

City: Space is lacking at community centre

Youth Orchestra to leave Vic Hall, finds new premises

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mayor Christina Smith opened the city council meeting August 6 saying she had received many letters deploring the departure of the Westmount Youth Orchestra (WYO) from Victoria Hall, premises she said the group has outgrown.

In its 23 years, it had expanded from 12 to 130 members and grown from using one room to much of the community centre for most of the day on Saturdays, a time the city also needs it for other requests and its own programs.

While not reported at the council meeting, the WYO is expected to be moving to the Sacred Heart School, an option it has been offered for the coming season, administrative coordinator Laurence Gi-

ronne told the *Independent*.

Mayor Smith also confirmed the city had offered to continue the organization's arrangement at Victoria Hall until at least January to give the group longer if needed to find new premises, "and I was prepared to go even longer," she added.

"We're excited they're going to be performing at Victoria Hall and are booking the dates," she added.

Smith also said she had met a few months ago with two of the WYO's board members, who had acknowledged the organization had outgrown Victoria Hall and already appeared to be looking for a possible new venue.

Use of the city's community centre has long been based on not- for-profit groups having a continued on p. 4

Summer means good food, outside



This pair was enjoying a quiet supper in Westmount Park on August 11 around 6:30 pm when the *Independent* caught up with them. For another group of diners, see p. 4. Photo: Ralph Thompson.

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Mayor Smith calls for 'decorum, courtesy' at meetings

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Citizens attending the council meeting August 6 were reminded by Mayor Christina Smith of the chamber's "long tradition of conducting city business in a decorous, civil and fact-based manner."

"All this ensures that the city's elected officials can best serve the interests of the citizenry in accordance with our traditions and the by-laws governing the conduct of

council meetings," she explained.

The "tone" of recent sessions, she said, had suggested that important principles "need to be reiterated," a reference in part to the July 3 session, at which there was interrupting and shouting.

So, while common sense and common courtesy should suffice to allow council and citizens to engage in "a polite and mutually respectful way," she said, the city's by-laws en- continued on p. 14

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Posting of AGIL report further delayed, Mayor Smith meets with southeast group

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A long-awaited posting of a consultants' report on a planning vision for the city's southeast sector has been further delayed until a meeting on it can be held between city officials and Mayor Christina Smith, she told the council meeting August 6.

Though residents of the area had been asking even the former council to post the AGIL report online, Smith said in June that she had expected to table the report at the council's July 3 session, followed by its

posting (see story June 19, p. 7).

She agreed at the August 6 council meeting with questioner Denis Biro that it was taking longer than expected but she would be meeting about it August 13 with city director general Benoit Hurtubise and assistant director general Sandra Avakian.

At the end of July, Smith and city officials met with a group of four District 8 residents who represented a number of

people in the area south of Dorchester concerned about the AGIL report.

Included at the meeting were Toby Morantz of Clandeboye, Patricia Dumais of Greene, Jim Richards of Dorchester and Willem Westenberg of Stayner. District 8 Councillor Kathleen Kez was out of the country so did not attend.

“We were assured the city would be starting afresh,” Morantz said last week

and that southeast planning would be transparent and well communicated. “But we’ll be watching.”

Morantz also said the four residents made it clear that “we still don’t want Dorchester narrowed or the (Tupper) parking lots developed except for multi-use green space. But we’re open to all ideas.”



The Tupper lots on August 10, from Tupper looking southwest.

Photo: Independent.

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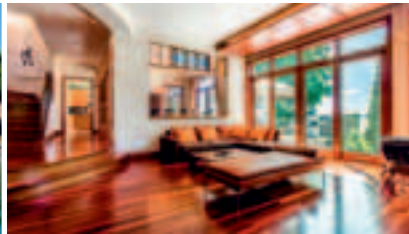
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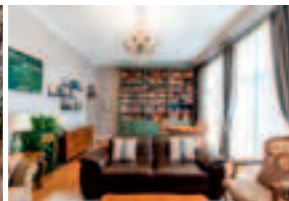
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Summer means good food (2)



This group was enjoying breakfast in Westmount Park at 9:30 am on August 1. From left, 18-month-old Max Goldsmith, Mark Goldsmith, 3-year-old Olivia Havas, Jenice Batiforra and Michael Havas. For another group of diners, see p. 1.

Photo: Ralph Thompson.

Youth orchestra, cont'd. from p. 1

50-percent Westmount membership, as reaffirmed last year (see story October 31, 2017). The WYO's is 14 percent.

Smith said it became "difficult for us"

to balance the needs of other groups requesting Saturdays but "I think we could have communicated better."

Departure a shock

"People are in shock" over the WYO's departure, Margaret Wada of Argyle told the council meeting.

She said she did not realize the city had taken over the building as a community centre. She read out a message from her daughter, who had played in the orchestra, explaining how important the experience had been for her.

If the WYO can't benefit from members outside the community, it can't benefit Westmount residents, Wada said.

Following up, a resident of Upper Belmont asked the council to increase transparency of room use at Victoria Hall by putting bookings online as Centre Greene does. "We certainly can look at it," Smith said.

'Incredible edibles' grown to be taken at 30 spots



Tomatoes on the Westmount recreation centre roof on August 10.

Photo: Independent.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Try strawberries from York and St. Catherine, tomatoes from the Westmount recreation centre, hot peppers from Victoria Hall or Swiss chard from Devon Park.

These are only some of this summer's "incredible edibles" planted for the eighth year by the city at some 30 locations where the fruits and vegetables can be picked.

"We plant thousands of them," Councillor Cynthia Lulham announced at the council meeting August 6. While inviting residents to help themselves, she asked that they limit their harvest to 10 percent of any vegetable or fruit at a given time and avoid damaging or pulling out the plants.

Locations and varieties can be found on a map on the city's website by entering "incredible edibles" in the search box and clicking on Westmount Incredible Edibles.

Several banana trees from the closed greenhouses have also been planted in the large bed by the watercourse in Westmount Park, though it is unlikely they will produce fruit due to the short growing season though they did indoors, according to city horticulturist Jayme Gerbrandt.

Part of a world-wide agriculture initiative, the aim of the Incredible Edibles program is to increase awareness about food security and prompt gardeners to grow food at home as well as use vegetables and fruits to bring what is described as "unique beauty" to flower beds.

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Survey of Westmount Park pinpoints needs Blitz under way to attend to park maintenance

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A blitz is under way to address the routine maintenance of city parks, city director general Benoit Hurtubise told the *Independent* after concerns voiced at the council meeting August 6. This applies to such items as the repair and painting of benches, grass and greenery.

The concerns were raised during question period by Patrick Barnard of Melville, who said the condition of some benches in Westmount Park had led him to conduct an entire park survey. He identified patches of brown grass, needed renewal of the circular flower bed north of the bike path and some 28 benches ready for repair in the playground and nearby areas.

“I’m making a plea for maintenance,” he said after saying about half the park areas needed fixing.

Barnard found the floral clock, bleachers, benches around the Melville pond and comfort stations to be in “pretty good” shape and some wood on benches had already been replaced but needed painting.

