

Westmount remembers ...

By
assembling

The city of Westmount and many residents marked Remembrance Day at the cenotaph in front of city hall on November 5.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

By preserving
artifacts

Seen here on October 27, Westmounter Chris Sears, left, points to a spot on the memorial plaque in the lobby at Victoria Hall honouring fallen World War II veterans where Lieutenant Harry Lamb's name appears. Sears' son, Mathieu, holds open a page from Lamb's wartime journal. See p. 9 for story.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY.

City looking for new chief lawyer as Ferland departs

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A search is on for a new Westmount city clerk/director of legal services. This follows the departure some two weeks ago of Denis Ferland. He had held the position since January 2022 after the role had been vacant for four months.

"He's no longer employed by the city and we wish him all the best," Mayor Christina Smith told the *Independent*.

The departure of Ferland, listed on the agenda of the council meeting November 6 as "Termination of employment," leaves Westmount, which does not have an assistant city clerk, shorthanded. At this time, the office also has a vacancy for an assistant to the city clerk for which a search is also under way.

"Until a replacement for Ferland is hired, we are using the outside firms of Bélanger *continued on p. 30*



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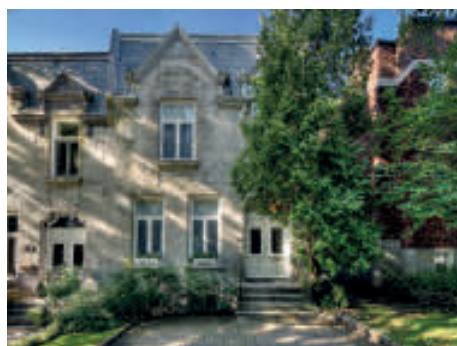
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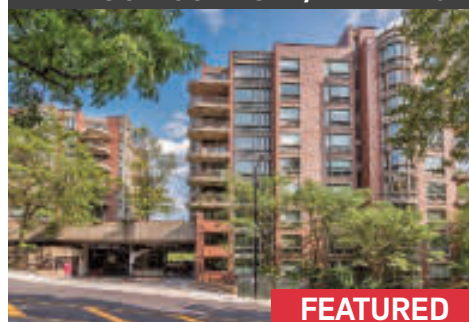
IDEAL FAMILY HOME IN A+ LOCATION



FEATURED

Westmount
621 Ch. de la Côte-St-Antoine | \$3,499,000

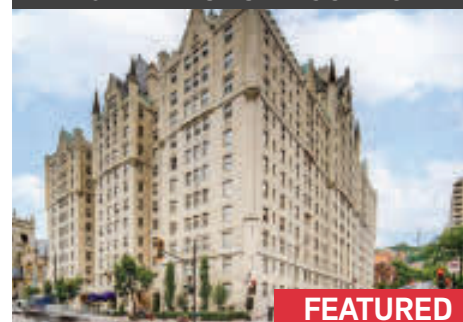
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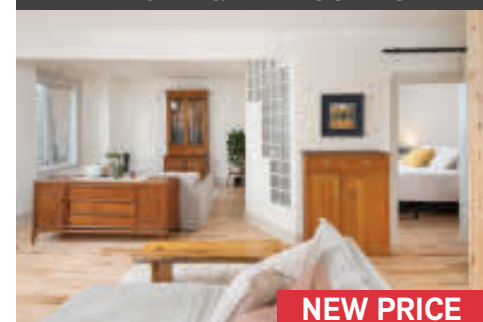
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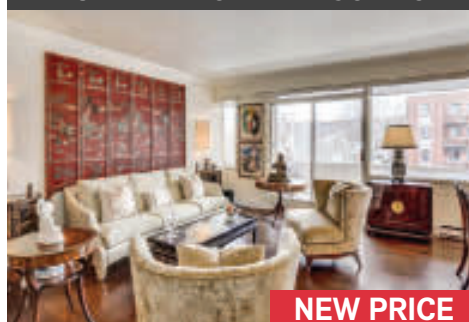
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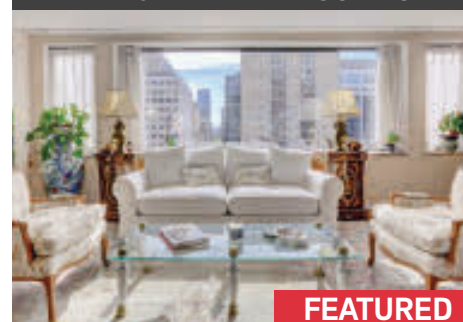
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Many venues, dates announced

Public Security kicks off holiday food drive November 11-12

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Public Security will officially launch its annual holiday food drive this Saturday and Sunday, November 11-12 as the price of admission to the Artisans Westmount 2023 event at Victoria Hall.

Donations of non-perishable food and other essential items, or \$2, at the door typically provides a good head start for the campaign, which is especially important this year given the scarcity and need for many food banks. Last year, a total of \$1,675 and five recycling bins of food and other products was raised through this event (see story November 22, 2022, p. 8).

Announced last week by Public Security assistant director Kimberley Colquhoun, food bins will be put out at the main doors of Victoria Hall, city hall, Public Security, the Westmount Public Library and the Westmount recreation centre (WRC). The cash and food donations go toward the delivery of holiday baskets.

Other non-perishable donations that “we love receiving,” she said, include tooth paste, tooth brushes, maple syrup, ketchup, soups, canned stews, pasta sauces, cereals, honey, canned fruit, women’s sanitary products, hand creams, toilet paper, jams and peanut butter.

On Tuesday, November 28, Public Security officers will be collecting outside Metro on Victoria, for “fill the cruiser on

Giving Tuesday,” followed the next day at Les 5 Saisons on Greene. Anyone preferring that the donated items be picked up at their door can make arrangements by calling 514.989.5367.

“I receive a list of suggested recipients from the CLSC mid-November,” Colquhoun said. “Make a meal donation: pasta with a jar of sauce, pancake mix and maple syrup, cake mix and icing, soup and crackers.”

Artisans Westmount to showcase handmade items November 11-12

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

With the approach of the holiday gift-giving season, it’s time again for the city’s Artisans Westmount arts and crafts event at Victoria Hall, Saturday and Sunday November 11-12 from 10:30 and to 5 pm.

Beginning more than 20 years ago, the annual event typically ushers in the holiday season when more than 30 selected artisans showcase their creations, billed as an opportunity to find one-of-a-kind gifts.

According to event organizer Emily Gamble of the city’s Community Events division, most of the handmade items fall into the following categories of participants: woodworkers, weavers and hat makers along with those creating soaps and creams, “beautiful” stuffed bears, and macramé wall hangers.

The event also launches Public Security’s holiday food drive where donations of non-perishable food and other products or \$2 cash are collected at the door as the price of admission (see above).

Victoria Hall, she points out, is universally accessible from the east side of the building.

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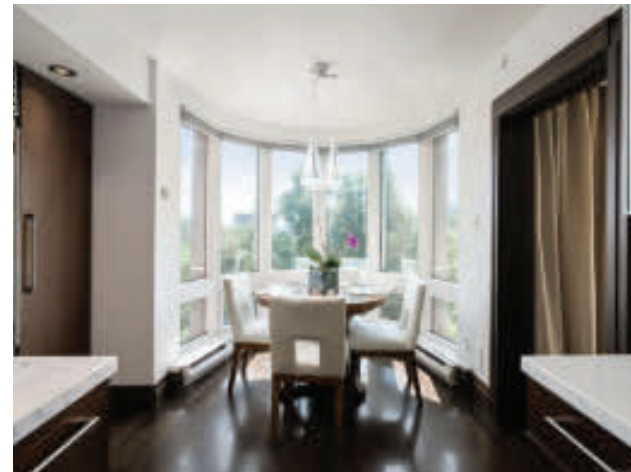
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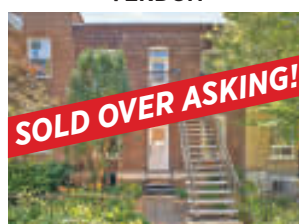
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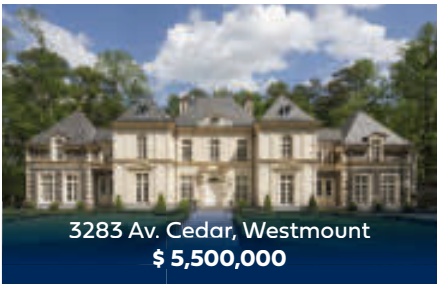
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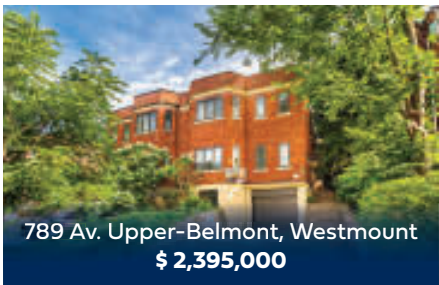
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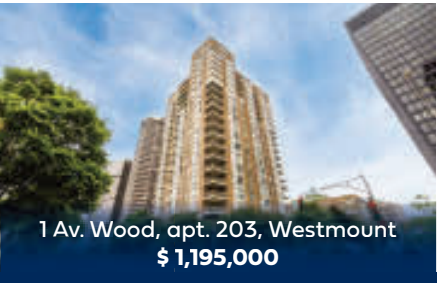


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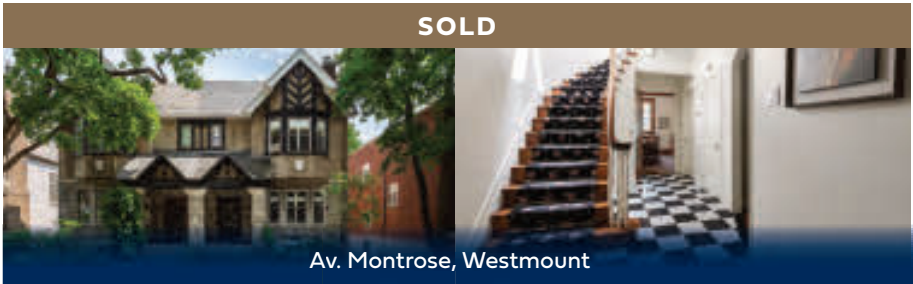
Summit Circle, Westmount

SIGNIFICANT SALE†



Av. Murray, Westmount

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Av. Montrose, Westmount

*As per Centris on 2023-11-03 including exclusive listings. | †Buyer's representative.



