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1,200 kids enrolled in Westmount soccer this year, making six new teams necessary. The city names its intramural teams after Canadian cities. Girls' Novice team "Goose Bay" is in pink and "Charlottetown" is in orange. For story, turn to p. 8.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith.

Marks 110 years from new Westmount HQ

NOVA fills healthcare gaps

Westmount's new ERUV

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As NOVA Montreal marks its 110th anniversary from its new Westmount site, its role seems just as relevant today in filling gaps in healthcare services as when it was founded in 1898 as a charter member of the Victoria Order of Nurses.

In the first fiscal year under its new NOVA branding, the not-for-profit Mon-

treal organization delivered more than 13,000 hours of in-home services that included nursing, palliative care and respite support to families caring for children and adults with special needs.

It also continued to provide nine community-based regular foot-care clinics as well as wellness programs in the workplace.

"Our transition to continued on p. 16

The Shaar Hashomayim synagogue plans to create an ERUV that will encompass much of Westmount.

An ERUV is an area enclosed by a thin wire, which turns a collection of mixed public and private spaces into a single space for the purposes of Jewish tradition. The transformation is intended for easier observance of the Bibli- cal prohibition on continued on p. 3

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Westmount begins kitchen compost pickup



It was all smiles at this de Maisonneuve Blvd. house (left), but it takes some effort to get those bins into the truck (right).



Mayor Karin Marks' compost – May 12, 2008. Although the mayor's house is outside of the first, 'sector 8' phase of compost pickup, she and all city councillors are on the pickup circuit.

Westmount began its first ever (non-pilot) compost pickup on May 12. 1.7 tons of waste was (and will be from now on) picked up by city contractors in garbage sector 8 (bounded inclusively by the east side of Lansdowne, the south side of Côte St. Antoine, the west side of Clarke and the north side of de Maisonneuve).

The most frequent question asked was about where to put the green bins for the Monday collection. The answer? Wherever residents usually put their garbage.

City council members participate

All city council members – whether they are in sector 8 or not – have been asked to participate in order to be a part of the learning process from Day One.

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Westmount's new ERUV

Continued from p. 1

transporting items from public to private areas during the sabbath. Once an area becomes a single domain in this sense, practitioners can move about within it with goods or vehicles (including baby carriages) and still observe the sabbath.

Victoria Ave.'s Cantor's closes



Local landmark Cantor's bakery (378 Victoria Ave., 514.481.9674) has closed without posting any moving or reopening information. The *Independent* called the bakery to inquire about the business closing, but the telephone number has been disconnected.

Cantor's on St. Catherine still open

The Cantor's on St. Catherine St. (4421 St. Catherine St., 514.931.3631) is still open. Each business is individually owned and not affiliated with the other Cantor's bakeries.

Rabbi Adam Scheier of the Shaar explained to the *Westmount Independent* that no special ceremony is needed to consecrate the ERUV's boundary wire and that it will be functionally invisible.

The ERUV will be bounded by the CP tracks in the south. From there, its western limit will run north up Claremont to Westmount Ave., turn east on Westmount Ave., then north up Lansdowne, then east along The Boulevard and Cedar, then south down Mountain, jogging west on Sherbrooke, then south down Clarke and Dorchester until it goes through the centre of the block between Columbia and Greene and rejoins the tracks.

The ERUV will comply with all city by-laws under an agreement to be ratified by Westmount city council on May 26. The Shaar will pay for all aspects of the ERUV, including maintenance and insurance.

For information, residents can attend a meeting at the Shaar (450 Kensington Ave.) on Thursday, June 5 from 5 pm to 7 pm, or call Rabbi Scheier at 514.937.9471.

The ERUV is scheduled for completion over the next few weeks and will be checked every Friday. Practitioners wanting to see if the ERUV is operational can call 514.937.9474 x109. Locally, ERUVs also exist in Côte St. Luc, Hampstead, Dollard des Ormeaux, Ville St. Laurent and TMR.

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Letters to the editor

PARIS HILTON NOT WORTHY OF INDEPENDENT NEWS

I couldn't help but notice the pink-framed colour photo on p. 1 of the *Westmount Independent* of April 15-16. After all, Paris Hilton was in it.

Does this make it Westmount news? No.

But she was visiting a "trendy department store" ... on Jean Talon Blvd. Oh, wait, I believe it was the STORE OWNER who was somehow connected to Westmount. She lives here or ate here or something. I can't quite remember.

Well, I once had my picture taken with Céline Dion. If I mail it in, could you please put it on the front page and also print the name and address of MY business?