“We need to put more resources into the park,” said Councillor Cynthia Lulham, whose commissionership includes parks. She said she had been asking for more parks budgets for several years and this was achieved this year. “The parks are for everyone.” To Barnard’s list, she added trees growing up in shrubs.

John Fretz of Lansdowne, recalled that a year ago Lulham had listed a number of items that needed tending and asked, “Why hasn’t anything been done?”

Lulham said she was “very disappoint-



Patrick Barnard, of Melville, left, addresses council August 6 on park maintenance while Margaret Wada, of Argyle, waits her turn to ask about the Westmount Youth Orchestra (see story, p. 1).

ed in the state of the parks.” She said she had toured all of them in May. She then returned two weeks ago to find out what items had been addressed and found “nothing had.” While the budget is now there for parks, she explained, she suggested a lack of personnel to supervise contractors might be the reason.

Never been so clean

She later told the *Independent*, however, that the parks “had never been so clean” and that she had been frustrated at the council meeting by what she took to be an allegation by Fretz that she had not done her “job.”

She explained that while the budget was in place to maintain the parks, “there is an issue that needs to be resolved: We have good people in place (at Public Works) who are working as hard as they can, but do we have enough and in the right places?”

A lot of the work is done by contractors

who need to be supervised, Lulham added. She said the city’s assistant director general, Sandra Avakian, will provide “fresh eyes in looking at the issue.”

Considering the city is also working on major projects such as restoration of the greenhouses and the overall infrastructure analysis and renewal of Westmount Park, management resources are also limited.

“It’s very easy to criticize,” she added, but Westmount Park in particular, “is suf-

fering from so much use, especially the playground.” The city also has “so many gardens” to be tended.

Mayor Christina Smith reiterated that “we’re committed to investing in the parks.” While this has been “the hottest summer ever, we can do things better. There’s no reason why we can’t have the best parks and be more creative.”

She said she was pleased to have Barnard’s list to give to Public Works.

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REVIEW

KOZAK KILLS, HOMER LIVES

By David Price

Twenty-two streets east of Westmount, in a bar on Park Ave., a major Montreal cultural event has just come to an end. McGill classics professor Lynn Kozak finished her 29-part recital of *The Iliad* on August 6.

Why care about Homer’s *Iliad*, a novel-length poem that tells the story of Achilles’ dispute with over-king Agamemnon during the Trojan War? In conversation, one friend suggested, “Because it’s a great story.” To which I replied, “It’s the *first* story!” (Which is not quite true, but pretty close.)

I would add upon further reflection that *The Iliad* is great because it deals – excellently – with *everything*: war, peace, diplomacy, love, hate, pity, loss, grief, friendship, family, compromise, stubbornness, oratory, politics, religion, natural ability (and lack of it), fate, injustice, free will, courage, cowardice, loyalty, life, death. It would be easier to list what it doesn’t deal with. (Care Bears, Facebook and veganism are about all that I can come up with.)

Coming and going to this Monday-at-six-pm event, I’ve run into various friends and acquaintances, and there have been a few repeat reactions.

Q: “You’re going to a lecture on *The Iliad*?”

A: “No, I am going to *The Iliad*, period. Kozak is performing (or reciting) it.” (Each

performance was about an hour in length.)

Q: “You’re going to hear excerpts from *The Iliad*?”

A: “No, she is performing *the whole thing*, heroes’ and towns’ names, everything.” (The final part of her rehearsal was to look at the Greek immediately beforehand and then recite in English, with very occasional help from a prompter.)

I was alerted to the series, variously called “Happy Hour Homer” and “Previously ... on *The Iliad*,” by CBC Radio (local news matters!), which broadcasts its control booth on tv on weekdays from 6 am to 7 am. I was grazing from one traditional tv show to another, and I think I saw the words on the news crawl, “McGill prof. performs *The Iliad*.” I could not believe my eyes. While I have no ancient Greek, I am a big fan of the poem, as I am proving with this piece. I was even more surprised when I read or heard she was doing it *in a bar*.

‘Fun happens in bars’

Now, I have long been a disciple of Ken Miller, the *Freaks and Geeks* character played by Seth Rogen, who famously said, “Everything fun in this world happens in bars,” but I hadn’t expected *this*. It was even better when I got there and checked out Bar des pins, the venue for all the performances save one. It may be hard for the attentive reader of this newspaper to believe, but I had somehow never been there before. Here was an unpretentious Mon-

treál student bar, laid out in the classic Montreal shoebox shape (narrow store-front, one long main room, bathrooms at the back), that was going to host one of the oldest works of human literature. One time, it seemed that a couple wandered in not knowing what was planned. They stayed for the show anyway, enjoying their cups and the show. The choice of Monday night could not have been better for me personally, since the *Independent*’s “week” ends on Monday at noon when we send the finished files to the printer.

Bar = ruler’s hall?

To my semi-educated mind, the bar venue fit how the poem would have been originally performed. I imagined a poet showing up at a city-state in ancient Greece and convincing the local ruler to allow him to perform. When would he do so? After dinner, with the ruler’s family, warriors, servants and subjects listening, drinks in hand – just like at Bar des pins.

(The series sparked my curiosity, and I have since discovered there is a mystery and lively debate about when and how *The Iliad* was composed and performed. Was it written in one go like a modern author writing a novel? Was it put together from other poems? Did it exist orally, whole and complete for many years (decades? centuries?), before being put to “paper”? And when did all this happen? The oldest manuscript dates from the 10th century AD. Did it come into final form around 800 BC, the traditional estimate, or was it tinkered with by subsequent editors, including the librarians of Alexandria?)

Regardless, the performances did not disappoint. Kozak performed all the lines without introduction or explanatory lecture. It was *The Iliad*, without adornment. A different director worked on each night and chose a different set and costume for Kozak, giving each performance its own flavour. There were sometimes a few actors added for effect, but generally it was a one-woman show.

Laughs, manliness and other stuff

Kozak went for more laughs than I would have expected or chosen, often riffing off what Homeric language sounds like to modern ears. Eurymedon, for instance, “loved manliness,” which drew laughs from the audience and the performer. The characters’ decisions to eat at various dramatic points were also presented humorously.

Sometimes her choice of language was intentionally funny. The god Hephaestus, traditionally called “bowlegged,” was described as having “a disability in both legs.” She chose colloquial language

(“Zeus was planning bad things,” a shield had “cobalt stuff,” “there’s a woodcutter guy,” some characters were “sidekicks,” “Hector didn’t know anything that was going on,” a character “was being awesome”) more often than I would have thought or chosen.

She made other choices that surprised me. In the first performance that I attended (week 7, on February 26), she performed Glaukos’ lines:

*Why ask my birth, Diomedes? Very like leaves
Upon this earth are the generations of men –
Old leaves, cast on the ground by wind,
young leaves
The greening forest bears when spring comes in.
So mortals pass; one generation flowers
Even as another dies away.*

(Fitzgerald translation, Book Six, lines 168-173)

in a laughing, dismissive way. It was like being slapped in the face. I had always seen this passage as an existential *cri-de-coeur*, not a throwaway dodge by a minor character. But who cares? *The Iliad* had come alive, and it is always worth going back to it, and questioning one’s assumptions. And leaving aside this specific case, on second thought, while I might like a 30-hour, sombre, solemn performance of *The Iliad*, it might not have been a crowd-pleaser. (At other moments, Kozak’s presentation was solemn and sombre, just not all the time.)

