

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 15 No. 3d

We are Westmount

March 23, 2021

Melville decision deferred during 2-hour session

Double-header demo meeting hears 30 questions from public

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A city webinar March 15 to consider demolition proposals for two residential buildings wrapped up after two hours and 30 questions and answers related to tearing down the one at 325 Melville but none regarding the other at 314-316 Lansdowne.

It was the first time the city had held a meeting of the Demolition Committee online because of COVID restrictions and, in the end, a decision on the Melville building was deferred while the Lansdowne one was approved (see separate story, below).

The deferral was based on the city having received a new replacement plan that was still under review. It was different from

the one that had been filed with the original application for a demolition permit and had been posted on the city's website but quickly removed due to the city's new procedure for demolition applications (see stories February 16, p. 1 and March p. 1).

The questioners on the Melville building were identified mostly as residents in the immediate neighbourhood as well as tenants of the affected building, who face uncertainty over lease renewal and possible eviction. What was the city doing to help them? When would they know whether a demolition would be allowed?

Some asked why an "affordable" family building in supposedly viable condition might be

continued on p. 14



Astronomical spring started March 20, but this pedestrian at right embodied its spirit a few days before on March 16. He is the first person that the *Independent* noticed in shorts this year.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Foot pain?
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Bunions?

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Building in 'a state of distress': Cllr. Peart

Council rules in favour of demolishing 314-316 Lansdowne

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It took city council, in its capacity as the Demolition Committee, a scant 20 minutes March 15 to hear and rule in favour of an unopposed proposal to demolish a two-storey, two-family residence at 314-316 Lansdowne and present a preliminary replacement plan.

The decision included the reading of a

typically long resolution listing many conditions. This was presented at the end of what had been a two-hour long combination demolition meeting regarding this property as well as the one at 325 Melville, for which no decision was rendered (see separate story, above).

Only one letter of comment had been received regarding the Lansdowne property dur-

continued on p. 9

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\$6.3 million gross

Greenhouse costs to city really \$5.7M after tax rebate

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The net cost of restoring the heritage portion of the greenhouse was projected last week at \$5.7 million once the city's tax rebate is factored in, according to interim assistant director general Bruce St. Louis.

While an amount of \$6,279,417 that was reported in a city communiqué February 24 is correct when the full amount of tax is factored in, he explained last week, the "significant tax refund" accorded to municipalities means that, in this case, a re-

fund of \$545,472, reduces the net project cost to the city to \$5,733,945.

The total costs before tax rebate include construction of \$4,947,000 as awarded by contract at the January city council meeting, plus accumulated professional fees of \$514,550 and the full amount of taxes of \$817,867, for the gross total of \$6,279,417.

The costs of the construction mandate are to be paid from the city's appropriated surplus for the greenhouse restoration, director general Benoit Hurtubise confirmed in January before departing on medical

leave.

Smaller professional services contracts along the way have been financed by the capital works budgets, he explained (see story January 12, p. 1).

The complex has been closed to the public since September 2015 while the city undertook studies on its condition, options for rebuilding and searched for professionals deemed to have expertise in restoring the 1927 conservatory and frog pond structure.

DON'T MISS OUR PULL-OUT

Spotlight

real estate section after p. 10

Somerville tot-lot to get new play activities, equipment, p. RE-4

Construction Guide, p. RE-12

Retail Watch, p. RE-18

House History by Andy Dodge: 471, 473 & 475 Argyle, p. RE-20



The entrance to the greenhouse on March 19.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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The vaccine. A safe way to protect ourselves.

Sewer relining also planned on different streets

Sunnyside reconstruction contract awarded for \$4.3M

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After years of driving and bumping their way along Sunnyside, and a year's postponement of the street's reconstruction between Upper Bellevue and Belvedere Rd., residents will now have a new challenge this summer as the street undergoes its long-awaited reconstruction.

And it's taking a big bite out of this year's record-setting capital works budget of \$27.2 million.

City council March 15 awarded the contract for \$4,254,579, including tax credits to Les Excavations Super Inc., whose bid was \$4,659,318. It was the lowest of three conforming bids, the highest

being only \$58,157 more when tax was included.

"We're happy to be moving along with this," said Councillor Philip Cutler, commissioner of infrastructure and innovation. "It was long overdue." At times it will be challenging to live on the street, he added, saying residents had been very engaged when informed.

Cutler also moved a resolution to rehabilitate sewers in certain streets in the city at a cost of \$208,925.

This involves insertion of a structural lining in the sewers. The contract was awarded to Insituform Technologies Limited described as being the lowest conforming bidder.



