

With one year remaining...

Negotiations continue over RMR's 99-year lease of land

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

With the advent of 2023, the future of the Royal Montreal Regiment at its St. Catherine St. headquarters remains unknown.

Only one more year remains in Westmount's 99-year lease of land for the Royal Montreal Regiment's armoury at 4625 St. Catherine, built in 1925 with seed money from private funding raised by the Westmount Armoury Association. This is now known as the RMR Foundation (WAMA).

Negotiations regarding the lease have been ongoing for some years between the city's Legal Services department and the Department of National Defence, according to Denis Ferland, the city's Legal Services director. The lease expires August 28,

2024, he confirmed last week.

"We certainly want to keep the regiment in Westmount," explained Mayor Christina Smith.

Westmounter David Bensadoun, the regiment's honorary colonel and president of the RMR Foundation, told the *Independent* last week that "we hope the parties can come to an agreement and that a good deal can be done in the next few months for the citizens of Westmount and the RMR."

Unique in Canada

The regiment, born in 1914 of three militia units to serve in World War I, is considered unique in Canada, he explained.

Not only was it the first unit to be deemed bilingual, but its armoury originated from *continued on p. 7*

Mandeville named city's new DG



Julie Mandeville – centre, in black jacket – is back. City council hired her as Westmount's first female director general on January 27. Before her departure in July, she was Westmount's treasurer, finance director and assistant DG. She is joined with, from left, councillors Elisabeth Roux, Jeff Shamie and Conrad Peart, Mayor Christina Smith, and councillors Anitra Bostock, Mary Gallery and Matt Aronson. See story on p. 5.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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Survey results on temporary public spaces/summer terraces

'Parklets' to return this summer, but with changes on Greene

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Feedback from a public consultation survey on the city's summertime public spaces on Greene, de Maisonneuve and in the Victoria village concluded that the general public was "generally satisfied" and that, in total, eight out of 10 hope to see the public spaces return in 2023.

These areas are also called "parklets"

and "summer terraces."

Availability of parking, however, generated dissatisfied results in all three areas and merchants, for the most part in the Greene Ave. area, were unsatisfied and were "unfavourable" to the return of the public spaces this summer.

The public spaces include deck-like structures where street parking usually is, on- *continued on p. 18*

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Our galleries in Montreal and Toronto continued to serve an ever-growing list of clients. Quality and fair value are our core principles. Each and every painting offered for sale is selected and vetted by our family and made available for sale at a fair price.

With the support of our outstanding teams in Montreal and Toronto, Yasmeen, Marie-Lou, Marissa and Thi, our family transacted the largest number of works we have ever sold, even surpassing the previous year and record. The increase in the number of works and clients we attribute to our experienced team, continued investments in our digital outreach, as well as the unsurpassed level of transparency we offer to buyers and sellers. To our knowledge, we are the only gallery in Canada specializing in historical, classic Canadian works of art displaying the price of every available work on our wall and website. An increasing number of sellers and buyers enjoy the simplicity of our sale process.

2023 promises to be yet another exciting year for our small family

business. Rarely can we anticipate the fine works we will make available and when. We look forward to sharing those surprises with our clients at the appropriate time. In the interim, our family and team continue to work on a number of important projects, including a visual inventory of paintings in oil by Fred Taylor, a sequel to our sold out publication John Little: City Life, and a series of blog posts addressing issues of authenticity and art fraud.

We take this opportunity to remind you of our appraisal services. We regularly conduct written appraisals for insurance or family planning purposes. If you are considering the sale of your fine art, we invite you to contact us for an overview of our private sale approach. Obtaining a verbal selling estimate is always complimentary.

We continue to wish our readers good health and we look forward to being of service to you this year.



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Wanted on many warrants**PSOs catch, detain methadone-smoking prowler**

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

A man was spotted around the city's Public Works garages by a night watchman January 20 at 9:09 pm, Public Security officials said. This is a restricted area after business hours and public safety officers were called.

When they arrived, they followed his footprints in the snow as he made his way down the wooded slope and tried to jump a fence into a protected area of Hydro Westmount not accessible to the public.

He was detained by other responding

officers on Glen Rd. as he smoked a methadone pipe. Police were called and arrested the man identified as a 31-year-old resident of Park Ave.

Described as wanted on "multiple" warrants, he was issued a Westmount ticket for \$180 for prowling.

Car slides into light pole on Rosemount Cresc.

A car slipped into a traffic light pole on the slope of Rosemount Crescent and Rosemount Ave. January 25, Public Security officials said. The impact knocked over the pole, requiring a tow truck to remove the car. Its air bags were deployed but no injuries were reported.

The driver, a 21-year-old local resident, and her father were on the scene. Hydro Westmount also arrived to cut the wires and Public Works picked up the pole.

Unleashed dog walks far ahead, owner ticketed

A Westmount dog owner was issued a ticket for walking his dog off leash January 21 when spotted on the sidewalk in front of 407 Roslyn at 12:25 pm, Public Security officials said. The man was described as having the leash wound around his wrist while the dog ran 30 to 40 feet ahead.

A photo was taken and the man was ticketed \$230. He was described as a previous offender and was warned to renew the dog licence for the coming year.

Snow contractors checked for permits

Two snow removal contractors on Roslyn were warned January 20 to get working permits after none were found on their trucks or in city records. Public Security officials said they were specifically warned to get one as a crackdown continues into February.

Lots of snow, few complaints

Despite the last couple of snowy weeks, Public Security officials said they had not received many complaints about snow blocking sidewalks. "There has been a lot of snow," said Public Security director Greg McBain. "The piles are so high there is nowhere to put it." Contractors responsible for clearing driveways have to be caught in the act of plowing onto the public domain, he added.

Table of Contents

Letters, p. 6

Pet page, p. 18

Police Report, p. 20

Social Notes:
Ilios/Hellenic

Ladies ball, p. 21



infoWestmount, p. 14

More cyberattack news

BY JENNIFER BALL

More information was released last week on the cyberattack against the city of Westmount by the Communications team closest to the on-going criminal investigation.

The hacker group claiming to be behind the breach is Lockbit. It boasted last November that it had gained access to 14 terabytes of data and demanded a ransom to be paid, otherwise the files would be published within two weeks. (See *Independent*, January 24, p. 5.)

While those two weeks expired in 2022, the threat appears to still be viable. A spokesman for the city, Mugisha Rutishisha, the division chief of the communication department, indicated on January 23 that "the group responsible for the cyberattack is threatening to publish the data they say they have in their possession.

"At this time, we have no information to suggest that the data has been published. Should this be the case, the city will act according to best practices and data protection laws."