(The whole series is also on YouTube. In my view, if the recording quality can support it, it should also be made available in a higher-resolution format. Netflix? DVD? Speaking for myself, my computer is not a good way to look at longer videos.)

Bottom line, I salute Kozak for this major achievement, as did the audience, which grew each week until the bar was at capacity and which gave her a standing ovation on the final night. As one woman put it at the end of week 14 (April 23), “Where do you get your courage from? You’re badass!”

Kozak ended the whole series by saying, “That’s it. I’m dead,” (probably speaking for Hector). She could not be more wrong. Homer is alive in Montreal and on YouTube thanks to her. Personally, I’ll never feel the same way about Monday nights again. Drinking beer and listening to Homer? It’s all downhill from here.*

*Although the steepness of the slope could be alleviated by a performance of *The Odyssey*, a lesser work in my view, but one perhaps more suited to performance. What action-adventure plot doesn’t happen in it?

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WYO decision taken in light of longstanding approach, current demands



Mayor's Column

CHRISTINA SMITH

Like most municipalities, the city of Westmount has a long-standing policy whereby our residents have priority access to our programmes, services and facilities. Municipal buildings like the Westmount recreation centre, Westmount Library and Victoria Hall exist, after all, in large part due to the generosity of Westmount taxpayers and even donors.

More importantly, these buildings have always been intended primarily for the use of Westmount residents – that is their *raison d'être*. This approach has served us well. Today, our public municipal buildings operate at virtually maximum capacity and are used principally by Westmount residents or Westmount-based schools.

We are struggling to meet the high level of local demand for all of our facilities. We are faced with the increasingly difficult task of allocating the limited available resources in a fair manner, while prioritizing Westmounters. We are rapidly approaching the limit of our ability to accommodate all of the legitimate Westmount resident requests.

Residents from all parts of Westmount have repeatedly told me, and members of council, that they agree and indeed *expect* that our programmes, services and facilities be available in priority to Westmounters. The city's policy at Victoria Hall is that Westmounters comprise a minimum of 50 percent of the participants in individual programs.

At its core, this is an issue of fairness. As a city, we need to ensure that our public facilities are first made available for the benefit of Westmount residents whenever

possible.

This is the background to our recent decision to ask the Westmount Youth Orchestra (WYO) to find a new rehearsal space. I wish to ensure that Westmounters understand both the background and the rationale for the city's decision.

The Westmount Youth Orchestra (WYO) began as a small and primarily Westmount-based activity. To its great credit and due to the hard work of its directors, over the years, it has grown and become successful far beyond the expectations of its original founders. It now has over 130 musicians from all parts of Montreal and beyond. Westmounters now comprise only a minority (14 percent) of its members. This fact came to light after a recent routine review of its membership, something that has been carried out somewhat inconsistently over the years, to the detriment of groups who comply with the 50-percent Westmounter policy.

Other groups asking for Saturdays

The WYO has made use of the facilities at Victoria Hall for rehearsals from September to June *at no cost*, even though it is an autonomous and self-financing entity. It generates income from concerts it holds in various locations, including Westmount's Victoria Hall, as well as from membership fees. It has a coveted Saturday slot, which is frequently requested by other groups, but unavailable during the school year.

I want to thank the members of the WYO board who took the time to meet with me and then continued our dialogue on this important issue. It is also important to emphasize that we need to offer rooms to other Westmount groups and at the same time the WYO had outgrown the space of Victoria Hall due to the rooms we have available. It is clear that the WYO is entering a period of transition, and West-

mount city council is determined to be as helpful and supportive as it can. We understand that the WYO has found a new rehearsal space and look forward to their continued performances and concerts at Victoria Hall. We have also indicated our willingness to be flexible regarding the orchestra's moving date so that it has ample time to relocate.

As we try to balance the many demands from groups that wish to use Victoria Hall, particularly on weekends, it is time for us to re-assess our activities and programming from the perspective of what our citizens want, as well as changes in demographics. Residents are working longer, and more families have two working parents. All of this means that we are experiencing an increase in demand for cultural and sports activities taking place on weekends.

In the interest of an equitable use of our resources, while giving priority to Westmount citizens, we are confident we will allow more Westmounters to take advantage of Victoria Hall, our community centre, and that it will be a hub of activity throughout the school year and beyond.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GET THE ADMINISTRATION GOING ON PARKS

The city's response to the dreadful condition of Westmount Park is completely incomprehensible and disheartening. During the August council meeting, Patrick Barnard provided an exhaustive list of the long-running deficiencies in the park that could be readily corrected. John Fretz then provided an impassioned review of the debates over the last five years in council where park condition issues were repeatedly brought up, corrective commitments made by council, then only to be broken. As the commissioner responsible for parks, Councillor Lulham responded with a litany of reasons why nothing happened. First, years ago there was no budget for it. Then the money was made available but no workers were provided.

Now both money and staff are available but still very little is being done. While expressing disappointment and exasperation, Councillor Lulham also said she now has no idea why almost nothing was moving forward. Just wonderful.

Westmount Park is regarded by many to be a crown jewel of the city. Either council members over the years have collectively concluded that residents in fact remain unconcerned with the poor condition of the park and therefore consciously let it deteriorate while, at the same time, providing residents with the impression that council really cared.

Or instead, while seriously desiring to properly maintain the park, council has lost its ability to direct the city administration, which, on its own, decided that it has other more pressing priorities in its workload. Enough endless talk, years of inaction and delay.

Councillors, find your backbone and either direct the city administration to immediately get on with it, or level with the Westmount community and tell our residents not to expect any corrective action and just learn to live with a second-rate park.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

END OF CITY-WYO RELATIONSHIP A CATASTROPHE

Open letter to Mayor Smith and Councillor Gallery

I write to you in great shock having heard of the ending of the relationship between the Westmount Youth Orchestra and Victoria Hall. Having grown up in Westmount, I was a member of the WYO for many years during high school, and found the experience of playing in a youth



Bixis and Victoria Hall on August 13. There were 8 bikes and 7 empty spots at 10:20 am.

Photo: Independent.

orchestra to be an invaluable experience for a young mind.

Moreover, I believe any youth orchestra should be seen as a cherished member of a community, fostering the artistic talents of young musicians, who in turn give back to the community in the form of concerts and as proud ambassadors when they play at festivals. Indeed, when I was a member we played in Quebec-wide music competitions, performed at the prestigious Lanaudière International Music festival and participated in an exchange program with the youth orchestra from Saguenay-Lac St. Jean, all representing the city of Westmount. Even just last month, my parents,

who have been Westmount residents for 40 years, attended a full-capacity concert of the WYO and were raving to me about the music that they heard.

While I am away pursuing my studies and professional development at Caltech in Pasadena, California, I have been fortunate enough to join their orchestra and

must mention that at every concert, without exception, members of the community come to orchestra members and thank us for volunteering our time to perform music. Thus, not only is it a very enriching experience for the members that play in the orchestra, it enriches the community around it.