Looking east on Sunnyside towards Belvedere Rd. on March 18.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TIME TO REBUILD SOCIAL TRUST

A high level of anxiety among certain residents was noted by our mayor and councillors during the recent demolition hearing. It should be no surprise to council as the city withheld from public view the replacement plans submitted for the buildings currently under consideration for demolition. This was an abrupt termination of a beneficial and long standing procedure to inform residents.

No convincing rationale has been provided. In fact, no one pointed out any demolition application that had been harmed in the past by full disclosure to residents.

Councillor Peart claimed that if residents had full information at this early stage, they may make rash and reactive decisions. I must remind Councillor Peart, that at this point in any development, residents would only be able to hold opinions and not make firm decisions. Is there something wrong with that?

We all know that decision time for citizens is limited to the SCAOPI stage if the replacement plan is non compliant. Westmount residents are not just simple folk or, as the councillor suggested, perhaps overly accustomed to what we know and thus fearful of change. Believe me, after this past year, we can handle anything.

While entirely within the law as stated by the city clerk of Westmount, this change

is regressive and not reflective of a progressive, model city. My concern is that with this change in procedure we don't understand whose interests are really at play here.

It's time to re-build social trust. Let's listen to Larry Beasley, the distinguished Canadian urban planner who recently presented to residents under our Imagine 2040 project. I quote from his recent book, *Vancouverism*: "the principle of transparency puts us on the side of angels."

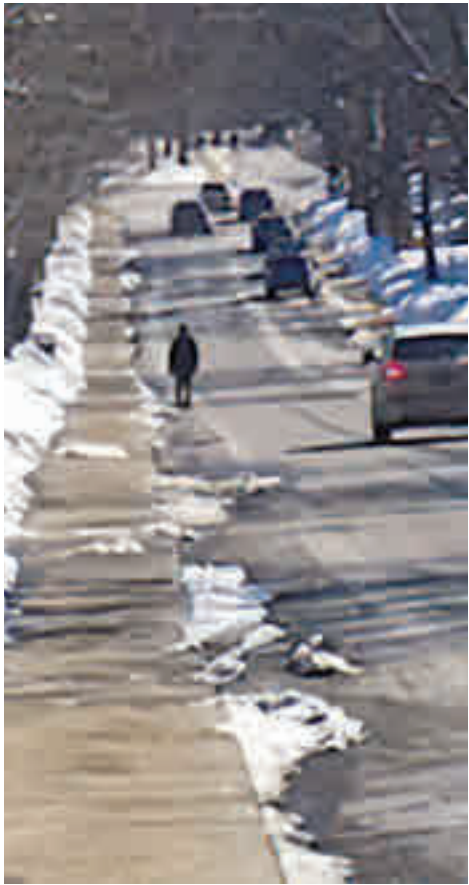
Change course. Return to the practice of full transparency. We can look forward to again working together in complete trust. Imagine 2040 awaits this.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

WESTMOUNT'S STREET WALKERS

Um ... has anyone else noticed that lots of people are walking in the streets of Westmount for no reason? I mean, sure, there's a pandemic and sometimes humans have to walk *a bit* in the street to get around other pedestrians to social distance, but then one's supposed to get the heck back on the sidewalk where pedestrians belong.

But – take the [person] in this photo walking down Victoria: perfectly cleared sidewalk (Westmount does a great job at that, by the way), no other pedestrian in sight, and yet this guy's in the street, forcing this white car (and many other cars that



I watched) to go wide around him.
THOMAS LAPIERRE, CHESTERFIELD AVE.

Police Report, p. 8

Westmount A-dog-tions, p. 16

9 Lives, p. 16

Social Notes: Chez Doris
announces campaign, p. 17

Art Scene:
Berry & Slonem, p. 18



infoWestmount, p. 12

Correction: Quennec pictured

Our p. 3 photo last week was not of inspirational speaker, hockey coach and Olympic gold medallist Danièle Sauvageau, but of a Swiss hockey player, Kaleigh Quennec, in Montreal for a play-off game last year against the Carabins, whom Sauvageau was coaching and to which she had invited young Westmount "player of the month" Margot Duffar to drop the puck. The photo had nothing to do with last week's story "City lowers flags in commemoration of year of turmoil," which mentioned the city's presentation of a motivational Zoom program by Sauvageau.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

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

LETTERS: We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit them to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic. Please include your name and street for publication (or borough or municipality if you do not live in Westmount), but not your address (unless you want it published).

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St. Patrick lives! Quietly



March 13-15 would have been “parade weekend” and March 17 was St. Patrick’s Day. The pandemic led to subdued markings of these traditionally large Montreal-area festivals, but it did not kill all expressions of them, including this window display at Eatz Encore on Sherbrooke near Grosvenor, as seen March 15 (top) and employee Jonathan Groszman modelling a “Happy St Patrick’s Day” hat March 17, the day of (below). PHOTO: INDEPENDENT (TOP LEFT) AND RALPH THOMPSON (TOP RIGHT).



