

Network proposes expansion; Westmount declines (for now)

Greene's Bixi station is busiest in Montreal

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The docking station at the intersection of Greene and de Maisonneuve is reported to be the busiest in the entire Bixi network, according to 2017 figures obtained by Westmount. The Bixi station at Victoria and de Maisonneuve is the second busiest within this city.

In fact, there is an average of 1,123 transactions per docking station in Westmount compared to 409 per station in Montreal, according to minutes of the

This issue is the *Independent's* second-to-last before our usual, three-week summer break (no issues on July 17, 24 and 31). Last day to submit letters or content: Sunday, July 8.

Westmount city council's general committee meeting of April 16.

As a result, many of the city's five docking stations are often left empty, leading to a Bixi expansion proposal. This is to add three stations with 15 bicycles each for a total cost to the city of \$185,000, described as a "one time investment."

Councillor Philip Cutler, commissioner of infrastructure and innovation, told the *Independent* the cost did not seem, however, to justify the expansion.

"As the city does not currently have the requested \$185,000 allocated for this purpose, the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended allocating the funds for the service's expansion in future years," state the minutes.

It was "agreed" by the *continued on p. 18*

Community gardens re-open, officially



Westmount city councillor Cynthia Lulham, right, seen here on June 27 with Westmount's superintendent of horticulture and arboriculture Nick Mory, cuts a ribbon, marking the official re-opening of the Westmount community gardens at the Westmount Athletic Grounds behind Westmount High. Photo: Martin C. Barry.



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Registration figures stay on par

Fall/winter hockey numbers show future 'looking good'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While the city's youth soccer program wound up June 21 and swimming lessons began last week for 65 kids, registration continued for fall and winter programs with competitive hockey numbers on a par with last year, Sports and Recreation officials said last week.

Boys' instructional hockey is already

full and the girls' program has 23 of 30 spots taken, "which is really great," said Andrew Maislin, the department's operations manager.

"This year's numbers show the future is looking good for hockey."

Steps are now being taken to facilitate the implementation of the city's go-it-alone double-letter program announced follow- *continued on p. 3*



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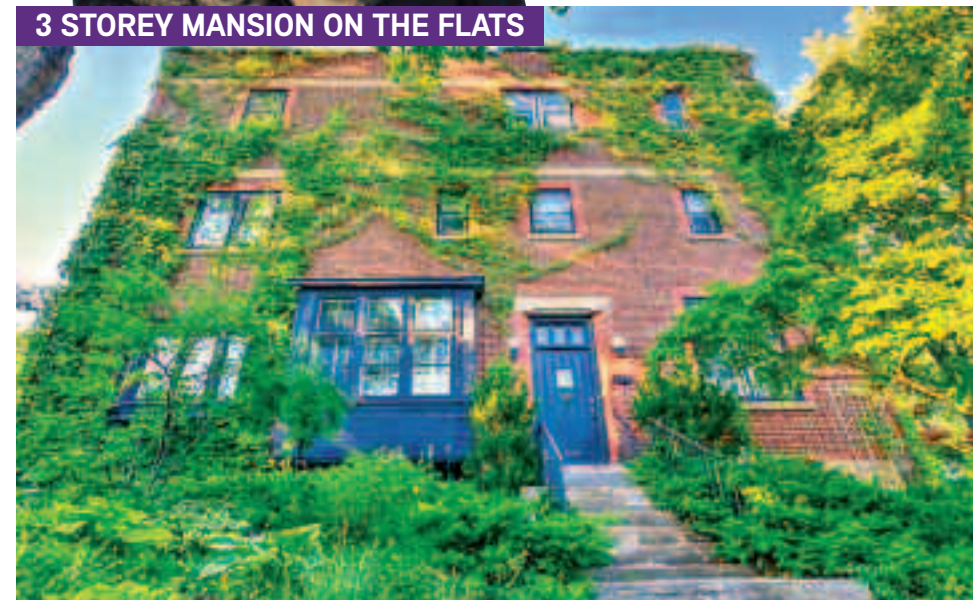


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Art for Alzheimer's research at Leonidas



June 15 vernisage attendees, from left, Elliot Homsy, Jacob Zilber, Ranya Arsalane, Sarah Charbonneau-Beaulieu, Adrina Yavarian, Gabriel Tassé, and Alexandre Loe.

BY HEATHER BLACK

Lively students and colourful paintings of the “Invisible Memory” project filled Leonidas Culture Chocolat on Victoria on June 15. A fundraiser of class 501 at St. Clément Academy, teacher Sarah Charbonneau-Beaulieu commented: “The 23 acrylic-on-canvas were the result of an Alzheimer’s research project that took over two months.”

The paintings were inspired by Ingrid

St-Pierre’s video “Ficelles,” a question-and-answer session with residents at Place St. Moritz in St. Laurent, as well as a talk by Dr. Serge Gauthier, director of the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Unit, McGill Centre for Studies in Aging. All proceeds from the three-day exhibition will be donated to the Alzheimer Society of Canada.

Leonidas’ owners, Katayon Mostafaei and Reza Yavarian, whose daughter Adrina was a participating artist, hosted the event at the café-chocolaterie.

Hockey, cont’d. from p. 1

ing changes from Hockey Quebec and the city’s withdrawal from the Cobras inter-city team (see story June 19, p. 3). Results are expected after registration. Coaches and other required personnel will also be recruited.

“The adult hockey program is always packed,” Maislin added.

Re-seeding of the city’s soccer fields will proceed now that their heavy use this

spring is reduced with the start of the inter-city soccer season.

The fields saw more play over spring this year than last year given better weather, he explained. As a result, they now require more work.

So far, none of the city’s sporting or leisure programs have been cancelled through lack of numbers while registration continues and typically “picks up” for fall and winter.

City to host seven concerts in July, August

Starting July 8 and ending August 19, the city will host concerts at the Westmount Park lagoon Sundays at 2 pm. The rain venue is Victoria Hall. Acts include 2 Little Birds, a 1970s cover band; the Derek Fall Trio, a blues/R&B act; and Contra-Danza, which performs classical music.