I think Westmount is making a catastrophic mistake in pushing away such a prized asset of the community. I am at a complete loss at the decision process behind such a move, and I believe that the city council owes its residents and every current and past member of the WYO answers for such a damaging decision!* Rather than ending its relationship with the WYO, the city of Westmount should be going out of its way to find means to further support the orchestra, reverse this decision and apologize to all members of the orchestra.

TOMAS JOCHYM-O'CONNOR,
LEWIS AVE./PASADENA, CA

Editor's note: See the mayor's explanation on p. 7. – DP

LICENSE THE BIKES

Dogs, cars, and motorcycles all require licences. Why not bicycles?

Hopefully, it would make cyclists more responsible and diligent in obeying the rules.

Some cyclists are very rude, annoying and think they own the road. They could be given tickets for misdemeanours.

I am very glad cyclists have been banned from [Mount Royal] cemetery (as of August 1). continued on p. 9

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Overheard

Woman on crutches making her way, slowly, down Sherbrooke near Prince Albert, August 9 at 3:30 pm. "If I don't get my hair washed [at a hair salon], I am going to scream."

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PSOs first on the scene to provide help to collapsed man outside the SAQ

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A public safety officer driving a woman and dog she found on Sunnyside to a vet clinic on Victoria Ave. to check for microchip identification August 3, was approached at a traffic light at 5:01 pm to help a man who appeared “in trouble,” Public Security officials said. The man was reported to have fallen while exiting a car in front of the Société des alcools du Québec on Sherbrooke.

The officer found him lying on the sidewalk while a nurse had already started CPR. Two other patrol cars arrived and together the officers began chest compressions and defibrillation while awaiting fire department first responders and Urgences Santé. Part of Sherbrooke was blocked at Grosvenor.

A family member was reported to be on the scene when the man was taken to the MUHC Glen site. He was believed to be around 70 but personal information was not recorded, given the attention required at the scene, according to Public Security director Greg McBain.



Looking west from Sherbrooke and Grosvenor at 5:20 pm on August 3. For another photo, see August 7, p. 4.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

There was no update on his condition. “Cases like this show how important the training of our officers is in first aid,

CPR and defibrillator use,” McBain said. “They were able to respond within seconds and were the first responders on the

scene. I was proud how well they worked as a team in a stressful situation.”

Letters, cont'd. from p. 8

This will restore the quiet tranquility of the cemetery.

We need more bike lights. The bike light at Fort and de Maisonneuve is excellent. How about installing a bike light at Metcalfe and de Maisonneuve? It is almost impossible to make a left turn on a school morning!

I grew up in Toronto, and it was mandatory to have a licence to ride my bike to school.

Some of the old ways were better!

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON,
KITCHENER AVE.

P.S. I hope all of you at the *Indie* enjoyed a well-deserved holiday?

Editor's reply: We did! Thank you. – DP

WESTMOUNT'S BIXI DEMAND LIKELY EVEN HIGHER

It was very interesting to read in the July 3 issue that the Bixi station at Greene and de Maisonneuve is the busiest in Montreal. As a frequent Bixi user (more than 160 trips in the 2016 season) who lives near the Victoria Hall station, I would like to point out that the way usage data is collected and interpreted can skew the results.

This morning, I spoke to a Bixi staffer who was busy taking bikes out of the Victoria Hall station and loading them onto a trailer, to be moved to other stations. He confirmed that this is done so that there will be docks available for the afternoon so commuters can return bikes. He also con-

firmed what has been my frequent observation, both visually and using the Bixi app on my phone, that the Victoria Hall station is empty of bikes for long periods of time, most afternoons.

Of course, I'm checking only because I want to use a Bixi from that station. But I can't when there are no bikes available. And there is no way to let the Bixi organization know that a potential trip from that station did not happen, because they only record trips. They have not provided themselves with any mechanism to assess demand during times when the “shelves are empty.” Whereas car dealers have wait lists and retailers offer rain cheques, Bixi does nothing, and therefore is totally unable to make an informed decision about either enlarging the station at Victoria Hall, or

ensuring that there are at least a couple of bikes available most of the time. I'd bet that these changes would bump up its usage ranking!

How hard would it be to add a button to the phone app to let Bixi know that I want to use a bike from an empty station? And then have the app notify me when a bike becomes available?

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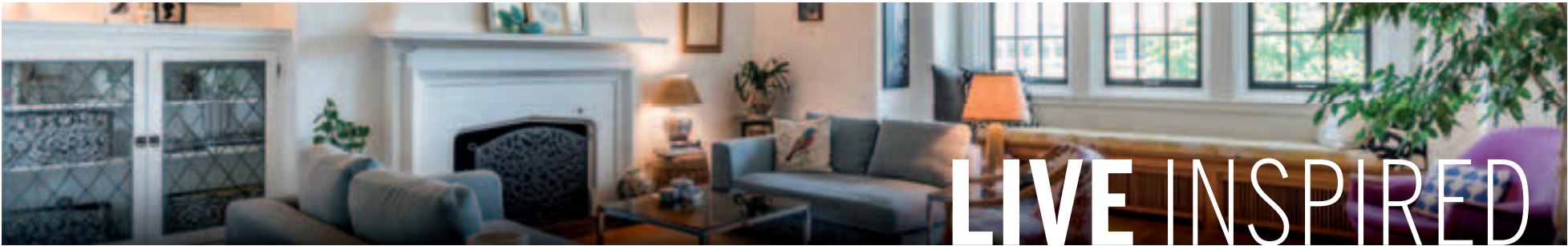


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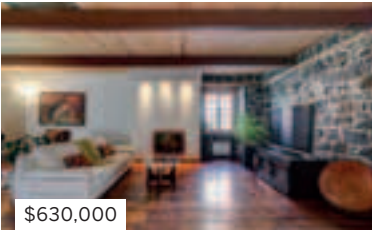
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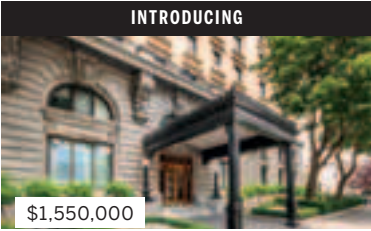
\$3,595,000

Penthouse, Golden Square Mile
BED: 2 BATH: 3+1 GAR: 3 MLS 15205045
JJ Jacobs** **514.817.7020**



\$2,750,000

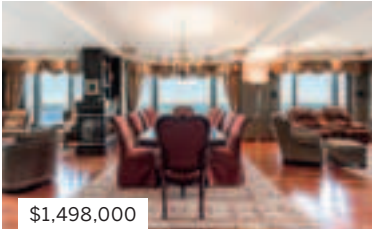
Oro, Golden Square Mile
BED: 2 BATH: 2+1 GAR: 2 MLS 26161595
Herbert Ratsch† **514.884.8269**