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Police Report

Road rager hits car with baseball bat on Lansdowne Ave.

By MARTIN C. BARRY

A road rage incident that began recently along Côte St. Antoine Rd., leading to a collision followed by a violent confrontation on Lansdowne Ave., left a Westmount resident who was driving one of the vehicles traumatized and with damage to his car. Around 11:30 am on March 12, the driver of the suspect vehicle was heading at high speed west along Côte St. Antoine when he tried to pass another car that was proceeding much more slowly.

In attempting to pass the slower vehicle, the driver of the suspect car drove briefly along the bicycle path on Côte St. Antoine, said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel.

The driver of the suspect vehicle apparently flew into a rage when the car in his way refused to make room for him to pass.

When the slower vehicle made a left turn southward onto Lansdowne, the suspect began to follow and eventually mounted the sidewalk in order to pass, Pimentel added.

After passing and getting ahead, the suspect driver abruptly slammed on his brakes, leading to a collision when the other driver slammed into the rear of the suspect's car.

According to a police incident report, the suspect then emerged from his car while clutching a baseball bat. He proceeded to strike the front bumper of the other car. Feeling threatened, the other car's driver shifted into reverse, then drove forward around the suspect and his car.

"The suspect actually threw his baseball bat towards the car of the plaintiff while he was taking off for the sake of his safety," said Pimentel, adding that the plaintiff proceeded immediately to the Montreal police's Station 12 on Stanton St. to file a report and make a criminal complaint about the incident.

The suspect's vehicle is described as a Toyota Corolla. The suspect, should he be located, will face a dangerous driving charge and possible other charges related to his violent use of the baseball bat.

Pimentel said the victim responded correctly to the incident by not over-reacting, which would probably have escalated the situation, and by proceeding to the police station immediately afterwards.

"It's easier said than done, but that way you don't fall into the cycle of irrationality," he said. "You don't know who you're dealing with. But when someone's coming at you with a baseball bat, that's a pretty good indicator of things. He did the right thing and there's an investigation now under way."

COVID enforcement

Following home inspection visits, police officers from Station 12 handed out more tickets last week to Westmounters who were found not abiding by COVID-19 quar-

'Lake Shakespeare' returns



The large puddle that perennially forms in Westmount Park in the "Shakespeare in the Park" dell west of the gazebo has appeared again. It is seen here March 17.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

antine regulations after returning to Canada from foreign travels.

On March 17, an individual residing at a home in upper Westmount was ticketed after officers discovered he was not there, despite a requirement to stay at home for 14 days.

On the same day, an individual living on Westmount Ave. was also ticketed after officers found him to be absent and out on a walk during a 14-day quarantine period that they said he was supposed to be respecting.

While the man claimed he'd been told by Canadian customs officials that he was not subject to the quarantine requirements, Pimentel said the police officers checked his status in a registry and confirmed he was not supposed to be out.

Four students win MNA bursary

Jennifer Maccarone, provincial legislator for Westmount-St. Louis, announced the four recipients of the first edition of the Bursary of the MNA for Westmount-St. Louis March 19.

Anh Vi Mac and Emma Westenberg, both students at Marianopolis College, will each receive a \$250 bursary, and Shaïda Mahmoud and Emilie Pham, physiology and nursing students at McGill University, will each receive a \$500 scholarship.

"The four bursary recipients will also be given the opportunity to do a one-day internship with the MNA for Westmount-St. Louis to learn more about her role and present their projects," explained a press release the same day.

To be eligible, students had to reside and attend a post-secondary institution in the riding, and had to submit a project "under provincial jurisdiction" that they would like to carry out here.

"I would like to thank all the students who applied to this first edition We have received many applications and the projects that have been submitted are very interesting.

"Congratulations to our first four bursary recipients, whom I am eager to meet during their one-day internship," said Maccarone.

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

ing the 10-day period for submissions on the proposed demolition but it did not oppose the demolition, Mayor Christina Smith told the meeting.

The Category II-rated house, which had been built in 1909 by renowned Westmount architect Edward Maxwell, had undergone several additions and changes at the rear and side over the years, while attempts to correct structural damage were reported to have been unsuccessful.

A building's condition is one of the important criteria on which a demolition decision is based, according to city by-laws.

"It's indicative to anyone walking by that the building is in a state of distress," said Councillor Conrad Peart, urban planning commissioner for permits and architecture, in announcing the decision and its conditions.

These included a monetary guarantee of \$50,000, that demolition and construction begin within 12 months of a permit being issued and that approved plans include those for site management and the re-use of demolition waste.

The decision also mentions that the dwellings will be "vacant as of May 1." It also states that a preliminary plan had been revised and recommended by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) to the Demolition Committee. It involves a two-family stand-alone residence.



ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT. THE PLANNED BUILDING HAS BEEN CIRCLED BY THE INDEPENDENT.



314-316 Lansdowne, left, on March 19.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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We all want to know more about COVID-19 vaccination



COVID-19 vaccination in Québec began in December 2020 as part of a massive effort to prevent serious complications and deaths related to COVID-19, and stop the virus from spreading. Through vaccination, we hope to protect our healthcare system and allow things to return to normal.

A VACCINATION OVERVIEW

Why get vaccinated at all?

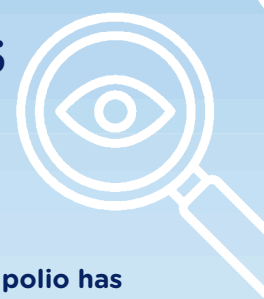
There are many reasons to get vaccinated (all of them good), including protecting ourselves from health complications and the dangers stemming from infectious diseases, as well as making sure they don't resurface.

How effective is vaccination?

Vaccination is one of medicine's greatest success stories and the cornerstone of an efficient healthcare system. That said, as with any medication, no vaccine is 100% effective. The efficacy of a vaccine depends on several factors, including:

- The age of the person being vaccinated
- Their physical condition and/or state of health, such as a weakened immune system

THE IMPACT OF VACCINES AT A GLANCE



- The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that vaccination helps **prevent over 2 million deaths** every year, worldwide.
- Since the introduction of vaccination programs in Canada in 1920, **polio has been wiped out** across the country and several other illnesses (such as **diphtheria**, **tetanus** and **rubella**) have virtually disappeared.
- **Smallpox** has been **eradicated** throughout the world.
- The main bacteria responsible for **bacterial meningitis** in children—Haemophilus influenzae type B—has become **much rarer**.
- **Hepatitis B** has for all intents and purposes **disappeared** in young people, due to their having been vaccinated in childhood.



COVID-19 VACCINES

Are the vaccines safe?

Definitely. COVID-19 vaccines have been tested for quality and efficacy on a large scale and passed all necessary analysis before being approved for public use.

All required steps in the vaccine approval process were stringently followed, some simultaneously, which explains why the process went so fast. Health Canada always conducts an extensive investigation of vaccines before approving and releasing them, paying particular attention to evaluating their safety and efficacy.

Who should be vaccinated against COVID-19?

We aim to vaccinate the entire population against COVID-19. However, stocks are limited for now, which is why people from groups with a higher risk of developing complications if they are infected will be vaccinated first.

Can we stop applying sanitary measures once the vaccine has been administered?

No. Several months will have to go by before a sufficient percentage of the population is vaccinated and protected. The beginning of the vaccination campaign does not signal the end of the need for health measures. Two-metre physical distancing, wearing a mask or face covering, and frequent hand-washing are all important habits to maintain until the public health authorities say otherwise.

On what basis are priority groups determined?

The vaccine will first be given to people who are at higher risk of developing complications or dying from COVID-19, in particular vulnerable individuals and people with a significant loss of autonomy who live in a CHSLD, healthcare providers who work with them, people who live in private seniors' homes, and people 70 years of age and older.

As vaccine availability increases in Canada, more groups will be added to the list.

Order of priority for COVID-19 vaccination

- 1 Vulnerable people and people with a significant loss of autonomy who live in residential and long-term care centres (CHSLDs) or in intermediate and family-type resources (RI-RTFs).
- 2 Workers in the health and social services network who have contact with users.
- 3 Autonomous or semi-autonomous people who live in private seniors' homes (RPAs) or in certain closed residential facilities for older adults.
- 4 Isolated and remote communities.
- 5 Everyone at least 80 years of age.
- 6 People aged 70–79.
- 7 People aged 60–69.
- 8 Adults under the age of 60 with a chronic disease or health issue that increases the risk of complications from COVID-19.
- 9 Adults under the age of 60 with no chronic disease or healthcare issues that increase the risk of complications but who provide essential services and have contact with users.
- 10 Everyone else in the general population at least 16 years of age.

Can I catch COVID-19 even after I get vaccinated?

The vaccines used can't cause COVID-19 because they don't contain the SARS-CoV-2 virus that's responsible for the disease. However, people who come into contact with the virus in the days leading up to their vaccination or in the 14 days following it could still develop COVID-19.

Is COVID-19 vaccination mandatory?

No. Vaccination is not mandatory here in Québec. However, COVID-19 vaccination is highly recommended.

Is vaccination free of charge?

The COVID-19 vaccine is **free**. It is only administered under the Québec Immunization Program and is not available from private sources.

Do I need to be vaccinated if I already had COVID-19?