These are sad times, indeed, when such a cheap PR trick makes your front page

Unimpressed,

D. MICHEL, (ACTUALLY IN) WESTMOUNT

Editor's note: Thank you for your thoughts. It is our First Negative Letter, and I was thrilled to read it.

I am genuinely pleased that you care enough about our newspaper to want us to be better.

We will always work to improve our product, but, in this case, I stand by my original decision. Why? First, I am – light-heartedly – a Paris Hilton fan. Contrary to majority opinion in many circles, I find her enterprising, entrepreneurial and laudable in many respects. How many

wealthy socialites turn their inherited wealth and contacts into a dynamic business? From what I know, Hilton has made her own money for many years now and shows up for "appearance fee" gigs on time and ready to go. I know of many celebrities who don't deliver at the same level, even if they possess a more obvious talent than Hilton.

Second, the *Independent* is always on the lookout for interesting news involving Westmounters and Westmount, both of which we define as broadly as we can. We include stories about former Westmounters, people who work in Westmount and Westmounters doing things outside of Westmount. (Both the girl in the photograph with Hilton and the department store's owner qualify in this last regard.) If you had submitted your Céline Dion photo soon after the event, it is very likely we would have run it on the front page or somewhere else in the paper.

Third, while we do aspire to do in-depth coverage of all the serious municipal topics, there is always room for the lighter side of the Westmount scene. And Paris Hilton definitely qualifies.

Fourth, we live in the real world and want people to pick up our paper. In this case, Hilton's photo was positioned to move units of our free-distribution newspaper. And it seems to have worked. You write that you couldn't help noticing Hilton's photo. You weren't alone. The newsstand at Victoria Ave.'s Metro grocery store was stripped bare 24 hours after pub-

lication, a record. I can't say for sure, but I think that Hilton's photo on the front page made the difference.

Thanks again for your input!

DAVID PRICE, EDITOR

THE STRANGE TALE OF THE PLAN THAT ISN'T A PLAN

In the May 6-7 edition of the *Independent* ("Westmount director general responds to Patrick Barnard", p. 6), Westmount director general Bruce St. Louis attempted to rebut an article by Patrick Barnard ("Let citizens know what is intended for arena and pool", p. 6) that had appeared in the previous edition.

The thrust of Barnard's article was that the holding of a public forum, ostensibly to propose ideas on an arena/pool project was somewhat disingenuous on the part of the city, given that the city administration was in possession of a plan, "one sufficiently advanced for Westmount to have already filed a submission for funding from the provincial government."

St. Louis' efforts to dismiss this plan-that-isn't-a-plan – on the grounds that it was an old document that was dusted off simply to satisfy a requirement for any kind of a plan when asking for funds – is not credible. The plan has a date, November 2007; it has a price-tag, \$26,459,075; it is 21 pages of specific proposals; and it has plans and detailed drawings, including options that have been rejected.

Members of the administration and staff from Sports and Recreation who facilitated the public discussion were asked specifically during the forum if any plans (preliminary or otherwise) were available as starting points for discussion. The answer was a resounding 'no' – the project was at its most elementary and preliminary level.

How disappointing, therefore, to discover that a mere four months prior to the public meeting, a request for funding based on this document had been sent to the provincial government.

Citizens who took the time to attend the forum had the right to know about this plan. They paid for it. They may have even found it to be a good one. The administration's whimsical relationship with transparency is troubling. Citizens can only hope that it will not negatively impact Westmount's ability to obtain funds.

The administration owes residents an answer. What purpose was served by hiding this document?

MAVIS YOUNG, MELVILLE AVE.

COMPOST CONCERNS

Kudos to the *Independent* for making kitchen waste recycling its front-page story recently. This new eco-initiative has the potential to affect how Westmount looks

and smells for years to come.

It is with a growing sense of unease that I've been reading about the decision to introduce kitchen waste recycling. While the intentions are good, this way of handling food garbage is fraught with concerns. Have Westmount's policy makers, both elected and administrative, thought it through by asking the following:

- Kitchen waste recycling needs 100 percent compliance with all its do's and don'ts if Westmount streets are to maintain a certain standard of neatness and cleanliness. If the city cannot now get full compliance with its garbage bylaws – such as garbage and blue boxes that are put out the evening before collection – what makes city officials think that behaviour will change regarding kitchen waste bins?

- The designated bins don't seem large enough to accommodate a week's worth of vegetable peelings. What's to be done once the bin is full, but pickup is several days hence? And the suggestion by a Westmount official to store small amounts of waste in the fridge or freezer is not only impractical, but is there a health official who would sanction using a fridge with food in it for such a purpose?