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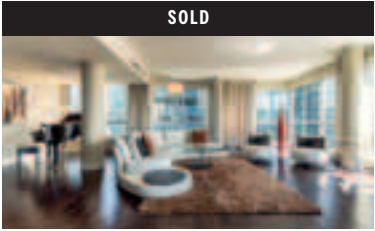
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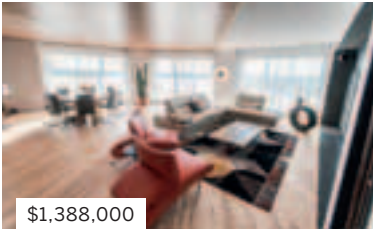
Waterfront timeless elegance, Île-des-Sœurs
BED: 3 BATH: 2+1 GAR: 2 MLS 10176054
Diane Oliver** **514.893.9872**



SOLD

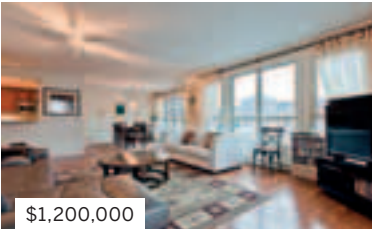
4-bdrm at the Crystal, Ville-Marie
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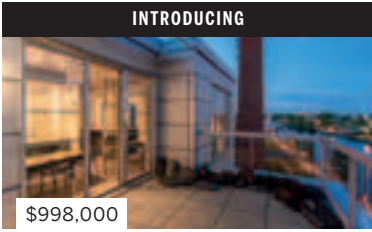
Le 1200 Ouest, Golden Square Mile
BED: 2 BATH: 2 GAR: 1 MLS 19573932
Phyllis A. Tellier** **514.924.4062**



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\$1,189,000

Tropiques Nord, Cité du Havre
BED: 3 BATH: 2+1 GAR: 2 MLS 23370255
David Wilkes* **514.947.5152**



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\$998,000

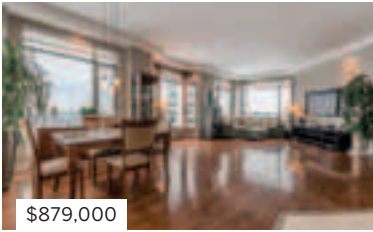
Splendid Penthouse, Le Sud-Ouest
BED: 2 BATH: 2 GAR: 2 MLS 13788944
Géraldine Libraty* **514.962.5563**



\$929,000

Altoria, Square Victoria, Ville-Marie
BED: 2 BATH: 2 MLS 10891316
Karen Rossy** **514.963.6311**

« CONDOS »



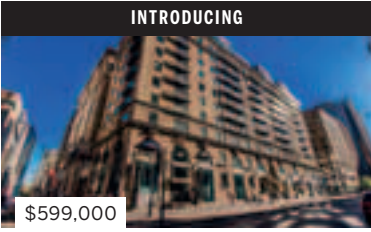
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Superb property, Lorraine
BED: 2 BATH: 2 GAR: 2 MLS 13096851
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Victoria Marinacci* **514.400.0280**



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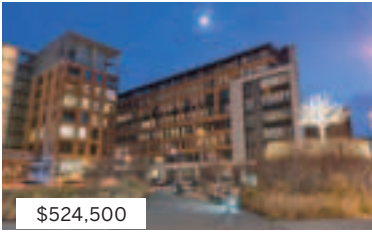
Beautiful loft, Hochelaga-Maisonneuve
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BED: 2 BATH: 1 GAR: 1 MLS 27443698
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Raymond Dalbec^{**} **819.425.4568**



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Villa Toscana, Morin-Heights
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Somptuous home, Frelighsburg
BED: 5 BATH: 3+1 MLS 28216513
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Johanne Meunier^{*} **514.926.5626**



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Waterfront estate, Ste-Agathe-des-Monts
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Melanie Clarke^{*} **450.694.0678**

COUNTRY PROPERTIES



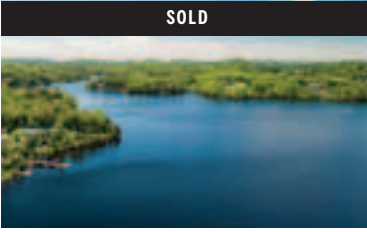
\$895,000

Lac Echo, Gore
BED: 3 BATH: 2+1 MLS 12220211
Marsha Hanna^{*} **819.425.0619**



\$889,000

Stunning views, Ste-Catherine-de-Hatley
BED: 3 BATH: 2+1 MLS 10520329
Stéphane Cloutier^{*} **819.578.7507**



SOLD

Waterfront property, Estérel
BED: 3 BATH: 3
Sophie Le Guerrier^{*} **5514.655.0773**



\$768,000

Nestled on top of the Fjord, Sacré-Cœur
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Retail Watch

An assortment of news about retailers and retail spaces in Westmount. If you have retail news, please email us at indie@westmountindependent.com before the 21st of each month. Major changes since last month's coverage (July 3, p. 14) in bold.

GREENE AVE. AREA

New

Westrose boulangerie boutique, 1235 Greene, former site of Babar en ville and the Double Hook.
Liv salads, 1201 Greene Ave., former site of Joallier David Plotnick

Coming

Zar beauty bar is opening in Alexis Nihon Plaza (first floor).
Saint Sushi, 1359 Greene.
Ryu sushi, 4185 St. Catherine St., at the former site of Joallier David Plotnick.
Kinton ramen, 4090 St. Catherine St., former site of Metro dry cleaner.
Fleuressence florist, 1394 Greene Ave. (basement)

Construction under way

1358-60 Greene Ave. Construction of building façade looks complete, but there was no signage on August 10.
206-208 Olivier Ave.

Not in retail use

1394 Greene Ave. (south of Sherbrooke), former site of Lululemon and, before that, the Bank of Nova Scotia
1368 (basement) Greene
1362 Greene Ave., former site of Bistro on the Avenue.
1347 (approx.) Greene Ave.
1336 (basement) Greene Ave.
1314 Greene Ave.
1308 Greene Ave.
1215 Greene Ave. (south of de Maison-neuve), former site of Lou Goldberg Jeweller
1212 Greene Ave., former site of Marie Dumas, now open at 1234 Greene
4024A St. Catherine St. (east of Atwater), former site of Tutti Frutti
4026 St. Catherine St., former site of Morning Glory
4026A St. Catherine St., former site of Tia Maria prêt à porter
4146 St. Catherine St.
Unit 300 of Westmount Square retail concourse, former site of Galerie la Manière Noire
Three first-floor units in Alexis Nihon

VICTORIA VILLAGE

New establishment

signless shoe store, 4927A Sherbrooke St.

Coming

Kavos Greek-inspired restaurant, 4922 Sherbrooke St., former site of Parm and Léa
Chocolatier Suisse, 4945 Sherbrooke St. (at Claremont), former site of Mochico

Construction complete

Aesop, 4968 Sherbrooke St.

Moving

Artgold's shop at 4937 Sherbrooke St. is for rent. Once it is rented, it plans to move, "probably downtown," said the store on June 27.