YES. Vaccination is indicated for everyone who was diagnosed with COVID-19 in order to ensure their long-term protection.

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MEETING

Tuesday, April 6th



Sports and Recreation Spring 2021

The registration period for the Sports and recreation activities for the 2021 spring season (April to May 2021) opened on March 16, 2021. westmount.org

Try a Sports and Recreation online class for free
You can try one of the classes offered by the Sports and Recreation Department for FREE during the week of March 22. westmount.org

Water Rehabilitation Project
The City of Montreal will undertake a rehabilitation work on a primary water main on Boulevard De Maisonneuve West starting the week of March 29, 2021 until October 2021. westmount.org

Conservatory restoration
Restoration work on this 1927 building are now underway. westmount.org

COVID-19: measures in effect
Visit the quebec.ca/sante website for details about the latest measures announced by the Gouvernement du Québec.

Food waste collection
Phase 2 of the composting programme has begun and residential buildings of 9 to 30 units are invited to participate. westmount.org

Community alert system
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Weekly E-Westmount newsletter
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Concours littéraire McEntyre
Thème : Vise haut, une marche à la fois.
Cette année, nous te demandons d'écrire une histoire, un poème ou un essai décrivant comment une petite action peut faire une grande différence dans une communauté. Invitation aux élèves du primaire et du secondaire. westlib.org

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Discussions au coin du feu avec Mitch Joel
Mercredi 24 mars, 20 h en direct sur YouTube.
En conversation avec Nick Farkas, vice-président, concerts et événements chez evenko. youtube.com/bibliowestmount

Conférence : Gender, Sexuality, and Collaboration in Mid-Century Jazz
Vendredi 26 mars, 19 h, sur Zoom.
Conférence en anglais avec Lisa Barg, professeure associée à l'École de musique Schulich de l'Université McGill. Inscrivez-vous sur Eventbrite.

Sessions en studio au Victoria Hall
Samedi 27 mars, 20 h sur YouTube. Fieldstone Reverie. westlib.org

Conférence : Introduction to Small-Scale Urban Permaculture
Vendredi 9 avril, 19 h, sur Zoom, en anglais, avec Liza Charbel, cofondatrice de Jardins sans frontières. Inscription sur Eventbrite.

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McEntyre Literary Competition
Theme: Think Big! Start Small! This year, we would like you to write a creative story, poem or essay about how a small act can make a big difference in a community. Open to elementary and secondary students. westlib.org

Storytime online
Discover our stories online. westlib.org

Fireside Chats with Mitch Joel
Wednesday, March 24, 8 p.m., live on YouTube. In conversation with Nick Farkas, Vice President of Concerts and Events, evenko. youtube.com/bibliowestmount

Lecture: Gender, Sexuality, and Collaboration in Mid-Century Jazz
Friday, March 26, 7 p.m. on Zoom. With Lisa Barg, PhD, Associate Professor, Schulich School of Music of McGill University. Register on Eventbrite.

Victoria Hall Studio Sessions
Saturday, March 27, 8 p.m. on YouTube. Fieldstone Reverie. westlib.org

Lecture: Introduction to Small-Scale Urban Permaculture
Friday, April 9, 7 p.m. on Zoom. With Liza Charbel, cofounder of Gardens without Borders. Register on Eventbrite

Zurakowski 'Canada's most famous pilot'

Brzeski *mère* translates Arrow flyer's autobiography into English

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Ninety-two-year-old Polish immigrant Marieta Brzeski, née Lasocka, has been a resident of Manoir Westmount since 2018.

With time on her hands during the lonely COVID lockdowns, she quickly got itchy fingers. So out came her 60-year-old Royal portable typewriter, with its sticky keys and well-worn corners, and she launched into translating the autobiography *Janusz Zurakowski, Not only about Flying* from Polish to English.

Fought in World War II

Zurakowski was one of Canada's most respected pilots and "considered, one of the greatest test pilots of his time," according to Bill Zuk, author of *Zura: The Legend of Janusz Zurakowski*.

Zurakowski (1914-2004) grew up in Russia and Poland and joined the Polish air force. He fought in World War II both in Poland and from Britain, becoming the deputy wing leader of the Polish No. 1 Fighter Wing, in which role he led 46 combat sorties.

In 1952, he joined A. V. Roe (Avro) Canada as chief development test pilot. He

was the first pilot to exceed the speed of sound in a straight wing subsonic jet, the CF-100, and was a test pilot for the Avro Arrow. He retired from flying when the Arrow program was cancelled.

"I looked around my small private library," Marieta told the *Independent*, "and the Polish books I had included Janusz' book and poetry books. I don't translate poems. Since I doubted there was a translation of Janusz' book and because I very much liked 'Janusz Z.,' I decided to go ahead and occupy my time translating it."