On October 7, 2023, over 200 innocent Israeli Citizens were kidnapped from Israel to Gaza by Hamas terrorists.

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom stands with our sister congregation in Jerusalem, Kol haNeshama, in working and praying to bring the hostages home.



Westmount youth group profile

Girl Guides make wreaths for Remembrance Day

In Girl Guides, the age categories are as follows:

Sparks (ages 5-6),
Embers (ages 7-8) – the name was changed from Brownies in January,
Guides (ages 9-11),
Pathfinders (ages 12-14),
Rangers (ages 15-17),
Adults (ages 18+).



From left, standing: Kayla Watterston, Emilie Regimbal, Stephanie Kattan, Yael Tal, Maya Tal, with volunteers Dawn Coffey, Elizabeth Li and Heather Barwick; middle row: Kaie Woodward, Kyla Gad, Cordelia Saab, Chloe Sebaaly and Romy Garschagen; seated: Sophie Kattan, Tara Adoranti, Charlotte Schioler, Hannah Paule Whiston-Frigara, Anne Margareth, Magalhaes Oster, Magda Hesselink and Paige Wearing.

BY JENNIFER BALL

The 66th Montreal Guides of the Girl Guides started in November 1931 at St. Matthias' Anglican Church, just eight years before the start of World War II, and the current troop of 9- to 11-year-olds was making wreaths to commemorate the event, along with other wars, for the upcoming Remembrance Day observance.

The Girl Guides meet weekly at St. Matthias on Church Hill and Côte St. Antoine.

Adult volunteer Heather Barwick shared historical information about the "66th Montreal company of the Girl Guides" along with contemporary news.

Barwick said the girls were making Remembrance wreaths on the evening of October 24. "We get a Christmas wreath and we have the Guides make the poppies out of fun foam. We put some [paraphernalia] on it to represent Guiding and I put a ribbon across it that says 'Girl Guides of Canada'...

"There is a purpose for this. They have been learning how to tie wreath knots so they are going to have to tie a wreath knot to secure the poppies."

Barwick hypothesized that Remembrance Day may not resonate with the girls in her troop because the wars were so long ago.

It turned out, though, that four Girl Guides had information about the day that they were keen to share. They were Maya Tal and her twin sister Yael, Kyla Gad and

Romy Garschagen.

Gad is 10 years old. On the topic of the Remembrance Day observance, she said "We learnt about it in first grade, but before that I did not really know about it."

The appeal for her to come to St. Matthias after school on Tuesdays was personal: "I like selling cookies and I really like coming here to see my friends and making new friends..."

Maya Tal and her twin sister Yael are nine-year-olds. Maya cut right through the chaff about the purpose of the day of observance: "Remembrance Day is to remember!" while her sister elaborated with "It reminds us of the war and the people who died in it."

Nine-year-old Romy Garschagen wanted the record to reflect that she is really enjoying the activities. "This is my first year, but my sister was involved since Sparks. We moved here in 2016 from New Jersey..."

"I like to sell cookies because we get to go door to door..."

"Remembrance Day is a very important day for me because it makes me read the names of the people [who died in wars]. I have had two grandparents who have been in wars. My grandpa on my mum's side was in the Vietnam War and my other grandpa, on my dad's side ... he was actually a baby during the Second World War. So, I know what war is."

500 Claremont gets second extension of demo permit

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's Demolition Committee October 24 granted an extension of the demolition permit for work at 500 Claremont, corner of Windsor. The meeting, which was not held live on YouTube, provided the second extension to the demolition work for which the permit was on the brink of expiring.

While no attendees turned up at the hearing, Councillor Matt Aronson, who chaired the meeting as acting mayor, explained that it would not be in best interests of "anyone" to allow the project to

remain in partial demolition.

It had initially been approved by city council in 2017.

The slowdown in work resulted from the reality of current post-COVID construction business affecting the difficulty of obtaining supplies and workers, he explained.

'Lost our trades'

"We just lost our trade(s) in the spring and it took a long time to find a replacement," added developer Gideon Pollock of Groupe Forum.

In a flyer pushed through the doors of

some nearby residents a couple of weeks ago, property owners Groupe Forum stated that "With all necessary permits for our project, over the next 18-20 months, we will be completing the demolition... and undertake the construction of a new six-storey building as well as the exterior landscaping....so that work can be concluded by summer 2025."

Nearby Claremont resident Frank Philpott said this was "good news. The neighbours are getting fed up." He had not known the permit meeting was taking place, he said. The legal notice appeared October 24, the day of the hearing. He said

it now appeared to explain why activity had been stalled.

During original work to convert the former century-old institutional building, it was discovered that deterioration of the fifth storey required its demolition. The work also requires removal of the back of the building for an addition.

First presented in 2016, the project has survived two SCAOPI hearings for non-conforming buildings, a referendum registry, change of interior plans and a demolition hearing (see story May 28, 2019, p. 12) before this second request for further extension of the demo permit.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

APPLAUSE FOR SHAMIE
FOR STAYING MUNICIPAL

Lest the headline linger in the minds of readers (“Disappointed with Shamie on provincial matter,” October 31, p. 4), I would say that it is beyond the role of a municipal councillor to be expected to represent a constituent in a civil dispute with a landlord or any other party. Mr. Shamie quite properly refused and indeed appears to have been very patient with the author of the letter in offering the advice that he did.

ROBERT COWLING, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

LET’S TALK MORE ABOUT
GERRYMANDERING

You October 24 issue was particularly thought provoking with your excellent guest columns.

While I was moved by my old McGill classmate Andy Dodge’s article (p. 15) on the attack on McGill by the current Quebec government, I was particularly stimulated by the column (p. 13) by Sam Alison and John Bradley about gerrymandering in Quebec, which exposes the inconvenient truth that there is no real democratic representation at the Quebec National Assembly and that the system is particularly designed to keep rural Quebec in control of the government.

In the US, issues of gerrymandering are considered regularly by the Supreme Court, yet in this country the subject is hardly mentioned.

I would hope that Messrs. Allison and Bradley will continue to aggressively publicize their very telling analysis of the electoral system in Quebec.

I have had conversations with former members of the National Assembly who described to me how representatives of rural ridings adamantly protect their privileged position when it came to voting on the redistribution of seats, yet this subject receives almost no publicity in the press.

So: all kudos to the *Independent* for publishing this column, but I hope it can be taken up by political parties, and other media.

MICHAEL PRUPAS, GRENVILLE AVE.

ALLOW 1 WOOD RESIDENTS
ACCESS TO THEIR BUILDING

This letter was sent to the Montreal police department and the city of Westmount two weeks ago without any response

Our family and our entire building at 1 Wood in Westmount have been more than inconvenienced by the demonstrations being held by Hamas supporters [in front of the Israeli consulate in Westmount Square].

During the demonstrations, we have been unable to leave or enter our building. I have just had hip replacement surgery and was forced to abandon my car and walk two blocks to get into my building through the service entrance. I then had to, in pain, return to get my car after the

demonstration was over.

During the last demonstration, the police had several cadets on bicycles allowing Hamas protesters to cut through our (private property) back parking lot to get access to Wood and de Maisonneuve.

There were also fireworks going off, which I’m sure are illegal besides the illegal protest and blaring speakers.

May I suggest that these demonstrations be held on St. Catherine St. Have the police put a couple of police cars and officers to block the entrance to Wood from St. Catherine St., leaving access to 1 Wood via de Maisonneuve. This would be immensely helpful to all the residents of the building.

We are tired of being terrorized in Westmount and appreciate the police protecting Westmount Square, but we would like our street back.

Many thanks.

P.S. The condition of the street in front of 1 Wood is an embarrassment to those of us who use it daily.

JOSEPH HECHT, WOOD AVE.

REMEMBRANCE DAY
IS NOVEMBER 11

Regarding the piece on p. 9 in the October 24 issue, I’m trying to understand why the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Westmount cenotaph is held “traditionally on the Sunday before Remembrance Day...”