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City, Bell: Let's talk about mental health



Mayor Christina Smith raises the flag for Bell Let's Talk day, supported by Bell representative José Tiburcio (to the left) and Dave Lapointe, the city's Sports and Recreation director, who is extending the flag. PHOTO & STORY: RALPH THOMPSON.

January 25 was "Bell Let's Talk" day in support of mental health. Mayor Christina Smith and Bell Canada representative José Tiburcio raised a flag outside city hall at 10:30 am as part of Bell and the city's campaign for mental health awareness. "We've been through a lot in the past few years," said Mayor Smith. "We all know someone who has been touched by mental health issues - our friends, kids, ourselves - so it's really important that we as a city highlight this day."

Smith mentioned the challenges faced by staff and those involved around and close to Westmount including Contactivity, the YMCA, the Douglas Hospital, police, fire services and the city's Public Safety department. Tiburcio thanked the city for raising the flag and said that Bell has been supporting the cause of mental health in Quebec and Canada for 13 years. Council members in attendance included Elisabeth Roux, Jeff Sharmie, Anitra Bostock, Mary Gallery and Kathleen Kez.

Tiburcio told the *Independent* later: "We kicked off the new year by committing an additional \$10 million and are proud to spotlight 30 organizations creating positive change for mental health. These are just a few of the over 1,400 mental health partners we are proud to have supported since 2010."

Specifically in Westmount, Bell has donated a small amount to the Batshaw Centre in the past. Full details are available at letstalk.bell.ca.

New Day Camp Opening Summer 2023!



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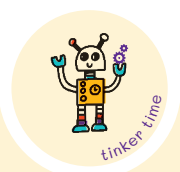
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City names Mandeville its first female director general

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Mayor Christina Smith and city council announced the nomination for the new director general for the city of Westmount at an extraordinary public meeting the afternoon of Friday, January 27 in the council chamber at city hall. Council voted unanimously in support of the nomination of Julie Mandeville, who will formally take up her position February 20.

Mandeville is well known to Westmounters and staff as the former director of finance and treasurer, and assistant director general.

Mandeville worked most recently for a six-month period as the director of finance and treasurer for the city of Brossard. This marks a milestone for Westmount as Mandeville becomes the first woman to hold this position.

“There are three pillars in this job – the

citizens, the administration and council – and I know you have all three in your heart,” said Mayor Smith. “We are on a path to strong leadership coming from someone who is dedicated to the city.”

A formal recruitment process was initiated last fall through an external human resource agency, Talinko Inc, experienced in dealing with senior executive positions in the public domain. A number of applications were reviewed by council, but “you were clearly the right candidate,” stated Mayor Smith. A release to the media stated “Mandeville is known for her managerial courage and sense of fairness, she is well prepared to lead this administration and serve the city of Westmount.”

See photo on p. 1.

Leak fixed



Workers repaired a water main leak on Victoria south of de Maisonneuve January 18, above, and then flushed the system via a hydrant on de Maisonneuve east of Victoria, below. PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.



Aronson, Gallery to attend FCM conference

Learning what others are doing about sustainability

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Councillors Matt Aronson and Mary Gallery were given the green light by city council January 16 to attend and participate in the Sustainable Communities Conference to be hosted February 7 to 10 by the Canadian Federation of Municipalities (FCM) in Ottawa.

The event is being billed as “Canada’s leading event for municipal sustainability,” an opportunity to learn from hundreds of municipal leaders, staff and community partners about initiatives of other communities.

While the event is also being held virtually, “we thought it was important to participate in person because it does not involve lengthy and expensive transportation,” Aronson said last week. The two will take the train to Ottawa and not have to miss the city council meeting February 6. Council approved an expenditure of \$3,500 for each.

Aronson’s commissionership includes climate and sustainability; Gallery’s includes parks and greenhouses. On their return, it is expected that they will report on takeaways gleaned from other municipalities.

Novel shovelling garb



Charles Marien enjoying the snow on January 27. St. Catherine St. resident Cynthia Lulham told his wife Kate that this photo was very popular on her Facebook page, to which Kate replied, “Paparazzi everywhere!” PHOTO COURTESY OF C. LULHAM.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU, POLICE OFFICER CORTES

I am a 78-year-old woman who fell in front of the Stanton St. police station while going up its stairs on January 25 to have them sign a document. They did not see me fall, but as I entered I told them what happened and I sat for a while to regain my composure.

A police officer, *Agent* Javier Cortes, was so nice, and insisted on driving me home, since I fell on my knees and found it hard to walk. He was a true gentleman and caring human being.

I want people to know that we are lucky to have, and to know that we can count on, our policemen to do the right thing.

Again, many thanks to you *Agent* Cortes.

MONIQUE ABDOO, WESTMOUNT SQUARE

1-3 HILLSIDE MUST BE EVALUATED – NEUTRALLY

As you know, it is now time to make a final decision regarding 1-3 Hillside. Unfortunately, I couldn't be at the public meeting of December 13, but I looked carefully at the 67-minute video of this meeting, and I have some points that I want to share.

1. The positive comments were visibly welcomed, but there were not convincing replies to the negative ones and some questions. I remind city officials

that they are supposed to be neutral in this matter.

2. The mayor has been repeating the same thing for three years: "The neighbours don't want to live next to construction for two years. That's why they are against the project." But we are tired of repeating: "This is not the main reason that we are against the project. We are squarely against the construction of a large building of 32 units in our neighbourhood, which desperately needs more sports facilities. If you are our representative and you pretend to think of the well-being of residents, I invite you to go to the YMCA of Westmount, any day of the week, to see its pitiful situation in one of the most prestigious areas of *la belle province*. I think that you are unconnected to the reality of the neighbourhood that you are responsible for. We are not talking about building a pool. But don't you think that a simple sports centre would add value to the neighbourhood? And if you are thinking of parking problems, I must remind you the YMCA also does not have a parking lot and residents in this neighbourhood prefer walking. In addition, the city councillors of Westmount are always talking about their devotion to community and inviting us to do the same. So, I ask you this question: if you are devoted to the community, why do you refuse to see the reality in front of

you?

3. According to the city, by adding 32 families to this zone, there won't be any negative impact on traffic. I invite you to take a little walk here, especially as Westmount High opens and closes.

4. The owner assures us that there is no difference in daylight for neighbours between a building of three or six storeys. [I question the quality of this study.]

5. Concerning the eventual damages to 11 Hillside during construction, the owner assures us that we will be entirely recompensed. In your opinion, should we take his word for it, or is a signed agreement needed?

Finally, I allow myself to add this point: if, for some reason beyond our comprehension, you want residential construction on this site, why not build four to five townhouses that will better respect urban planning criteria?