Uprooted by World War II

Life started for Marieta in Wilno, then part of Poland and now the capital of Lithuania. The Soviets swept across the region in World War II and in 1941 she was deported along with hundreds of thousands of Poles. She ended up in southern Siberia, and eventually moved to Iran and Palestine (now Israel), then on to London, Munich and finally Canada.

Marieta has four daughters: Ada, Anna, Veronika and Westmount city councillor Marina. She had formal typing tuition at the London School of Teletyping, took a correspondence course in English at Oxford University and then went to work for Radio Free Europe as a typist and translator. Today, her typing ability is reduced by arthritis and Veronika helped to transcribe the text.

Anna found replacement typewriter ribbons on Amazon and she's still looking for someone who can fix the sticky keys.

Marieta met Zurakowski in Barry's Bay, Ontario around the time of Expo 67, when they stayed at Kartuzy Lodge, "a small bit of Poland." The land had been bought and developed by Zurakowski at the time the Avro Arrow program was cancelled.

"I remember him always tinkering – either fixing or building kayaks, catamarans or power boats. He had quite a



Marieta Brzeski and her Royal typewriter, photographed outside Manoir Westmount and Victoria Hall, March 11.

number of patents and was constantly inventing. He was also a terrific gardener," said Marieta.

COVID, not cottage

The Brzeski family eventually bought a cottage on the lake and they return every year. 2020 was the only time in 55 years that Marieta has not returned to the area. She's planning a visit this summer.

Marina said, "My impulse in speaking

with the *Independent* about this was to share how proud I am of my mom to have used her time, isolated in her room at the Manoir, to accomplish something of value: to make the book available to English speakers so others can learn about this legendary pilot and be inspired."

After a lot of hard work, the English translation has just been published and is available through Amazon.ca.

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Demolition, cont'd. from p. 1

demolished.

Still others questioned a change in the traditional demolition procedure, meaning that this initial hearing would consider only tearing down the building before making public the proposal for what would be built on the vacant lot.

While the city had received eight official submissions and one comment on the Melville property within a 10-day period, which entitled the writers to “intervener” status during the meeting, the city did not identify whether any of them were among the questioners.

“Obviously, there are a lot of concerns in the neighbourhood,” stated Mayor Christina Smith.

She explained that tenant concerns could be dealt with at the Quebec rental board (Régie de logement). She also assured questioners that the city understood the importance of providing a housing mix in a family neighbourhood. “I understand. I get it,” she said in several replies.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham explained that property owners had a right to apply for a demolition permit. It was up to the Demolition Committee, however, to assess the condition and value to the community of a building before allowing it to be torn

down in order to build something else.

One by one, Smith and the eight councillors who make up the committee, assured questioner François L’Heureux, a lawyer and Melville resident, that they had had no prior dealings with the developer, Darren Reid, who had worked on other projects in the city including the new townhouses at 65 Hillside at Metcalfe.

At least a third of the 30 questions came from Peter Hoffmann, also a lawyer who lives nearby on de Maisonneuve. He, along with Jon Breslaw of Grosvenor, dwelt mainly on what they considered a “lack of transparency” by not having seen the proposed replacement.

To one of the questions from Hoffmann, city clerk Andrew Brownstein stated he could always apply to see documents

through Access to Information.

Hoffmann also asked why the city had not accepted questions “live” during the webinar. Mayor Smith said the city, by allowing a second question period, was already going “above and beyond” the Quebec government’s COVID requirements for such a meeting. She welcomed the day when a demolition meeting could return to the council chamber allowing for face-to-face, back-and-forth discussion with residents.

“We’re in a pandemic,” interjected Councillor Jeff Shamie, “this is the way it is. We’re doing a formidable job going through the questions one by one.”

Before the decision on Melville was deferred, Councillor Conrad Peart, urban planning commissioner for permits and architecture, said he understood “the hesitancy” of some of the questioners regarding a change in procedure to evaluate whether a building should be demolished before the public sees a replacement program.

On the other hand, he maintained, the city had procedures “in place to evaluate” both a conforming or non-conforming project, so residents could be “assured” that a replacement project “will meet these standards set by the city.”

Mayor Smith later told the *Independent*, the experience had led to some need for changes (see separate story at left).

Mayor proposes changes

“There’s a lot of room for improvement,” Mayor Christina Smith suggested following the demo meeting. “We need to go back to being a smaller [Demolition] Committee.” This traditionally consisted of three members of council, while a hearing by all of the council was reserved for appeals. The change had been made several years ago.

Because this was one of the first-ever demolition hearings to take place during the time of pandemic closures, the virtual experience led to a lot of concerns, she said. “We may have to reconsider how we should manage the questions.”