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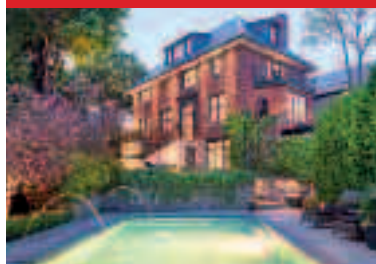
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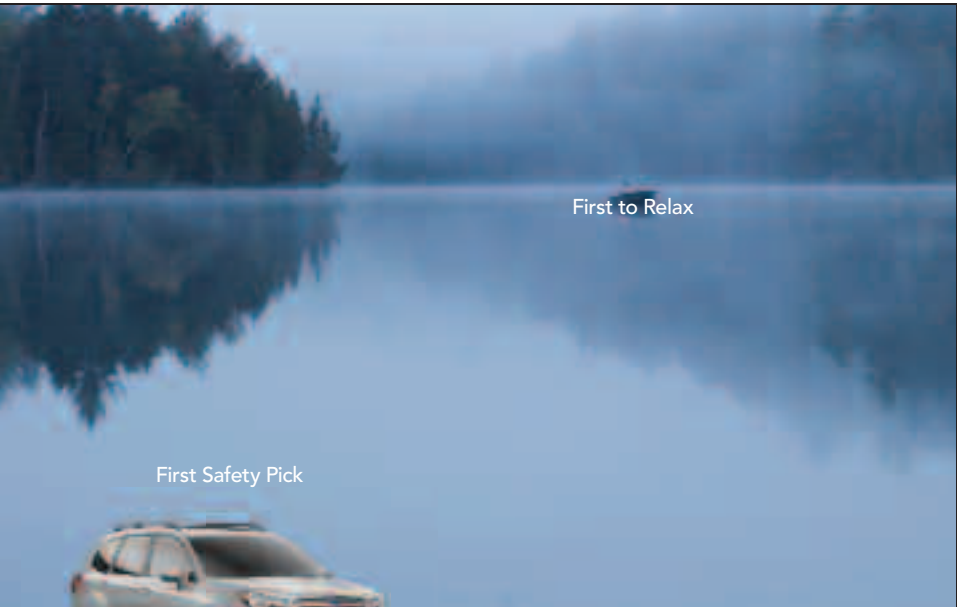
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‘White Coat, Black Art’ comes to Westmount
**Goldman lecture draws
a full house at Victoria Hall**



Organizer Donna Lach with Dr. Brian Goldman.



Westmounter Guylaine Larose having a book signed by Dr. Brian Goldman.

By Heather Black

Author and physician Dr. Brian Goldman’s book lecture “The Power of Kindness” at Victoria Hall attracted an audience of 220 on June 26. The popular host of CBC Radio’s “White Coat, Black Art” and an emergency-room doctor, Goldman relayed his own personal quest for lost empathy at the evening event. The lecture – “The Power of Kindness: My search for an essential part of life” – synthesized hospital experience, brain scans and statistics, as well as stories of individuals fueled by compassion for the most vulnerable: the mentally or physically challenged, the homeless, and those living with dementia. Speaking to a rapt audience, Goldman’s message is that empathy is a decision: “If you have a choice to be right or be kind,

choose kindness.” The event also included a lively question period and book-signing. Organizer Donna Lach, assistant director (library & community events), was enthusiastic about the public turnout: “We love collaborating with Paragraphe book store, because it gives us the opportunity to get wonderful speakers such as Dr. Goldman.” Published by HarperCollins, Goldman’s *The Power of Kindness: Why Empathy is Essential in Everyday Life* is available for loan at the Westmount Public Library.

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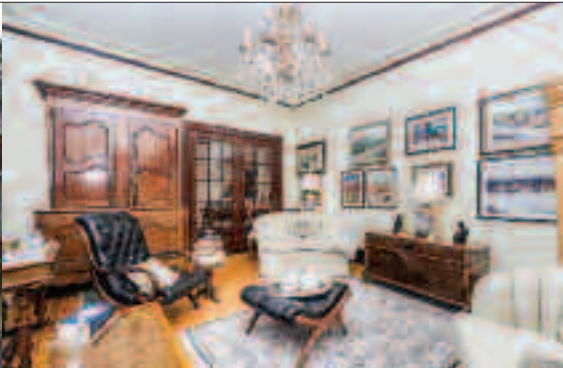
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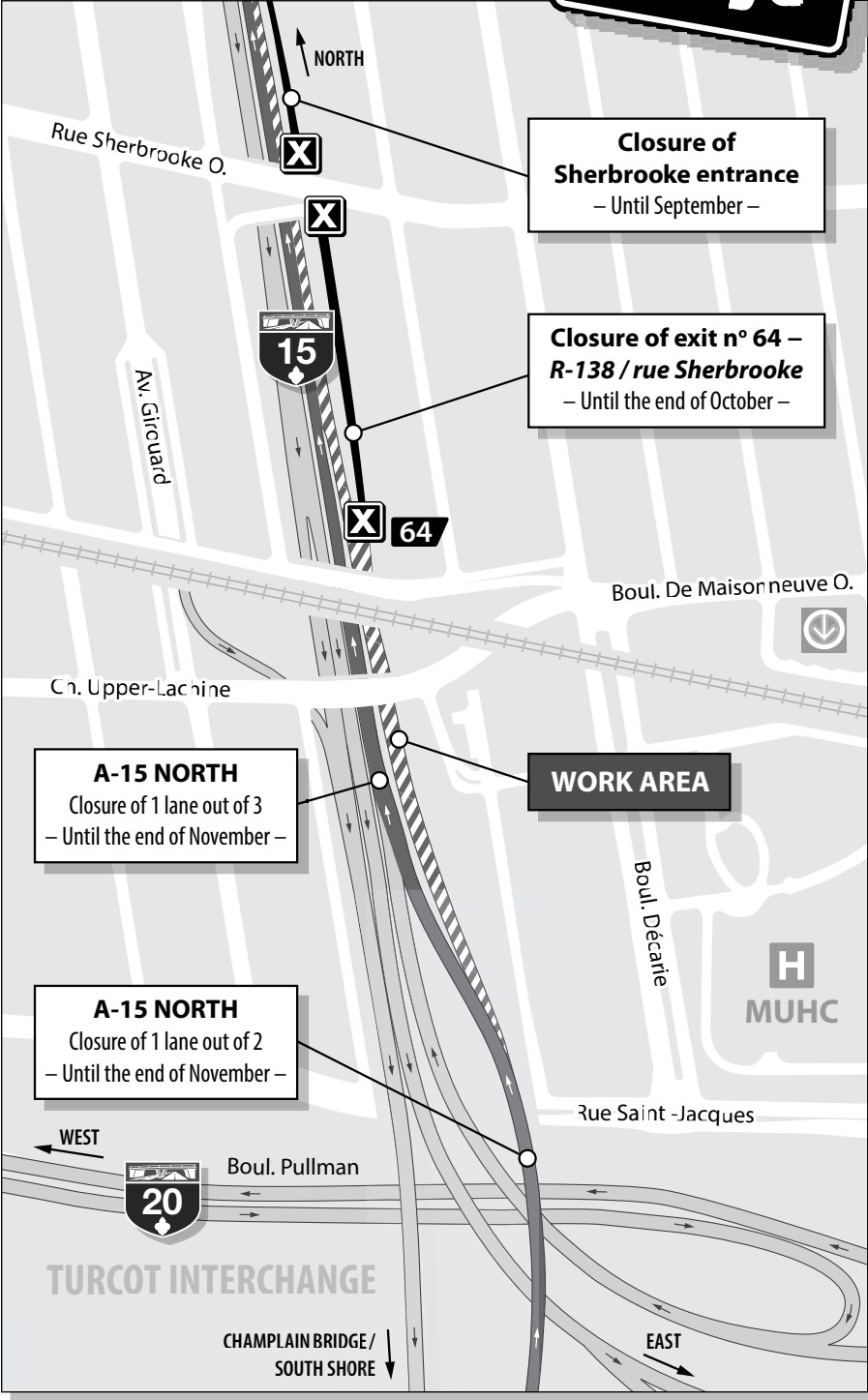
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Kids' summer reading theme: 'Feed Your Passions'
Library challenges based on
'diner's' menu of passions