For everyone who has a fondness for this neighbourhood, please take the time to watch this video, www.youtube.com/watch?v=sapPYw6E2ec, and to think: are we always required to choose between bad and worst? (This is the main argument of city: the new plan is better than that of 2019.)

For your information, we are going to request a referendum regarding this project and the time to act is now. Better late than never.

FARIBA ABOLKHANDI, HILLSIDE AVE.

INTERESTED IN MOBILITY? PLOUGH THE PATHS

If the city is so keen to improve quality of life for older residents, look no further than the pedestrian path in Westmount Park. On Monday, January 23 just after 10 am, the path was covered in snow from end to end; the adjacent bike path, however, beamed proudly in the daylight, sparkling clean.

The same situation occurred after a particularly nasty snowfall early last March; I emailed Councillor Matt Aronson, whose district includes the park, and Anitra Bostock, the councillor responsible for Public Works.

Please enlighten me: what's the motivation for a committee (convened by the previous council) to suggest improvements to accessibility for those with compromised mobility when one of the most obvious examples is staring you in the face? I don't have such disability but trying to navigate a long stretch of unplowed ground is still tricky. And it's all the more dismaying when, in the span of time it took to cautiously make my way out of the park, several pedestrians were evident but

no cyclists.

The pedestrian path is as important to well-being as the bike path.

DOROTHY LIPOVENKO, YORK ST.

INCOMPLETE SNOW REMOVAL



Really?!

After all these years, [I continue to deplore] this stupidly and dangerously designed corner [at Greene and de Maison-neuve].

RON DIAMOND, DOWNTOWN

PRIVATE CONTRACTORS SHOULD RESPECT PEDESTRIANS, LAW

True to form, private snow-removal contractors this winter are neglecting the rights of pedestrians. In clearing the large amount of white stuff from driveways, they've often created alpine ridges that block sidewalks. Some snow ridges are more than a meter high. To pass, one often has a choice: walk in the street and dodge traffic, or climb across the barrier on a narrow goat path and self-test your sense of balance.

Contractors' indifference has a long history in Westmount. Some years ago (15 to 20 seems about right) Westmount city council, responding to complaints, adopted a by-law* imposing a fine on property owners who let this to happen. This may seem unfair to owners; after all, they may not even be aware of the problem. Still, the contractor works at their behest; they are free to instruct the contractor not to let this happen, and, if it does, to pass the cost of any fine to that contractor. Simply deduct it from the bill.

But here's the question: To what extent, if any, has this by-law actually been enforced this winter – or any winter? It would be useful if the *Independent* could look into this. The population is aging, and sidewalks are meant for walking, not alpinism.

HENRY AUBIN, VICTORIA AVE.

*The *Independent* asked the city's director of Legal Services, Denis Ferland, for more

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

details about this by-law by email January 26, but did not hear back by press time January 30. – DP.

LOW TAXES LED TO INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIT

In reading former mayor Peter Trent's response in last week's *Independent* (p. 3) to my letter of the previous week (p. 6), I can't say that we agree on much, if anything. While accomplishing much during his years of civic service, Mr. Trent seems to view the past through rose-coloured lenses.

First, when Mr. Trent left office, Mayor Christina Smith inherited a huge infrastructure deficit, including crumbling streets and sidewalks, completely rundown parks and dilapidated buildings. As Mayor Smith recently said, even at city hall the roof leaked and window frames were rotted. Neither can we forget that during Mayor Trent's final term, the conservatory roof started falling in because routine preventative maintenance had not been properly carried out over the years. Residents were left with the task of completely rebuilding it at a cost of \$6.3 million.

Second, I wish Mr. Trent wouldn't misconstrue what I wrote. I never argued that the pay-as-you-go policy should be entirely set aside. My exact words were "If the pri-

.....
RMR, cont'd from p. 1

a city-wide referendum in 1924 to provide the land on which the RMR pays the city an annual \$1 in rent. The armoury was completed in 1925 using money from donations.

"We're really proud that the armoury is used for so many community functions," Bensadoun said. He mentioned in part, activities by the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf, some of city's own sports programs, cadets, Scouts and charitable groups.

It was in May 1937 that the ownership of the armoury was transferred from WAMA (the RMR Foundation) to the federal government in a notarized deed, according to the regiment's former commanding officer and former honorary colonel, LCol (ret'd) Colin Robinson.

ority is to keep tax rates low, the alternative then is to borrow." Over many decades, the city has not spent enough money to effectively maintain our infrastructure, the "routine stuff." The city repeatedly underestimated both the work and the money required to maintain an acceptable state of infrastructure quality. Council priority was to keep tax rates low and, in doing so, left the burden of infrastructure deficit to future generations. Where else is the money to come from?

In my letter, I proposed more flexibility in the city's financing policy. In fact, the city has again started to borrow to keep the tax bill under the rate of inflation. We have simply run out of ready cash. As Councillor D'Amico noted in his 2023 operating budget speech, \$9.3 million of debt originally due in 2023 will not be paid off but instead re-financed. This is borrowing anyway you look at it.

Third, even the current \$20 million "steady state" capital budget target is likely too low. Mr. Trent's simple solution of moving money out of operating to capital will not produce enduring results.* Mayor Smith and council have instead wisely chosen to bolster the capacity of the operating departments. These have to be provided with the material/technological/human resources to handle the immense challenge of restoring a rundown city. In fact, one of the reasons behind the unspent money in the 2022 capital budget was the lack of capacity for Engineering to supervise all the planned projects. This can't continue.

Finally, I would encourage Mr. Trent to sit down with Mayor Smith, the key councillors and the director general and have a productive exchange of ideas to benefit our community.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

*For clarity, Trent said that many expenditures that the city is calling operating in its 2023 budget are, in his opinion, capital: "I suspect that at least some of the massive and unprecedented budgeted increases in 2023 operating expenses should have been treated as capital items" – DP.

Profusion partners with Forbes Global Properties



From left, Louise Rémillard (founder, real estate broker), Richard Beaumier (president, broker) and Christina Miller (broker) of Profusion with Michael Jalbert, the CEO of Forbes Global Properties.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Greene Ave. real estate agency Profusion recently joined the Forbes Global Properties network and hosted a party at its offices January 25 to celebrate the pairing.

The occasion also served to present chartered real estate broker Christina Miller with the Jeff Hyland Award of Excellence to recognize her achievements, including "topping over 1.5 billion in sales and being a pioneer in the industry, especially around Westmount," according to Profusion marketing director Julian Shawcross. The award is named for the late Jeff Hyland, founder of Forbes Global Properties, who was described by *The Hollywood Reporter* as a "titan of luxury real estate" at the time of his death in February last year.

