



Bought & sold: 24 Ramezay Rd.

**Real estate transfers –
new every month,
like the market! p.12**

**The Update of
new listings: p. 8**



Bought & sold: 3171 St. Antoine Rd.



Profile: Wanda Potrykus p.22

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

May 6-7, 2008 *We are Westmount* Vol. 2 No. 5a

First area to begin composting on Monday Kitchen waste pickup starts

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A whole new way of collecting garbage in Westmount starts Monday, May 12 when the city launches the first phase of its collection of kitchen waste and garden debris for composting.

The pickup replaces the first of two weekly garbage collections and applies, for now, to the sector bounded (inclusively) by the south side of Côte St. Antoine, the north side of de Maison-neuve, the east side of Lansdowne and west side of Clarke.

Regular garbage that those 525 households may have put out in error on Monday will not be picked up.

“We’ve been ringing bells and knocking on all doors to distribute the bins and explain the new procedures to residents,” said Marina Peter, the city’s environmental co-ordinator.

Follow-up visits are being planned to ensure correct practices are followed, but the launch is logistically complex, she explained. Residents in the sector who have not received green bins may receive them by calling Public Works at 514.989.5377.

“We’re hoping everyone will get it right – right from the start.”

That means lining the bins with the dissolvable corn-starch bags the city is dis-

tributing as an initial supply. Paper may also be used. Plastic in any form is taboo since it will contaminate the compost.

Bags of garden debris in clear plastic or paper bags will also be picked up at the same time including branches under 1-inch in diameter.

The goal of the program is to divert compostable material from landfill, Councillor John de Castell explained at the April 28 meeting of city council where a lengthy discussion of the program ensued.

The compostable material will be picked up by the regular garbage contractor who will take it to Montreal’s St. Michel treatment site. It will eventually form part of the compost normally made available at that location to island of Montreal residents twice a year, Peter said, but it will not be returned specifically to West-

mount. This was in answer to a question asked at the council meeting by resident Paul Marriott.

How to reduce odours

On the other hand, the most frequently mentioned concern by residents, Peter said, is that odours may arise from disposing of kitchen waste once a week and that it might attract animals. *continued on p. 11*



Marina Peter, Westmount’s environmental coordinator, demonstrates how the green bins should be lined with a corn-starch bag. Paper may also be used.

There’s always next year



Selwyn House was showing its support for the Canadiens on April 30.

Is Westmount Sq. tunnel no man’s land?

BY KRISTIN MCNEILL

Who’s responsible for the steps at the Metro/Alexis Nihon end of the Westmount Square tunnel?

It is not immediately clear. A tip from former mayor of Westmount May Cutler about a theft that she witnessed the night of April 17 led the *Independent* to investigate who this section belongs to and who is responsible for patrolling it.

After witnessing the theft, Cutler went back into the Metro and asked the Metro attendant to call security. He explained that security was Westmount Square’s responsibility, but refused to call them.

The issue of security in the tunnel has a long history.

In 1993, following a number of incidents, an investigation conducted by the city of Westmount determined that West-

mount Square was responsible for the tunnel, which lies in Westmount.

It was also found that two security guards under *continued on p. 20*

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Price and Hainsworth to release third feature: *Prom Wars*

Former Westmounters Phil Price and Miles Hainsworth are set to release their third feature film, the teen comedy *Prom Wars*. The premiere takes place at the AMC theatre on the site of the Old Forum on May 9. It is also playing at Cinema Guzzo (3237 Sources Blvd., Dollard des Ormeaux).



From left, Miles Hainsworth and Phil Price.

The movie is about a fictional girls' school, ACS, whose students orchestrate a war between boys' schools Selby and Lancaster.

The victory prize? Dates to the prom. The film stars Alia Shawkat, best known for her role as Maeby in the TV show *Arrested Development*. *Prom Wars* was filmed in Montreal, including some scenes at Selwyn House.

As with past movie projects *Hatley High* and *Summer*, Hainsworth is the film's writer and Price is the director. (*Hatley High* won best director for Price and best screenplay for Hainsworth at the US Comedy Arts Festival.)

Price does more than direct: he has also

contributed to writing the duo's films, and is the creator, head writer and director of TV shows *The Festival* and *The Business*. His next project is a film, *The Life and Death of Steriogram*, a mocku-/rockumentary about New Zealand's number one band.

Where do Price and Hainsworth get all the inspiration for their high school tales? Unknown, but Hainsworth is a Selwyn House alumnus and Price attended high school at Bishop's.

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YMCA masters swimmers second at provincials, set records

The 37 members of the Westmount YMCA's masters swim team placed second as a team at the Championnat provincial des Maîtres nageurs Financière Manuvie 2008. The event took place from April 11 to 13 in Three Rivers.

It has been a good couple of years for swimming in Westmount. Last year, the Westmount Dolphins team won the Association of Lakeshore Pools championship and, this year, Marianopolis swimmer Stephanie Horner will be representing Canada at the Beijing Olympics.

The Y team, coached by Troy Rhoades, also won numerous awards at the provincials banquet, including:

- Ilka Lowenstyen, highest 2007 points total (women). Lowenstyen was also the 2004 Female Swimmer of the Year.

- Margot Kyle, one of six swimmers to win a Most Improved Swimmer Award. Kyle only began swimming with the team two years ago and has become the top swimmer in her age category (60-64). She ranks number one in Quebec in seven events.

During the championships, the team broke three provincial records, all of them

involving Jon Rysdon:

- Margot Kyle, Jon Rysdon, Robin Berlin and Sue Montgomery, 4 x 50m freestyle relay – mixed gender – cumulative age: 240 to 259. Time: 2:27.14

- Jon Rysdon, 50m backstroke – men – age: 55 to 59. Time: 34.24.

- Jon Rysdon, 200m backstroke – men – age: 55 to 59. Time: 2:42.02.

The Y's team has improved greatly. In 2004, it was 11th in the province, then 3rd (2005), then 2nd (2006). It also set 35 new club records in 2007-8.



Jon Rysdon.

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Eugenia Leavitt wins national fashion design competition

By ANNKA MELANSON

In the Canada-wide 2008 Toronto Fashion Incubator New Labels Design Competition on April 24, Eugenia Leavitt took first place.

Leavitt – who is from Westmount, attended ECS and Dawson, and works on Victoria Ave. for Astri Prugger Design – studied fine arts at university. It was while working with fabrics and textiles that she discovered that she wanted to make clothes. When asked how she feels about winning the national competition, Leavitt replied “I was in shock. I am really happy.” In addition to the prestige of winning the competition, Leavitt will have an editorial in an upcoming issue of *Elle Canada*.

Westmount's Prugger mentored Leavitt

While Leavitt was in fashion school, her mother read an article in *The Gazette* about local Westmount designer Astri Prugger (322 Victoria Ave., 514.369.4799) and suggested that her daughter approach Prugger. Leavitt began working for Prugger over two years ago and was mentored by her.

Future plans include a spring collection

and organizing a fall fashion show featuring Eugenia designs, creations by Prugger, jewellery by Westmount designer Tracy Gartner of Trink and photography by Lea Stilling of Mitzi.

This group of women will work to benefit LOVE (Leave Out Violence) through fundraising efforts at the show and also by mentoring Beatrice Yankey, a Leave Out Violence youth leader who will show her first collection.

For more about Leavitt or to view her designs check out her website www.eugeniadesigns.com.



Eugenia Leavitt being interviewed by press at the 2008 Toronto Fashion Incubator New Labels Design Competition.

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At Second Glance

Ten patterns for the arena, train station and sustainability

BY HEATHER BLACK



With the new composting collection to start in one part of Westmount on May 12, “go green” is the current mantra at city hall. But what about the other aspects of conservation and sustainable communities – the refurbishing of public buildings?

At the April 12 public meeting on the arena and pool, the new arena was not the only thing discussed. What about the future of the old Westmount train station? And what makes a community sustainable? And how do current proposals measure up?

The train station: preserving culture

The first pattern of sustainable community is the recycling of underutilized land or buildings, such as the old Westmount train station. For many years the train station was an integral part of Westmounters’ downtown commute. Built in 1914 from the plans of architect W. S. Painter, its presence increases our sense of place and cultural context.

And the preservation of culture is a second pattern of sustainable communities and a key feature in a conservation economy. In communities like Hudson, the train station has taken on new life as a

playhouse; in others, a rail museum. Doreen Lindsay of the Westmount Historical Association has long advocated its use as a heritage centre where Westmounters could celebrate their history.

According to Westmount director general Bruce St. Louis, the exterior brick is repaired, the roof replaced and the station’s interior will be refurbished once a new vocation for the building is determined. Other projects are deemed urgent, one of which is the new arena. Construction could begin as early as next spring.

The arena: preserving “human-scale” neighbourhoods

Concerned citizens have recently requested and received the arena/pool Étude de faisabilité prepared for the city by architect Julia Bourke in November 2007. Although not the final plan – the administration itself said it was simply a report “dusted off” from pre-merger days (Independent, April 2, p. 3) – it does illustrate the difficulty of adding a second rink to a confined area.

Because in sustainable communities, green is more than ecological construction techniques and materials – a third pattern. The fourth pattern is that architecture must respect the character of the neighbourhood – the central building block of any city.

In the report, Bourke’s sports facility –

of two rinks and a gymnasium – is twice the size of the existing arena and dwarfs the Westmount Armory and neighbouring



The train station at Victoria Ave. and St. Catherine St.

buildings. Also the stub of Academy Rd. running north from the east-west portion of Academy to de Maisonneuve and the current arena parking lot will be closed. Architecture on a human scale – a fifth pattern of a sustainable community – appears at risk. And with that change of scale, beauty – a sixth pattern of sustainable communities – is lost.