- Who is responsible for cleaning up waste that inadvertently falls on the street or sidewalk, especially if it leaks through the paper bags most residents will probably use? And, if a bin happens not to have the right bag inside, such as plastic, will garbage collectors refuse to take it?

- Concerns have been raised about animals. The bins look too big to fit under a kitchen sink, so I assume most households will leave theirs outside. That said, am I expected to run outside every time I make a salad to unlock a bin and dispose of waste? If bins stored outside are improperly secured at any time, does this not risk attracting squirrels and raccoons – and mice that can get into tight spaces?

- Finally, there is the issue of enforcement. Who is responsible for it? For example, if Public Security on foot patrol or in a vehicle sees a kitchen waste bin improperly closed or left out at the curb before the permissible time, will the officer(s) be required to approach that homeowner or will Public Security only act on a complaint?

The laudable objective of kitchen waste recycling is to reduce landfill. But it is not worthwhile if the solution risks visual, olfactory and bacteriological pollution – and vermin.

DOROTHY LIPOVENKO, YORK ST.

CORRECTION

In our April 29-30 edition ("Latin not just for mottos at Selwyn"), we should have reported that Selwyn House was donating 10 percent of its Latin Nights fundraising proceeds to local charities.

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Drop notice: Snow conditions may delay us getting around to all of our drop sites on Tuesday of publication week. Whatever the snow conditions, we still aim to reach our "most reliable" drops (Metro on Victoria, Westmount Square and 310 Victoria lobby) on Tuesdays.

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Civic Alert

Laidley sets seal on St. Louis replacement search

BY DON WEDGE



Former city councillor David Laidley has joined the selection panel searching for a new director general. Mayor Karin Marks could hardly have dipped more successfully into the upper echelon of Canada's business world to find someone who also has municipal experience.

Finance and administration commissioner in the Trent councils of 1991 and 1995, Laidley has long been a member of the country's business elite. For 40 years, he worked for Deloitte and Touche, which is now the country's biggest professional services firm.

An accountant, Laidley was made a partner when only 28 years old. He rose to become chairman from 2000 until retirement in 2006, and now carries the title chairman emeritus.

But he is far from idle. He was appointed a director of the Bank of Canada last June, and among other interests he is on the boards of both the Institute of Corporate Directors and the Fraser Institute, as well as chair of the Faculty of Management at McGill.

Laidley has found time for many volunteer interests. Like thousands of others, I have benefited from CT scans at the Royal Victoria Hospital on equipment bought following his fundraising.

He took full part in council activities. One evening, the Westmount Municipal Association's directors invited him to discuss his city budget. He made a brilliant hour-long presentation – without notes!

He epitomized the notion of "If you need something done, ask a busy person!"

Faced with the enormous task of finding DG Bruce St. Louis' successor, council could have hardly found someone better qualified to provide serious help. In fact, it seems like the "Only in Westmount" cliché – but in its best sense.

He will join the selection committee

that will interview candidates for recommendation to council. In addition to Mayor Marks herself, this includes Councillor Tom Thompson, chair of the current administration committee, and Human Resources director Alan Kulaga.

The search nears a critical phase with interviews of selected candidates about to begin – possibly by the end of the month.

Last month, council awarded a \$38,000 contract to executive search consultants Kenniff and Racine, and has since supplied them with profiles of the city of Westmount and of the candidate being sought.

"We will be presented with names of some candidates shortly and the process is on schedule," Kulaga told me.

The selection process involving committees of elected and management officials has been honed in the last two years, with a series of retirements coming closely together.

Sustainable coordinator hired

It was used to fill a new position: the year-long search for the sustainable development coordinator – the city's first and perhaps the first in Quebec, too – which nears the final stage.

The position has been offered to, and accepted by, the candidate judged best suited – a male. In fact, I thought the appointment might have been confirmed at last Wednesday's mid-month council meeting.

That selection committee was comprised of Councillor John de Castell, Public Works director Jacques Lahaie and Annie-Claude Cérat of the Human Resources department. Mayor Marks and DG St. Louis joined in the final stage.

Laidley's involvement, while especially relevant given the importance of the vacancy to be filled, is not unprecedented. For instance, Peter Duffield, a councillor on the Gallery and Cutler councils, returned as a management consultant.

The 2001 forced merger meant that six councillors had to end their terms prematurely but some prolonged their service in

committees, notably Tom Thompson, who continued to chair the Healthy City Project's steering committee.