Closed

pizzeria, 4909 Sherbrooke St.
JoshuaDavid, 4926 Sherbrooke St.
Mochico, 4945 Sherbrooke

Not in retail use

4822 Sherbrooke St., former site of SunSource
4823 Sherbrooke St., former site of Pier 1
4825 Sherbrooke St., former site of Gascogne
4848 Sherbrooke, former site of Laurentian Bank
4918 Sherbrooke St. (top), former site of Made in Italy
4920 Sherbrooke St., former site of La Canadienne's Westmount location
4923 (approx.) Sherbrooke
4927 Sherbrooke St. (upper)
4930 (basement) Sherbrooke St., former site of Sharyn Scott, now operating at 4916 Sherbrooke St.
4932 (upper) Sherbrooke St.
4932 (lower) Sherbrooke St., former site of Flore, now operating at 4818 Sherbrooke St.
4 Somerville, former site of Ceiba.
370 Victoria, former site of Sous Chef.

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Medical-education book donated to Atwater Library



From left, John Schweitzer, Kimberley Ryan and Dr. Donald Boudreau on August 9.

BY HEATHER BLACK

McGill professor Dr. Donald Boudreau presented a copy of *Physicianship and the Rebirth of Medical Education* to head librarian Kimberley Ryan at the Atwater Library on August 9. Ryan, who has been head librarian since June 2017, said: "It's always a pleasure to showcase Montreal authors at the Atwater Library."

Boudreau co-wrote the book over a six-year period with McGill colleagues Dr. Abraham Fuks, and American medical philosopher Dr. Eric Cassell.

Published this spring by Oxford University Press, Boudreau said: "The book lays out the pedagogical methods required to nurture physicianship in medical students where impairments of function should be the primary concern of physicians."

It also presents a patient-centred model of medical education which recognizes the work of the legendary Sir William Osler.

The cover design features the collage "Val-lum Hadrianus: The Maritime Theatre, Villa Tivoli" by John Schweitzer, who said he was "honoured to have my work chosen for the cover." An exhibition of his collages, *John A. Schweitzer: Text & Image* will take place at the Westmount Public Library in September.

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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Here she is, adorable and loving Lilly kitten. Now five months old and in foster care for Gerdy's Rescue, we could never tell that she was taken in by rescue volunteers and veterinary staff after falling from a third-floor balcony and being left with a broken leg. She was so tiny and has stolen every single heart along on the way to recovery.

Lilly is a joyous purring ball of energy, running and jumping like every other kitten her age. She has a lovely personality, happily affectionate and companionable to all in her foster family, including dogs and cats.

If you would like to make a little spot for her in your family, please do not hesitate to contact Gerdy's Rescue volunteers at info@gerdysrescue.org. You might also

Decorum, cont'd. from p. 1

shrine these principles, which the mayor has powers to enforce.

Without listing the by-law sections at the meeting, notes she prepared from a consolidation by-law, number 1336, prohibit declarations as well as all forms of demonstration.

The by-law "makes it clear" that question period does not constitute a forum for demonstrations of any kind (section 13). It also prohibits "the interruption or hindrance of person asking a question" (section 19).

The mayor's powers include those to limit or withdraw the right to speak when rules are not followed as well as expulsion of "persons or groups who misuse question period for demonstrative purposes affecting the meeting's order or decorum," (sections 19 and 20).

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Application to open a registry in view of approval by way of referendum – By-Law 1525

1. At its regular meeting held on Monday, August 6, 2018, the Municipal Council adopted, by resolution, the second draft of a by-law entitled "**BY-LAW 1525 TO FURTHER AMEND ZONING BY-LAW 1303 – ACCESS RAMP FOR PERSONS WITH REDUCED MOBILITY**".
2. This second draft by-law is subject to approval by way of referendum as it concerns the addition of a new section to authorize, under certain conditions, the installation of access ramps on existing institutional properties.
3. Interested persons may submit to the City Clerk's Office, no later than **Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.**, an application to open a registry in view of submitting the provision of the second draft of By-law 1525 to the approval of certain qualified votes.
4. The legal notice relating to the foregoing is available at: <https://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/legal-services-city-clerks-office/public-notices/>

Me Martin St-Jean, City Clerk

www.westmount.org



History by the House

ANDY DODGE

544 Lansdowne Ave., on what was Dolan Ave.



544 Lansdowne.

which two years later became Warden King furnaces, whose product probably graced more Westmount houses than any other furnace and still chugged their way into the 1960s and 1970s, and, in one case at least, the 21st century.

By 1906, Greig's house had become 400 Côte St. Antoine, which he then sold to James Bailey, superintendent of Thomson Steamship Lines.

Within a year Bailey sheared off a 61-foot lot to the south of the house, and sold that along with the 64-foot lot on the west side of his property, to Jonathan Brown, a "gentleman," who lived at 1050 Dorchester St. downtown, for \$7,748.40, or 50 cents per square foot.

Meanwhile, the huge mansion at 545 Roslyn Ave., just south of Côte St. Antoine, was purchased by Robert Thomas Hopper, an asbestos and mica executive. He then bought the 61-foot lot, reaching all the way to (what was by now) Lansdowne Ave., and set about building a large coach house at the rear of his Roslyn property.

He then sold the rest of the land to John Hand, who planned and constructed three houses, all 20 feet wide, on the Lansdowne frontage, attached on the south side by 542 Lansdowne, which (according to the city valuation roll) had been built in about 1899. By this time, most of the block had been devel-

oped on both sides, though the Greig mansion still stood at the corner of Côte St. Antoine Rd. (it has since been demolished).

John Hand, who by this time was building houses all over central-western Westmount, sold the three houses in late 1913, to Brenda Mary Hebden (544 Lansdowne), Cecil Charles Gardner (546 Lansdowne) and Charles Duncan (548 Lansdowne).

Insurance, machine supply & Woolworth's

By the time Brenda Hebden sold the Lansdowne property in 1916, she was married to J. E. Heare, an insurance agent. She sold the 544 Lansdowne house to Ernest Kingsland, who lived there for 35 years. For most of that time, he was a director of Williams & Wilson Co., a machinery supply company in downtown Montreal.

Finally, in about 1950, Kingsland retired (no doubt) and moved to Hudson, selling the house a year later to Clarence Hellyer, a manager at Woolworth's Store. By 1954 the occupant of 544 Lansdowne was A. E. Waugh, a teacher at Lorne Elementary School in Pointe St. Charles, but Hellyer did not sell until 1956, when it changed hands to Phyllis Lee, wife of Miller Ashworth Peterson, a supervisor at Canada Life Insurance Co. (by 1970, he had become a lawyer). She was a local author and worked in the public relations department of the Montreal Children's Hospital.

Linda Gold purchased the house in 1972, but the occupant was Dr. James E. Gibbons, director of cardiology at the Montreal Children's Hospital and associate professor of pediatrics at McGill University. In 1973, Gold sold the property to G. Austin Metze, who on the title deed called himself a "teacher" but who, in fact, was art director of the Canadian issue of

Time magazine, among other publications, and apparently still works in the graphic arts design business.

William G. King was a translator who purchased the property in 1977 and stayed there four years before selling to a company run by Gary Shotlander, a business and management consultant.

Air India Flight 182

One year later, in November 1982, the house was purchased by Vipin Bery and Neelam Nath. They were residents of the house when she boarded Air India Flight 182 in June 1985, which exploded near the Irish coast. Her husband sold the house a year after her tragic death. Vipin Bery is now a financial consultant in Toronto.