Moreover, imposing buildings do little to encourage informal gathering places, the seventh pattern of sustainable neighbourhoods. These gatherings, from kite-flying to festivals and fairs, all create a sense of place, the eighth pattern. Part of Westmount’s charm is that there is a gradient of density, from parks to commercial centers and a mix of activities within a five-to 15-minute walk – the ninth pattern. But

sustainable neighbourhoods are also described as pedestrian safe, the tenth. There is a concern that increased traffic poses a risk to children who attend school or the local teen centre, and tennis or swimming facilities in the neighbourhood.

Westmount: a sense of place

The goal of any feasibility study and consultation is to stimulate discussion and they have done so. In addition, the feasibility study is not the final proposal and this is not the first time that we have had constructive discussions about a prominent building. The original plan for a refurbished library with grandiose reflecting pools was rejected in favour of a more modest proposal. But it is prudent that any plan – whether in terms of new uses for historic buildings or new architecture – respect the proven patterns of sustainable communities and Westmount’s human-scale environment.

Are there other options? Most certainly! However, Westmount city hall is itself “human scale” and it welcomes comments on the refurbishment of the arena and the train station. Visit its website and make your views known.

Heather Black is a Westmount communication designer. Contact her: atcitizen@gmail.com

Letters to the editor

GUNS, TURF AND APATHY

Some years ago, there were a couple of muzzle-loading field guns in Westmount Park, aimed at Sherbrooke St.

Kids and squirrels used to scramble

Clandeboyce clarification

Last issue, we carried an article entitled “Clandeboyers oppose Batshaw traffic; Batshaw never received complaints” (April 29-30, p. 7). Councillor John de Castell had not replied to an interview request by presstime, but he did subsequently contact us.

As we reported, de Castell was contacted by Clandeboyce residents about lane traffic, but we neglected to mention the year: 2001 or 2002. Residents have not contacted him since. This silence left de Castell with the impression that the situation was at least “tolerable.”

He also said that he was “more than happy to look at any options,” and would be “initiating another look at this.”

over them and photographers used them in cliché shots of Westmount. A few years ago, some students with nothing better to do stole them, and some days later they were recovered and replaced. A couple of years later, the wooden gun carriages had become so rotted that Public Works made replacements: wood-frame carriages in place of solid wood. A few more years later, the barrels were removed again – by the city. Vaguely remembered, the reason offered was that they had to be protected from the scrap dealers. So the thieves won.

Last winter, with all the snow, the carriages were nearly completely out of sight, snow

continued on p. 6



The cannon: gone, but not forgotten.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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Civic Alert

Take an old bag shopping and save the planet

BY DON WEDGE



It wasn't the latest "special." The message that Sainsbury's, the British super-market chain, was pushing was its green credentials. "Take an old bag shopping," it announced in full-page advertisements.

"Have you got a bag for life?" the mega-chain went on as part of its promotion of reusable shopping bags, items that have swept the developed world in the last two years.

Sainsbury's says it sold 15 million last year.

One problem I share with many users is forgetting to take a bag when leaving home. The purpose of the British advertisement was to remind people to use those already bought.

Similar reusable bags are a frequent sight in Westmount, particularly the blue Metro ones. "We keep reordering them," local operator Graham Fletcher told me.

There are, unfortunately, many people who still want to take their shopping home in the flimsy plastic bags that cause so much environmental harm – I noticed some trapped high up in trees outside the bank at Westmount Square last week.

These bags are slowly being banned, not least in China, which will stop manufacturing them this summer. Both France and the UK are among countries with pending legislation to do the same.

There are local restrictions in some towns already, including Huntingdon, QC. But surely it shouldn't need laws. The harm is obvious enough to encourage self-motivation. To reinforce that approach, food and other Quebec retail groups have told the government that they will introduce a charge for both plastic and paper bags.

Plastic forbidden

Westmount, a leader in many environ-

mental initiatives, is taking a further step this week as it forbids plastic bags in the kitchen compost collection. Most residents of the launch area have their shiny green containers ready for the first pickup on Monday.

To make it easy to "Say 'No' to plastic," the city has distributed degradable bags to the pioneering families. Unfortunately, these bags are made from corn starch, which creates another conflict of interest given the world-wide food shortage.

Use of paper bags is permitted.

The Westmount collection will be different from the way it is done in Toronto. With the Monday garbage collection being replaced by one for kitchen waste composting, council decided to maintain the established service of picking up from the present location of the trash bins.

In Toronto, and most other cities, residents have to leave their containers out at the curbside like the blue box recycling containers.

Alternate weeks

The potential for cutting back on material going to landfill is great. Torontonians have now reduced it so much that garbage is picked up every second week.

One can anticipate that it will eventually happen here, too. So will charging for garbage on the polluter-pay principle. Like centralized composting, it has been on the agenda for nearly 20 years!

There will no doubt be some initial problems with the compost collection, as there have been in Toronto, and as there were with blue boxes.

"Even though residents took to recycling immediately, it was not at today's intensity, where some people now use multiple containers," recalls Marianne Zalzal, Westmount's senior civil engineer who was in charge of their city-wide launch on October 24, 1990.

Many different efforts had been made in previous years to collect recyclables. Former public works chief Fred Caluori

(now retired and worried if last week's cold snap will harm his early flowering tomatoes!) remembers city workers collecting bundled paper on the sides of garbage trucks about 30 years ago.

"We also tried a container for glass in the city yard," he recollected. "But the markets for recyclables were not stable. The volume we have now has made recycling viable."

In the last years of Caluori's tenure, he was able to introduce the collection of leaves and, finally, green waste.

Residents' acceptance of well-sorted recycling is threatened by a delayed consequence of the forced mergers. Montreal becomes responsible for the disposal of re-

cyclables, and plans to mix all of them into one stream only to sort them again later!

Our neighbouring CDN-NDG borough has just switched to the system. It is easier for residents, but results in more contaminated waste.

It may suit Montreal, but is a poor model for the more ambitious Westmount homeowners, who have learnt to separate well and provide clean, marketable recyclables.

Here's another disservice Jean Charest and his Liberals have conceived to our detriment!

Citizen activist Don Wedge's email address is calert@web.net.

On the Market: 588 Lansdowne

This spacious semi-detached brick cottage in a prime location for schools, parks and transportation was built in 1913 and has not been on the market for 51 years. Dr. and Mrs. John Elder brought up their four children in the much-loved home. Dr. Elder, now deceased, was a well-known pediatrician who cared for many Westmount children during his career.

The property benefits from a back garden as well as a deck, an ideal spot for entertaining or relaxing. The house has maple hardwood floor throughout, although parts of it are hidden under carpet or parquet. There are five bedrooms on the second floor. Both the master bedroom and the back bedroom overlooking the garden have balconies.

The garage is located underneath the front of the house and is accessible via the large, finished basement. There are an additional three parking spots outside. The house has new windows. The oil furnace and tank are only three years old. The property benefits from two wood burning fireplaces and four bathrooms. The house is priced lower than comparable West-



mount houses as it does need renovations. Great for a couple who enjoy sinking their teeth into a project and making their dream house a reality.

Address: 588 Lansdowne Ave.

Asking price: \$809,000

2007 municipal taxes: \$5,751

2007 school taxes: \$986

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Open Letter

Westmount director general responds to Patrick Barnard

Dear Mr. Barnard:

It was a pleasure to participate in the April 12 forum with you and the 130 or so other residents who also shared their thoughts. I was equally interested to read the follow-up article that you prepared for publication in the April 19 edition of the *Westmount Independent*. However, there are several statements made in the article that I believe require clarification.

Reference is made to the existence of a “master plan” for the arena/pool/playing fields area that the city has apparently already prepared. In fact, this is not the case. The arena/pool facility and the playing fields were treated as completely separate projects. Perhaps the following time frame and sequence of events would best explain this:

1999: Council engaged the firm of Fiset Miller Bourke to prepare preliminary feasibility study on upgrading the existing arena/pool facility; the playing fields were not in this mandate.

2000: Preliminary report submitted by consultants but shelved due to pending forced merger with Montreal.

2004: Borough engaged DSSS Enr. to inspect playing fields in Westmount Park which had deteriorated to the point of becoming unsafe.

2006: At the first council meeting of the newly demerged city of Westmount, Mayor Marks announced that no major projects would be contemplated for at least

18 months until the demerger debt situation was established, with one exception – the playing fields (no commitment or time frame was given to re-open the arena/pool facility study).

2007: After several months of consolidating, refurbishing of the playing fields project was given green light; \$800,000 provision made in the 2008 budget to carry out the work.

2007: Over 18 months had passed



St. Louis: Arena/pool renewal is at early stage of planning, consultants have yet to be engaged.

since the mayor’s statement in 2006. The means of dealing with the debt without raising taxes was found, so in the fall, council decided to reopen the arena/pool renewal file. The 1999 preliminary report prepared by Fiset Miller Bourke was used as the basis for a grant application to the provincial government to help finance any future project. Application was submitted in December since it can take up to 12 months for a final decision on such requests.

2007: In December, council approved

a contract with Fauteux et Associés to prepare a parks and green space master plan (to be submitted by fall 2008). This was to be an assessment of all current parks – their history, usage, state.