Barbara Moore resumed her role with the Healthy City and as library commissioner.

Also, Margaret Lefebvre returned to city hall work on staff pensions, and she remains a valued committee member today.

All the displaced councillors continued to work on the demerger, as well as former Mayor Peter Trent. He not only led the fight in Westmount, but was a rallying point across the island and in many parts of the province.

In particular, his work with former

Chief Justice Lawrence Poitras was a major turning point in making the demerger a 2003 election issue, paving the way for the referendum that brought independence to 250,000 islanders.

He was aided by several prominent local citizens and members of earlier councils – notably Phillip Aspinall and the late Jim Wright.

There is a long tradition of Westmounters offering helping hands. But Laidley's participation is outstanding. Suddenly the task of replacing St. Louis seems a little more attainable.

Civic activist Don Wedge's e-mail address is calert@web.net.

On the Market: 54 Bruce

Once inhabited by well-known Québécois artist Louis Hébert, this Victorian cottage benefits from being steps away from Greene Ave. as well as the Westmount Athletics Grounds' park, field and running track behind Westmount High.

The property has been meticulously restored by its present owner, Roslyn Takeishi, who has lived there for 25 years. "This is not a Gyprock special," said Takeishi, explaining that during the time of the restoration she had European craftsmen in to re-do all of the plaster.

The charming kitchen, with its exposed brick wall, leads out to a nice-sized deck. The back terrace doubles as a parking space. The property has three bedrooms, two bathrooms (the upstairs bathroom's toilet is divided into a powder room), two working wood-burning fireplaces and a mirrored wall in the dining room.

The basement has a new foundation and is "almost" finished, with re-pointed walls, which make it resistant to floods. It is one open space. There is a toilet and a sink there ready to be molded into a third bathroom. Overall, with a few walls, it would make great living quarters for a teenager, a nanny or a convenient home office. The basement also benefits from



large cupboards for storage. A new high-efficiency furnace was recently installed (the last annual heating bill was \$1,200) and all of the plumbing is new.

The only large drawback to this property is its proximity to the train tracks.

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City council takes giant leap towards paperless-ness

Westmount city council pushed a lot less paper at its usual mid-month, noon-time (or special) meeting of May 14. As previously announced, council had moved the vast majority of its meeting material onto the councillors' and mayor's laptops and plans to continue to do so.

Council members used their new Hewlett-Packard Compaq 6710BH notebook computers. Eight council members have been issued with the machines for their use. Councillor Patrick Martin will be

using his own.

In the end, there was a bit of paper in evidence at council members' desks and a glitch or two. Councillor Patrick Martin's mouse exhibited a few problems. "This isn't going well," he said at one point, prompting good-natured heckles from his colleagues about a "dead mouse." A mouse pad might be the answer. Although the council chamber's wi-fi communication system was working normally, some laptops trailed cables because their exter-

nal batteries were not yet charged.

"Councillors have the same information that used to be in their [preparatory and agenda] books," information system director Jerry Dolar explained.

"Using the agenda as a starting point, members can click on an item to get the decisional details stored in PDF files. They have four ways to bring up the extra de-

tails."

Mayor Karin Marks promised an audit on the effect the move would have on city paper consumption.

Despite the change, paper agendas for the public were still available at the council chamber entrance. The next step will be to have the same information available to the public through the city's web site.

Lights off, compost out

By EVE ASPINALL

MEMBER OF THE HEALTHY CITY PROJECT

The overall response to Earth Hour on March 29 was very disappointing. Sydney, Australia last year saw a saving of 10 percent in lighting. This year the province of Quebec had a drop of five percent, but Westmount only diminished by four percent. In a quick tour of Westmount, the area north of The Boulevard was ablaze with lights, with few exceptions.

This area has many very large houses with outdoor lighting and brightly lit insides. It uses a substantial amount of electrical power. The residents, if they had participated, would have made quite a contribution to the success of Earth Hour.

In the mid-level, there were more houses without lights, but interspersed with many brightly lit. Westmount city hall was in darkness, but the lights outside were still on! Below Sherbrooke St. many more houses had turned off their lights.

Going green in 'sector 8'

Garbage-collection 'sector 8' (bounded inclusively by the east side of Lansdowne, the south side of Côte St. Antoine, the west side of Clarke and the north side of de Maisonneuve) was darker than many other parts of the city. Coincidentally, this is the district where Westmount launched its revised compost collection on May 12. It is an excellent step towards the reduction of the garbage going into landfill. Essentially, it diverts compostable materials toward eventually becoming a great soil enhancer, rich in nutrients and minerals.