"I first met Jeff at a real estate conference in Boston 15 years ago and I always looked up to him as a true gentleman, a smart businessman and a very organized and focused realtor. I think if Christina and Jeff had met, they would have connected immediately. It was an emotional moment for me yesterday to present this award in the presence of the CEO of Forbes Global Properties. Christina is one of a kind and

I am deeply attached to her."

Profusion joined the Forbes network, Shawcross continued, due to its "unparalleled" earned media reach in the luxury real estate space. He cited a 2021-2022 report by Melwater Media Monitoring giving Forbes Global Properties a 78-percent share of voice, first place in the study.

"Forbes has over 100 million monthly visitors," added Rémillard. "Forbes not only features properties but likes to tell the story behind the properties."

We welcome your letters

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(Technically prohibited) winter fun

BY RALPH THOMPSON.

On the afternoon of January 14, there were perfect snow conditions. What better to do than go tobogganing in King George (Murray Hill) Park. Unfortunately the toboggan run was closed. It was not yet fully constructed and the safety fencing not erected.

Orange tape around the edge of the toboggan run stated “ACCÈS INTERDIT” and several signs at the top of the slope indicated that the “TOBOGGAN RUN CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE.”

But tape and signs were no barrier to over 100 excited children – and their par-

ents keen to have their offspring blow off a little energy.

Eventually a Public Security officer arrived and bravely waded into the thick of the sliders to calmly ask them all to leave. Everyone left without incident.

The officer told the *Independent* that the rain had delayed the construction work on the run and the recent snow storm and subsequent street clearing activity had forced Public Works to redirect the work force away from the toboggan run to snow clearing activities on the roads around Westmount.

With all the snow on January 26, the run is now open.





NEW TO MARKET
68 Arlington - Westmount



NEW TO MARKET
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1605 Docteur-Penfield PH503
Ville Marie | 2 195 000\$



1321 Sherbrooke O. apt. E-50 Golden
Square Mile | 1 897 000\$



1536 Summerhill, apt. 4
Golden Square Mile | 997 000\$



486B Mount-Pleasant
Westmount | 7,500\$/ mois

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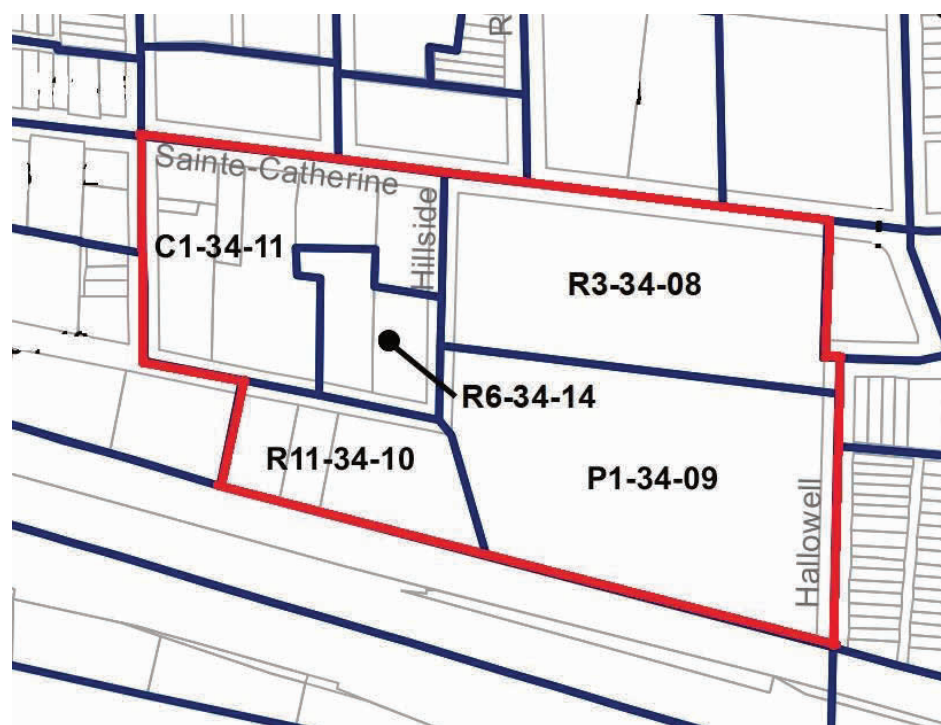
Council approves second draft resolution

Register deadline for 1-3 Hillside project, Feb. 1 at 4:30 pm

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

With a second reading January 16 of city council's draft resolution to approve a proposed residential project at 1-3 Hillside, its fate now lies largely in the hands of eligible voters and whether they apply by February 1 at 4:30 pm to open a referendum register at city hall.

This project involves the only building in zone R6-34-14, the site of the vacant Hillside armoury across from the Westmount



Athletic Grounds (WAG), though qualified voters eligible to apply for a register can also come from the four contiguous zones

surrounding it, as shown on the map above. These additional zones are C1-34-11, R3-34-08, P1-34-09 and R11-34-10.

Because the vacant Hillside armoury was built in 1910 as a riding academy when the site was zoned for industrial use, the proposed development project does not conform to the current zoning criteria and requires a number of zoning variances contained in the draft resolutions.

Among them are allowing a building of a maximum height of six storeys including a rooftop area for mechanical equipment. This was all explained at a public consultation meeting December 13 and in the first and second draft resolutions (see story November 29, p.1 and p. 10).

It can also be seen on the city website at Resident zone/Urban Planning/SCAOP1/1-3 Hillside.

Three steps to challenge zoning changes

In general, there are three steps that residents must successfully go through to defeat a zoning change in their neighbourhood.

1 Petition for a registry via signatures, which the city then validates as those of legitimate voters. The Hillside project is at this stage. Residents of the affected zone and contiguous ones are eligible to sign at this time, but only zones that meet a certain minimum number of signers advance to the registry stage.

2 Garner enough registrants in a registry, which is held at city hall on one scheduled day. The process for establishing the minimum number of registrants is complex.

3 Garner a majority of votes in a referendum.

The city can pull the proposed zoning change at any time, and historically has done so rather than face a costly referendum. – WI



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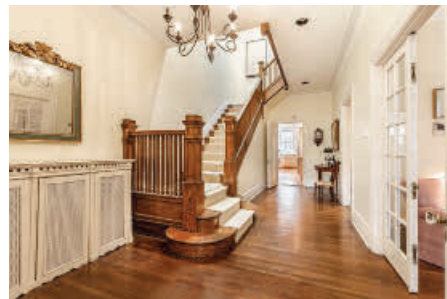
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DU CONSEIL

Lundi 6 février

NEWS

NEXT COUNCIL
MEETING

Monday, February 6



Carnaval d'hiver : 1-4 février

Le Carnaval d'hiver revient cette semaine pour sa 38^e édition! Une foule d'activités vous attend au parc King George le samedi 4 février entre 10 h et 16 h. Découvrez la programmation dans votre courrier ou à westmount.org.