I fully appreciate that the Royal Montreal Regiment needs to be involved in the downtown Montreal service on the actual day, but is there any reason why the city should not hold its *own* ceremony at the Cenotaph at 11 am on November 11 i.e., at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls? Inconvenient it may be, but then so it was for those who gave their lives which we’re commemorating.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, there will be a short ceremony at the cenotaph at 11 am on Saturday, November 11 to which anyone who is interested is invited.

WILFRID DE FREITAS, KITCHENER AVE.

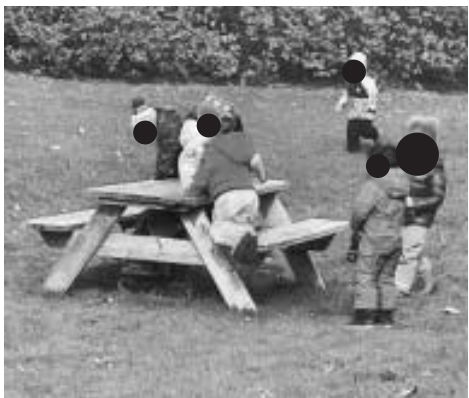
DANGEROUS PICNIC TABLES
IN WESTMOUNT PARK

I send this photo of what’s left of a picnic table, which made for a very dangerous situation and unpleasant experience that I had November 1.

A friend and I went for a walk and chose to sit at a Westmount Park picnic table.

This was what then happened as I sat down and had the table immediately collapse on me. I was frazzled and sore.

As seen the next day, children are still



using these tables, which are immediately behind the one that collapsed. The public should be warned and Public Works needs to do something to correct or remove these tables.

RICHARD DABRUSIN, WESTMOUNT SQUARE

Editor’s note: Children’s faces have been obscured by the *Independent*. – DP

Clarification:
St. Stephen’s site not frozen

In “City extends freeze on southeast development” (October 31, p. 1), we wrote that the currently dormant St. Stephen’s Church site on Dorchester at Atwater was “in the area.” While this is undoubtedly so, the site is not in the zone covered by the extended freeze, which only goes as far south as Dorchester. – DP



The St. Stephen’s site on October 20.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

Editor

David Price: 514.935.4537
editor@westmountindependent.com

Chief reporter

Laureen Sweeney

Graphics

Ted Sancton

Advertising sales

Arleen Candiotti: 514.223.3567
advertising@westmountindependent.com

Classified ads

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Accounting

Beth Hudson: 514.223.6138
office@westmountindependent.com

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David Price, editor

*

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Thank you for providing a public forum for discussion in the pages of the *Westmount Independent* and for encouraging meaningful information sharing and discussion.

The exchanges you promote foster community identity, interconnectedness, and solidarity.

As citizens, we become more aware of a plurality of opinions, lived realities and causes when we read opinion pieces, editorials and letters to the editor in the pages of our local newspaper. Such forums enhance our democracy in that they allow for civil dialogue and the healthy airing of ideas and differences.

Whether providing information on municipal politics, acting as community champions, highlighting residents who are making a difference through their community service or philanthropy, promoting local services and merchants, the journalists of the *Westmount Independent* tell stories that would otherwise remain untold and that we need to hear.

Its paper format and mail distribution are a gentle and welcome invitation to take notice, to become informed.

I consider the *Westmount Independent*

an essential part of the progressive, peaceful and welcoming city that I have lived in for the last 46 years and that I cherish.

I am grateful to you and your team, David. Keep up the excellent work.

NICOLE SALTIEL

READ *INDEPENDENT* FOR THE COLUMNS

I'm not a Westmounter, but as a bilingual anglophone, the *Independent* is the only close-by local English paper I'm familiar with. Columns such as the one by Colin Standish ("Kill McGill: The final assault on English-language education in Quebec," October 24, p. 14) are one reason why I enjoy reading this weekly paper. His ideas for promoting French are noteworthy. I voted Liberal in the last election but his party may just get my vote in the next one.

P.S. I also enjoyed reading Stephen Chin's guest poem (October 3, p. 8). I have made many changes in my lifestyle over the years but after reading his poem, I see that I can possibly make a few more.

HELEN DYLLA, VERDUN

ANOTHER APPRECIATION POEM

Read the *Westmount Independent!*
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Save it, readers,
With your stamina,
From the fate
Of the *Examiner!*

MARTY ABELL, DOWNTOWN

Draft by-laws 1605, 1606 include treatment of charging stations

Zoning by-law consultation held with little discussion

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Numerous proposed detailed changes to the city's existing zoning By-law 1303 to be amended by draft By-law 1605 were presented at a public consultation meeting October 25 at city hall. These were accompanied by related modifications to existing By-law 1305 on Site Planning and Architectural Integration Programs (SPAIP) to be amended by draft By-law 1606.

Attended by few, the meeting lasted only some 15 minutes despite the technical complexities. The zoning version 1605 would be subject to the referendum process with a proposed time of December 4 for a second draft approval leading into "winter 2024" if required.

In opening and chairing the meeting, Councillor Conrad Peart, as commissioner of urban planning, explained that both amended By-laws 1605 and 1606 were given notice of motion at the council meeting September 18. These involved "mostly fine-tuning" and updating issues of "interpretation, consistency and understanding."

The many changes appeared to mirror some of the minor exemptions that have been granted by the council over the past two years in response to porches and stairs encroaching only slightly on property lines, for example (see story August 17, 2021, p. 1). They were, however, challenging to understand without having the existing versions for comparison.

Among the changes in *continued on p. 30*

RIP Lt. H. A. Lamb (1920-1944)

Sears' found World War II diary tells of a love that was cut short

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

While out shopping at an antique market in Lachute when he was in his early twenties a few decades back, Chris Sears saw an old box that piqued his curiosity.

In it, he found a leatherbound diary with a metal clasp and lock.

With an asking price of just \$1, he purchased it, while thinking it was kind of sad that someone's personal feelings and thoughts were up for grabs at such a low cost.

As it turned out, the journal, dating from World War II, had belonged to Lieutenant H. A. Lamb, who according to a written inscription inside, was a member of the 22nd Canadian Armoured Regiment, otherwise known as the Grenadier Guards.

As he read it, Sears came to realize it told a rather sad and tragic story about a soldier who went to the European front after leaving from Camp Borden north of Toronto.

"He gave the diary to his spouse for the second year," Sears said in an interview with the *Independent*, explaining that the two mailed the volume to each other back and forth. "She wrote everything she was doing," he said.

By the third year, they had married.

However, by the fourth year, he was missing in action. Eventually, Lieutenant Lamb was reported to have been killed in combat.

What makes the journal all the more poignant is that his full name, Harry A. Lamb, can be found inscribed on memorial plaques to war veterans that have been

in place for generations in the lobby at Victoria Hall, as well as at the war cenotaph near city hall on Sherbrooke St.

The woman in question, who remarried some years after Lamb's passing, was Jean Redpath, a descendant of the family that founded Canada's first sugar refinery.

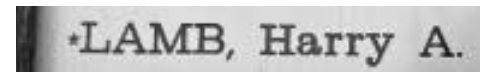
"Harry missing," states a May 30, 1944 entry, written by Redpath. "Harry reported killed in action," she continues on June 30, while adding, "May God keep his soul – I shall always love him – Here I stop this diary – The part of my life that *really* mattered is now over."

According to the online Canadian Virtual War Memorial, Lieutenant Harry Alvin Lamb died on May 24, 1944 at age 24. He was born in 1920 in London, Ontario and was the son of Thomas Charles and Doris Sabine Lamb. However, CVWM lists his military service as having been with the Calgary-based 14th Armoured Regiment.

They also confirm he was the husband of Nursing Sister Jean Mary (née Redpath) Lamb, whom he married at St. Mary Abbott's Parish at Kensington, Middlesex, England on 9 October 1943, while both were stationed overseas.

He is buried in Italy at the Cassino War Cemetery in the Commune of Cassino, Province of Frosinone, 139 kilometres south-east of Rome.

See p. 1 for photo.



Harry Lamb's name on the cenotaph, below, and in Victoria Hall, above, as seen November 3.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.



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‘125 years of collections, programs and services’
Second in WHA series leading up to city’s library celebrations

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Leading up to the 125th anniversary of the Westmount Public Library in 2024, the second presentation October 19 of three lectures from the Westmount Historical Association (WHA) explored the growth of the library’s collection and programs since its start in 1899.

Figures from the library’s first year show its first collection (printed books only at that time) grew quickly from 1,902 in 1899, attributed in part to the vision of two early strong-willed chief librarians between the years 1901 and 1962. It was during this time that a separate children’s department and reference services were added to be followed by online collections (see tables).

“The library moved with the times and technological advances,” said the first featured speaker, Peter McNally, retired McGill professor in information studies.

The early large growth, he noted, appeared to coincide with the printed book collection in the children’s department.

“The underlying message is that our success is embodied in our mission statement of providing services to the citizens,” continued chief reference librarian Mai Jay,



From left, Wendy Wayling, Peter McNally and Mai Jay.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

the second featured speaker. Jay will be marking her own service milestone of 45 years in the library next year.