What is most important for this program to work is the effort by each family to limit the damage we are currently inflicting on our environment. Although it is starting in sector 8, within a year it will involve all of Westmount. Garbage pickup will be limited to once a week, landfill day!

This is an innovative program and, like

all new ways of doing things, there is a steep learning curve on the part of not only the residents, but also for the city. It requires more careful sorting of household waste. It is estimated that 40 percent of what is now thrown in the garbage should not be there. Initially, sorting may be a little onerous until it becomes routine. Public Works has distributed its new green bins to 525 houses in sector 8. They have wheels and sturdy locks to dissuade raccoons and other marauders from the tasty contents inside! They can be left outside next to your garbage cans for city pickup.

What to put in

What goes in these boxes? They are lined with degradable bags, but larger heavy paper bags are better when replacements are needed. These are for your compostable material - organic waste. Organic waste is any product derived from living things (animals, plants, etc.) and can be in any form - fresh, frozen, dried, cooked, rotting and mouldy food. For those already composting at home, the green bin will take material that home composters cannot handle such as meat, bones, seafood shells, dairy products, pet waste, etc. From now on, no organic matter should go to landfill.

Residents will inevitably have all kinds of questions over the next few weeks and months. Undoubtedly, there will be unforeseen issues that might arise and kinks will have to be worked out. However, with the cooperation of residents and Public Works, we can meet the requirements that Quebec has set for all municipalities - a 65 percent waste diversion by late 2008.

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From left: Councillors Patrick Martin, Tom Thompson and Kathleen Duncan; Mayor Karin Marks; Councillor George Bowser.



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Proposed: (some) plumbing plastic okay, garburators banned, water meters coming

A wide-ranging revision of Westmount's plumbing bylaws was introduced for consideration at last Wednesday's special council meeting. Banned from new buildings will be garbage disposal units – "garburators," as they are described in the draft text. Provision must also be made for water meters, but – for the first time – plastic pipes in underground situations will be permitted.

Also forbidden will be the use of city water as a coolant for air conditioning.

These proposals will be the subject of a public consultation at city hall on Monday, June 9.

Behind the changes are revisions to the provincial building codes. "We wanted to be sure that we are able to maintain our

standards," urban planning commissioner Cynthia Lulham explained.

This garburators ban was welcomed by Jenny Patton, chair of the Healthy City Project's environment committee. "Kitchen waste belongs in the composting bin," she said, "not in the sewer."

In addition to introducing the plumbing changes, council approved:

- a contract to prepare plans for renewing water mains as part of the overall reconstruction of Westmount Ave from Lansdowne to Clarke (\$24,000);
- refurbishing of Hydro Westmount block 190 (\$89,000); and
- 22 building permits, four of them conditionally.

Garage sale at Westmount High to take place from cars

A giant garage sale at Westmount High Saturday, May 24 will raise funds to purchase new sports equipment and support the organization Grandmothers to Grandmothers.

Billed as a "Car Boot Sale", the event features the sale of "anything you can stuff onto or on the car." It takes place in the parking lot from 9 am to 2 pm with a rain date on Sunday, May 25.

School Board News and Views

Children: Who's in charge here?

BY GINETTE SAUVÉ-FRANKEL,
EMSB COMMISSIONER



Someone once stated that "the true measure of a nation's standing is how well it attends to its children – their health and safety, their material security, their education and socialization, and their sense of being loved, valued, and included in the families and societies into which they are born."

How is Canada doing?

I have taken the last 18 months to investigate how well we attend to our children, what we do well and what is missing to create a Canada fit for them.

I took on this journey of discovery out of a concern for children who had been mistreated and taken into the care of the

state. My concern soon encompassed all children in Canada. How are they doing?

Here are some of the discoveries I have made. There are currently close to 9.6 million children in Canada and one in six is still living in poverty – 19 years after a resolution was passed in the house of commons with all-party support, promising the elimination of poverty among Canadian children by 2000.

Campaign 2000's recent Report Card on child poverty points out that the after-tax poverty rate is still *exactly the same as it was in 1989*.

Canada: 2nd and 17th

UNICEF's Innocenti Research Centre's 2007 report, *Child Poverty in Perspective: An Overview of Child Well-Being in Rich Countries*, puts Canada in 12th of 21 industrialized countries overall, but ranks Canada 13th on health & safety, 15th in subjective well-being, 17th on behaviours and risks, and 18th on family & peer relation-

Residents move back into 4500 de Maisonneuve



Gotham Hooja moves home after two and a half years.