2008: At the March council meeting, the mayor invited residents to a planning forum at Victoria Hall to share with the city their ideas on the renewal of the arena/pool facility. A written invitation was sent to all residents to this effect on March 31 that clearly stated that, “We are currently looking at rebuilding our facility with 2 full-size ice rinks to accommodate our hockey and skating programmes, an outdoor pool to respond to the growing needs of our community, as well as Westmount’s teen centre, etc. I am sure that there are many other issues that residents would like to consider as we start planning for the renewal project and Council is inviting all those interested in sharing

their ideas with us to come to a special forum on April 12...”

A written commitment was also made that “Before we officially decide to go ahead with the project, residents will be consulted again with the proposed plan and its cost implications.”

2008: 130 residents attended the forum at Victoria Hall. Some 525 comments and suggestions were tabled. An executive summary of all comments noted has been prepared for council’s review. The WMA was also kind enough to share with us the

excellent notes that they recorded, which was greatly appreciated. A poll of participants indicated that 97% of those who responded (85 in total) thought that the forum was a good idea and 85% felt it was worth attending.

The point of going into such detail above was simply to reinforce the fact that there is no “master plan”; but rather three separate projects that are at various stages in their execution, i.e. the playing fields (construction to start in July), the parks and green space master plan (consultant engaged; report due in early fall), and the arena/pool renewal project (early stage of planning process; project consultants to be engaged in the coming months).

I think it’s fair to say, Mr. Barnard, that at the April 12 forum the vast majority of the comments and suggestions put forward were very supportive of the project in terms of the need to renew the existing arena/pool facility. The city officials in attendance were “good listeners” that day as was intended. We are now focusing our attention on analyzing the excellent comments and suggestions that were put forward, which is an important “next step” in the planning process, and council has made a commitment to all residents to keep them fully apprised of the outcome of this analysis.

I look forward to your continued interest and input in this important community project.

Yours truly,
Bruce St. Louis, Director General
City of Westmount

Letters...

.....
continued from p. 4

up to the top of the wheels. It was probably better that way. With the snow gone, I passed the gun carriages recently. No kids were playing on them. The wooden frames of the trails were split, the wheels sagging. One of the guns’ nineteenth-century crew might have said they look as though nobody gives a f–. I had the same thought, formed more gracefully.

Then I thought if the state of those gun carriages isn’t a metaphor for wider apathy and neglect, I don’t know a metaphor when I see one. There are more and more loose dogs on the streets and in the parks; and if they’re not loose, they’re on about six meters of extendable leash, strung all over the sidewalks (the dog by-law allows “a maximum six-foot leash,” but when was it last enforced?).

Bikes move at speed in the parks and on the sidewalks; twice in the last few days, I’ve seen the ice cream man from Westmount Park driving his cart along the sidewalk on St. Catherine at quitting time, with no pedestrians arguing, and the cart leaves no room for pedestrians anyway. The soccer field along Melville Ave. is for Westmount permit-holders only. How many of the players have permits or qualify for one? Does anyone ever check?

Something’s being built next to the Lookout (in a photograph it looks like a photograph of a German flak tower from World War II) and city bureaucrats are “concerned” and “disappointed” at the slow construction progress.

A few months ago, city council, as unquestioning and agreeable as usual, was ready to lay green rubber over part of Westmount Park. Then it ran into a body-check from a council chamber full of in-

telligent, articulate citizens with other ideas. It was a start.

Maybe at the next election, some of those citizens will go further. At the last election, only one councillor’s seat was contested – and two or three of those who’d got safely in by acclamation worked to see that the incumbent was undisturbed and there’d be no unwelcome fellow at the table, who probably would’ve started disagreeing and asking questions, and generally being a bloody nuisance.

But the citizens who questioned the artificial turf might have developed a taste for being involved. The next election might be different from all the others. We might even get the field guns back.

D. O. NEWNHAM, METCALFE AVE.

Postscript: After years of neglect, the gun carriages have been taken away for reconstruction before this piece went to press.



Notaries

Durso & Toone

Andrea F. Durso • Phillip Toone

4635 Sherbrooke West
Westmount, Quebec

T. 514.931.2531
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City to plant 82 new trees

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's parks, green spaces and streets will receive some 82 new trees this spring, largely to replace ones removed due to disease or safety concerns.

In all, 11 will be planted in Sunnyside Park to complete the work carried out last year to rehabilitate the area, said city horticulturist Claudette Savaria. These include service berry, hawthorn, cherry and three sugar maple trees – all indigenous to the mountain.

Other varieties ordered include linden, honey locust, oak, lilac, American ash, acacia and a type of elm considered to be disease resistant.

The purchase of the trees from Cramer nursery at a total cost of \$16,626, plus their planting by Montreal Landscaping for \$19,866, was approved by city council at its last meeting April 28. The item generated several questions from those attending.

Where will they go?

Citizens asked where the trees would go, why tree cuttings were piled up on

Metcalfe and why tree debris was piled at the northeast access to Summit Park, where it appeared that paths had been widened, perhaps to permit vehicular access.

Councillors George Bowser and Cynthia Lulham replied that the paths had not been widened.



One of Westmount's more successful plantings.

Rather, tree work in Summit Park involved pruning and removal only when trees are found to be unsafe or growing over pathways, and the remains are left on the ground to decompose naturally in the urban forest. The decaying wood also provides shelter for small animals and ground-nesting birds.

Summit's smaller wood chipped

Savaria further explained to the *Independent* that smaller branches and twigs from the park are chipped to prevent a tangle of underbrush. They would likely have been placed at the entrance by the contractor to carry out the chipping.

She also noted that a couple of old and aging trees have been removed on Metcalfe Ave. where "our core testing or other sampling indicated they were dangerous." Some new replacements were planted last year and another will be added this year.

Westmount has been cited in various national and provincial awards for the quality of its trees, green spaces and urban forest. In 1992, it earned the title of *Ville Vert du Québec* in a provincial government competition.



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96-year-old writer recognized

By Isaac Olson

Anna Silver, a 96-year-old resident of Westmount, was recognized for her first published short story – a story that was awarded honourable mention in a Quebec writing competition.

For 10 years, Montreal's CBC Radio One and the Quebec Writers' Federation have hosted an annual short story competition. Silver's piece, "Dora," was runner-up in the 2005-6 contest and was recently published in a book produced by Véhicule Press entitled, *In Other Words*. A collection of short stories, written by contest winners and runners-up, has been published every three years since the start of the competi-

How can anyone say 'no'?



Bianca (left) and Toni with their leader Chris, out raising money for local Beavers.

The Update

Houses up for sale since April 15-6 edition

The Update is content provided by the Westmount Independent, and is compiled from public sources and parties that contact us. To find a brokered property's listing agent and additional information, please go to MLS.ca. Both listing agents and agents working with buyers have more information (including the address of all houses) available to them on a private network.

\$699,000	4614-16 St. Catherine St.
\$699,000	59 Columbia Ave.
\$739,000	4104 Dorchester Blvd.
\$749,000	Address unavailable
\$849,000	Address unavailable
\$885,000	328-30 Grosvenor Ave.
\$895,000	61 Thornhill Ave.
\$895,000	717 Upper Roslyn Ave.



Anna Silver (center), her daughter-in-law, Muriel Dalphond (left), and her son, Joseph Silver (right), pose at the Blue Metropolis Festival in downtown.

tion.

On May 4, during a ceremony for this year's winners, Simon Dardick, co-founder of Véhicule Press, acknowledged Silver's achievement at the Blue Metropolis Festival downtown. Before a packed room of applauding writers and readers, Silver stood and smiled at the crowd.

Silver's short piece starts in 1914 and tells the tale of her family's maid of 11 years. Dora was a maid who lacked in English skills, but was full of heart. It is a story that was on her mind for many years, Silver said, and it was time to put it to paper.

A 1932 McGill graduate, Silver was born in Montreal on May 10, 1911 and has lived in Westmount for about 65 years.

\$975,000	415 Mount Pleasant Ave.
\$980,000	598 Grosvenor Ave.
\$995,000	Address unavailable
\$1,098,000	89 Holton Ave.
\$1,125,000	Address unavailable
\$1,155,000	490 Argyle Ave.
\$1,179,000	557 Lansdowne Ave.
\$1,550,000	488 Mountain Ave.*
\$1,995,000	29 Bellevue Ave.
\$2,390,000	Address unavailable*
\$2,399,000	74 Gordon Cres.
\$2,850,000	4455 Montrose Ave.
\$3,150,00	3223 de Trafalgar Ave.
\$3,375,000	4302 Montrose Ave.
\$3,750,000	77 Sunnyside Ave.

*Also for rent.

Plant swap set for May 14

By Laureen Sweeney

Along with perennials dug up from Westmount gardens for the city's annual plant exchange and sale, local green thumbs will find at least 17 varieties available from the city greenhouses.

Most were grown especially for the event that takes place May 14 at the arena from 4:30 to 8 pm.

Residents who have perennials for exchange are asked to deliver them between 4:30 and 6 pm when they will receive coupons to exchange for plants after doors open at 6 pm. Only coupon holders will be allowed in until 7 pm, at which time the remaining plants will go on sale.

A limit of six coupons will be placed on any one species of perennial brought in for exchange by one person.

The following won't be accepted: annuals, houseplants, shrubs, ajuga, goutweed, strawberries and orange day lilies.

All plants brought in must be in good condition, planted in pots and identified, said city horticulturist Claudette Savaria.

Organized by the city's Horticultural Advisory Committee (HAC), the annual event is a fundraiser for the greenhouse totem pole. Some \$5,000 has already been generated since 2006 through previous sales and events.