Reading club participants Yasmine and Elies in the children's department of the Westmount Public Library after it had been transformed into "Findlay's Diner." With them June 19 is library mascot "Findlay Featherston."

Photo courtesy of Wendy Wayling.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The theme of this year's TD Summer Reading Club, "Feed Your Passions," is taking shape at the Westmount Public Library in the form of a menu serving up 14 passions children can order off a menu as challenges to work on.

The department has been turned into a 1950s-inspired diner called Findlay's — named after the owl mascot, who in turn was named after the library's architect Robert Findlay, explained children's librarian Wendy Wayling.

"Every time they read something, we give them fun and creative challenges to complete at the library, depending on what they order from our menu," she said.

The 14 passions comprise sports, art, dinosaurs, imagination, animals, nature, engineering, things that go, magic, books, travel, games, food and music. "If they choose engineering, for example, we will ask them to build us a structure using Tinker Toys."

Registration to participate in the reading club began June 15 but extends all

summer, Wayling said. "The more you read, the more challenges you can pursue and more prizes you can win." Typically by the end of the summer, some 400 participants will have signed up.

Enjoy summer reading

The program aims to provide children aged 3 to 13 and their families a fun way to enjoy reading during the summer.

In 2013, the Westmount library won first place and \$5,000 in the English category of the reading program sponsored by Library and Archives Canada and TD Bank (see story June 17, 2014, p. 5). It has also won honorable mentions several other years.

The awards recognize the most innovative and effective TD Summer Reading Club programs in local public libraries across the country.

A number of related activities will include Mad Science events, cupcake decorating and an after-hours sock hop. There is also the third annual "Storywalk" in Westmount Park about which more information is available at the library.

Located behind Westmount High

Users praise improvements at community gardens

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Although they own a home on Holton Ave., James Coulton and his wife Judith Kashul found they never had quite enough space in the back to plant a decent vegetable garden.

"That's the reason why we have this," he explained during an interview with the *Independent* prior to a ribbon-cutting ceremony held on June 27 to mark the official re-opening of the Westmount community gardens. (See photo on p. 1).

Located on two fenced-off portions of the Westmount Athletic Grounds between Hillside Lane and Hallowell Ave., the community gardens underwent a major transformation before the first planting took place in early June for the 2018 growing season.

While community gardens have been located a good number of years in the same places, in more recent years they fell into a state of neglect. The city decided to step in and carried out changes that included the creation of elevated wooden planting boxes, a reliable watering system as well as sturdy fencing.

"All of this for the princely sum of \$15



From left, James Coulton, Judith Kashul, Betty O'Connor and Gerry Peniston on June 27.

a year," said Coulton, noting that that's how much everyone with a plot pays the city for the privilege of using the gardens.

In their plot this summer, the Coulton-Kashuls are growing three kinds of peppers, five kinds of lettuce, three kinds of beans and five varieties of cherry tomatoes. As well, there is dill, fennel, climb-

ing cucumber and an assortment of herbs.

Raised planting boxes

On her own section of turf, Marylee Wholey is growing a variety of tomatoes, eggplants, squashes and parsley this summer. "I'm going to have some really nice vegeta-

continued on p. 8



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ENOUGH WITH THE
SOUTHEAST PLANS

It is disturbing that the new council intends to revisit the development of a “vision” for the southeast sector, i.e. adjacent to Dorchester. Since January 2016, we have had three public meetings: two formal ones called by the city, and the most recent one, informal and organized by the residents, held this past June 19. A petition in November 2017 garnered 200+ signatures. In the recent elections, the incumbent was defeated in favour of Councillor Kathleen Kez, who clearly stood in opposition to the council’s plans.

Since 2010, studies have been commissioned by council: Affleck in 2010, Provencher Roy in 2013, 2014 and 2016, and the Stantec traffic study in 2017. The previous and current councils have engaged AGIL to propose a “planning vision.”

The council’s consistent proposal is to narrow Dorchester drastically to two lanes* eliminating most of the median and its greenery. Thus, the city could sell the parking lots on the north side of Dorchester to developers to build the proposed 3-4 storey condos, with 5-6 storey condo buildings directly behind. In the process, the curve at Dorchester/St. Catherine would be reconfigured into a right angle, which, along with the loss of dedicated left turning lanes at Atwater, Greene and St. Catherine, would result in traffic jams, according to Stantec.