First to connect to internet

Not only was the Westmount library the first public municipal library in Quebec but it continued its trend as the first in Quebec to connect to the internet in 1994, she said. After this landmark, it began to quickly offer online access to books, magazines, newspapers and numerous other features not reflected in the total numbers of printed books.

It was in 2000 that a Friends of the Library group was formed, which now holds two quality book sales a year, the pre-holiday one this year taking place Saturday and Sunday, November 18 and 19.

Numerous children’s programs

Speakers McNally and Jay were followed by children’s librarian Wendy Wayling, who traced the growth of programming in

that department, listing many of the numerous programs it provides annually. These include the story hours, homework help, TD Summer Reading Club, the Creative Writing Competition and the introduction of a special space devoted to teens and young adults. The annual Hallowe’en Extravaganza took place recently (see story October 31, p. 1).

The evening was opened by chief programming librarian Daniel Miguel de Luca, followed by the WHA’s Caroline Breslaw who co-organized the lecture series, followed by WHA president Louise Carpentier and Anne-Marie Lacombe, director the Westmount Public Library and Community Events.

The meeting attracted a total of some 60 attendees who were treated to a table of sweets and beverages set up at the back of the Westmount Room, making it busier than at previous lectures.

Table of early printed collection material 1899-1930 showing the rapid impact resulting

Yearend results 2022

Printed books	168,896
Audiovisual documents	11,924
Digital books	7,018
Children’s collection	59,009
Members	6,182
Total loans (all documents)	235,016
Digital loans	40,073
Attendance at events	8,309
Internet sessions	3,879

from the creation of the children’s collection.

Year	Adult	Children’s	Total	Members
1899	1,902		1,902	694
1905	38,414		38,414	3,586
1909	48,064		48,064	3,160
1914	40,014	18,839	58,883	6,090
1919	72,170	18,740	90,910	10,580
1930	85,374	30,955	116,329	10,000

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Ribbon cutting concludes \$28.1-million expansion at St. Léon school

By Martin C. Barry

A ribbon-cutting was held at St. Léon school on Clarke Ave. on October 27 to mark the official completion of a \$28.1-million construction and renovation project involving the addition of a new wing and the refurbishment of the main building as well as the outdoor grounds. The addition has already been in use this school year.

Among the invited dignitaries were Westmount mayor Christina Smith, Westmount-St. Louis Liberal provincial legislator Jennifer Maccarone, and Centre de services scolaire de Montréal executive-director Isabelle Gélinas.

It was the fifth enlargement the school had undergone since first being built in the first years of the 20th century.

Before the expansion, the school building had a population of 620 students, with an additional 200 sent to an annex in St. Henri. According to a CSSM press release, St. Léon's now has a total of 828 pre-school-to-grade-six students and enough space for 36 classes.

Among the new facilities are rooms dedicated to the teaching of art and music, a children's daycare, a multidisciplinary library, a multipurpose room, and a rooftop terrace with sweeping views on the third

storey of the new building.

In the school's older main building, the administration offices have been refurbished and two kindergarten classrooms have been renovated and renewed.

The gymnasium has also been renovated and student lockers, lighting and ceilings in hallways throughout the school have been replaced. New fire and intruder alarm systems, as well as new communi-

cations intercoms, have also been installed.

The CSSM says the work was carried out with a focus on maximizing energy savings. Industrial heat pumps now provide heating and air conditioning.

High-efficiency windows have been installed, along with LED lighting programmed to switch on or off with a motion detector system. Some of the older building's exterior cladding has also been upgraded to improve energy conservation.

According to school principal Éric Dion, workers excavating for the new wing in the spring of 2021 uncovered some of the original brickwork from one of the first buildings.

A small pyramid made from 45 of the bricks (each with a certifying plaque) was set up on the stage in the school gym. They were to be handed out later for safekeeping in classrooms.

Bonnie Auger, who lives on Kitchener Ave. next to the school, was among the neighbours who dropped by for the opening and a tour of the facilities.

She said that initially she and others were somewhat taken aback at the prospect of more than two years of construction work, although she felt it was for the best. "It was a lot to get something done," said Auger.



St. Léon elementary school on Clarke Ave. officially opened its new pavilion on October 27. It is located on the northwest corner of the campus, with access from Kitchener Ave.



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Pierre Mon Coiffeur marks its 65th birthday



From left, Pierre Mon Coiffeur hairstylist Manon Lavoie, salon owner Josée Asselin and hairstylist Carolina Ruano are seen here on October 25 outside the St. Catherine St. hair and beauty salon that celebrated its 65th anniversary.

By MARTIN C. BARRY

A St. Catherine St. hairdressing salon that evolved during well over a half-century into a beloved Westmount institution recently celebrated its 65th anniversary.

Located near the corner of Metcalfe Ave. and St. Catherine St., Pierre Mon Coiffeur was founded in September 1958 by the late Pierre Benoit.

The salon was one of the first commercial tenants to move into a storefront in the high-rise apartment building that had just been erected on the north side of St. Catherine between Metcalfe Ave. and Kensington Ave.

Josée Asselin has owned the salon for

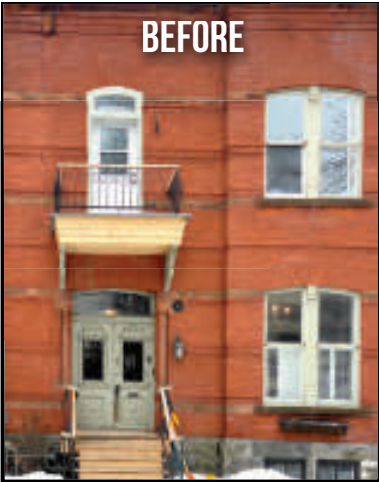
the past 38 years, although she's worked there since 1982.

A 65th anniversary celebration took place in the salon on the afternoon of September 18. More than 100 longtime customers, acquaintances and friends dropped by for refreshments and to share memories.

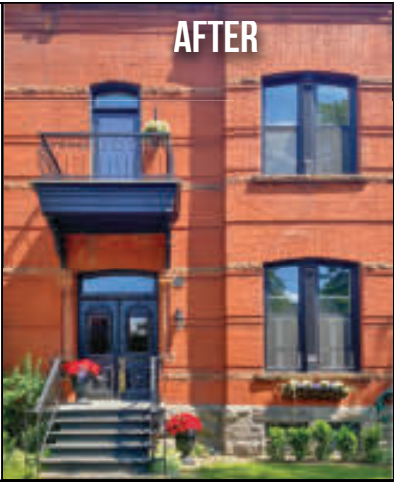
Although Pierre Benoit was on hand for the 60th anniversary five years ago, he passed away nearly three years ago, according to Asselin.

"I would like to thank everybody who kept us going during all these years – our wonderful clients, many of whom have been with us for a good number of years," added Asselin.

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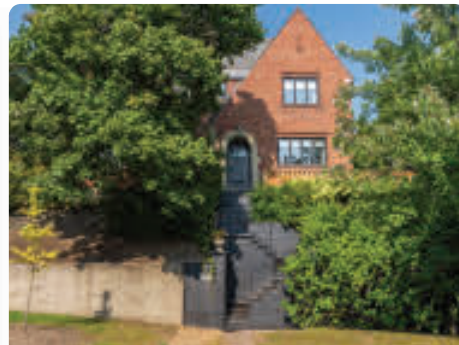
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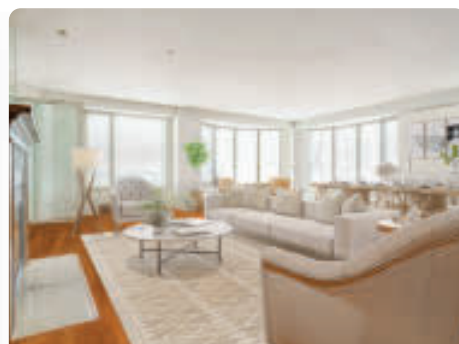


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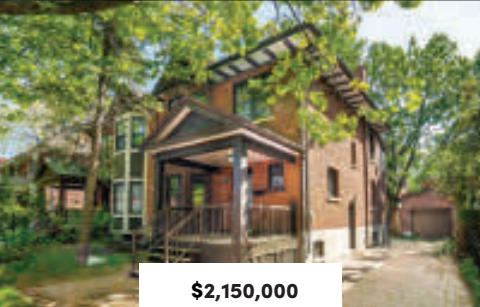
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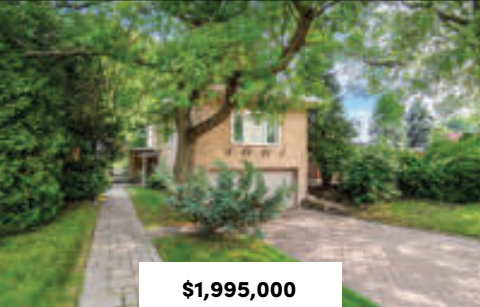
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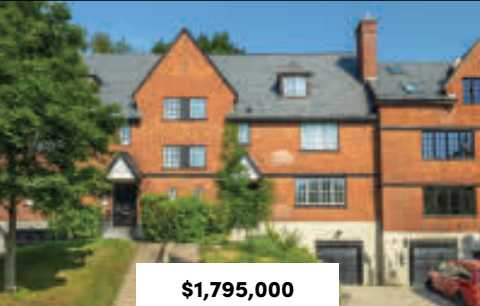
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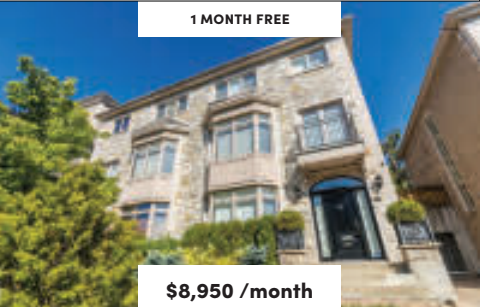