The \$195,000 sale price to Richard Kraus and Ruith Bercovici grew to \$278,000 by the time Robert Coppenrath and Jane Elizabeth Woolcombe, who have bought and sold many Westmount houses over the years, purchased the Lansdowne property and rented it out to Peter Sindell, anthropology professor at McGill University. He eventually (in 1993, in a falling real estate market) purchased the property in the name of his wife, Reeta Rislanti. A native of Finland who grew up in Winnipeg, she worked as an artist and fashion designer.

She sold the property in March 2006, to John Taylor for \$525,000. He renovated it and sold it a year later to Martin Grant and Carolyn Thomson, the current owners, for \$845,000. The house currently has a valuation of \$1,007,400.

HISTORY OF 544 LANSDOWNE AVENUE (since construction)

Date	Buyer	Price
29-Nov-1913	Brenda Mary Hebden	\$10,500
1-Feb-1916	Ernest Kingsland	\$ 9,750
7-Feb-1951	Clarence Hellyer	\$13,750
3-Apr-1956	Phyllis Lee	\$16,500
17-Apr-1972	Linda Lillian Gold	\$1
28-Sep-1973	G. Austin Metze	\$35,000
14-Sep-1977	William G. King & Nancy Bougher	\$50,500
8-Sep-1981	Confibec Inc. (Gary Shotlander, president)	\$160,000
12-Nov-1982	Vipin Bery & Neelam Nath	\$130,000
30-Jun-1986	Richard Kraus & Ruth Bercovici	\$195,000
11-Aug-1988	Robert Coppenrath & Jane Elizabeth Woolcombe	\$278,000
21-Jul-1993	Reetta Rislanti	\$276,500
31-Mar-2006	John Taylor	\$525,000
27-Jul-2007	Martin Grant & Carolyn Thomson	\$845,000



The coach house of 545 Roslyn Ave., now 543 Roslyn.



CAROLINE BRESLAW

Westmount Then & Now: Westmount Park

Summertime is here, and Westmount Park is being enjoyed by all of us. This was the first park in our city when it opened in 1898 as Victoria Jubilee Park to commemorate the monarch’s diamond jubilee.

The Côte St. Antoine Improvement Committee had voted to acquire 16 acres south of recently-constructed Sherbrooke St. from a number of local landowners. The terrain was marshy and forested, with branches of the Glen stream wending through it. The park’s natural state provided an oasis from the dirt, noise and germs of adjacent Montreal. After Westmount Public Library (1898) and Victoria Hall (1899) were constructed, the park became the hub of local cultural and recreational activities.

Over the years, the wildness was tamed, and the park’s size was increased. Scenic twig bridges crossed the remaining ravines. There were sailboats in a new pond, concerts in the bandstand, cricket matches on the playing fields, and swimming in the small pool fed by the Glen stream. The first floral clock in Canada was installed in 1926. A flower conservatory with a palm house and a pond was built in 1927 next to the library.

In 1963, the park underwent a dramatic modernization, with paved pathways, raised borders, and a reconfigured watercourse. In 1985, the roadway of de Maison-neuve was finally demolished, replaced by paths for bikes and walkers. The conservatory was joined to Victoria Hall by the



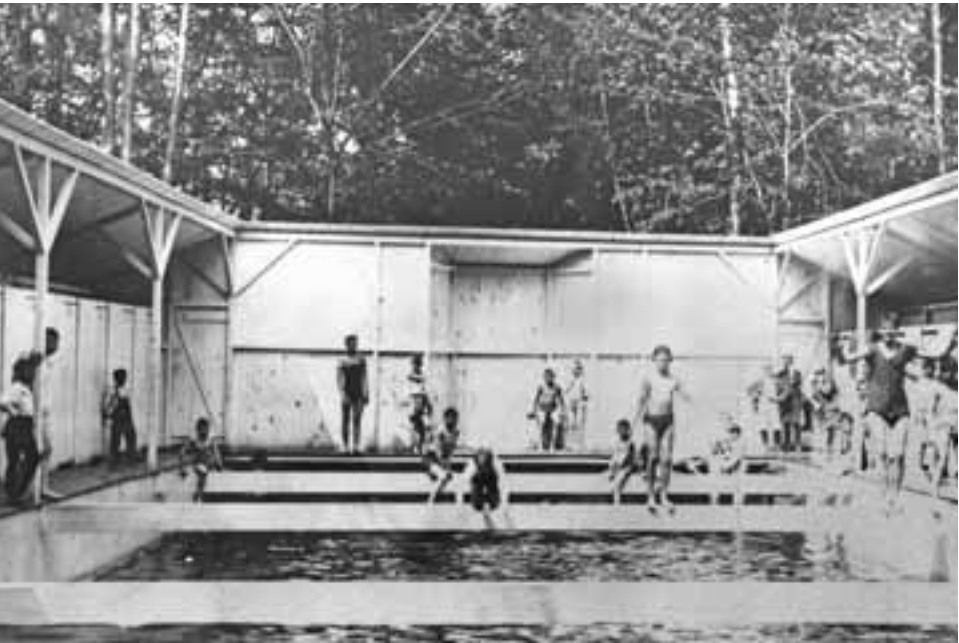
The sailing pond near Sherbrooke and Melville, c. 1908, from the WHA archives.

Gallery at Victoria Hall in 1999. Most recently, the Westmount Recreation Centre (WRC) was constructed at the park’s southwest corner, with an outdoor swimming pool and a retaining basin for run-off water. The landscaped roof of the WRC’s underground facilities added more

than an acre of green space to Westmount Park and provides marvelous views. A new dog run close by has proved popular with canines, owners, and passers-by, and the mallards have again taken up residence on the pond. Walking in this green oasis under an azure sky is a summer delight.



John (“J. W.”) Sancton, c. 1928, at the sailing pond. He would later run and own The Westmount Examiner. Photo courtesy of Edward Sancton.



The swimming pool near today’s lagoon, c. 1908, from the WHA archives.



The WRC’s pool with Westmount Park Church in the background in 2013.

Photo: Doreen Lindsay.



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

How appropriate that the Greek word “*ilios*” means sun. The non-profit organization helps fund a summer camp for underprivileged and special-needs children, along with its mission of crisis intervention, community services and holiday-season financial help.

The Ilios gala was held at Le Windsor and I immediately thought of South Beach’s Delano Hotel on entering the flowing white curtained hall with its alleyway of gleaming chandeliers.

And how refreshing – literally! – were the table settings. Instead of spending money on floral bouquets, towering branches were arranged with fresh fruit, including bright lemons so famed in Greek cuisine.

The organizing committee was made up of the event co-chairs **Cheria Kyres** (vp, Aliments In Foods) and **Maggie Pagonis** (financial director, Pembroke Management) along with the support of the board of directors.

In attendance were HLBS’ **Viola Vathilakis** (president) and **Joanne Bisbikos** (vice president). Noted amidst the glamorous guests were patrons and Westmounters **Angie** and **Tony Loffreda**, vice chair RBC Wealth Management, along with **George Alexopoulos**, vp Belden Canada Inc., and his wife **Peggy**; former Beaconsfield city councillor **Angela Di Giorgio** and **Ted Di Giorgio** of EY; **John Georgoudes**; **Ernie Grivakis**, CEO VVS Films, with his wife, *la belle* **Belle Grivakis**; **Chris Karambatsos**, Karambatsos Lawyers with **Jennifer Katsaros**; **Vivian** and **Peter Pamel**, partner Borden Ladner Gervais; and **Anastasia** and **James Papadimitriou**.