Winter Carnival February 1-4

The 38th edition of Westmount's Winter Carnival is this week! Get ready for a ton of activities at King George Park on Saturday, February 4 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Check the schedule in your mailbox and at westmount.org

Comptes de taxes municipales 2023

Les comptes de taxes ont été envoyés par la poste le 24 janvier et la date limite pour le premier versement est le vendredi 24 février. Veuillez noter que le nouveau rôle d'évaluation foncière 2023-2024-2025 est entré en vigueur le 1^{er} janvier 2023. Informations : westmount.org

Chargement de neige

Soyez attentifs aux interdictions temporaires de stationnement et déplacez votre véhicule avant l'arrivée des équipes de chargement. Suivez les opérations à westmount.org/deneigement.

État des patinoires extérieures

Mises à jour : westmount.org/patinoires.

Terrasses éphémères : sondage

La Ville prévoit renouveler les terrasses éphémères en 2023, suite à une consultation publique effectuée l'automne dernier. Visitez engage.westmount.org pour en savoir plus.

Inscriptions aux activités

Inscrivez-vous à vos activités préférées de sports et de loisirs d'hiver. westmount.org

Réduire sa consommation d'électricité en périodes de grands froids

Rappel : lorsque la température atteint -18°C, évitez d'utiliser vos appareils énergivores pendant les heures de pointe, soit de 6 h à 9 h et de 16 h à 20 h les jours de semaine.

2023 municipal property taxes

The property tax bills were mailed January 24 and the first payment is due Friday, February 24. Please note that the new 2023-2024-2025 valuation roll came into effect on January 1, 2023. More information: westmount.org

Snow loading

Please watch for signage indicating temporary parking restrictions and move your vehicle accordingly in advance of the snow loading teams. Follow the progress of the operations at westmount.org/snowremoval.

Outdoor skating rink conditions

Updates are posted at westmount.org/rinks.

Summer terraces: survey results

The City plans to renew its summer terraces in 2023, following a public consultation carried out last autumn. Visit engage.westmount.org to find out more about the survey.

Activity registration

Sign up now for your favourite winter sports and recreation activities. westmount.org

Reduce your electricity consumption during very cold weather

Reminder: on days when the temperature drops below -18°C, avoid using energy-intensive appliances during the peak periods of 6 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 8 p.m. on weekdays.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES



Concours littéraire McEntyre

Participez au Concours littéraire McEntyre 2023 en écrivant une histoire, un poème ou un essai sur le thème de l'exploration. westlib.org

Exposition : Fung Sou

Jusqu'au 10 février, Galerie du Victoria Hall.
Mercredi 8 février, 14 h : Lecture de poésie par l'artiste, accompagnée de musique en direct.

Rencontre d'auteur : Baharan Baniahmadi

Le mercredi 1^{er} février, 19 h, Bibliothèque.
L'auteure parlera de son livre *Prophetess*, lauréat du prix Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan 2022 de la QWF pour la fiction. Inscrivez-vous sur Eventbrite.

Anniversaire de James Joyce

Samedi 4 février, 14 h, Bibliothèque et Zoom.

Avec Coleen Curran et Anne Lewis. westlib.org

Jeux d'arcade créés avec Makecode

Les jeudis, du 7 au 28 février, 16 h, sur Zoom (9 à 12 ans). Les participantes et participants apprendront à coder leur propre jeu de plateforme. Inscription requise. westlib.org

Club de films documentaires

Le mercredi 15 février, Bibliothèque. *Dear Audrey* (2021, en anglais). Avec les invités Jeremiah Hayes, réalisateur, et Martin Duckworth, cinéaste. Inscrivez-vous sur Eventbrite.

Soirée Pub Quiz

Le mercredi 22 février, Victoria Hall. Venez en équipe pour une soirée amusante de jeux-questionnaires. Inscrivez-vous sur Eventbrite.

Ciné-club : *Everything Everywhere All At Once* (2022)

Mardi 28 février, 14 h, Victoria Hall. Réalisé par Daniels. Inscrivez-vous sur Eventbrite.

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY EVENTS



McEntyre Writing Competition

Take part in the 2023 McEntyre Writing Competition: write a story, a poem or an essay on the theme of *Exploration*. westlib.org

Exhibition: Fung Sou

Until February 10, Gallery at Victoria Hall.
Wednesday, February 8 at 2 p.m.: Poetry reading by the artist, accompanied by live music.

Author event – Baharan Baniahmadi

Wednesday, February 1st, 7 p.m., Library. The author will discuss her book *Prophetess*, winner of the QWF's 2022 Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction. Register on Eventbrite.

James Joyce's birthday

Saturday, February 4, 2 p.m., Library and Zoom. With Coleen Curran and Anne Lewis. westlib.org

Makecode Arcade Games

Thursdays from February 7 to 28, 4 p.m., on Zoom (9 to 12-yr-olds). Participants will learn how to code their own Platformer Game. Registration required. westlib.org

Documentary Film Club

Wednesday, February 15, Library. *Dear Audrey* (2021). With guests Jeremiah Hayes, director of the film, and Martin Duckworth, filmmaker. Register on Eventbrite.

Pub Quiz Night

Wednesday, February 22, Victoria Hall. Bring a team and join others for a fun night testing your trivia skills. Register on Eventbrite.

Film Club: *Everything Everywhere All At Once* (2022)

Tuesday, February 28, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. Directed by Daniels. Register on Eventbrite.

Just east of Westmount

Akelius sells 3015 Sherbrooke apartment complex

BY JENNIFER BALL

The rental apartment building 3015 Sherbrooke St. was sold by Akelius Montreal Ltd. to a private property development corporation and interior work is expected to start this year on what aims to be a 90-to-100 unit real estate project. The building is located downtown, one building east of Westmount.

The sale was completed for \$14.5 million and according Julio Vianna, who represented the seller Akelius Montreal Ltd., “the property was sold as of November 17.” The buyer is 9472-0380 Québec Inc, for whom Patrizio Pecorilli is the president.

The *Independent* was unable to get in touch with the new owner by press time.

Mark Sinnett, an executive vice-president of capital markets at JLL, spoke with the *Independent* on January 23. He is the real estate broker who sold the building to the purchaser on behalf of the seller.

Some time ago, the exterior construction contract had been awarded to Axxys by Akelius, but then work stalled on the interior. The building’s windows and doors were boarded up, the roof was tarped over and it has remained that way since the autumn of 2021.

“The interior was not retrofitted before Akelius’ team stopped working,” Sinnett said. “Development is not really their core business. Their core business is running a building and taking care of tenants. This project no longer fit their core business so they decided that – rather than complete the project – they would sell the building to someone whose core business was to develop real estate.”