The event will also feature a number of other attractions including the sale of heritage plants and seeds such as the Montreal melon, Black Krim tomatoes, Espelette peppers and Turkish eggplant.

- These perennials were grown by the greenhouse staff for the exchange:
- Achillea (yarrow) yellow
 - Aquilegia (columbine) various colours
 - Astilbe arendsii
 - Delphinium cultorum Guinevere
 - Dianthus pink
 - Dianthus confetti, deep red
 - Digitalis purpurea (foxglove)
 - Echinacea purpurea
 - Edelweiss
 - Heuchera sanguinera Ruby Bell
 - Kniphofia (torch lily, red hot poker) Flamenco mixed
 - Lunaria annua
 - Primula acaulis
 - Physostegia (obedient plant)
 - Polemonium viscosum (Jacob's ladder)
 - Potentilla thurb Monarchs Velvet
 - Saxifraga arendsii Flower Carpet

A display and list of gardening books at the Westmount Public Library will be available as well as presentations of Ikebana and natural products.

Information on composting will also be provided along with the sale of vermicompost by 2nd Westmount Cubs who will have some worms available for persons wanting to start their own colony.

BUILDING PROJECTS: WHAT'S PERMITTED

The following work permits for external new construction, alterations and landscaping were approved by Westmount city council at the April 28 meeting.

60 Belvedere Rd. and 58 Belvedere Pl.: to partially demolish sections at the rear of #58 to build an extension and a new pavilion with underground garage linked to the main residence at #60, which is to be demolished as per demolition approval Dec. 18;

4825-4835 Sherbrooke: to renovate façade;

77 Holton: to build a new rear balcony and terrace;

368 Kensington: to landscape front yard;

4055 St. Catherine: to install a temporary sign for Sultan;

374 Kitchener: to enlarge a window opening;

592 Cote St. Antoine: to replace the windows;

9 Thornhill: to replace front windows;

469 Victoria: to install french doors at the

rear;

4376 de Maisonneuve: to modify rear façade including new balconies;

370 Roslyn: to replace front balcony doors;

660 Victoria: to replace windows;

10 Lorraine: to replace patio doors and increase height of the opening;

58 de Lavigne: rear landscaping;

413 Lansdowne: to replace front windows;

26 Holton: to replace rear windows and doors;

459 Elm: to replace rear windows and door;

493 Mount Pleasant: to replace windows and doors;

4709 The Boulevard: to replace solarium windows;

655 Grosvenor: to replace front windows and a door;

68 Belmont Cresc.: front and rear landscaping;

559 Argyle: to replace windows and build a new dormer.

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David Price, Editor & Publisher – *Westmount Independent*

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<div></div> <div>TRAVAUX PUBLICS Collecte des résidus alimentaires Résidents du secteur 8 : le lundi, c'est le bac vert! La collecte des résidus alimentaires et de jardinage débutera le lundi 12 mai pour toutes les maisons unifamiliales de votre secteur. Les résidents qui n'ont pas encore reçu leurs bacs verts sont priés de contacter les Travaux publics au 514 989-5311 afin de fixer un moment pour la livraison. Le secteur 8 est composé des rues situées entre le boulevard De Maisonneuve et le chemin de la Côte St-Antoine, de l'avenue Clarke à l'avenue Lansdowne.</div> <div>Collecte des résidus domestiques dangereux Inscrivez dans vos agendas le samedi 10 mai, journée de la collecte des résidus domestiques dangereux à Westmount. Disposez en toute sécurité de vos restes de peinture et de solvants, de vos piles usagées, de vos pesticides et autres substances dangereuses en les déposant dans le stationnement de la Bibliothèque de Westmount entre 9 h et 17 h. Une collecte de vêtements et d'équipements électroniques usagés aura également lieu à cette occasion. Info: 514 989-5390. ♻️</div> <div></div> <div>ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES Échange de plantes vivaces Apportez vos plantes vivaces à l'Aréna le mercredi 14 mai de 16 h 30 à 18 h. Elles doivent être fraîchement déterrées, leurs racines conservées dans la terre humide et empotées dans un contenant bien identifié. L'échange des coupons se tiendra de 18 h à 19 h. Les plantes non réclamées seront vendues 1 \$ de 19 h à 20 h. Les profits de cette vente serviront à la restauration du totem de la serre. De plus, venez visiter nos kiosques d'information sur le jardinage et les produits écologiques. Info : 514 989-5265.</div> <div>Salon des métiers d'art Appel d'offres La 10^e édition annuelle du Salon des métiers d'art de Westmount aura lieu les 8 et 9 novembre. Les artisans habitant à Westmount sont invités à présenter trois ou quatre échantillons complets de leurs œuvres au comité de sélection le mercredi 14 mai seulement, entre 14 h et 18 h, au Victoria Hall, Info : 514 934-0294 ou 514 484-1974.</div>		<div>DATES À RETENIR</div> <div>Jusqu'au 24 mai Exposition : Œuvres de Maxine Cuttler et Randy Yates La galerie du Victoria Hall</div> <div>Le 13 mai – 19 h Société d'horticulture de Westmount Jardin biologique (Conférencier : Ken Taylor) Bibliothèque</div> <div>Le 14 mai – 19 h Conférences culturelles Les Seigneures, ces femmes de coeur Bibliothèque</div> <div></div> <div>Soirée printanière - Billets La soirée printanière aura lieu le jeudi 5 juin au Victoria Hall. Le cocktail débutera à 19 h et sera suivi d'un dîner dansant. Coût du billet : 85 \$ (maximum de 10 billets par personne – une table), payable par chèque ou comptant. Les billets sont disponibles au Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5265. ♻️</div> <div></div> <div>SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE Renouvellement de permis de stationnement Vous pouvez renouveler un permis « G » dans les 30 jours qui suivent sa date d'expiration, et ce, sans être considéré comme nouveau demandeur. Cependant, veuillez noter que les titulaires de permis demeurent responsables de toute contravention reçue au cours de cette période. Évitez de payer des amendes. Renouvelez votre permis AVANT qu'il n'expire. ♻️</div> <div></div> <div>SPORTS ET LOISIRS Inscription – natation Cet été, venez vous baigner à la piscine extérieure de Westmount. La soirée d'inscription pour les programmes de natation de tout âge et de tous les niveaux se tiendra le 12 mai de 18 h à 20 h à l'Aréna. Une carte d'accès – installations sportives en vigueur est exigée. ♻️</div>		<div></div> <div>PUBLIC WORKS Kitchen Waste Collection Residents of Sector 8: Monday is Green Bin Day On Monday, May 12, kitchen and garden waste collection begins for all single-family homes in your sector. If you have not yet received your green bin, please contact Public Works at 514 989-5311 to have one delivered. Sector 8 includes the area between De Maisonneuve Boulevard and Côte St-Antoine Road, and from Clarke Avenue to Lansdowne Avenue.</div> <div>Household Hazardous Waste Collection Mark your calendar – Saturday, May 10 is Household Hazardous Waste Collection day in Westmount. Safely dispose of your leftover paints, solvents, used batteries, pesticides, etc. in the parking lot of Westmount Library between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Used clothing and used electronics will be collected the same day. Info: 514 989-5390. ♻️</div> <div></div> <div>COMMUNITY EVENTS Perennial Plant Exchange Bring your perennial plants to Westmount Arena on Wednesday, May 14 between 4:30 and 6 p.m. All plants must be freshly dug up with the roots preserved in well-moistened soil. Plants must be labeled and potted or wrapped in plastic. Redeem your vouchers between 6 and 7 p.m. The remaining plants will be sold between 7 and 8 p.m. for \$1 each. Proceeds from this event will go towards the restoration of the Greenhouse totem pole. Visit our kiosks for gardening advice and a selection of ecological products. Info: 514 989-5265. ♻️</div> <div>Westmount Artisans' Festival Call for Submissions The 10th annual Westmount Artisans' Festival will take place on November 8 and 9. Artisans residing in Westmount are invited to submit 3 to 4 samples of their completed work to the selection committee at Victoria Hall only on Wednesday, May 14 between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Info: 514 934-0294 or 514 484-1974.</div> <div>Spring Soirée Tickets The Westmount Spring Soirée will be held Thursday, June 5, at Victoria Hall. Cocktails begin</div>		<div>DATEBOOK</div> <div>Until May 24 Exhibition: Works of Maxine Cuttler and Randy Yates Gallery at Victoria Hall</div> <div>May 13 – 7 p.m. Westmount Horticultural Society Growing Green or Planet-Saving Plants (Ken Taylor) Library</div> <div>May 14 – 7 p.m. Cultural Lecture Series Les Seigneures, ces femmes de coeur Library</div> <div></div> <div>at 7 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$85 each, payable by cash or cheque, maximum of ten tickets (one table). Tickets are on sale at Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5265. ♻️</div> <div></div> <div>PUBLIC SECURITY Parking Permit Renewals Residents can renew a "G" permit within 30 days after the expiration date without being considered a new applicant. Please note, however, that the applicant remains responsible for all parking infractions received during this period. Avoid fines by renewing your permit BEFORE it expires. ♻️</div> <div></div> <div>RECREATION Swimming Registration Splash around in Westmount's outdoor swimming pool this summer. Register for swimming programmes of all ages and skill levels on our special registration night on May 12 (between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.) at the Arena. A valid sports Facility Membership Card is required. ♻️</div>	

City begins composting pickup, explains how to do it

continued from p. 1

She suggests bundling small amounts in the cornstarch bags and keeping them in the fridge or freezer until collection day. Used cat litter can be wrapped in newspaper to help mask the odour.