Residents of the condominiums at 4500 de Maisonneuve were forced to move after the building caught fire on November 30, 2005. Two of the 11 residents, Gotham Hooja and Carol Lynn Pass, moved back into their re-done condos on May 14. All of the other residents are expected to move back into the building with the exception of one, who has died of cancer since the fire. The delay in the building's renovations was due to a dispute with the insurance company.

In the end, the residents made up a

third of the balance. On the bright side, the 45-year-old building is now "up to 2007 code, with new windows, plumbing and wiring," said Hooja, who is happy to be home.

Plant exchange brings in \$625 plus

Preliminary counts from the city's Perennial Plant Exchange this year indicate it generated more than \$625 toward the restoration of the totem pole, organizers said. This adds to the \$5,000 total.

The event took place May 14 under the auspices of the city's Horticultural Advisory Committee (HAC).

booster seats and driving off-road vehicles.

All of this leads me to ask the question *who's in charge here?* – the title of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights' preliminary report on Canada's obligation regarding the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Over the last five years, numerous organizations – including the Canadian Paediatric Society and the Canadian Council of Provincial Child and Youth Advocates – have joined the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights in demanding the creation of a Children's Commissioner for Canada, which would be an official, independent voice for our most vulnerable citizens, our children.

The only question remaining is *by when?*

Right now would be perfect.

Please don't hesitate to email or call me: gsauve-frankel@emsb.qc.ca 514.481.0387.

ships. In education, Canada came in 2nd.

The Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS) in its 2007 status report *Are We Doing Enough?* states that about 14 percent of children and youth under 20 years of age suffer from mental health conditions that affect their daily lives, yet only one in five of these children has access to mental health care and the debate over wait time is focused solely on the adults.

Several reports indicate that while there are promising initiatives, progress for children and youth varies across provinces, and children receive unequal protections and services under federal and provincial laws.

In the area of safety, Canada ranks 22nd among 29 OECD nations when it comes to preventable childhood injuries and deaths.

There is no national injury prevention strategy, which has resulted in legislation that varies from province to province, in particular regarding bicycle helmets, car

Porter addresses WMA centennial annual meeting

Superhospital moving closer

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The MUHC's superhospital is literally moving closer and closer – temporally and territorially.

With calls for proposals to be made next month for selection of a private consortium partner, the MUHC has also acquired the existing Air Canada Building at 5100 de Maisonneuve (at Vendome), MUHC director general Dr. Arthur Porter told the centennial annual general meeting of the Westmount Municipal Association May 5.

"We're looking at using the space for medical offices and ambulatory care," he said. The 7-storey building adjacent to the Glen site "will have tunnel access to the

rest of the Glen Campus and improve the urban integration model."

News of the ambulatory centre just a stone's throw from Claremont came as a surprise to many of those attending the meeting at Victoria Hall.

Ambulatory centre ready next year

With the building already in place, it is hoped to get the first floor ready for ambulatory patients "next year," Porter said. A phased-in approach will be used as new buildings are completed some five years from now under a Public Private Partnership (PPP).

Once a consortium of building partners is selected next summer (2009), the project will be handed over to it to erect and



Dr. Arthur Porter, left, chats after the meeting with Westmounters including Sally Aitken, (foreground).

manage.

Important milestones are already in place, he said. These include an infrastructure agreement struck last November with the Agglomeration Council, approval of a Year One operating budget and a budgetary commitment last month from the Shriners to build at the site.

As well, a master team of project managers has been created and a PPP specialist, St. Clair Armitage, was hired last December from the UK.

Among the benefits of going the PPP route, Porter said, is that the consortium has to build it fast because "they don't get paid one penny until the first patient is in the hospital" and must build well because they will be required to maintain it for 32

years.

Among questions after the speech, citizen Jon Breslaw asked if the PPP route might be an incentive to compromising architectural quality. Porter replied that the consortium would be made aware of the type of architecture sought. But, he pointed out, "there are trade-offs."

The Superhospital with some 550 single rooms, however, is only one part of the MUHC's \$1.6 billion redevelopment project, he stressed. The expansion and renewal of the Montreal General Hospital as the "Mountain Campus" with another 300 single rooms has become a major component.

"When we're ready for the next excavation of the Glen and on the Mountain Campus too – I say next, because we remediated the Glen Campus on time, on budget and with next to no inconvenience to all adjacent neighbourhoods – we're going to ensure that people are kept in the loop about all the exciting plans and associated impacts..."