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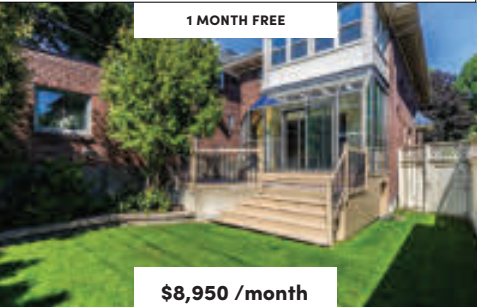


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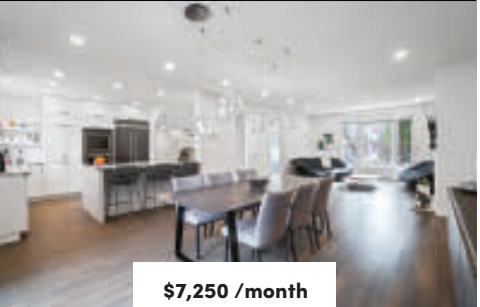
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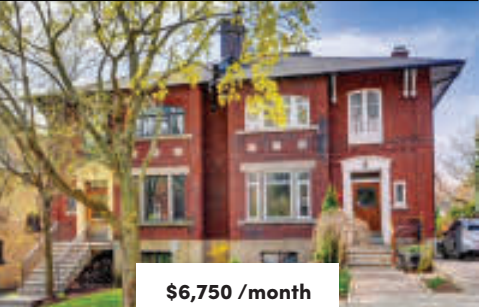
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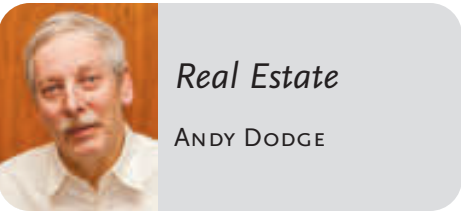
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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in May 2023, gleaned from city and non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 19.



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May transfers: A month of pairs

The month of May this year seems to have been a month of pairs in Westmount real estate, with two sales each on de Maisonneuve Blvd. and The Boulevard, two more on Lansdowne Ave. and Lansdowne Ridge, and a pair of sales on Hillside Ave., though one was a condominium apartment and the other a condominium townhouse.

Five other sales closed during the month, including three houses, another condo and a share of an undivided triplex on St. Antoine St.

In fact, one of the “singleton” houses, 599 Victoria Ave., claimed the highest price registered in the month as well as by far the highest mark-up over valuation. The house had been purchased in March 2021, for \$1,625,000 and underwent two years of renovations before selling this May for \$3,600,000, some 91 percent above the municipal valuation. One other “singleton,” at 1110 Greene Ave., marked the lowest price of the month, at \$1,375,000.

The second-lowest house price in May involved 577 Lansdowne Ave., where the price of \$1,530,000 represented a mark-down from municipal tax value of 17 percent, but even lower was the 24 percent mark-down at 15 Lansdowne Ridge, which sold for \$1,950,000 after being listed by agents for two years before it finally sold.

Overall, nine single-family dwellings sold for a total \$18,718,000 while holding a total evaluation of \$16,985,100, thus an average 10.2 percent above valuation.

The average price of \$2,079,778 is the lowest monthly average since last August, but May represents the first month this year, among registrations, that the mark-up/mark-down ratio has been positive (i.e. real estate is selling above valuation), so it might be a signal that the market will improve going into the summer.

All of the condominiums that sold in May were priced above evaluation. Included in the group is 77 Hillside Ave., one of the townhouse-condos built on the land that



15 Lansdowne Ridge.

once had hosted the Hillside Medical Centre at the corner of Metcalfe Ave. This is the first resale of any of the four townhouses, which came onto the market in 2021.

The other sale registered in May involved a 28.5-percent share of a triplex on St. Antoine St., which brought the lowest price on the sales list, \$367,500.



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4832 de Maisonneuve	Luc Bedard & Manon Lalancette	\$2,025,000	\$1,662,100	21.8%
1110 Greene	Bruno Marchildon & Aimée Bouzaglou	\$1,375,000	\$1,297,400	6.0%
577 Lansdowne	Mohammadreza Sadri	\$1,530,000	\$1,845,600	-17.1%
15 Lansdowne Ridge	Astrid Coulombe	\$1,950,000	\$2,565,000	-24.0%
24 Somerville	Maryse Sauvé & David Gilmour	\$2,300,000	\$1,813,000	26.9%
3230 The Boulevard	Oana-Maria Simien Niocolescu	\$1,693,000	\$1,664,300	1.7%
3773 The Boulevard	Jie Pan	\$2,580,000	\$2,538,700	1.6%
599 Victoria	Kassandra Lazanis & Jeremy Laufer	\$3,600,000	\$1,882,500	91.2%
CONDOMINIUMS				
11 Hillside #212	Robert William Ross & Sannifer Shun Ying Louie	\$655,000	\$623,200	5.1%
77 Hillside	Gil Corber	\$2,175,000	\$1,883,800 ¹	15.5%
4700 St. Catherine #706	estate Richard George Esber	\$1,175,000	\$1,156,000	1.6%
OTHER				
3459-63 St. Antoine, 28.5%	Jennifer Baiera	\$367,500	\$345,933 ²	6.2%

¹Valuation is a combination of \$1,784,300 for the townhouse, \$99,500 for the two garage spaces.

²Valuation is 28.5 percent of \$1,213,800.

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Left photo, students at Selwyn House were amazed by the transformation of their dining hall into Hogwarts'. Right photo, from left, Keren Roberts, Wendy Wayling, Brett Purmal (in back), Brooke Bastien, Maerrin Dionne and Zoe Morin; front: Amber and Callie Purmal. The Purmals, including Sienna (not present), won the Westmount Public Library's pumpkin-decorating contest in the family category. For a list of all the winners, see October 31, p. 20.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SELWYN HOUSE AND LINA SAMOUKOVA/WESTMOUNT PUBLIC LIBRARY.



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Police Report

Two cars and a house broken into

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Although two vehicles and a house were broken into last week in Westmount, the perpetrators left empty-handed in two out of the three incidents.

In the first incident, around 1:40 am on October 29, two suspects were seen in later camera footage going from car to car on Thornhill Ave. a block north of Côte St. Antoine Rd. attempting to open the doors.

As luck had it, they came upon a car that was open. “But they didn’t steal anything because there was nothing valuable inside,” said Cst. Mike Yigit, Station 12’s community relations officer.

He said access to the images, recorded by a nearby security system, was granted to police investigators, who will be analyzing them before deciding on further action.

There was another car break-in last week, this time during the night from October 31 to November 1. The owner reported parking the vehicle on Summit Circle around 11 pm, only to find it missing at 7 am the next day.

Passports stolen from car

However, the suspects stole three pass-

ports they found in the car. According to Cst. Yigit, the police follow a special protocol when dealing with the theft of sensitive personal documents like these.

“Normally what happens is that when they report this to us, we cancel the passports so that they’re no longer valid,” he said, noting that the police immediately notify federal government authorities.

House break-in

Finally, one household break-in was reported last week.

Around 9:30 pm on October 31, the owners of a house on Rosemount Ave. near the corner of Sherbrooke St. received a smartphone notification from their home alarm system that an intrusion was under way.

According to the incident report, the couple returned to the house where they found a side window had been forced open. As well, it was evident that someone had been inside, although they concluded that nothing had been stolen.

Cst. Yigit speculated that the sound of the alarm after it was triggered may have frightened the perpetrators enough to leave before the owners or police turned up.



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infoWESTMOUNT

2023.11.07 • Vol. 4/20
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Published by the City of Westmount

NOUVELLES

PROCHAINE SÉANCE
DU CONSEIL
Lundi 20 novembre

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING
Monday, November 20



Retard dans la collecte de résidus de jardin
En raison de la quantité de matières à ramasser, des retards sont à prévoir. Veuillez laisser vos résidus en bordure de rue ; ils seront ramassés dès que possible. westmount.org/residusverts



Delays to the garden waste collection
Due to the quantity of materials, there are delays in the collection. Please leave your materials at the curbside. They will be picked up as soon as possible. westmount.org/greenwaste

Maintenance planifiée sur le réseau informatique de la Ville
Une maintenance causera des interruptions de certains services informatiques de la Ville **le 18 novembre**. Les services de réservation et les connexions internet, entre autres, peuvent être affectés. Visitez westmount.org / westlib.org pour en savoir plus.

Exposition de fleurs d'automne au Conservatoire de Westmount
Venez voir la composition de chrysanthèmes et d'autres fleurs de la saison jusqu'à la fin du mois.