The intent of Pecorilli team is to build between 90 and 100 multi-family units, Sinnett said. “Their intent is to build a retrofit.”

The project manager has a timeline that is “starting imminently,” Sinnet believes.



The 3015 Sherbrooke St. apartment complex on January 23. The Westmount border is to the west/left. Atwater is one building east/right.

“I think it is just a matter of time to get final permits from the city. I would expect that the project would start in 2023.”

“I think they have a construction company lined up. I do not know who that company is, but by the time we sold it to them they were well advanced in terms of preparation. They bought this knowing what they were planning to do, not speculating.”

The units will be geared towards a more downtown Montreal population, Sinnett said. “Dawson College is nearby, Concordia University is nearby...I think they are looking more for young professionals, possibly students. I do not believe this is being targeted to seniors.” Sinnett is not aware if these units could be considered low-cost housing.

“It is a building that has historical value.

It was built in the 1920s. It will be nice to see the project develop and most importantly adding 90 to 100 units on the market. There is, after all, a housing crisis.”

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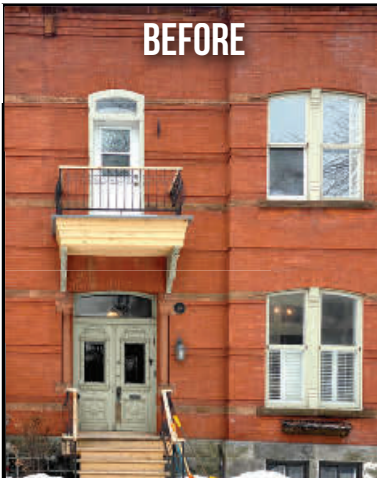


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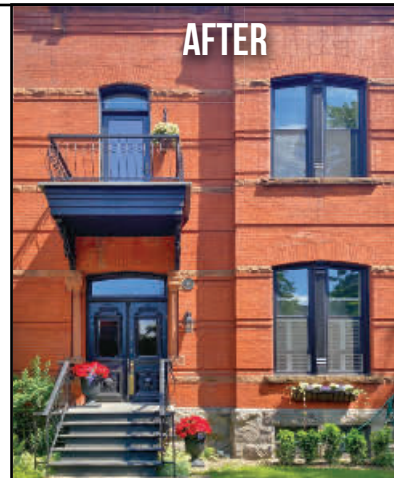
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Study, work, then play



After a day's studying at Westmount Park School and "bored with tobogganing," according to their father, Izzul Haq, Hulla Tabriza and Hifzhi Kanoza "chose to play slide in the nearest park, at Somerville Ave. Yet, finding sticky snow-covered slides, another fun muscle activity comes in: shovelling and brushing the snow off!"

PHOTOS COURTESY OF I. HAQ.

Remember when giveaway matches were everywhere?

Do you remember: 1. When all sorts of companies, large and small, gave away customized packs of matches? 2. The Dauphin restaurant on Greene Ave., where Bistro on the Avenue was until relatively recently and where S16 Gallery is now? 3. Togos restaurant on Greene, where Saint Sushi is now?

Interestingly, the pictures are the front and back of one pack of matches that the two restaurants collaborated on. The *Independent* estimates that it is from the early 1980s.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT



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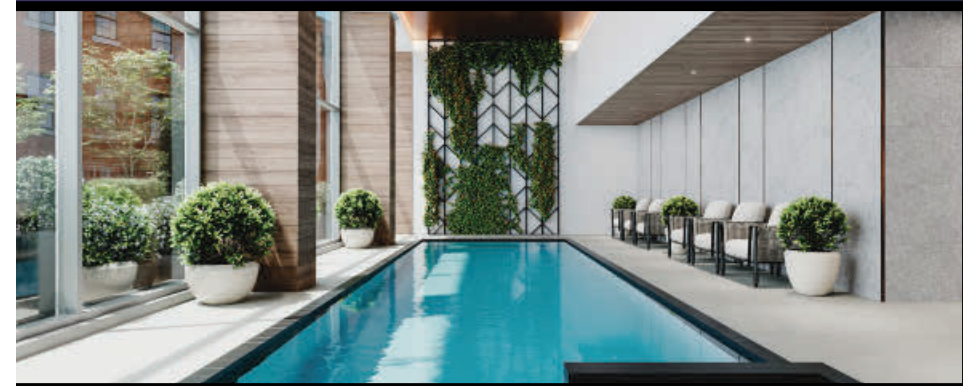


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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

I am Monty



Monty is very photogenic. He poses, he waits for a cuddle, he looks forward to a treat....

Quite the stunning black-and-white longhair, he is handsome and he knows it! One look from those huge green eyes and he gets attention, looking to be petted or cuddled.

Monty is very affectionate and enjoys being the only pet. He sleeps in the bed, enjoys companionship and is an active playmate. He also looks forward to being brushed and cuddled.

Monty is presently in foster care for the grassroots volunteer animal rescue group Gerdy's Rescue & Adoptions. He is a very healthy eight-year-old, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. If you would like more information on him, please do not hesitate to contact the rescue at info@gerdysrescue.org. You can find out more about their volunteer group at www.gerdysrescue.org.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Loving Toby



Toby was just a youngster when he was hit by a car and left for dead by the side of the road. A terrible nightmare.

He was saved by a Good Samaritan, who took him to a veterinarian for care. His back leg was so damaged that it had to be amputated.

The next situation that needed addressing was the blood test result that was positive for heartworm. He was treated and convalesced quite well.

This most adorable young fellow is now two years old, and as active as can be on three legs. Having three legs does not define him. His affectionate and gentle nature are what make Toby a beloved companion.

Toby is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped. He is presently in foster care for the Gerdy's Rescue & Adoptions animal rescue volunteer group, where his foster family is seeing him bloom as a busy youngster.

He is very smart and enjoys interactive games with all types of fun toys and balls. The more the better. He is enthusiastic every day.

As a sporting mid-sized black-and-white

Labrador-shepherd mix, he is ready for his routine of walks, play with doggy buddies, and indoor-outdoor squirrel observation. Steps are something to consider for mobility in his environment though, so best in a home with direct access from the exterior to the interior at a single level. A fenced backyard is important for safe play.

If you would like more information on Toby, please refer to the Gerdy's Rescue & Adoptions website at www.gerdysrescue.org and do not hesitate to email them at info@gerdysrescue.org.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Public spaces, cont'd from p. 1

street decorating, picnic-type tables and seating.

The consultation results were detailed in a consultants' report released last week, stating a total of 934 surveys had been completed from a total of 10,476 to have been mailed to "every civic address" August 29 to September 20. As well, there were 98 returned from 654 sent to "all" Westmount businesses (September 28 to October 18) and door-to-door visits in commercial districts.