Porter's talk concluded the WMA meeting that included the awarding of the Derek Walker citizen of the year award to Barbara Moore (see *Westmount Independent* April 29), a 100th anniversary cake and unveiling of the new WMA logo designed by board secretary Patricia Dumais.

Soccer fever sweeps Westmount

See picture on p. 1

BY ROBERT J. GALBRAITH

Forget spring fever. Westmount is being swept by soccer fever. Of the approximate 2,300 children between the ages of 4 and 15 living in Westmount, 1,200 girls and boys are enrolled in and playing soccer with the Westmount Sports and Recreation soccer program.

The numbers are so high this year that Sports and Recreation has had to expand its program by six new teams, or 90 kids, over last year, to accommodate this explosion of participation. In fact, there is a waiting list of children wanting to take part in the soccer season.

"We are trying our best to get the overflow of kids on the teams," commented Stephen Robaire, sports coordinator for

the city of Westmount.

"We have one kid on the Novice boys team waiting list and 18 on the Pee Wee boys list. We try at the beginning of the year to work out extra teams if the numbers show they are needed."

The program starts with girls and boys as young as 4 years old to 15-year-old teenagers. There are also two women's adult teams. With the season running from May 5 to June 19, Robaire says that the biggest challenge for him and his team of sports coordinators is that it's such a short season. But with the end of school activities and summer camps starting up, there is little room to maneuver.

"It's tough for the kids, because once they're really getting into it – it's over! We are squeezed into such a small time frame."



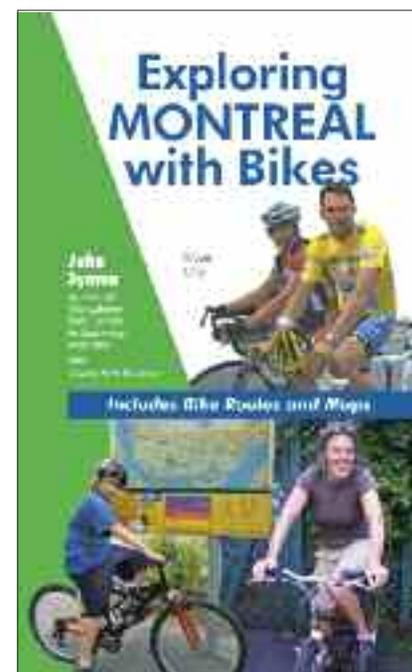
Soccer in the park, May 6.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

It is bike season!

Get Montreal's most comprehensive guide to biking in the city. How to get off the island. Maintenance tips. Resources. Bike paths. And more!

• CHAPTERS •
INDIGO • COLES



You are Westmount and we appreciate you

Thank you to those people who have written in with first-year anniversary “best wishes” to the *Westmount Independent*. We will be publishing a list of names in the next two editions.

In the meantime, please excuse our publication of the very kind full-length letters that we have received. Some people have gone as far as to say that self-congratulation is “unWestmounty”, and I take their point. In truth, I’d rather just report the news and opinions of the day, and quietly

raise a glass to this first anniversary.

But there’s one problem.

The *Westmount Independent* competes with a 72-year-old incumbent newspaper that is owned by a \$2.3 billion-a-year public conglomerate. Our financial resources may be less than theirs, but we aspire to thrive and grow by being closer to the community and doing a better job than them in every way possible.

In this vein, we use every letter and every show of support to say to our existing advertisers “Look who

is reading the *Independent!*” And, just as importantly, we can turn to our prospective advertisers and say, “Look who is reading the *Independent!*”

Thank you for “playing ball” by sending us your names and letters Thank you for all your kind comments. Thank you for helping us grow in page count and frequency.

And don’t worry: we will not rest on our laurels. This party is just getting started.

DAVID PRICE, EDITOR

■ Congratulations on your first year anniversary! And keep up the good work.

LILIANA URIBÉ, ST. CATHERINE ST.

■ Congratulations and continuous success in all your endeavours!

LEON STILLER, SHERBROOKE ST.

■ Best wishes on your first year anniversary. I have enjoyed reading every issue.

BARBARA MOORE, LANSDOWNE AVE.

■ Thank you for an interesting read.

RON AND DOROTHY, GROSVENOR AVE.

■ Please add our names to your congratulatory anniversary list. We look forward to your lively, eclectic coverage.

HENRY MIETKIEWICZ AND DOROTHY LIPOVENKO, YORK ST.

■ I AM DELIGHTED TO ADD MY NAME TO YOUR BEST WISHES LIST!!!