Other gala patrons included **Nikolas Klimis**, **Lambert Klimis & Sakkas Group**

Ilios eve Greek inspired



Demi Housakos, Senator Leo Housakos and Belle Grivakis.

and **The Alvin Segal Family Foundation**. Slurpy-but-delicious oysters were served by 2017 Canadian oyster shucking champion **Daniel Notkin**. Seen in the elegant crowd were senators **Leo Housakos**, with his wife **Demi**, and **Nicholas Pagonis**, president of the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal; city councillor **Mary Deros** and her husband **Peter Deros**, **Diane Sharpe** and **Tass Grivakes**, **Lia** and **Pat Savoia**. Emcee was CTV’s *Breakfast Television*’s effervescent **Elias Makos**.

Hard-working committee members were **Roula Athanasopoulos**, **Vicky Nikolakakos**, **Bernice Tzicas**, **Sandra Khoury**, **Dina Kefallinos**, **Cheria Kyres**, **Belle Grivakis**, **Maggie Pagonis**, **Helen Tyros**, **Joanne Bisbikos**, **Effie Dracopoulos**, and **Matina Bisbikos-Priftakis**. Volunteers were utterly charming, wearing white and tiaras of ivy, symbolizing the olive wreath worn by winners at the ancient Olympic games.

Noted amidst the elegant crowd were local res **Léa Girard Nadeau** and fiancé **Harry Grivakis**, **Ilios’ Bernice Tzicas** (camp program coordinator), and welfare

committee co-chairs **Vicky Nikolakakos** and **Roula Athanasopoulos**.

Singing star **Nitza Melas** created a fabulous mystical ancient Greece theme, ably assisted by band leader **Alexandros**.

Approximately \$80,000 was raised for this worthy cause. A quote from Greek poet Homer gave the feeling of the night: “The charity that is trifle to us can be precious to others.”



Cheria Kyres and Maggie Pagonis.



Peggy and George Alexopoulos.



Bill Kampowis with Helen Tyros.



Pat and Lia Savoia.




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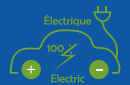
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LE GROUPE GRAVEL

Frank Scott turns 119

By RALPH THOMPSON

On a hot, humid August 1 at 7 pm in Centre Greene more than twenty people gathered for an evening of poetry, marking the 119th anniversary of the birth of late Westmounter Frank Scott, a professor of constitutional law and socialist (1899-1985).

According to the Canadian Encyclopedia, “as a man of letters and social commitment, Scott profoundly influenced the evolution of modern Canada’s artistic and political culture.”

The poetry evening was organized by Jack Locke following his recent acquaintance with some of Scott’s legal work as it related to the Quebec charter of rights and freedoms.

The poetry readings were preceded by a few words from filmmaker, translator and Governor General’s award winner Don Winkler, whose 1982 film *F.R. Scott: Rhyme and Reason*, is freely available on the National Film Board web site. Winkler was working at the National Film Board more than 35 years ago when he decided to make six films about Canadian poets “at a time when certain poets of a senior gen-



Documentary filmmaker and translator Don Winkler explains how he came to make a film about Frank Scott. The Frank Scott Poetry Evening organizer Jack Locke sitting on the left.

eration were instrumental in introducing modernism into Canadian poetry and literature,” he said.

The second film of the series was about Scott, who was also a Governor General’s award winner and a translator.

Following Winkler’s introduction, contributors read a Frank Scott poem of their choice followed by a second poem, in some cases written by themselves. Readers included William Thomas (Bill) Evans, Julien Feldman, Sandra Sjollema, Ehab Lotayef, former mayoral candidate Beryl

Wajzman, Helaine Klinger, Donald Winkler, Ryan Ruddick and Jack Locke. The

evening included refreshments and a 119th anniversary cake to honour Scott.

Comin’ Up

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

Michael Bergman, Shaar vice-president, lawyer, lecturer and panelist on “Israel and the Middle East: Conflict and Consensus.” \$5, includes light lunch. Shaar Hashomayim, 425 Metcalfe Avenue. Reservations appreciated: 514.937.9474 x 139. 12 noon.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

For the Atwater Library Lunchtime Series, Gabriel Safdie, writer, photographer and businessman, recounts some of his experiences in China: “The Rise of the One-Eyed Dragon.” Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 12:30 pm

Moving Sale

Friday, August 17, 18 & 19
9am to 6pm

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(across from Cavendish Mall)

Bourdain remembered



Victoria Ave.’s Appetite for Books had this display of Anthony Bourdain’s work on August 9. The chef and tv host committed suicide on June 8 in France.
Photo Independent.

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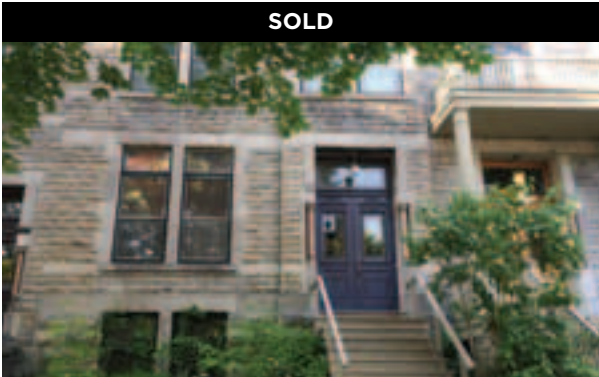
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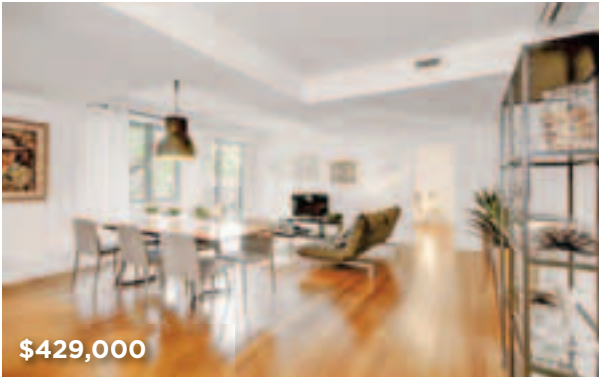
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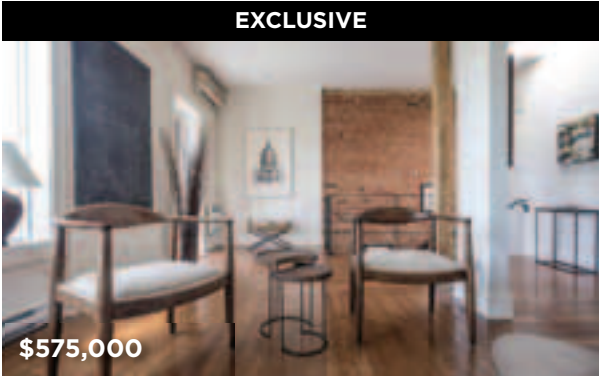
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