Montréal — consultation publique sur la sécurisation aux abords des écoles
La Commission sur le transport et les travaux publics souhaite consulter la population montréalaise sur la sécurisation aux abords des écoles primaires et secondaires et les déplacements actifs. Pour participer, visitez realisonsmtl.ca/cheminecole.

Sports et loisirs — entraîneurs recherchés
Aucune expérience nécessaire. Formation et certification payée. 3 h par semaine. Envoyez un message à recreation@westmount.org.

Planned maintenance on the City's computer network
Scheduled maintenance will interrupt certain computer services at the City on **November 18**. Reservation services, internet connections, and some other services may be affected. Find out more by visiting westmount.org / westlib.org.

Fall flower show at the Westmount Conservatory
Enjoy the display of chrysanthemums and other seasonal flowers until the end of the month.

Montréal — public consultation on safety for school zones
The *Commission sur le transport et les travaux publics* would like to consult Montrealers on safety measures for primary and secondary school zones and active mobility. To participate, visit makingmtl.ca/waytoschool.

Sports & Recreation — coaches needed
No experience necessary. Training and certification offered. 3 hours per week. Send a message to recreation@westmount.org.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Services informatiques de la Bibliothèque affectés par la maintenance du réseau
Les services suivants ne seront pas disponibles le **samedi 18 novembre** : site web, prêts, comptes des clients, téléphones, WiFi, livres numériques, etc. Infos : westmount.org / westlib.org.

Galerie du Victoria Hall : exposition
Jusqu'au 13 novembre. Les photographies du Dr Léopold Hurtubise.

Conférence musicale — Craig Morrison on the Music of Remembrance Day
Mercredi 8 novembre, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Une exploration de chansons qui traitent des legs de la guerre. Inscrivez-vous à westmount.org.

Lecture spéciale avec Mitali Banerjee Ruths (6 à 12 ans)
Judi 9 novembre, 16 h, Victoria Hall. Rencontrez l'auteure pour une lecture du livre *Archie Celebrates Diwali*. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Artisans Westmount
Samedi et dimanche 11 et 12 novembre, 10 h 30 à 17 h, Victoria Hall. Un incontournable !



Vente des livres des Amis de la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount
Samedi et dimanche 18 et 19 novembre, 10 h à 16 h, Victoria Hall. Trouvez des livres d'occasion de qualité à des prix intéressants.

Conférence — Treasures of the Westmount Public Library's Archives
Judi 23 novembre, 19 h, Bibiothèque. En anglais. Avec Lora Baiocco, bibliothécaire, services en ligne et archives. Inscrivez-vous à westlib.org.

Collecte de sang Héma-Québec
Mercredi 29 novembre, par rendez-vous, Victoria Hall. Posez un geste pour la vie : donnez du sang. Prenez rendez-vous au 1 800 343-7264 ou à hema-quebec.qc.ca.

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Library computer services affected by network maintenance
The following services will not be available on **Saturday, November 18**: website, loans, client accounts, telephones, WiFi, eBooks, etc. For details, visit westmount.org / westlib.org.

Gallery at Victoria Hall: exhibition
Until November 13. The photograph of Dr. Léopold Hurtubise.

Musical lecture — Craig Morrison on the Music of Remembrance Day
Wednesday, November 8, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. An exploration of songs that express the legacies of war. Register at westmount.org.

Special reading with Mitali Banerjee Ruths (6 to 12 yr olds)
Thursday, November 9, 4 p.m., Victoria Hall. Join the author for a reading of *Archie Celebrates Diwali*. Register at westlib.org.

Artisans Westmount
Saturday & Sunday, November 11 & 12, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Victoria Hall. Not to be missed!



Friends of the Westmount Public Library Book Sale
Saturday & Sunday, November 18 & 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Victoria Hall. Find quality used books at great prices.

Lecture — Treasures of the Westmount Public Library's Archives
Thursday, November 23, 7 p.m., Library. With Lora Baiocco, Online Services and Archives Librarian. Register at westlib.org.

Héma-Québec Blood Drive
Wednesday, November 29, by appointment, Victoria Hall. Make a vital gesture for life: donate blood. To reserve your place, phone 1 800 343-7264 or visit hema-quebec.qc.ca.



Shaar's choir supports Magen David Adom at Shaare

By JENNIFER BALL

Cantor Gideon Zelermyer of Westmount's Shaar Hasomayim believes that despite the fact that Israel and Hamas are now gripped in a war, the Jewish *aish tamid* or eternal flame still symbolizes the eternal hope and the eternal resolve of the Jewish community.

On October 26, there was a concert to raise money to support the Canadian division of Magen David Adom (CMDA). The event was held at the Shaare Zion Beth-Eli congregation at 5575 Côte St. Luc Rd. just west of Decarie and proceeds were going to go towards purchasing paramedic life-saving equipment such as defibrillators, emergency suction pumps, emergency respiratory pumps and, for those with deeper pockets, an ambulance.

Zelermyer was on site with Westmount's Shaar Hashomayim choir. The Shaar is located on the corner of Côte St. Antoine and Kensington Ave. in Westmount.

"We have all seen what is happening in our own city," he said. "We are all online and we all see the hate. I would like to draw



Cantor Gideon Zelermyer.



From left: event organizers Milena Kartowski-Aiach, Stephanie Finkelstein and David Peterman.

everyone's attention to the light right above the arc – the *aish tamid*, the eternal flame, symbolizing the eternity of Jewish people, the eternity of our hope, the eternity of our state of Israel, the eternity of our resolve. That is what the *aish tamid* is. We will shine forever."

The event was organized quickly after the attack on Israel by Hamas on October 7 and was very well attended.

Stephanie Finkelstein, Milena Kartowski-Aiach and David Peterman were the planners.

Peterman said: "I wish we did not have to do this, but on October 7, a day that will be forever be etched in our collective memory, Israel and the Jewish people witnessed the biggest loss of life since the Holocaust and worst of all on October 7, the world was silent..."

"Yes, there were those that spoke out and, from the depths of our hearts, know that we appreciate you."

The incoming president of CMDA is Arlene Madir Abitan and she was in attendance.

Since 1976, CMDA has been the sole authorized fundraising organization in Canada dedicated to supplying ambulances, medical equipment, supplies and

blood-testing kits to support the life saving efforts of Magen David Adom (MDA) in Israel.

With its head of operations in Montreal and supporting chapters across the country, CMDA's commitment to this cause runs deep with over 14,000 highly trained volunteers and a permanent staff of full-time professionals.

Abitan said that "MDA is Israel's first



Arlene Madir Abitan, the incoming president of CMDA.

response to emergency: disaster, terrorist attack, and the one to provide ambulance services...

"MDA works on the front lines with the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) and has always been very special to Israel and now in time of war, even more so. They were the first one to get the call when the atrocities were committed and they then relayed these atrocities to the IDF."

Musical performances included Adam Tal, students of the Solomon Schechter academy and Tevet Sela.

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Part 1 of 2: Sorting

Visit to Lachine recycling facility ‘sells’ out



BY RALPH THOMPSON

Westmount Public Works organized a visit to the sorting facility that handles Westmount’s blue box material October 23.

The visit generated a lot of interest, but the number of visitors to the centre is limited to groups of 40, according to Julie Lagiorgia, environment technician. The city had to turn away some applicants but is considering a second visit.

Westmount is responsible for recycling pick-up and the Montreal agglomeration (i.e. Montreal plus the 15 demerged cities)

manages the rest. The sorting facility in Lachine is owned by the city of Montreal. It started operations in 2019 and incorporates some high-tech equipment.

The operations have been managed by Société VIA since October 2022. It is a not-for-profit entity that employs a significant number of people with disabilities. Neither Montreal nor VIA were able to disclose the operating budget, simply saying it varies with the sale of sorted material.

15-20 percent to landfill

VIA has 150 employees at the Lachine operation working two shifts and handling

As a truck disgorges its load of recycling at the start of sorting, rejected waste (foreground) piles up, ready to be taken to landfill.

around 300 tons (40 to 80 trucks) of material daily. However, 15 percent to 20 percent of that eventually goes to landfill.

Société VIA sorts and separates the waste in a large, completely enclosed building. Once sorted, VIA then contracts with other companies that specialize in processing either glass, cardboard, paper, metal or rigid plastic material.

Soft plastics not recycled

Soft plastics are not easily handled according to VIA so sadly all plastic bags including the blue recycling bags end up in landfill.

Coincidentally, one Westmounter amongst the visiting group has a company that uses 20-percent recycled soft plastic in the manufacture of bags he makes for the food industry. He can only use food-quality recycled plastic in his manufacturing process and would like to see this available locally. VIA commented that sadly industries don’t communicate well and could do a better job.

VIA clarified that the demand, and hence the value of specific recycled materials, changes significantly with time. At one point, some sorted material had no value, but recently the number of buyers has picked up.

Awareness is evolving and new companies are emerging in Quebec to process these products. Recent TV documentaries and news about dirty material being rejected by China are misleading, said VIA

representative Maime Moisan. This was one errant company, according to her.