More typically, she noted, many would have been requested from persons who had already obtained official intervener status by filing submissions during an official 10-day timeline.

In hindsight, perhaps the hearing of two demolition proposals should have taken place on separate dates, she added.

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Chez Doris is pleased to announce its first **major fundraising campaign, "Chez Doris, Day & Night"**, under the co-presidency of Liz Wirth, Chairman, M.F. Wirth Rail, and François Carrier, Managing Director & Head of Investment Banking, Desjardins Capital Markets.



Funds raised through this campaign will allow Chez Doris to offer a 24-hour continuum of services to a growing number of vulnerable homeless women. To add to its existing day shelter services, it will fund the launch of two new points of service:

- An emergency overnight shelter with 22 beds, and
- A permanent residence offering 26 affordable rental units.

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Sport-y, and read-y for a famil-y



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LYSANNE FOWLER

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Lysanne



This photograph of Sport shows how available he is at the Montreal SPCA kennel. He is comfy there and well cared for, yet he is hoping, as he stands at the door, for a loving home.
Yes, you can offer Sport that special “best dog life in Westmount” that he is waiting for right now. He is a bit over four years of age, a young and strong fellow who is very friendly and would enjoy the possibility of a family with another dog. He is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and micro-chipped.
Please refer to his identification number 46870998 when you visit the Montreal SPCA website at www.sPCA.com.



9 Lives
LYSANNE FOWLER

Mushu Kitten

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Your neighbour, Lysanne



Here he is, Mr. Mushu Adorable!
Such a cutie-face, a tiny black and grey tabby with light green eyes. He is growing like a weed, long legs and skinny tail, ready for fun from the smallest moments.
Mushu is available right now for adoption from the Montreal SPCA cattery, still a growing kitten on track for his inoculation program, neutering and microchipping. He is going into his socialization stage, with the possibility of being in a family with another cat and/or older children.
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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Chez Doris announces campaign

downtown hotel where a block of rooms are available for its homeless clientele.

Boulos-Winton explained the 2021 plan “to launch two new points of service: an

emergency overnight shelter with 22 beds and a permanent residence offering 26 affordable rental units.”

The sign on the current Chez Doris building on Chomedey St. reads “Edifice Carole et Andrew Harper,” honouring a generous 2019 donation by Westmount resident Andrew Harper, who passed away last year.

Westmounters on the campaign cabinet are Marie-Christine Tremblay, Susan Doherty, François Morin, and Westmounters on the honorary cabinet are Sharon Azrieli, Ellen Wallace and David Laidley.



Local res Marina Boulos-Winton, executive director of Chez Doris, recently announced the launch of a fundraising campaign.

Led by co-chairs Liz Wirth, chair of Wirth Rail, and François Carrier, managing director investment banking for Desjardins Capital Markets, “Chez Doris Day and Night” aims to raise \$7.5 million. Founded in 1977, the current day shelter for women in difficulty is the only day shelter for women in Montreal open seven days a week.

Services include breakfast, lunch and supper, access to showers, hygiene products, a clothing room, emergency food bags, respite beds, a telephone information referral service, a financial management program, an Inuit assistance program and housing search assistance.

Health and mental health services, tax and legal services, and socio-recreational and educational programs are also offered.

Until this summer, Chez Doris was operating a temporary night shelter from a

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Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

Waiting for Spring is the title of Judith Berry’s exhibition of futuristic landscapes at the McClure Galley.

Painterly scenes of bayou wetlands at Galerie de Bellefeuille are the work of Hunt Slonem – famed for his birds and butterflies. Whether representative or impressionistic, these landscapes raise questions not only about the future of our planet but also life as we know it.

Uncertain future

The exhibition *Waiting for Spring* features 26 small- and large-scale paintings unified by colour, evocative shapes, and graphic swirls or lines.

Painted in oils, scenes with pockets of vegetation, while familiar, are contrived and otherworldly. In “I See the Possibilities,” cedars – some uprooted – bend and float in the wind encircled by colourful banners.

The subject of “The Talking Hills” – two mountains with terraced vegetation and built forms – evokes both Roman ruins

Berry and Slonem: Landscapes imagined or real



“I See the Possibilities” by Judith Berry.

PHOTOS OF JUDITH BERRY’S WORK COURTESY OF GUY L’HEUREUX.

and contemporary architecture. Although the background is gold like the dawn – and optimistic – the opaque sculptural forms appear fragile.

Green and orange semicircles extend from each mountain to suggest launchpads, balconies or perhaps failed com-

munication.

In the “Prairie River Triptych,” curved multicolour shapes resembling paragliders hover over a park landscape. Although attractive, the parkland is depicted in muted green rather than fresh, spring lime.

Human interference

Human interference in nature – and evolution – is also suggested in “The Water Table” where the key figure – a straw man sitting opposite a robot – manipulates life forms, building blocks or chemical bonds.