At each of the meetings, there has been near consensus for NOT narrowing Dorchester and instead turning the parking lots into multi-use green spaces. We are all mindful of the various high-rise condo tower projects both in and just east

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

of Westmount, that will bring upwards of 5,000 new residents at our doorstep.

Mayor Smith refers to the southeast sector as the “gateway to Westmount,” but if high-rise buildings were to be built on the Dorchester-Tupper lands, there will be no gateway, just an extension of the mass of concrete on the other side of Atwater.

Is there an explanation as to why this sector’s wishes and “vision” are being ignored?

TOBY MORANTZ, CLANDEBOYE AVE.
*Editor’s note: For clarity, at least one part of the city (the Traffic Advisory Committee or TAC)) decided against the narrowing of Dorchester in mid-2017, after it had been proposed in June 2016. See “Narrowing of Dorchester, building heights proposed – minus bike path” (June 21, 2016) and “Preliminary redesign of Dorchester had already been rejected” (June 20, 2017, p. 4). – DP

THANKS TO CLLR. KEZ FOR
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When campaigning during the heat of an election, candidates often promise to keep their constituents informed.

Using social media, District 8 councillor Kathleen Kez certainly provides relevant notices in a timely fashion. I have seen her take the time to change a post as more accurate information became available. What I find very useful are her posts concerning the frequent weekend road closures associated with the redevelopment of the Turcot interchange and Ville Marie expressway.

Councillor Kez, those weekend notices

that show up on my Facebook feed are very much appreciated, not only by myself, but also neighbours of mine here in District 7 and presumably in other districts too. Please continue with these notices and relevant PSAs. With so many of us on social media these days, seeing local alerts in our newsfeed is very valuable and saves us time. Thank you for staying connected.

NIGEL GODDARD, BOARD MEMBER
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YORK NEEDS A
NO-STOPPING BOX TOO

RE: “Ask and yet shall receive,” June 26, p. 1. Happy for those at 200 Lansdowne [who now have a freshly painted no-stopping box]. Now we need to do the same for residents of York St. trying to exit or enter at Victoria Ave. Southbound drivers have no respect for this residential corner. I feel trapped, especially at rush hour.

BILL SMITH, YORK ST.



York St. and Victoria Ave. on June 28.
Photo: Independent.

HAPPY FÊTE NATIONALE

As president of the Montreal caucus of the Quebec Liberal Party, I had the privilege of representing the government of Premier Philippe Couillard at the *Fête nationale du Québec* celebrations hosted by the city of Westmount.

I was joined by Christina Smith, mayor of Westmount, and Mary Gallery, city councillor and commissioner of library, culture, sports and recreation, in wishing residents a happy 184th edition of the *Fête nationale*.

DAVID BIRNBAUM,
PROVINCIAL MEMBER FOR D’ARCY-McGEE

DEAFENING SILENCE
ON MARIJUANA

I would like to know what position Mayor Smith and her council will be taking with regards to the upcoming legalization of marijuana starting October 17. Will users be able to smoke in public places (parks, outside public institutions, apartment buildings, bus stops etc.)? Where will it be sold? Victoria village, Greene Ave. (lots of vacancies)? Or more obscure areas? The date is fast approaching and the silence is deafening!

NATHALIE ALLARD, PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

Editor’s note: Our past coverage can answer some of your questions. See “No sidewalk ban planned/Council looks at smoking ban in parks, including pot” (May 8, p. 1). To our knowledge, the city has not passed any new by-laws since that story. The article also said that the province’s pot monopolist would have four retail outlets in Montreal, with the closest one to Westmount being near Lionel Groulx Metro station in St. Henri. – DP

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Gardens, cont'd. from p. 7

bles for the end of the season,” she said.

She was pleased with the improvements made to the gardens. “Before it was sort of *artisanale*,” she said. “Not as nicely organized and it didn’t have all the resources that it has now.” She was also impressed by the fact the planting boxes are raised and make access easier.

Robin Mader, another user of the community gardens, said she plans to spend some time on her plot this summer devel-

Overheard:
Loudest person?

A woman, seemingly a parent or guardian, repeatedly yelled the name of a girl attending a day camp in Westmount Park on June 27 in the early afternoon. The child did not respond. “I’m like the loudest person I know and she can’t hear my screaming. She’s like immune,” she said to no one in particular.

oping her skills and knowledge in the therapeutic applications of horticulture.

“I want to learn as much as I can so that I can help other people – primarily elderly, some maybe with dementia or Alzheimer’s – because gardening is such a therapeutic activity,” she said.

There are almost 90 gardening plots at the two sites, all of which are currently assigned, and the city has a waiting list of around 20 applicants.

“I’m very pleased that the city invested in redoing the community gardens both here and over on the Hallowell side,” said Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who sits on the city’s Horticultural Advisory Committee and is the councillor for District 7, in which the gardens are located.

“I believe in community gardens. I believe that they bring communities together. They help with social interaction. One of my beliefs in urban planning is to create situations for people to mix and mingle.”

Dog or hyena?



It's hard out there for a Westmount vegetation dog. Westmount Park's living (or formerly living?) sculpture was photographed on June 27.

Photo: Independent.

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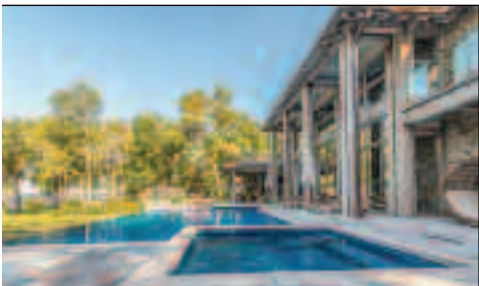