“Education is what we have to work on,” she said.

What's okay and what's not

Among the waste items to be tossed in the lined bin are regular table scraps, dairy products, soiled paper towels and serviettes and cat litter. Chicken bones and meat products are also acceptable, even though they cannot be placed in backyard

composters, which do not generate sufficient heat to break them down.

Unacceptable items, along with plastics, include diapers and sanitary products, vacuum bags, dead animals, and an array of blue-box items such as milk and juice containers.

A complete list of what's acceptable and what's not is being distributed with the green bins and is posted at www.westmount.org.

The program's goal is in line with provincial targets to divert 60 percent of

recyclable and compostable material from landfill as well as household hazardous waste.

According to most recent figures for Westmount (2006), Peter said, “We're already at 45 percent for recyclables and 30 percent of compostables.” This portion relates to leaves and garden debris that Westmount already collects for composting.

“As a result, if people participate in both the blue box and green bin collections, it should enable us to meet the objectives,” Peter said.

Household hazardous waste collection May 10

The semi-annual collection of paints, solvents, electronic equipment and other household hazardous waste takes place in Westmount Saturday, May 10. Clothing will also be accepted.

Items will be collected as usual at the library parking lot on Sherbrooke St. from 9 am to 5 pm. Batteries, cell phones, computers and an array of other items that should not be tossed in the regular garbage can be taken to the site.

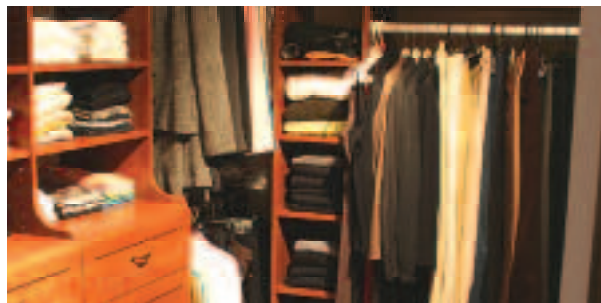


Four bins awaiting door-to-door distribution on Lansdowne.

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Bought & Sold: Real estate transferred since March 14, 2008

Address	Price	Buyer	Seller	Date
24 Ramezay Rd.	\$3,400,000	Jean Bernier & Isabel Jacques	Wes Lucas & Kerstin Elizabet Eriksson	Apr. 15
480 Strathcona Ave.	\$1,525,000	Audrey Hollinger & Robert J. Torralbo	Robert M. Davis	Apr. 4
14 Ramezay Rd.	\$1,500,000	6309348 Canada Inc.	Estate of Robert D. Murray	Apr. 18
725 Upper Roslyn Ave.	\$1,388,125	Linda Singer	Georges Morin & Anne Robert	Mar. 28
492 Elm Ave.	\$1,375,000	Sara Jill Price	Diana Lynn Bryant	Mar. 26
611 Belmont Ave.	\$1,275,000	Malgorzata Plech	Scott Morey & Sonia Martin	Mar. 31
605 Belmont Ave.	\$1,200,000	Joy Hesselbo & Robert Hesselbo	Christopher Anderson & Roberta Ann Mancinelli	Mar. 28
602 Lansdowne Ave.	\$1,185,000	Angelo (Evangelos) Mylonakis & Zoe Baffis	Ann-Zoe Trahan	Apr. 4
4000 Montrose Ave.	\$1,150,000	Perry Owen & Kimberly Oliver	Pagona (Peggy) Essaris	Apr. 16
3186 The Boulevard	\$1,125,000	Joseph Bahadrian	Joseph Marie Verna	Mar. 14
4175 St. Catherine St. Apt. 2202	\$1,125,000	The Chateau Westmount Square Apartment 2202 Trust	Estate of the late Alan Edwards	Apr. 1
4732 The Boulevard	\$1,000,000	Emmanuel Olivier & Marie-Josée Jorda Garcia	Hung Bui-Quang	Mar. 31
600 Côte St. Antoine Rd.	\$820,000	Gianluca Passarella & Zephya Wright	John David Howes & Constance Victoria Classen	Mar. 27
4160 Sherbrooke St. Apt. 202	\$715,000	Elizabeth Ramsay	Armande Toupin	Mar. 28
543 Lansdowne Ave.	\$690,000	Vivianne Ory	Rachel Bénard & Sylvain Lasnier	Mar. 20
200 Lansdowne Ave.	\$675,000	Estate of Martha Louise Smith (Spinney)	Ben Zion Goldstein	Mar. 17
220 Prince Albert Ave.	\$625,000	Catherine McKenzie & David Price	Donald C. MacMartin & Laura Michielini	Mar. 17
342, 342A, 342B Victoria Ave.	\$378,000	Kam Chuen Ho & Sau Chu Lam	4349610 Canada Inc.	Apr. 18
346, 346A, 346B Victoria Ave.	\$356,250	Dominique (Edouard) Le Nabat	4349610 Canada Inc.	Mar. 26
3171 St. Antoine St.	\$284,500	Daniel (Dan) Sandler	Osman Izaz & Nazish Hussain	Apr. 4
Suite at 1 Wood / 4055 St. Catherine St.	\$15,826	Daniel St. Martin Inc.	Devdip Chatterjee	Mar. 25
Vacant land	\$8,125	Atlantic and North West Railway Company	Adeline Gougeon & Theophile Decarie (Decary)	Mar. 28

Nota bene: Evaluations were unavailable for this edition of Bought & Sold.



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Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1439483



Notre Dame de Grâce. Beautiful and spacious condo, 2 bedrooms, open concept large living room/dining room, large closets and storage, western exposure, back balcony to bbq, wood floors and parking, walking distance to Vendome metro. **Asking \$219,000**

Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1394541



Le Sud Ouest. Great loft with wall to wall windows with city views. 11-ft ceilings, originals beams, brick wall. Huge windows on this corner unit, over looking the canal, bike path, walk to Old Mtl, downtown. Garage, gym locker. **Asking \$299,000**

Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1407510



Westmount. Bright English style cottage renovated with taste, on quiet cul de sac, 3 bedrooms, MBDR+++, wood floor, fire place, playroom, bedroom + bathroom in basement. Extended kitchen w/dinette, pkg for one car. **Asking \$575,000**

Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1395608



Westmount. Set in an elegant row of charming Victorian townhouses (1898), steps from Greene. Four bedrooms, 1 bath, 1 powder room, 11-ft ceilings, new oak floors. Fin. basement, prize-winning private fenced garden, pkg. **Asking \$598,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1399557



Westmount. Beautiful duplex in lower Westmount, steps to Greene Ave. In both units 3 bedrooms, finished basements, independent parking, outdoor area and balconies. Upper unit has been upgraded. Stone walls, wood floor. Occupancy as per leases. **Asking \$679,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1342727



Westmount. Minty-built A/C townhouse in 'mint' condition. Not ready for a condo? Here's a perfect downsizer in prime location on the flat. Luxurious and affordable with every comfort and convenience. 3 bdrm, 2 f/p, 2 car integrated garage. **Asking: \$875,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1432521



Westmount. Spacious s/d house in A1 location – the flat- steps from Westmount Park, and every amenity Ten-foot ceilings with ornate moldings, skylight, newer windows, playroom. 4+1 bedrooms, large kitchen with dinette. Parking for 3 cars. Ideal family house. **Asking \$999,000**

Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1410550



Westmount. Near Montrose – Your dream house! Enjoy the light and views from every level of this well maintained 5 bedrooms elegant extra spacious 2 story semi detached. with ground floor den, sunroom, garage and garden. **Asking \$1,300,000**

Virtual tour at Mcguiganpepin.com/1427564

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Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before

One building, many lives



BY DOREEN LINDSAY

Question: What was this Victoria Ave. building before it became the Visual Arts Centre? For answer, see p. 16

The Priory celebrates its 60th



Grade 3 students representing the 1970s, doing the Love Train.

The Priory celebrated its 60th anniversary on May 2 with a student-driven extravaganza highlighting songs, dances and fads from the 1950s to today.

Each grade level represented a different

decade. Young and old clapped and grooved to the beats of Elvis, the Bee Gees, the Bangles, Will Smith, Rihanna and even tunes from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

Scouts clean up the Summit



More than 20 members of Westmount Scouting sections turned out on Sunday, April 27 to clean up Summit Park. The annual event is aligned with Earth Day but was rescheduled this year for a week later than usual because of snow that remained on the mountain, explained Susan Zegray, Chair of the Westmount Park Scouting Group.

CHRISTOPHER MANGIARACINA



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History quiz: Visual Arts Centre

continued from p. 15

Question: What was this Victoria Ave. building before it became the Visual Arts Centre?

Answer: Biltcliffe's Department Store.

This building, which today houses the Visual Arts Centre at 350 Victoria Ave., was built in 1910 by MacDuff and Lemieux as Biltcliffe's Department Store.

The front page of the Westmount newspaper of September 2, 1910 announced, "Mr. W. M. Biltcliffe's new \$30,000 building opened this week, grocery and hardware department in full swing, school books on sale." This was Westmount's first department store.

"Every detail of the construction has been carried on under his own eyes – from the solid masonry of the basement to the water tower, which is to be supported by steel columns running from the roof to a deep reinforced concrete bed beneath the ground. The building has been constructed on the mill principle, combining strength with plenty of light."

They go on to inform us that, "Only the first floor has been fitted up so far, and upon this flat, Mr. Biltcliffe has opened an up-to-date grocery department and a line of hardware, such as enamel ware and all kinds of kitchen requisites. A portion of this floor is reserved for the selling of school books."

