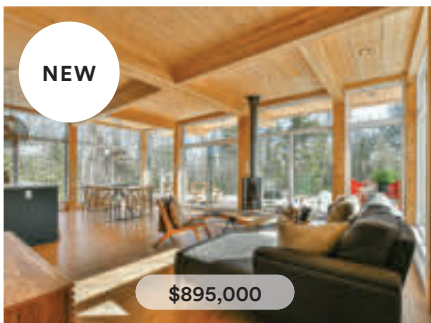
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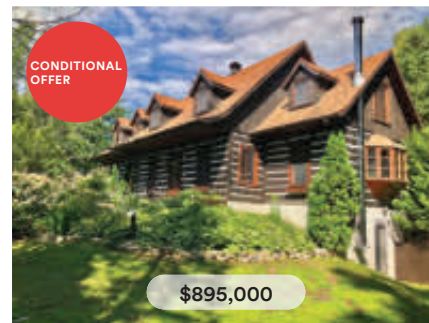
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