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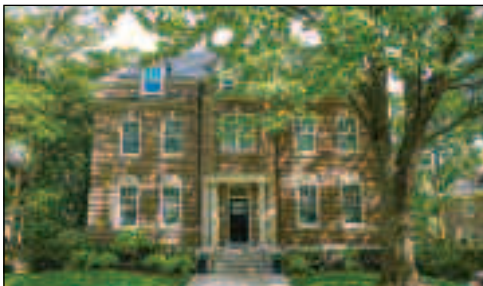
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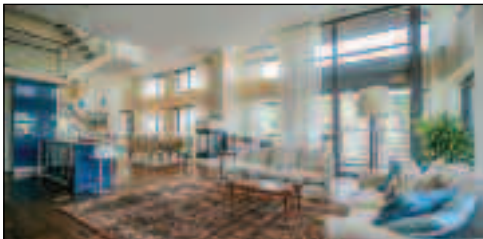
AV. CHESTERFIELD, WESTMOUNT
\$895,000

IMPORTANT RECENT SALES



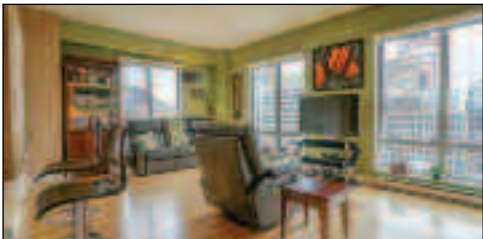
SOLD

SUMMIT CIRCLE, WESTMOUNT



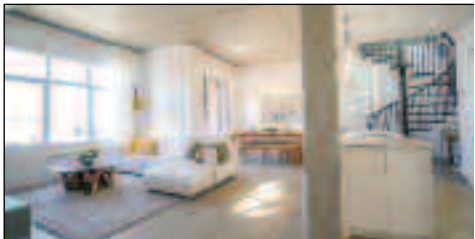
LISTED AND SOLD BY MARIE-YVONNE

“ORO” PENTHOUSE, DOWNTOWN



SOLD

“ROC FLEURI”, DOWNTOWN



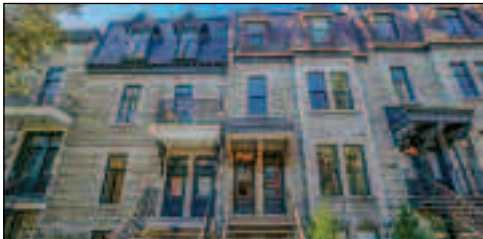
SOLD

“175 METCALFE”, WESTMOUNT



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AV. BFI OEIL, OUTREMONT



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RUE DE VERSAILLES, DOWNTOWN



SOLD

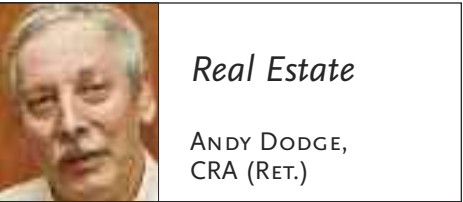
RUE ST-PIERRE, OLD PORT



SOLD IN 9 DAYS

AV. MONETTE, DORVAI

March transfers: volume, mark-ups weak



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE,
CRA (RET.)

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in March 2018 gleaned from non-city



334 Elm Ave.

sources. A list of sales can be found at left.
Only four single-family dwellings changed hands in March this year, the lowest number of registered sales for a March since 2009, the absolute nadir of the economic crisis that was threatening the world at the time. This time, the volume is being driven by peaks in prices, including the \$4.9-million sale of 72 Summit Circle, by far the highest price of the month.
In fact, each of the four sales had numerical significance: 72 Summit Circle, originally a coach house that was totally renovated and transformed in the mid-1990s, represents the highest price for a single-family dwelling so far this year. The lowest price of the month involved 334 Elm Ave., \$946,000, though three other sales in January and February were actually lower. Highest mark-up over valuation was 14.3 percent in the case of 654 Belmont Ave. – nine other sales in the year have been higher – and the biggest mark-down in March was 10.25 percent, by far the biggest mark-down this year, when only two other sales came in at less than city valuation. Thus, the average mark-up for *continued on p. 13*

Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in March 2018, and others

ADDRESS	PRICE	2017 VAL	MARK-UP, -DOWN
654 Belmont	\$1,525,000	\$1,333,800	14.33%
53 Bruce	\$1,010,000	\$1,125,400	-10.25%
334 Elm	\$946,000	\$948,200	-0.23%
72 Summit Circle	\$4,900,000	\$4,458,100	9.91%
Total (4)	\$8,381,000	\$7,865,500	6.55%
CONDOMINIUMS			
4855 de Maisonneuve #103	\$400,000	\$410,900	-2.65%
200 Lansdowne #802	\$974,150	\$960,500 ¹	1.42%
398 Lansdowne	\$565,000	\$726,700	-22.25%
4828 St. Catherine	\$1,035,000	\$614,700	68.37%
Total (4)	\$2,974,150	\$2,712,800	9.63%
SHARE SALES			
17 Chesterfield, 15.08%	\$465,000	\$294,362 ²	57.97%

¹Valuation is a combination of \$880,900 for the apartment, \$39,800 for each of two garages.

²Valuation is 15.08% of \$1,952,000. Includes exclusive use of Apt. 2.

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4828 St. Catherine St.



72 Summit Circle



53 Bruce Ave.

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Announcements

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Transfers, cont'd. from p. 12

March of 6.55 percent was well below the average for the first three months of 19.4 percent, though again, the low number of sales in March reduces the significance of the statistic.

Condos

Four condominium sales were registered in March, including two apartments, one share of a duplex and one townhouse-condo. Significantly, the sale of 4828 St. Catherine St. for \$1,035,000 is the first of the condo-townhouses in front of the Westmount railroad station, built in 1999, to clear the \$1-million mark. That sale was almost 70 percent higher than its tax assessment; the townhouse previously sold

in March of 2015 for just over \$611,000.

The four condo sales in March brings to 12 the number registered in the first quarter of 2018, with the average mark-up of 6.6 percent, stepping up from 4.4 percent in the last quarter of 2017. The average for the four sales in March closely resembles the quarterly average of \$780,638. The extreme ratios compared to municipal value in March – a 22-percent mark-down at 398 Lansdowne Ave. and a 68-percent mark-up at 4828 St. Catherine St. – were also the extremes for the quarter.

The only other sale in the March 1 list involves a co-op apartment, No. 2 at 17-19 Chesterfield Ave., an apartment that sold in 2016 for \$435,000 and which in March brought a price of \$465,000.

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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 (June 5, p. 7) in bold.