Mr. William Biltcliffe lived at 638 Lansdowne Ave. and died in 1930. He originally came from England, was bilingual and a good businessman. Initially, he established a business at the corner of Atwater and St. Antoine, and then he moved up to the southwest corner of Victoria and Somerville, where he bought Grimley's Pharmacy. Business was so good in this developing community that he bought land on the northwest corner and built a three-floor department store. In addition to selling groceries and hardware on the first floor, he sold kitchen utensils and crockery in the basement, and used the second floor as his storeroom. The third floor was rented out to the Badminton Club.

The year after Mr. Biltmore died, the building was listed as J. B. Baillargeon Express, and by the 1950s, it was listed as Westmount Moving and Warehousing Ltd. I would like to obtain some information about these years, as I have nothing. I invite readers to contact me.

Most Westmounters know that the highly successful Visual Arts Centre established there today developed from The Potters Club. When it started in 1946, the female ceramic artists rented space along Victoria Ave. They developed over the years by adding the teaching of other arts to their activities and renamed themselves the Visual Arts Centre in 1969.

In 1972, they were awarded financial support from the National Galleries, The J. W. McConnell and Zeller Family Foundations, which enabled them to purchase the old Biltcliffe Department Store. The building was renovated to accommodate an art school in 1973 by Stephen Blayer, architect.

Doreen Lindsay is president of the Westmount Historical Association.

Artisans' festival calling for submissions

The Westmount Artisans' Festival is inviting artisans to submit examples of their work to a selection committee on Wednesday, May 14 at Victoria Hall (4626 Sherbrooke St.) from 2 to 6 pm.

All work must be utilitarian, not solely decorative, and produced solely by the artisan. Items produced mainly with the use of kits and/or glue guns, and mass produced items, will not be accepted.

Each artisan should bring three to four completed examples of each discipline to be judged.

Space is limited so jewelers especially should not count on more than one square foot of presentation space. Photographs in place of actual work will not be accepted.

For more information, please call Ilyse at 514.934.0294 or Flora at 514.484.1974.

Colourfully Yours: Puebla part of trend

BY AURELIEN GUILLORY
& GRETA VON SCHMEDLAPP

Hola, caro mial!

Your Greta was recently surprised with an invitation from your favourite designer, Aurelien, to hide in his extra-large Kilim carpet bag and stow away to the Puebla, Mexico and Export Trade Commission's special two-day expo of their artisanal products.

Well, talk about the whirlwind! We arrived with a very civilized flight by Mexicana direct to Mexico City, then hopped a posh Euro-style bus to the super-chic city of Puebla.

The Design Hotel Group (that includes the St. Paul here in Montreal) hosted all 14 of us at La Purificadora.

If your Spanish is as shaky as mine, the hotel name means "the purifying plant" – another super example of recycling an abandoned relic into a top boutique hotel. The decor is as chic as can be: waterfall channel on the stairs, rings of flames in the centre of the open-air lobby at night, and a lap pool on the roof with a Baroque church bell tower nearby...

Design camaraderie

What a change from the (then) snow of our city. Even better was the reception with the other designers invited from Italy, Germany, France and the US. The design camaraderie that soon developed was an added bonus. I'm certain that Aurel will continue his rapport with them in the future. The variety of onyx, marble mosaic glassware, furniture, hand-woven fabrics, and the indigenous Talavera ceramique was superb and world class.

Aurel and his confreres each saw about 16 different craft and small companies, all top-drawer items. Aurel is planning an edition of the items that will be appreciated by us Canadians to be called COLLEC-CION AURELIO.

Although everyone is importing containers from China and learning Chinese, I am certain that Spanish is easier to learn, and the quality, design flair, and shipping distances are all advantageous from Mexico. Not only does today's Mexico have ultra-modern architecture, but the continuing exploration of the ancient Mayan and Aztec ruins is influencing design also.

Beyond Chichen Itza

Aurel and I are planning to use motifs taken from his recent trips to Uxmal and

Ek Balem...Everyone knows Chichen Itza, and nearby Cancun, but these other two are more complex. What marvels these ancients were. We feel that these images and motifs will be good as design borders and iconic images that can look at once ancient and modern! I do look forward to seeing the prototypes soon.

As Aurel mentioned in our last article, one of the more import and trends in interior design today is the ecological approach to design. With production on the same continent and using local resources, we can make a difference – with no loss in the quality of design or fabrication.

Another equally important trend that I have mentioned is that of world-beat or ethnic influences. More and more, as we travel and become connected with other cultures, our future homes will show the influence of many disparate cultures. Remember, it was only 25 or so years that yoga was a new form of exercise and meditation was a bit flakey. What about sushi? It's been around in Japan for a long time, but here – 10 or 15 years only. They are from different backgrounds, and are both now respected and mainstream. Often old ideas are revived again and newly respected in a different context than the past. We're seeing it in all sorts of media, the cycle of change, with adaptation of the old

with the modern technology of the future.

Of course, we do have a complex world today, with all sorts of problems and pitfalls, but we must also enjoy these modern aspects of our lives – even as we "type" on machines that help us spell, and send letters and photos across the continent in an instant. Here's to the future of good design!

Hope that this wasn't too philosophical for you this time...

Hasta Luego, your peripatetic Greta von Schmedlapp.

Keep your comments coming: Catch us at www.colorsbyaurelien.com.

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Bridge: The Three Ds

BY GEORGE RETEK

Bridge writers speak about the importance of defense and deception in bridge, and often ignore the third "D": desperation. The following deal is a good illustration. If dummy had one more Club and one less Spade, we would have landed in a good contract. Sitting South, I played in 6 spades (don't ask how we got there) and faced an international player sitting East.

The lead was a Club, won by the Ace. I cashed three Spades, the Diamond Ace and four Hearts (finessing East for the Jack). East had no indication, whether I had two or four Clubs and decided to play me for four. On the third spade, East had to find a discard. Wanting to hold four Clubs, decided to let go the Queen of Diamond.

After cashing my remaining Club, I played a Diamond to the now stiff King, forcing a Club return from East that allowed me to make the slam by a ruff and discard play. The last three cards were:

NORTH	
♠ K 8 7 4	
♥ A K 3	
♦ A 10 6 5	
♣ A Q	
WEST	EAST
♠ 5 3 2	♠ 10 9 5
♥ 7 5	♥ A K 2
♦ J 9 4	♦ J 9 7 3
♣ J 10 7 6 2	♣ K J 6
SOUTH	
♠ A Q J 6	
♥ Q 10 9 2	
♦ 8 7 3	
♣ K 3	

NORTH	
♠ 8	
♦ 6 5	
WEST	EAST
Immaterial	♦ K
	♣ 9 8
SOUTH	
♠ 6	
♦ 7 3	

Westmount youth orchestrate another successful concert



The view from the balcony.

Photo by Isaac Olson

To the delight of family and fans, Victoria Hall was filled with the harmonious sounds of the Westmount Symphony Youth Orchestra on the evening of May 3. Continuing the 10-year tradition of annual concerts, the advanced group of young musicians, a component of the Westmount

Youth Orchestra, joined at their home venue to play the works of Aaron Copland and Edward Elgar. Elgar's Cello Concerto was lead by 16-year-old Yoanna Prodanova. The concert was conducted by their director, Scott Gabriel. Musicians range from ages 12 to 22.

Roslyn School quiz



Roslyn School class in the early 1940s.

Photo courtesy of Gavin Ross and Jasmin Uthoff

Roslyn's centenary celebration is coming up on May 30 to 31 (see www.roslyn-schoolfoundation.ca for details). Alumni are coming forward to share photos, stories and other memorabilia.

In the picture above, who is the boy in the front row, second from left? Hint: He is a famous Canadian poet and singer-songwriter. For answer, turn to p. 23.

Names the Roslyn organizers know (can you help them out?):

First row (from left) : Derek Reid, see

p. 23 for answer, Ivan Phillips, Clifford Bowles, Billy Fell, Stuart McKinnon, Freddie Farnsworth.

2nd row: Unknown, Elizabeth Cross, unknown, Rayetta Shacter, Carol, Selma Hershorn, July Patton, unknown.

3rd row: Michael Savage, John Moffat, Gavin Ross, Carter Powis, Norman Alexander, Bill Minguy, unknown.

Back row: Chuck Laidley, Bill Fuller, Barbara Robertson, unknown, unknown.



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Comin' Up...

Here's what happening in Westmount in the coming weeks:

Saturday, May 10: Household hazardous waste collection– 9 am to 5 pm in the Westmount Public Library parking lot.

Monday, May 12: Swimming registration – 6 pm at the arena.

Tuesday, May 13: Westmount Horticultural Society: Ken Taylor on “Growing Green or Planet-Saving Plants” – 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library.

Wednesday, May 14: (1) Special Council

City council's audio recordings now on city website

The city of Westmount announced on April 29 that audio recordings of city council meetings are now available on the city's website (www.westmount.org) and that future recordings will be available on the day following each general meeting.

Meeting – 12 pm at Westmount city hall.
(2) Plant exchange – 4:30 pm to 8 pm at the arena.

Thursday, May 15: (1) Contactivity luncheon followed by guest speaker Sam Zilber on “Aids to Daily Living for Senior Citizens” products (for people 60+) – 1 pm at Contactivity Centre. Call to reserve. (2) Westmount Historical Association: Lecture on Mt. Pleasant heritage house – 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library

Saturday, May 31: Family Day – 9 am to 4 pm in Westmount Park

Organic expert to address Horticultural

Ken Taylor of Windmill Point Organic Farm (www.windmillpointfarm.ca) will address the Westmount Horticultural Society (www.whsociety.com) on the subject of “Growing Green or Planet-Saving Plants” on Tuesday, May 13 from 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library (4574 Sherbrooke St.).