As a result, "city council has adopted to modify" the plans for some spaces with lower satisfaction scores, according to a city press release. "Notably, the public space on Greene will occupy a reduced area with a re-designed footprint," it states.

Greene south of de Maisonneuve

Councillor Matt Aronson, whose commissionership includes economic develop-

ment and public engagement, told the *Independent* that the results had been discussed by the council in general committee, a closed-door session, and that the plan to modify Greene applied mainly to the strip south of de Maisonneuve.

Re-configuration of this area would depend largely on the occupancies that would likely most benefit from outdoor areas such as restaurant-type businesses, he said. These are not known at this time as some vacancies exist. It would also include an upgrading of the type of street furniture to be more in keeping with the tenure of

the street.

While the conclusions and varied opinions were detailed and posted last week on the city's website, some interesting ones were added in an Appendix C under "Desired future." This can be found on the city's Engage page under "Project" involving the question "Why do you visit the public spaces?"

These results were similar for the Greene and Victoria areas. They show that 65-67 percent replied that it was for shopping; 55-54 percent for a leisurely walk; 52-51 percent going to a restaurant or café; 50-54 percent passing through; and 16-13 percent going to or from work or school; and tourism 2-5 percent.

The survey was conducted for the city by Mark Wilkins Consulting and took place between August 23 and September 20 (see story August 30, p. 7). This was followed by the merchant consultation survey.

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Avis de changement de lieu d'exercice

Prenez avis qu'en date du 4 janvier 2023, la Dre Marina Krilova exercera dorénavant au 550-4141 Sherbrooke Ouest, 514 934 0748. Le Dr Sam Feigenbaum détient et maintient toujours les dossiers concernant les patients qui ont consulté Dre Krilova.



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Is public recycling being thrown out? – Are users contaminating loads?

BY JENNIFER BALL

“Be proud, keep Westmount clean” is written on the sides of Westmount sanitation trucks, and there are street-side receptacles for garbage and recycling on many busy streets in Westmount.

Where is all the detritus ending up, though? Two Westmount residents wanted an answer to that question after they saw both loose garbage and recycling being dumped together into the back of trucks on two unrelated occasions.

It is the public, double (garbage and recycling) units that were of concern to the residents who were interviewed.

A resident from southeast Westmount, who took a picture of the incident, describes “seeing the garbage and the recycling both going into a Westmount truck.”

This occurred, the person said, on the north side of St. Catherine St. between Atwater and Wood Ave. on Thursday, January 19 at 7:30 am.

At the beginning of the month, a resident from the western perimeter of Westmount witnessed the same scenario, but on the east side of Victoria Ave. at Sherbrooke St.

“It was the city’s truck,” this source said, “the guy comes out of the truck and he takes the garbage out first and chucks it in the back of the truck. I am curious how they are actually collecting these because there is no liner in them. Two bins, no liners, and he dumped them both in the same place at the back of the truck.”

City responds

Sebastien Samuel, from the Communi-

How public recycling bins are supposed to work

Sebastien Samuel of the city’s Communications department shared information about the city’s public-bin recycling program:

From the city’s website: “...the first phase consisted of replacing the garbage bins on commercial streets, and the second phase of replacing those on parks and non-commercial streets. In total, 190 baskets were replaced with new single (garbage) and double (garbage and recycling) units.

“The city aims in keeping Westmount clean and providing public waste receptacles not only for garbage residue, but also for recyclable items. The city asks that residents carefully look and read the instructions on the baskets to properly dispose of their waste (recyclable or not) in the appropriate receptacle, and to refrain

from leaving waste on top of or around the bins...”

Samuel also summed up the schedule for the *Independent*:

Garbage pick-up in public areas

- On Mondays and Fridays, pick-up is done by the city’s contractor Derichebourg.
- For the days in between and weekends, garbage pick-up is handled by the city’s own garbage truck.
- Garbage containers do not have bags and the trash is thrown into the trucks.

Recycling pick-up in public areas

- Recycling is picked up on alternating days by the city’s crew and truck.
- Recycling containers should have liner bags.



Two strikes? A top view of a public recycling bin with no liner bag and with non-recyclables, taken on the east side of Victoria Ave. at Sherbrooke St. on January 12.

cations department of the city, explained that recycling containers are supposed to be lined with bags to keep the recycling separate even though one truck is being used for both streams.

He also dug into the archives about the origin and organization of the duo-garbage-and-recycling bins project, which was implemented by the end of September 2021 (see sidebar at left).

After pick-ups, “the city’s waste truck returns to the Westmount Public Works yards,” continued Samuel, “to then transfer its contents in the appropriate bins (one for recycling and one for garbage).”

Could it be that city workers are mingling the streams after seeing garbage in the

recycling bins?

“What I know about this is, that it is then contaminated and it cannot go to the recycling centres,” Samuel said.

The *Independent* photographed at least one instance of a recycling bin not having a liner bag, contrary to city practice.

The second source wondered whether the solution is that all Westmount recycling bins have blue liner bags and/or Westmount residents aim better, concluding: “We need to do a better job with recycling. I would rather the city say less stuff is recyclable and do it properly than us believing that it is being recycled – easing our consciences – and nothing actually happens with it.”

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Woman loses consciousness outside Atwater Metro station

BY JENNIFER BALL

A woman was assisted by bystanders after being noticed to be dizzy and falling in and out of consciousness in the intersection of de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Atwater Ave. close to the Atwater Metro entrance.

This event happened on January 23 and a 911 call was placed at 2:55 pm by bystanders. First responders arrived on the

scene shortly afterwards to provide medical attention to the woman.

A policeman on site, who was the attending officer, informed the *Independent* "that the ambulance workers intervened and with care and treatment, she was able to walk away on her own. The medical professionals had been called because she had been in and out of consciousness, which required medical intervention."



Police officers and EMTs on de Maisonneuve, at Atwater Ave. on January 23.

Police Report

Toyota SUV stolen in Westmount recovered on West Island

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

In yet another example of how security camera technology is helping crack down on crime, investigators at the Montreal police department's Station 12 are using video from the on-board camera in a stolen car recovered to solve a vehicle theft.

On the morning of January 24, a Toyota SUV that was parked overnight near the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Elm Ave. was reported missing. In a report to the police, the driver said the vehicle was owned by the company he worked for.

The following day, police on the West Island received a phone call regarding a hit-and-run in which two vehicles were left abandoned. Officers arriving on the scene saw that one of the vehicles, a Tesla, had been left in a snowbank. They also saw that a second vehicle had been driven into the snow in the middle of a public park.