GREENE AVE. AREA

Coming

Zar beauty bar is opening in Alexis Nihon Plaza (first floor).

Saint Sushi, 1359 Greene.

Westrose boulangerie boutique is coming to 1235 Greene, former site of Babar en ville and, before that, the Double Hook.

Liv salads, 1201 Greene Ave., at the former site of Joaillier David Plotnick.

Ryu sushi, 4185 St. Catherine St., at the former site of Joaillier David Plotnick.

Kinton ramen, 4090 St. Catherine St., former site of Metro dry cleaner.

Construction under way

1358-60 Greene Ave. The construction hoarding is now gone from the façade, but it is still under construction.

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

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4026 St. Catherine St., former site of Morning Glory

4026A St. Catherine St., former site of Tia Maria prêt a 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 establishments

4883 Sherbrooke St., Manteaux Manteaux, at the former site of Iro.

A location of the Aux Vivres vegan restaurant, at 4896 Sherbrooke, corner Prince Albert.

Construction under way

Aesop, 4968 Sherbrooke St. Work was scheduled to finish by June 29. The shelves were still bare when the *Independent* went by at noon that day, but work did seem to wrapping up.

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.

Closing

JoshuaDavid, 4926 Sherbrooke St. "by the end of the month, and week," said the store June 27.

According to signs seen on the outside of its store June 27, Mochico, at 4945 Sherbrooke, corner Claremont, is closing. "Everything must go," said the sign. On June 29, there was a new sign, "Derniers jours. Merci à tous."

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



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Bureau en gros to stay open

At least two readers have noticed "Événement de liquidation" signs at the Bureau en gros located at 4036 St. Catherine, south of Alexis Nihon. The store is not moving or closing, replied Kathleen Stelmach at Bureau en gros/Staples HQ in Richmond Hill, Ontario, "We currently have a promotional sale taking place at all our Staples/Bureau en Gros stores across Canada, and on-line as well, called the "Clearance Event."

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
 4922 Sherbrooke St., former site of Parm and, before that, Léa
 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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Retail Review

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Beauty, convenience, drinks and a one-year birthday

machine emits an inviting scent. “And we will soon have a kitchen,” Ross revealed. The day I dropped by, aficionados were enjoying a sip, tasting wines with sommelier Dave Leboeuf and trying local imported draught and bottle beers.

GARRISON HOUSE PUB
5028 Sherbrooke, just west of the
Westmount-NDG border
Open 7 days a week
2 pm to 3 am

Annie Young turns ‘one’ at new location

Westmount is full of success stories. This one is of particular interest as it’s a mother-daughter dream. Annie Young celebrated exactly one year since the go-to emporium for all things beautiful opened in Vic Park. Formerly on Sherbrooke St., their new space is massive – almost five times the former area. In celebration, Annie and her daughter Sharleen featured invited guests Rose Gwet of Luxcey and Marian David of Odacité (a word play on *audacity*). David flew in especially from New York for the occasion.

The Odacité line of skincare products has great provenance. It was founded by Valerie Grandury, a French woman, after her diagnosis with breast cancer. “Cancer was a major wake-up call. I quit my job and embarked on removing toxins from my life.”

Odacité contains fresh ingredients. Each targets particular skin challenges.

Fun fact? Grandury developed her Spring in Tokyo line especially for a Japanese Kabuki actress, as wearing so much heavy make-up had meant premature skin aging.

I also loved the products of French-born Rose Gwet, who was “inspired by the

rain forest” when she created Luxcey. Addressing her own eczema and acne, Gwet developed her line of natural, nourishing products with oils targeted to a particular problem.

Sharleen explained that both products fit in beautifully with Annie Young’s positioning of “offering green beauty.” The light-filled space carries exclusive products: Odacité, Kevin Aucoin make-up and the entire Ilia brand.

Pigmentation after so many years using a sun-reflector? I asked one of the Annie Young team of trained estheticians. One can choose from world-renowned brands G.M. Collins, Skinceuticals, Dermalogica (younger clientele), Vitamin & Sea and Bioeffect (from Iceland – go figure!). The new Annie Young space offers mani-pedi (sterilized tools), a hair salon, make-up, massages and facials. It’s my oasis in a busy urban world.

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Move and name change

One of Greene Ave.’s go-to establishments for mane managing, Salon Olivier, has moved. Perfectly positioned for elegant execs, the salon is open seven days a week, so Sundays can be a “get ready for the week” moment after a weekend of weeding, or just plain fun in the sun. The day I visited, manager Françoise Ballac explained the new space, her turquoise accessories the perfect shade for summer. “We have about 20 staff, and also offer facials.” Owner Mario Romano will be celebrating two months in the new space as of July 1.

OLIVIER & GABRIELE
4152A St. Catherine
514.935.5203
Open seven days a week

Sipping on Sherbrooke

Garrison House Pub opened about a month ago. Maritimers Ross and Rick Lourensse are co-owners. Inspired by their hometown of Fredericton, New Brunswick, they “used ‘Garrison’ as a shout-out to that city’s famed tourist area called ‘Garrison District.’” They even used an image of 1800 Fredericton barracks to inspire their logo with crossed sabres. The pub offers an inside space as well as a cozy terrace facing just-planted relaxing foliage.

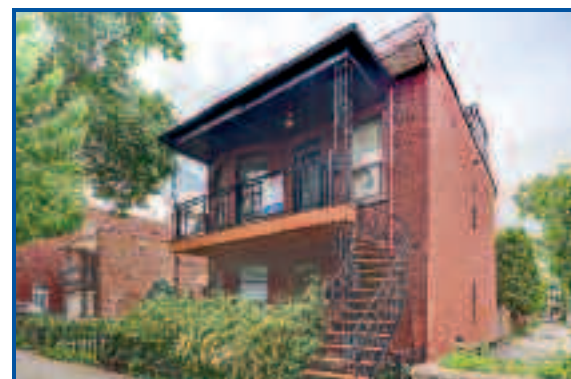
The eclectic interior is a mix. Rough brick walls and concrete floors are balanced by a row of sparkling chandeliers, which adds a ray of elegance. An antlered aluminum elk head sits on black and white Victorian-style wallpaper. A popcorn

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Police Report

Photos of Murray Hill break-in suspects posted on Facebook

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

While cautioning homeowners not to take the law into their own hands, a police official at Station 12 acknowledges that social media like Facebook are proving to be useful tools in the fight against crime.