Annual fees at the society are \$20. The guest fee is \$5.

Underdog

BY FERN BRESLAW

Buddy is a three-year-old beagle with a rather bleak future.

Due to his kennel cough, he has been placed in the quarantine room at the SPCA, a place few people even know exists. Dogs who find themselves there, even for a treatable illness such as a kennel cough, are unlikely to find themselves a family.

Buddy was brought into the SPCA after running away from home for the third time. His previous owners rarely took him out and left him alone most of the day; which is no life for a beagle. Buddy would howl as a result – which would seem fairly reasonable to most. Beagles love the outdoors and his continuous efforts to escape were likely an effort to take his lack of walks into his own hands.

Buddy's runaway plan may still work



out for him – provided, that is, that someone knows where he can be found and decides to come find him sooner rather than later.

Find out more about adopting Buddy by contacting the Montreal SPCA.

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ON THE SHELVES

Among the new arrivals at the Westmount Public Library singled out by staff are:

Magazines

“WFB: a life”, special tribute issue to William F. Buckley, Jr., National Review, March 24, 2008.

“La parole aux Tibétains”, Courrier international, 3 avril 2008, p. 45.

Database

Salem Press Health covers diseases, disorders, treatments, procedures, specialties, anatomy, biology and issues in an A-Z format, with sidebars addressing recent developments in medicine. Accessible at the library or from home at www.westlib.org.

DVDs

Silk. Based on the bestselling novel by Alessandro Baricco, *Silk* is a visually stunning epic spanning two continents. Winner of 7 Jutra Awards.

The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford. Based on the novel of the same name by Ron Hansen, this engrossing film follows the life of Jesse James late in his career, a few hours before his final train robbery, then covers the slow catastrophe of the gang's breakup after his death.

English Adult

Asylum by Andre Alexis. The second novel by the author of the award-winning *Childhood* is set in Ottawa during the Mulroney years and concerns a visionary project to build an ideal prison, “a perfect metaphor for the purest aspects of artistic ambition and for all that is great and flawed in the world”. This author is speaking at the library Saturday, May 3 and 10:30 am.

Under Pressure: Rescuing Childhood from the Culture of Hyper-Parenting by Carl Honore. A thoughtful look at childhood today, and solutions and alternatives to overprogramming by the bestselling author of *In Praise of Slow*.

French Adult

Champagne by Monique Proulx. The life of half a dozen people, some of them injured by life, who spend summer alongside a miraculously preserved lake in the Laurentians. One of the central characters is Lila, a septuagenarian of Polish origin and owner of this domain who staunchly defends it against progress.

Paris poète edited by Catherine Aygalinc. Treat yourself with this gorgeous collection of photographs of Paris, accompanied by ex-

cerpts of poems and prose by such luminaries as Proust, Claudel and Verlaine.

Children's

Rainy Day! by Patricia Lakin. A little bit of bad weather isn't going to stop four crocodiles from having fun!

Le mystère de la Lune by Florence Guiraud. Five animals decide to climb to the moon to discover why it changes its shape every night.



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Art Calendar

CONTINUING EXHIBITS:

Collins Lefebvre Stoneberger: Emilio Sanchez “The Caribbean”, prints. Exhibit continues to May 10. 4928 Sherbrooke St., 514.481.2111

Galerie D’Este: Sophie DeFrancesca and Susan Szenes “Saperlipopette!”, sculpture and paintings. Exhibit continues to May 18. 1329 Greene Ave., 514.846.1515

La Galerie sur Greene: Valerie Butters, paintings. Exhibit continues to May 25. 1368 Greene Ave., 514.938.3863

McClure Gallery: Harlan Johnson, painting. Exhibit continues to May 24. Visual Arts Centre 350 Victoria Ave., 514.488.9558

Parisian Laundry: MFA student exhibit “Collision 4”. Exhibit continues to May 10. 3550 St Antoine St., 514.989.1056

UPCOMING

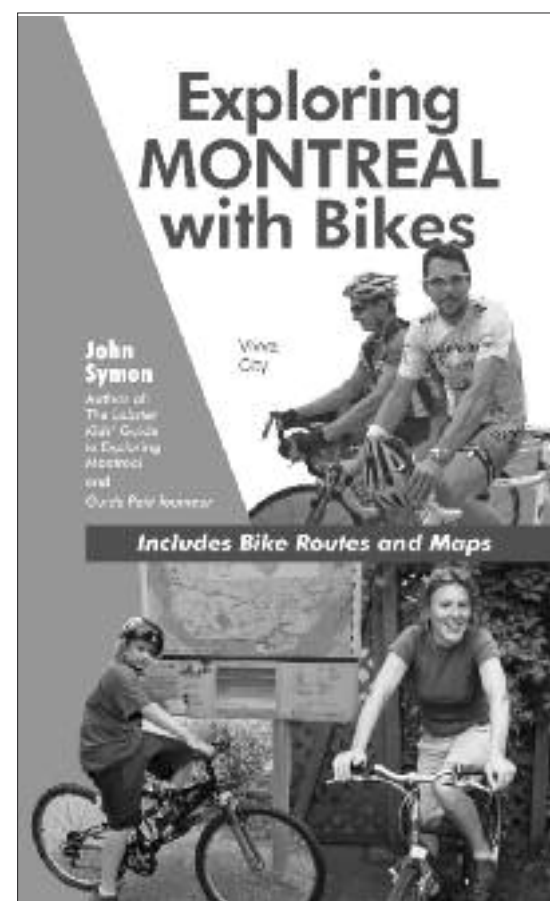
May 8: Galerie de Bellefeuille: ART 2008. Exhibit: May 8 to 19. 1367 Greene Ave., 514.933.4406

May 15: Collins Lefebvre Stoneberger: Chris Mangiaracina “New Works”, paintings. Vernissage: May 15 at 5 pm. Exhibit: May 15 to June 28. 4928 Sherbrooke St., 514.481.2111

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CHAPTERS • INDIGO • COLES



Westmount Square tunnel a tricky area

continued from p. 1

contract to Westmount Square carried out random patrols. Musicians were allowed to perform as a deterrent to crime. And police also randomly patrolled. A total of 10 thefts with violence had occurred in the previous 15 months.

It was also reported that Westmount Square was planning to install closed circuit TV cameras to be monitored by its security to the isolation of the tunnel.

Today

Interestingly, however, when the *Independent* attempted to determine the current status of the tunnel, the situation had again become unclear to some parties. Information provided by security personnel seemed to provide contradictory or confusing information.

Two groups were clear about their lack of involvement. The director of Westmount Public Security, Richard Blondin, said “we patrol roads, public areas of the city of Westmount, streets. For sure, we don’t patrol Westmount Square or inside of private buildings.” He said for any criminal activity, police are called in.

Pascal Gagné, director of Prevention and Security for Place Alexis Nihon, said



Where Dawson, the Atwater Metro, Alexis Nihon and Westmount Square meet. No man’s land?

the tunnel and the cameras belong to Westmount Square.

When the question was asked of the Montreal police at Station 12 as to whose jurisdiction this area belongs to, the suggestion was to contact Westmount Square and the new unit within the Montreal police assigned to patrol the transit system. Station 12 also commented that someone witnessing a crime, regardless of location, should call 911, and *all* criminal activity falls under police jurisdiction.

Calls to the STM were not returned.

A source from Westmount Square security who wished to remain unnamed said that Westmount Square has about seven tunnel cameras and rounds are done there. The source said that the section between Westmount Square and Atwater Metro belongs to the city of Montreal.

Cities don’t own tunnel

A call to Montreal’s new 311 information line eventually led to communications coordinator for Ville Marie, Jacques Alain Lavallé, who said that the borough’s urban planning department “assures me that [this area] is no longer in the territory of the borough of Ville Marie.”

Westmount also denied ownership. Joanne Poirier, Director of Westmount Urban Planning said that during her entire employment with the city, she had not received any calls for repairs or maintenance in the tunnel and didn’t believe that it belonged to the city of Westmount.

One point was clear, though. For any in-progress criminal activity, all parties urged witnesses to call 911 immediately.

With contributions from Laureen Sweeney.

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Berry recognized by EMSB

Irene Berry was recognized at the English Montreal School Board’s Volunteer of Distinction at the EMBS’s seventh Volunteer Appreciation Evening April 30 at Le Baron Royal in St. Léonard. Berry has been volunteering at Westmount Park School for the past 20 years in various capacities.

“I love being at Westmount Park and being with the children. It’s like a second home to me,” said Berry, who recently turned 80. “The love I get from the children and the teachers in the school is incredible. It’s great to know that I’m appreciated by everyone.”

Time and space did not allow the EMSB to honour all of its nearly 1,700 volunteers in person. Therefore, only those individuals who have volunteered for more than five years attended the reception, representing some 500 people.



Irene Berry is congratulated by EMSB Chairman Angela Mancini (left) and Westmount Park Principal Christina Delaney (right).

9 Lives

BY LYZANNE

Henna

Henna is an exquisite female flame-point Himalayan (about a year and a bit). She has soft and silky cream-coloured fur, burnt-orange points, some orange blush on her back and tail, and gorgeous baby-blue eyes. Henna is the ultimate lap-cat.



Henna

Just pick her up and set her on your lap, and she melts into a blissfully purring ball of happiness, licking your hands in appreciation.