The police soon determined that the second car was the Toyota SUV that had been reported stolen in Westmount. It had sustained some damage to the front bumper after apparently striking a tree in the park before being abandoned.

Unbeknownst perhaps to the car thieves, the Tesla was equipped with a video security system that was set to trigger automatically when the vehicle suffered an impact.

As a result, the investigators have been working with IT technicians to locate the video recording of the incident either in an on-board hard drive or on a USB stick.

Witnesses to the hit-and-run interviewed by the police reported seeing eight individuals running from the scene. According to Station 12 community relations officer Cst. Adalbert Pimentel, the investigators have a lot of leads to work with.

"They're looking at videos, cameras in different neighbourhoods, fingerprints,

even declarations from witnesses," he said, while noting that the investigation involves the neighbourhood police station in Westmount as well as one on the West Island.

Hit-and-run at Lansdowne, St. Catherine

The driver of a vehicle that was involved in a hit-and-run collision around 8:30 pm on January 25 at the corner of Lansdowne Ave. and St. Catherine St. can expect to hear from the police who could be filing a charge of leaving the scene of an accident.

According to a complaint filed by the driver of a vehicle that was heading northward from Glen Rd., the driver of the second vehicle was executing a turn east onto St. Catherine while the complainant wanted to turn west.

Although the vehicles collided, the complainant maintained that the second vehicle didn't stop immediately.

Although the second car finally did stop and the two drivers met to assess the damage, the complainant maintained that the second driver refused, after 15 minutes of discussion, to provide his driver's license, car registration or insurance information and left without identifying himself.

The complainant immediately called 9-1-1. As a result, the investigators have the second vehicle's license plate number as well as the make of his car.

According to the Montreal police, not remaining on the scene of an accident is a Highway Safety Code violation subject to a fine ranging from \$200 to \$600, plus nine driving-record demerit points.

The driver may also be criminally charged if he or she leaves the scene of an accident and hides the following facts: driving without a licence during a sanction or a prohibition; driving an unregistered vehicle; being inebriated; and/or causing serious injuries or death.



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Gala celebrates 100 years of Hellenic Ladies Benevolent Society



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE



The recent Ilios gala celebrated the Hellenic Ladies Benevolent Society's (HLBS) 100 years of service.

The black-tie eve, "Roaring Twenties," was held at Théâtre St. James, the perfect Art Déco setting. Guests were red-carpet ready, ladies glamorous in gowns inspired by that golden era.

The elegant evening kicked off in the White Star Vault room with champagne, flappers and an animator in a giant champagne glass. (Burlesque dancer **Dita von Teese** was renowned for this performance although her preferred set was a massive martini glass, but I digress.)

Then guests proceeded to the Imperial Ballroom for a sit-down dinner, catered by Société Traiteur. Addressing the *über*-chic crowd were the honorary patrons: senators **Leo Housakos** and **Tony Loffreda**; honorary co-chairs **Alex** and **Chris Karambatsos**, and the organization's vp fundraising **Katie Papoutsis** and president **Belle Grivakis**.

Committee members were **Maggie Pagonis**, **Bernice Tzikas**, **Diasy Giagkos**, **Maria Korogiannis**, **Katie Papoutsis**, **Belle Grivakis**, **Nitza Melas**, **Kathy Hamelin**, **Yiota Papadopoulos**, **Sandra Khoury**, and **Dina Kefalinos**.

Eloquent emcee was **Elias Makos**. Noted guests included **Katerina Varvarigou**, con-

sul general of Greece to Montreal; co-chairs **Kathy Hamelin** and **Nitza Melas**, and **Bernice Tzikas** there with **Costas Tzikas**, **Ernie Grivakis**, **VVS Films**; **Vivian** and **Peter Pamel**, **Dr. George Tsoukas**, president HCGM; **Lèa & Harry Grivakis**, **Niki** and **Peter Mammias**, **Victor Pellegrino**, regional president BMO; and

Sandra Dampolias and **Chris Farfaras**.

The fun night continued on at a Speak-easy After-Party, where guests enjoyed the grazing table of sweet and savoury delights donated by **Kilo/Beaux Gateaux** and **Snowdon Deli**. The popular oyster bar was donated by **Poissonnerie La Mer**. A fabulous flash mob *continued on p. 22*



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Social Notes cont'd from p. 21

jumpstarted the party, and then electro violinist **Dr. Draw** (always a wow!) got everyone on their feet.

Greek favourites were performed throughout the night by Alexandros and Evangelos Pavlis DJ. Entertainment included dynamic sets tailored specifically for the event by Black Mohawk Productions.

Eager young volunteers effectively sold raffle tickets and helped throughout the evening. The event raised \$75,000 for the Hellenic Ladies Benevolent Society, an autonomous, chartered, non-profit organ-

ization. The first of its kind in North America, its mandate is to help those in need within the Hellenic community in the greater Montreal area.

Funds raised go to crisis intervention including food assistance and emergency care, community services including summer camp program for underprivileged kids and compassionate aid, which is supplementary assistance during the holidays.

Diamond sponsors were Sandra Dampolias BMO, Ernie Grivakis – VVS Films, Chris and Alex Karamatsos – KRB Lawyers, Banque Nationale and anonymous friend of the HLBS.



Senator Leo Housakos.

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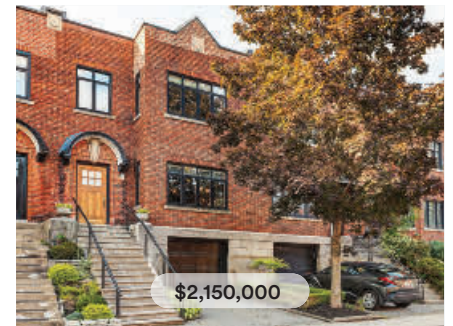
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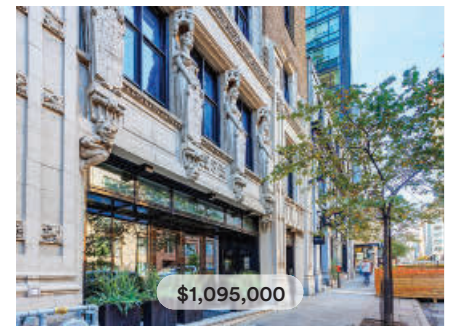
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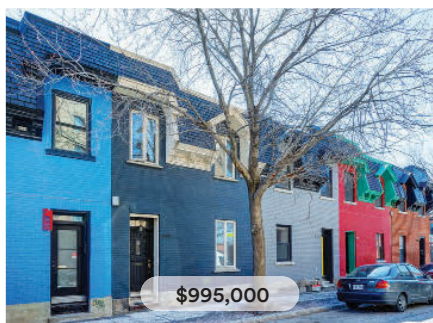
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