One recent case involved a break-in that took place during the late afternoon of May 30 at a home on Westmount's Murray Hill. Several suspicious-looking individuals were reported to be lurking in the area not long before the house was broken into.

After at least one of the owners left a short time before 4 pm to go to the store, the doorbell rang several times. Shortly thereafter, one of the suspects went behind the house and proceeded to shatter a sliding glass patio door.

According to the police report, the suspects searched the house and stole items that they took away in a backpack and a sports bag. Money was stolen, as well as jewelry and household electronic devices. They left as they came in – through the broken patio door.

Although police officers called to the scene were unable to find useful finger-

print evidence, the home's security system recorded video images of the suspects, which were given to the investigators. Audio recording also revealed that the suspects were Spanish-speaking.

As for the role of social media, the victims in this case posted images of the suspects to their Facebook page, with a warning to others to be on the lookout for them. The images were in turn shared on another Facebook site known as West Island Watch, devoted to promoting security in Montreal's West Island area.

"It keeps people more alert," Station 12's community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel said regarding the role social media are playing in crime prevention. "It's making people more aware. Hopefully, if somebody sees these individuals, they will call 9-1-1 immediately."

Second Murray Hill break-in

Another burglary incident took place on Murray Hill, although several weeks after the afore-mentioned one.

Sometime during the weekend of June 22-24, when the owners of a home on Murray Hill were away, burglars entered through a side door which, according to the police report, was not locked.

The intruders proceeded upstairs to the master bedroom where they searched drawers, found jewellery, and then left with their booty the way they came in.

Although the owner told the police afterwards that he thought all the dwelling's doors had been locked, the investigators found no evidence of forced entry. They couldn't find fingerprint or footprint evidence, either.

According to Pimentel, there have been signs lately that household burglars are seeking jewellery more frequently, rather than electronics such as iPads or tablets, as was the case a few years back.

"When it's a new technology, there's always a higher demand," he said, noting that portable GPS units in cars were at one time sought by thieves, as were portable CD players and even CDs (which are now considered relatively worthless, having been displaced by downloadable music).

Bruce Ave. car found on Weredale Park

On June 20, police were able to locate a car equipped with GPS-tracking that had been stolen on Bruce Ave. and later abandoned on Weredale Park a few blocks east.

The late-model Volvo had been parked on Bruce by its owner on June 19 around 10:30 pm.

Later that night, according to a time-record produced by the tracking system,

the vehicle was displaced by someone who was not the owner.

The owner was alerted to the car's movement through computer software interfacing with the on-board GPS system. However, for reasons unknown, the thief decided to abandon the car four blocks east at Weredale Park.

"We don't see this often – vehicles taken and displaced not very far," said Pimentel, adding that no traces of forced entry were found on the vehicle, although \$5 in change was reported missing by the owner afterwards. No fingerprints were found, either.

In police parlance for stolen car incidents, this one is classified as a lost-and-found vehicle.

Steinmetz, Trent presented with Order of Quebec



At a reception to honour inductees into the Order of Quebec at the provincial legislature June 22 are from left: Westmount resident Raymond Garneau, former Quebec and federal cabinet minister (a member of both the Order of Canada and Order of Quebec); former Westmount mayor Peter Trent and Westmounter Nicolas Steinmetz, who both received the Order of Quebec that day, and former city councillor Victor Drury, invited to the ceremony by Trent.

Photo courtesy of V. Drury.

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Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue celebrates 250 years

Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue recently held an important celebration: its 250th anniversary. Canada's first Jewish congregation, the synagogue opened its doors in 1768. Founded by Simon Levy and Aaron Hart, it was established in a rented space on St. James St. Today, it is home to a culturally diverse membership of families from Iraq, Morocco, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Eastern Europe and France.

Gala co-chairs were Westmounters **Ron Mashaal**, attending with his wife **Sandra Mashaal**, and **Arlene Abitan**, with **Henri Abitan**. Emcee was *Breakfast TV* personality **Catherine Verdon-Diamond**. Guests of honour were **Rabbi Howard** and **Dr. Norma Joseph**. Dignitaries in attendance included **Antonio Luis Bullón Camarasa**, consul general of Spain; **May and David Levy**, consul general of Israel; **Irwin Cotler**, CJA CEO **Yair Zlak**; and municipal politicians **Lionel Perez**, **Mindy Pollak**,



Suzanne & Edmond Elbaz, Irwin Cotler and David & Maya Levy.

Dida Berku, and **Magda Popeanu**; provincial legislator for D'Arcy-McGee **David Birnbaum**; **Patrick Benaroch**, CJA chair; and **Kathy Assayag**, executive director, Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal.

Prime minister **Justin Trudeau** sent a video congratulatory message.

Dinner was followed by a concert by internationally renowned singer **Enrico Ma-**

cias. The Shaar Hashomayim's cantor **Gideon Zelemmyer**, winner of a Grammy with **Leonard Cohen**, sang to **Rabbi Joseph**. Committee members were **Lily and Fred Bilbul**, **Henri Elbaz** (president CSUQ), **Samia and Sabah Bekhor**, CJA pres **David Amiel**, **Joseph Nuss**, former MP **David Berger**, MP **Anthony House-**

father, **Jacques Saada** and **Sylvain Abitol**. Also in attendance were **Rony Gabbay**, **David Nathaniel**, **Ronald and Myriam Reuben**, **Joseph Sasson**, **Morris Goodman**, **Monika and Mike Yuval**, **Stephen Gross**, **Gloria and Marc Kakon**, **Irwin Miller**, **Sue Carol Isaacson**, **Brenda and Sam Gewurz**, **Raisa and Armand Afilalo**, **Marie-Elaine and Marc Afilalo**, **Sandra** and **Albert Mashaal**, **Gilda** continued on p. 18



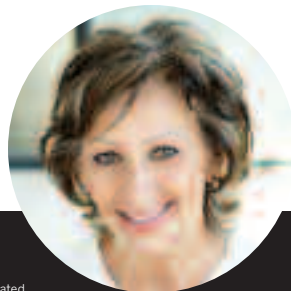
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‘Exclusivity’ an issue

Talks ongoing over Dropbike, but no bikes on the road – yet

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Will Dropbikes be back in Westmount this summer as an additional bike-sharing service to Bixi?