The future also appears ominous in “Vomiting Figure” as a black-and-white clad Harlequin spews red onto an ever-

green.

Whether a prophecy or parody, Berry’s original imagery is compelling.

Open to multiple interpretations, this thought-provoking exhibition continues at the Visual Art Centre until March 27. The corresponding Online Art Hive is scheduled for 10 am on the closing day.

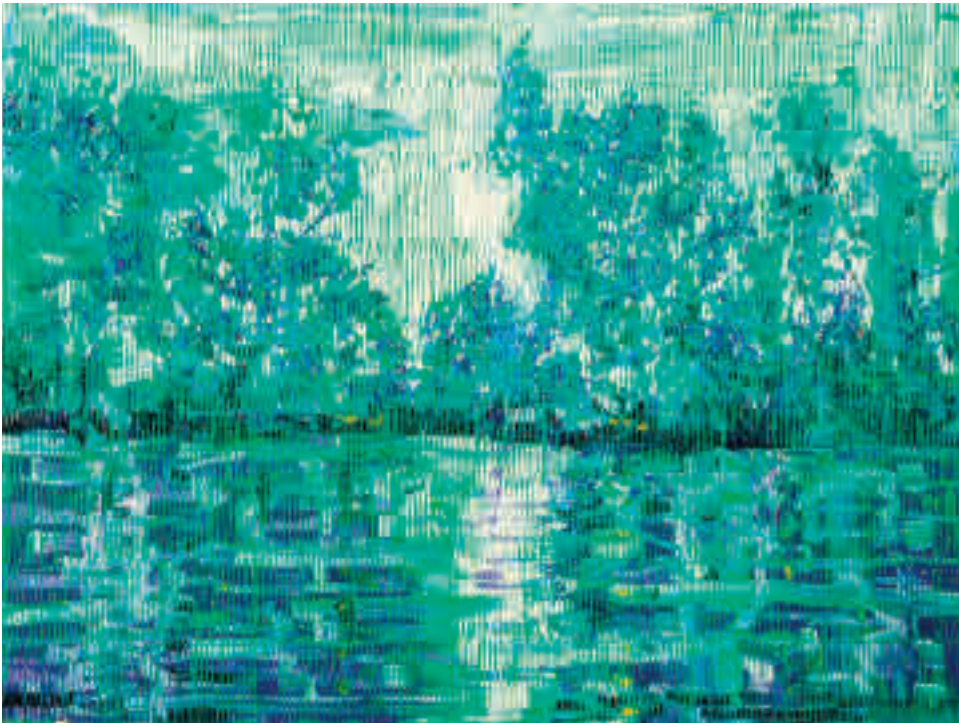
Louisiana setting

Painted in oil on wood or canvas, Hunt Slonem’s impressionistic landscapes of the bayou convey spring.

A strong colourist, the artist depicts lush marshland vegetation in vibrant cyan, green and yellow. Textural ridges – formed



“The Talking Hills” by Judith Berry.



“Bayou Teche” (2020) by Hunt Slonem

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by scraping paint with a brush handle or palette knife – recreate the sun's simmering heat and adds textural interest to each landscape.

In "Bayou Teche" (2017), wispy strokes of viridian and cyan evoke budding leaves against a pale sky. Cobalt-blue and green trees rise majestically above a lake in "Bayou Teche" (2020) – now in the gallery – while the sun's yellow reflection shimmers against blue water in "Made-wood Bayou La Fouché" (2020).

Slonem's unique artistry is evident in all eight bayou landscapes available through Galerie de Bellefeuille at 1367

Greene Ave.

Spring silence

Slonem's paintings capture the fragile – and disappearing – beauty of the bayou, the location of his Louisiana homes. "My work is about a last look at a lot of these things before they disappear forever," he once commented.

Although opposite in subject and style, Berry's contrived – and man-made – landscapes also convey the planet's uncertain future.

But whether real or imagined, these paintings capture a unique and memorable sense of place.

Water work at de Mais & Clarke

"The city of Montreal will continue its rehabilitation work on a primary water main," as well as related work on de Maisonneuve at Clarke, according to the city of Westmount's website viewed last week, which also referred readers to an underlying Montreal press release. The work will begin the week of March 29 and run until October. Lanes of traffic will be closed from time to time until June, when de Maisonneuve west to Melville will be closed to all but local traffic and the bike path diverted to St. Catherine on weekdays.



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Service of Worship at 11 a.m.

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Service of Tenebrae at 6 p.m.

Good Friday, April 2
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on the Passion at 11 a.m.

Good Friday, April 2

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Easter Sunday, April 4

"Son" Rise Service 9:00 a.m.
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Easter Sunday, April 4

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