Presently, most of VIA’s output is sent to companies locally, mainly in Quebec, but 80 percent of mixed paper is exported to India and 20 percent is processed in Quebec and 100 percent of other materials are processed in Quebec, Ontario or the USA. This includes plastics, metal, glass, cardboard and the remaining 20 percent of mixed paper.

Nespresso drinkers will be pleased to know their green bags of spent capsules are separated and marked for recycling.

Clean material helps workers

Although clean material is preferred, soiled paper, glass and plastic are not a problem for the buyers. Unfortunately, dirty material makes it unpleasant for the workers who are manually sorting the material and are already coping with a dusty, noisy working environment.

Visitors were asked not to photograph the staff, but the initial part of the multi-layered sorting process involves people standing beside a fast-moving conveyer belt, snatching metal, glass, plastic or unacceptable items, and dropping them into the appropriate chute to other conveyer belts flying along on the floor below.

Wet material is an issue

Wet material does pose a problem for the sorting process because material gets stuck together, especially in winter, and is



A contractor deposits a load of recyclable waste, which will be quickly swept up onto conveyer belts to start the sorting process.

Discovered as 'junk' was being tossed

Hurtubise photographs capture late 19th Westmount, Montreal

By JENNIFER BALL

Portraits of the ascending French Canadian middle class of the late 19th century, in their bonnets and waistcoats, can be viewed currently at the Gallery at Victoria Hall.

Hurtubise House, located at 561 Côte St. Antoine Rd. on the corner of Victoria Ave., is the oldest house in the city of Westmount. Six generations of the Hurtubise family lived in the house and the very last of the homeowners – who never married nor sired children – died in 1955.

He was Dr. Léopold Hurtubise and as a young man he bought his “Premo” folding box camera that captured the images that bedeck the walls of the gallery. It is also on display.

Over a century later, the Canadian Heritage of Quebec (CHQ) still had roughly 300 glass negatives he produced with it, although “only 210 were serviceable,” Pierre Albert Sevigny said about the trove.

Sevigny is a journalist and Hurtubise House collaborator who curated the exhibition. He was on site on October 20 to give the *Independent* a tour.

The fountainhead was the discovery of



The poster for the Dr. Léopold Hurtubise's photographs.

glass plate negatives in 2019. Sevigny and others had been corralled by the executive director of the CHQ, Jacques Archambault, to sort and clear out some items at the Hurtubise House property.

“It was junk,” Sevigny appraised. “...so crash, bang, boom things are getting thrown down, and everybody’s having a good time, and then we noticed a box – one that was

very carefully put away under the eaves, so that it was secure and safe from rain...

“Basically, I picked it up and it was heavy...and my antenna went up. Wow, something’s going on here, so we pulled it out and opened it up, and immediately saw it was glass plate negatives. I knew they were from 1880 but before 1900, before [glass plate negatives were phased out as a medium] and I saw right away that there was huge potential.”

The collection was digitized so they have positive copies and by doing that they will be around for longer. “We saved them,” Sevigny adjudged.

To be able to select 32 photos from 210 for the special exhibition, Sevigny said the work must “speak to you. If there is a conversation, I’m listening and that was the bottom line from a curatorial perspective.

“One thing that you do see is a consistent and cohesive family, and much can be said about the multitudes of French-Canadian families and anglo families, because we are all immigrants.”

The subject of the photos includes traditional holiday photos, scenes of Montreal, as well as the desolation that followed the 1901 fire at the Chamber of Commerce.

The entire Hurtubise archive – of which these photographs are but a part – documents the history of a property under single-family ownership for 260 years.

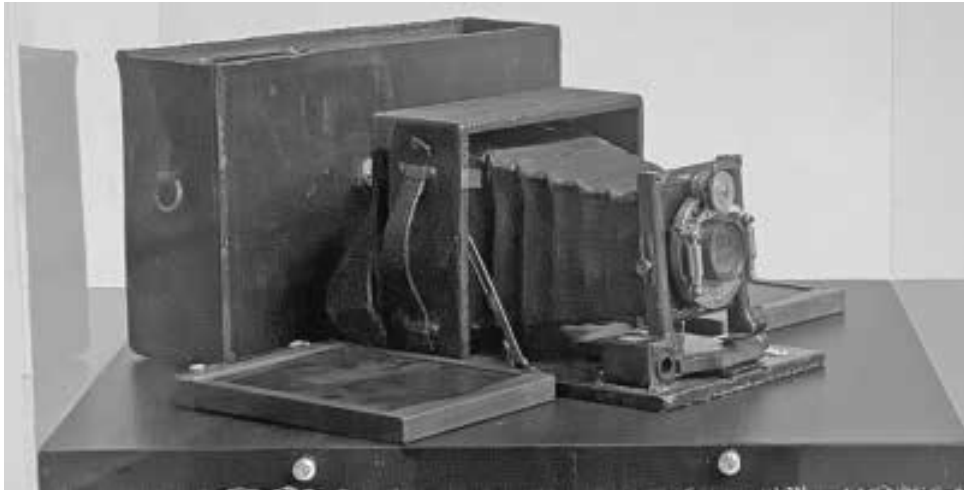
Following Louis Hurtubise, who first acquired the family’s land from the Sulpicians back in 1699, successive generations continued to work the property that would become a large part of the city of Westmount.

The house itself dates to 1739 and Louis’ son Jean.

The exhibit runs until November 13.

◀ Dr. Léopold Hurtubise’s “Premo” folding box camera.

▶ A man in bowler hat.
All photos taken October 24.



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The shelter is open every day as of 10 am and it is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West in Côte des Neiges, H4P 1X4. Please bring a carrier for Sassy or you can choose one from the selection at the accessories boutique onsite.

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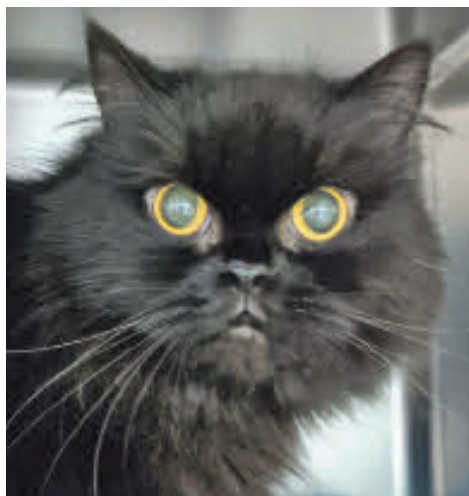


9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Quite the stunner, Miss Sassy. She is a beautiful black domestic longhair with incredible gold-tone eyes.

She is presently at the Montreal SPCA cattery, waiting for caring hearts to take her home as soon as possible. The SPCA is full, very full, of cats and kittens in need, and it would be wonderful if Sassy could have a home with a family in our neighbourhood.





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Protruding rebar on this Grosvenor-above-Sherbrooke sidewalk has been covered with asphalt since it was photographed August 29 (inset), as seen November 1.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.



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Remembering Bruce Stavert, ‘Westmount’s archbishop’



City Views

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Former Westmounter Archbishop Alexander Bruce Stavert passed away this September.

For 20 years, he served as the Anglican Church of Canada’s Quebec diocese bishop. Stavert also served as chaplain at Bishop’s University and Trinity College, and as dean and rector of St. Alban’s Cathedral, Prince Albert, in the Diocese of Saskatchewan. From 2004-2009, he served as the twenty-first Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada.

On a regular summer basis, he was associated with the Anglican church in Murray Bay.

Archbishop Stavert was renowned for his commitment to ecumenical relations, and his long-standing friendship with the Naskapi nation of Kawawachikamach, where he served as a newly ordained priest in the 1960s.

There, he was a much-loved member of the community, helping children with



their homework and giving them a lift in his yellow Volkswagen Beetle if they missed the bus.

The archbishop had a fun side and his friends greatly enjoyed his sense of humour. Along with his intellectual aptitude, he loved skiing – both downhill and cross-country – and sailing.

During his retirement in Hudson, he still continued to be active in the ministry, often assisting bishops and acting as honorary assistant at his childhood home church of St. Matthias in Westmount, where he was baptized and confirmed.

His celebration of life service was held at St. Matthias on October 28. Funeral services were held at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Quebec City on September 30.

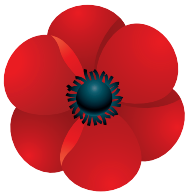
Stavert is survived by his wife Diana, their children Kathleen (Gabriel), Rosamond (Michael) and Timothy, and their grandchildren Miakim and Hendrick.

◀Archbishop Alexander Bruce Stavert, photo taken at book signing on the 150th anniversary of the Anglican church in Murray Bay, Charlevoix.

Mea Culpa

The caption on p. 14 of last week’s column should have read: Muneeb Khalid and Karen McCurry. Apologies! – VR.

Remembrance Day is Saturday, November 11th



For those who believe that Remembrance Day should be observed at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, there will be an unofficial gathering at 11 a.m. at the Westmount Cenotaph on Saturday, November 11th. All are welcome.

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Business impact of protests at Israeli consulate ‘equivalent to pandemic’

BY JENNIFER BALL

The Montreal police is concerned with public safety and has recently locked down Westmount Square to pedestrians and vehicles in advance of and during protests over the war between Israel and Hamas. These actions have impacted local restaurateurs in ways that echo COVID lockdowns, they say.