The answer depends on the outcome of discussions with the Dropbike organization over a three-year proposed contract it submitted to the city, according to Mayor Christina Smith. Last year’s service was a pilot project that resulted in 600 rides over two months.

“As of now, we haven’t reached an agreement,” Smith said.

Dropbike, according to city reports, has proposed – at no cost to the city – to expand its network here from 50 to 100 bikes and from 13 drop-off havens to 25.

Still under discussion, however, is an “exclusivity” condition from Dropbike, which would not affect Bixi, but comes during a time that Smith describes as “an ever-changing market” for bike-sharing services.

And, a changing need, said Councillor Philip Cutler, commissioner of infrastructure and innovation, who introduced the Dropbike pilot program to Westmount last year (see story July 4, 2017, p. 1).

Last year’s 600 Dropbike rides and a 3.8-percent increase in Bixi use show that Westmount residents are using active transportation, he points out. “There’s definitely a need for bike sharing services as a tool. It takes a while to change people’s behaviours.”

Cutler was commenting on figures reported in meeting minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and the general committee of council, both dated April 16.

Negotiate city conditions

According to the general committee minutes, it was agreed “in principle” that

the Dropbike contract be negotiated to contain a number of conditions, including that the organization continue to share its GPS data with the city. Routes taken by cyclists presented in heat maps would direct the city in its placement of bicycle paths.

No mention was made of an “exclusivity” condition from the organization.

The minutes do, however, state that “while the city wants to prioritize promoting cycling, it will also recommend that Dropbike continue to consider the addition of scooters to their service as an alternative for certain circumstances,” similar to an electric scooter sharing program called Bird operating out of Santa Monica, California.

First municipality

Westmount became the first municipality in Canada to introduce Dropbikes with the installation of the first havens August 28 (see photo September 5, p. 26). As a result, users in Westmount were – and still would be – able to use them only within Westmount territory, which Cutler says he personally finds very handy.

Referring to his experience last year, he said, “When I’m leaving city hall, I just jump on a Dropbike to go to Greene Ave. very quickly. It has a nice Westmount feel to it.”

He says other havens he used were at Greene and de Maisonneuve, Victoria and Sherbrooke (at the CIBC) and Victoria and de Maisonneuve.

Last year, the havens were designated by orange tape around their perimeter, but Dropbike had offered to add bicycle racks at the city’s request. It was also proposed that the bicycles be put out by June at the latest and removed by November 15.

Meanwhile, ways to expand some Bixi stations are also being explored (see separate story, p. 1).

Westmount High) and Greene and de Maisonneuve.

Meanwhile, the city is discussing a proposed three-year contract to supply Dropbikes introduced as a pilot project last year (see separate story, above).

Interestingly, while the docking station at Greene and de Maisonneuve is the busiest, its original number of 15 bikes was reduced to 11 after the reconstruction of Greene Ave. when it was discovered that not enough space had been left for the full number, recalled Dan Lambert, president of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount.



David Berger; his mother, Ilse Hatam; and Henri Elbaz.

Social notes, cont’d. from p. 17

and Sylvain Abitbol, Felicia Mayoff-Perez and Lionel Perez, Nicole and Jacques Saada, Robert Cutler, Alvin Segal, James Sinclair, Demo Trifonopoulos, Eric Aintabi, Martha and Alfred Lawee and Dalia and Philip Lawee.

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Comin’ Up

TUESDAY, JULY 3

City council meeting. City hall. 7:30 pm.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

Guided tour of the MUHC’s Glen site. 1001 Décarie Blvd, McConnell Resource Centre (RC level). Free, but book at heritage@muhc.mcgill.ca. 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Also on July 18, August 8 and 22, September 5 and 19, October 3 and 17, November 7 and 21, December 5 and 19.

SUNDAY, JULY 29

Sundays at the Shaar presents Dr. Steven Lapidus, Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University on “Judaism and Sexuality”. \$5 per person, includes light lunch. Reservations appreciated: 514-937-9474 x 139. Shaar Hashomayim, 425 Metcalfe Ave. 12 noon.

Bixi, cont’d. from p. 1

council members to propose the expansion of a few of the existing docking stations as a way of exploring a less expensive alternative to installing additional stations.

The original installation of the Bixi stations in Westmount seven years ago, along with ongoing supply and servicing, had been a one-time cost of \$221,118 (see story May 10, p. 3).

The city does not charge Bixi for the use of the space for docking stations at the current locations: Victoria and de Maisonneuve, Victoria Hall, Sherbrooke and Argyle, St. Catherine and Redfern (near

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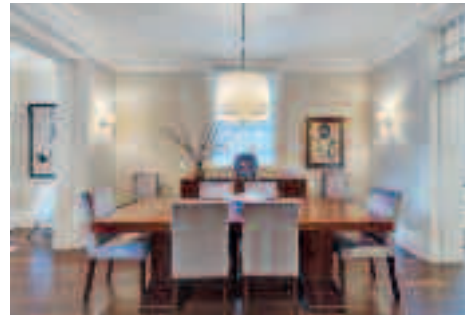
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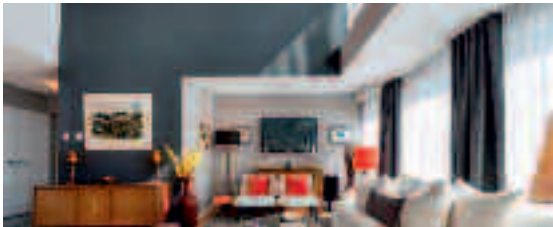
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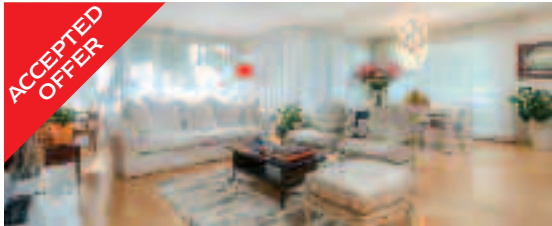
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