Karl

Karl is a stunning brown tabby Persian (about a year old). He came from a home that did not have time for him anymore... they wanted a kitten... not a cat... He was not groomed, so he had to be shaved, although he enjoys being brushed. He is a very gentle, affectionate, calm and sweet feline. Karl is more than ready to adorn any lap or be a Persian pillow when he curls up beside your head at night!



Karl

For more information, please contact Maggie at Animal Adoption Montreal, formerly called Canadian Pet Rescue, at www.aam.petfinder.com or 514.839.2070. If you cannot adopt, please consider opening your home to foster. With your help we can save a feline's life!

Artwork by Laura S. Cohendet.

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Thanks for your interest!

Retail Watch BY ANNIKA MELANSON

Popular boutique open

TNT (The New Trend, 4100 St. Catherine St., 514.935.1588, www.tntthenewtrend.com) is a Toronto-based company owned by Arié Assarat, known as Toronto's Fred Segal. He owns several boutiques in Toronto on Eglinton Ave., as well as Hazelton Lanes.

His new Westmount location, which opened on April 12, was created "as a destination shop" and "where the best of all of the TNT stores is showcased under one roof," said Westmounter Caroline Chouinard, the face of TNT in Montreal.



Caroline Chouinard with men's clothing buyer Stephen Holden.

The 8,000 square foot boutique features must-haves that are not found elsewhere in Montreal.

The store carries over 200 women's labels, which include Isabelle Marant, Trina Turk, Valentino Red, Missoni, Diane Von Furstenberg, Velvet, Tahari and Jay Godfrey. Among the 150 men's clothing lines are popular Montreal label Don Rebel, Transit, J. Lindberg and Nude Jeans. Kids' clothes include Junk Food t-shirts, Flowers by Zoe, Lemon and Sister Sam. The shop also carries ladies' shoes by Marc Jacobs, Modern Vintage and Chloé.

The feeling is cool, spacious and airy, which makes it easy to browse and view the goods. TNT carries many of their pieces in only one size, so that "dress dupes" are avoided. When asked what I could compare the new Westmount TNT to, Chouinard replied "Barney's Co-op or a cross between Scoop and Intermix in New York. The philosophy of the owner is that the whole family can come in to shop and not be intimidated."

Cavallaro revamped

After 11 years in business, Tony Russo decided to renovate and expand his business, Cavallaro (4865 Sherbrooke St., 514.484.0804, www.cavallaro.ca), which

re-opened on April 16. "After 11 years, it was time for a change," said Russo. "Tony wanted to do something that would revamp the store with new attractions, such as a daily hot lunch and gourmet pressed sandwiches," said Russo's wife, Andrea.

There will be more of a focus on prepared foods. Russo is stocking new Italian



Tony and Andrea Russo.

pastries, such as canolis and *mille-feuille* as well as pies.

The Russos work together. They met in 2002 when Andrea, who was managing the boutique Indigo, rented a parking spot behind Cavallaro and used the store as her access to Sherbrooke St., instead of walking around. A real-life Westmount fairy-tale romance.

Naturino to expand

Glenn Neven opened Naturino (1235 Greene Ave., 514.939.0363) four years ago, after seeing the concept in Toronto. "It is a great success," said Neven, "we have a cult following with people coming to us from all over, including the US."

Shoes are very important for children as their feet are developing, explained Neven. Naturino shoes have the necessary rigid support in the heel while being flexible, with a foot bed that conforms to the shape of the foot. "Children's footwear is being treated as a disposable fashion



Naturino owner Glenn Neven with daughter Inès.

item," said Neven, whereas it is really "meant to protect the foot." In fact, shoes made from synthetic materials can sometimes cause eczema. An important service offered at Naturino is that they professionally fit children's shoes.

Children are not supposed to be wearing shoes until they can walk. What to put on babies' feet? For the wee ones, Nowali moccasin socks from Sweden are wonderful and a good alternative to Robeez, as they do not have an elastic around the ankle.

The boutique is now offering Birkenstock's, one of the oldest shoe brands in the world, in children and adult sizes. Gone are the days when the German shoes were synonymous with tree-huggers. Birkenstocks now come in an array of fashionable leather and patent-leather shades and metallics. They are made from all-natural fibers including leather, jute and cork and are anatomically correct, keeping joints in-line.

A new concept, Birkenstock-Naturino, will be born next spring with an expansion of the store and more adult shoes.

Kokass

Céline Bouré, a goldsmith and jeweler with 16 of experience in design, opened her new boutique, Kokass (316 Victoria Ave., 514.577.4653, www.kokassart.com) on April 27. Bouré is the North American winner of the Tahitian Pearl Trophy of North America for her earrings.

She specializes in unique pieces made with pearls and stones, set or interlaced



Jeweler and goldsmith Céline Bouré in her new boutique on Victoria.

with sterling silver or gold. Bouré's concept is "modern meets classic, with a twist." The word Kokass means "something unusual" in French. Her philosophy is to "keep everything in its natural state as much as possible. Each piece is made individually, not as a series. Things are not mass-produced." She will also remodel jewelry with stones or pearls.

Westmount Profile: Wanda Potrykus Fuelled by NGO's calling

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Being enthusiastic about all the many jobs and causes she has supported over the years is one of her trademarks.

But there's a special passion in her voice when Wanda Potrykus speaks about the rebuilding of 23 tsunami-struck villages by Development and Peace after the 2004 disaster in southeast Asia.

"We were ready to go because our partners on the ground were ready," she says.

Development and Peace is an international development arm of the Roman Catholic Church that works on non-denominational projects with local NGOs.

As a marketing communications consultant working and living in Westmount, Potrykus has been working as communications officer for Development and Peace for a year.

Feeling part of the mission

Preparing its press releases, fundraising messages and marketing strategies, she has quickly come to feel part of its mission and is especially moved by the quick rebuilding work being done after the tsunami.

"We've already moved 20,000 people from the affected area into the villages and taught them how to farm mushrooms," she explains. "The crops they used to raise can no longer grow in the land that was covered by salt water."

The group's two-pronged mission – to educate Canadians in world needs and organize women to help themselves – fits well, she says, with her own beliefs and her previous work in Europe and with many agencies in Canada.

"I also find it interesting that I was born

a Catholic and raised in a Catholic family, but never realized the extent of the church's international humanitarian work."

Loves the neighbourhood

Potrykus operates her own business, HaloSwoop Communications Consulting, from her home on York. It's a neighbourhood where she has lived some 25 years and raised her son, Misha. He is now a McGill student, a goalie for the Westmount Sharks in the men's B league and an active volunteer for the Sports & Recreation Department and community events.

"We feel so much part of the community," she says.

One of the original Demergettes who worked at Westmount's demerger office, Potrykus continues to volunteer at community events and is a member-at-large of the environment committee of Westmount's Healthy City Project. She has been serving as a vice-president of the Westmount Municipal Association and is a past president of the École Internationale school committee.

Enjoyed London of the '60s

Born in London, she was one of six children whose father had been part of the Polish free forces during World War II. She grew up in nearby Epping, in Essex. As a child of the 1960s, the teenaged Wanda attended Rolling Stones concerts and enjoyed life to the fullest.

"It was a wonderful time to be an adolescent in London" – especially, she adds, "when you had an outgoing personality. Wherever you went, doors opened to you."

She studied French as an *au pair* girl in Nice, partied in Monte Carlo and worked at a variety of PR-type jobs.



Wanda Potrykus in front of her 1880s house on York.

Because she spoke French, she was hired by Saunderson fabric and wallpapers to travel on a promotional tour to Belgium attending trade shows and speaking to groups.

During a European civil war, she worked as an overseas telephone operator sometimes translating calls in French between Iceland and Russia.

Bitten by the travel bug, Potrykus emigrated to Canada, arriving in Montreal on the *Empress of Canada* in June 1971 "when it was boiling hot," she recalls.

Jumped from plane

After working at several office jobs, she spent two years in Vancouver. Not one to shy away from adventure, she and a group of friends joined a sky-diving training and took their first jump over Washington State. "That was the one real scary moment of my life," she says. But she did it once more.

Obtaining a BA from McGill in 1979 as a mature student, Potrykus worked for a couple of marketing communications

companies, set up her own consultancy and travelled to China. She served five years as advertising manager for KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and another five at IATA as manager of corporate communications for the western hemisphere.

She also held a contract position in internal communications with Bombardier Aerospace until resurrecting her own business in 2001.

And it's her current work now with Development and Peace that has captured her spirit, she says. It's fuelling her drive to get out the message that people in the developed world "need to understand the need for more equitable distribution of resources."

"That's what makes me get up in the morning," she says. "The world has to learn to share. It's all part of corporate social responsibility."

And in her current frame of mind, she has started writing poetry and has discovered "this other life to go to when I retire. I'm really an itinerant wanderer," Wanda adds. "I was well named."

Roslyn quiz answer from p. 15: Leonard Cohen!



Porter to address WMA

Dr. Arthur Porter, director-general and CEO of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), was scheduled to address the Westmount Municipal Association's annual general meeting on May 5 at Victoria Hall, after presstime.

The planned superhospital at the Glen Yards site in Westmount's southwest corner would be an MUHC facility.

Porter is a native of Detroit, where he

was president and chief executive officer of the Detroit Medical Centre from 1999 to 2003. Porter's medical specialty is radiation oncology. He has published some 300 peer-reviewed journal articles.

Also scheduled at the WMA meeting is the presentation to Barbara Moore of this year's Derek Walker Volunteer Citizen of the Year Award.



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