The surprise attack on Israel by Hamas on October 7 has had a ripple effect some 5,500 miles away, as protestors on both sides of the war have gathered at the Israeli consulate, located at 1 Westmount Sq. on the corner of Wood Ave. and St. Catherine St., to broadcast their messages (see October 17, p. 8 & 9). To the *Independent’s* knowledge, there have been several pro-Palestine protests and one pro-Israel one since October 7.

Anthony Gentile, the owner of Café Gentile Westmount and Gentile pizza parlour on St. Catherine St. east of Greene, said, “The bottom line is, is that it’s crazy what’s happening and it’s sad for both sides. At the end of the day, it is having a big effect on our businesses...

“If we start the night, let’s say with ‘X’

number of reservations, we are going to have at least 30 to 40 cancellations.”

Gentile said his take-out business cannot operate either on the days of the protests: “Drivers cannot get to the restaurant to pick up the food because the roads are blocked...

“So that really puts a dampener on our take-out business as well. The customer at home is getting their order much later because the driver cannot get in or get out at an efficient time.”

A restaurateur – whose establishment is not far from where protestors fill the crossing of St. Catherine St. and Wood Ave. and who preferred to remain anonymous – said, “I would say it would be equivalent to the pandemic, where you are operating your business with the same amount of effort, but with a higher amount of stress...

“It is a continuation of the emotions we’ve had over the past four years, in terms of financials. You’re losing almost six figures every time there’s a big protest, due to a high number of cancellations.”

Sebastien and Santiago Torres are brothers and co-owners of Hogar Mexican Steakhouse, which is located near the corner of Gladstone Ave. and St. Catherine St. They opened June 6.

City lawyer, cont’d from p. 1

Sauvé and IMK,” Mayor Smith said. As a result, much of this work is also left to the city’s director general, Julie Mandeville as “substitute city clerk.”

The role of city clerk/director of legal services, is listed on the city’s website as paying a salary of \$123,793 to \$154,741. A vital component of the city’s operation, numerous responsibilities include the preparation of council meetings, legal opinions, protection of city archives and documents, and work as secretary of the corporation as well as that of a returning officer during an election.

They said they grew up in a restaurant and that it is a family affair. But making a favourable impression on clients with their lunch and their dinner service is top of mind as they try to grow their business. Making a great impression has been harder due to recent tensions.

Sebastien said, “If people cannot reach us, if they cannot come in, we cannot do business. We just suffer the consequences of the lockdown.”

Santiago said, “In this industry, we need to be prepared for anything. We do not know if we are going to have 100 clients on any given night or 20, so we have to prepare for the worst and the best...

“Obviously, we are in a prime location in the city so we are paying a high rent. We need to explode every single day and be profitable. When we get zero notice that something is happening [it is a problem].”

Sebastien said the only time they were notified by the police was for a night protest for Saturday, October 28. “They did let us know and we did prepare. Nobody came. There was no protest.”

Zoning by-law, cont’d from p. 9

zoning By-law 1605 were those regarding pools, temporary signage, indoor floor areas and vegetated surfaces around driveways as well as charging stations for electrical vehicles that could prove especially problematical to residents of many smaller properties.

The relatively brief meeting resulted in part because the presentation was unusually presented in French only without a usual accompanying English translation especially given the technical complexities.

It was announced at the start of the meeting, however, that an English version would be presented on the city’s website the next day though this could not be easily found for yet another. The link is: westmount.org/en/public-consultation-on-draft-by-laws-1605-and-1606/.



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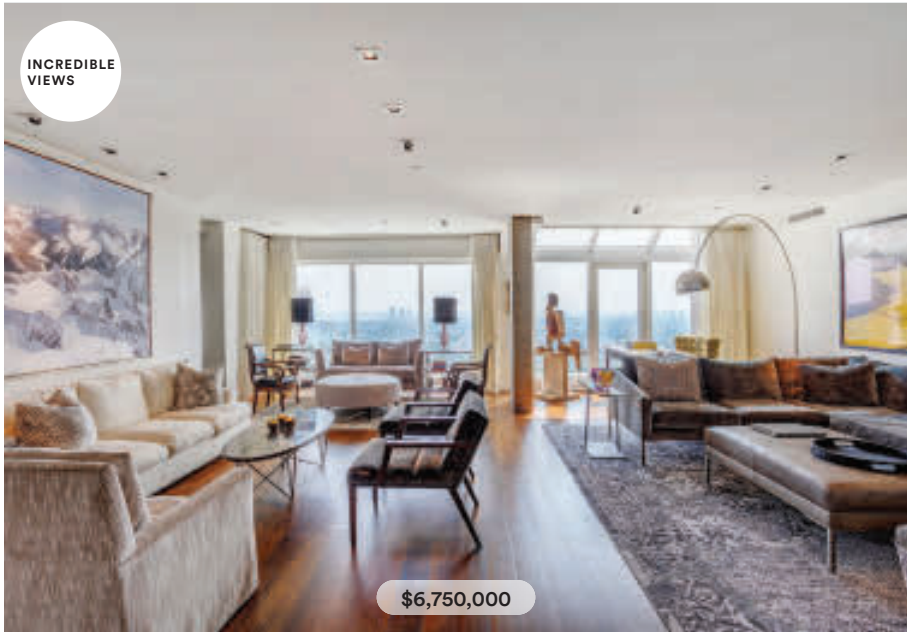
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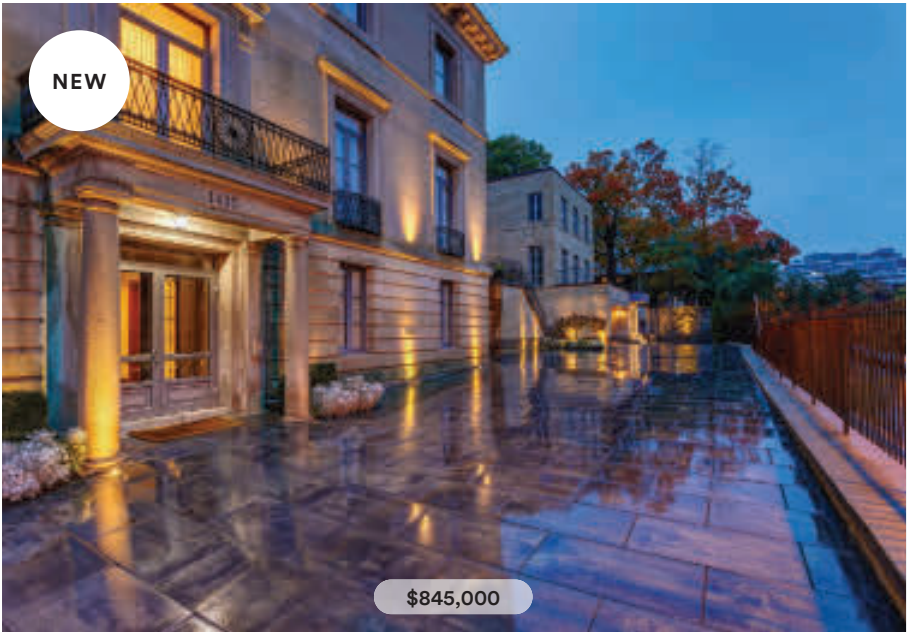
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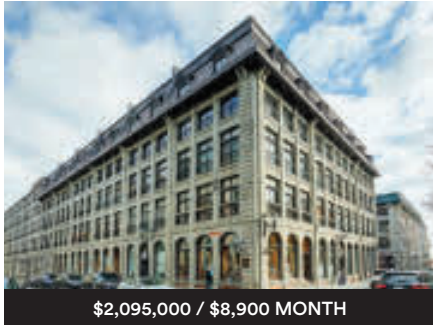
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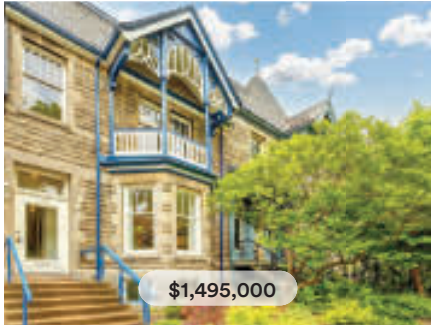
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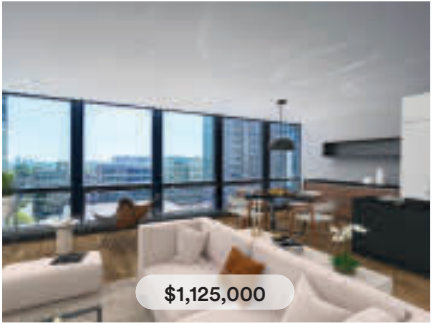
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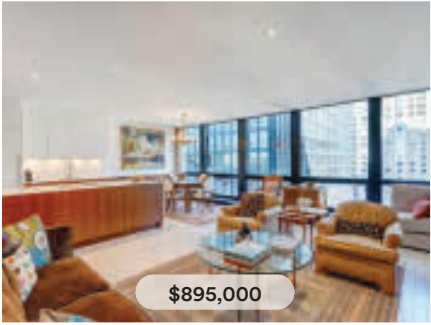
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