Your newspaper with its broad and interesting coverage of our city is most impressive. I look forward to its arrival and find its content informative and always stimulating.

PATRICIA ROMAN, LANSDOWNE AVE.

■ Keep up the good work.

DONALD AND SHEILA LAWRENCE, GREENE AVE.

■ Congratulations. I do enjoy your paper. Keep up the good work.

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON, KITCHENER AVE.

■ We appreciate and enjoy reading the news, opinions and advertisements, all informative. Congratulations on your “team effort” – hope you have many great years ahead! With best wishes,

ROBERT G. ROSS

■ Happy 1st Birthday and congratulations on producing a great paper! Please add our names to your “Best Wishes” list.

DIANE & DOUG DERUCHIE

■ I am a Westmount resident who enjoys your paper very much. My wife feels the same. I really enjoy the wine (and occasional restaurant) columns as well.

All the best!

MICHAEL POLAK, PROSPECT ST.

■ My wife and I wish to offer you our warm support on the first anniversary of your excellent new paper.

DUNCAN SHADDICK, CLARKE AVE.

■ Great Paper – congratulations on your first anniversary and keep on going.

PETER AND JOAN MCKINNON, LANSDOWNE AVE.

■ Congratulations on year one. Keep up the good work

TREVOR & MARGIE CARON, CLARKE AVE.

■ As one of the original supporters of the *Westmount Independent*, I would like to congratulate you with a most enjoyable local newspaper.

THEA CALDER, CLARKE AVE.

■ Please add my name to the list of well-wishers on your first anniversary. I very much enjoy the coverage of events and the articles in the *Westmount Independent*.

FLORENCE STEVENS, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

■ Your paper is the one local paper I look for and read regularly. You are truly a local Westmount newspaper and the quality of your writing is excellent. Your community information is very helpful and your real estate news is very well presented. Happy birthday.

GWEN PLANET, ROSLYN AVE.

■ I want to add my voice to the wonderful reporting you are doing concerning Westmount and its public issues and private personalities. The article about the Westmount tunnel and who is responsible for its security is a case in point. I have also appreciated your mentions of library issues and Westmount personalities who have made a contribution to the quality of life in our town. May you have many more years of publishing this paper.

DR. GERTRUDE J. ROBINSON
Retired professor of media studies,
McGill University

■ I enjoy your paper very much.

MARY O'REILLY, ST. CATHERINE ST.

■ Je lis régulièrement le *Westmount Independent* et je l'apprécie.

Continuez le bon boulot!

HÉLÈNE LE BEL, GROSVENOR AVE.

■ Congratulations on this milestone and best wishes for many more.

I so enjoy your...our...wonderful community paper and I always read it from cover to cover. It's relevant, newsworthy and fun.

Your loyal reader,

LORNA SANDLER, SOMERVILLE AVE.

■ Congratulations on the anniversary of your start-up of the *Westmount Independent*.

Start-ups are always risky and difficult, and you have done an excellent job in filling a need for local information that was not available elsewhere. It is nice to see advertising in the paper increasing too, as this is also a source of local information needed by the community for shopping.

Best wishes for continued progress in the year to come.

STEVE & JAN WEIR, PARKMAN PLACE

■ Congratulations on your first anniversary. It's great to have a community newspaper once more!

MARILYN & MICHAEL LALLY,
WINDSOR AVE.

■ Happy Birthday!

For a one-year-old, you are growing up fast; we reckon that within the next year you'll be out of the diaper stage, truly independent, so best wishes for a successful Year 2!

DICK & JANET MACKLEM

■ I would like to compliment you on a very readable and informative publication. I look forward to each issue!

HELEN KURLENTS, SHERBROOKE ST.

■ Congratulations on a fine publication. Always a pleasure to read – well written and informative. I wish you continued success.

SUSAN LORD, GROSVENOR AVE.

■ One year already!

Congratulations, and thank you for

being the paper we NEED in our community.

We're glad to see that the advertisers are coming to you as well. We know that when it comes time to sell OUR house, we'll use one of the companies that have supported YOU.

Keep up the good work,

DONNA BANKS & STUART ROBERTSON

■ Just to say I am enjoying the *Westmount Independent* very much and do support you.

Thank you,

MARY RAMSAY, CLARKE AVE.

■ As a former mayor (1983-87), I would like to extend my best wishes to the *Westmount Independent* for doing a great job of keeping me informed of the “happenings” in the great city of Westmount.

BRIAN O'N. GALLERY, WEST BOLTON

■ Congratulations on turning one! You are extremely readable and a service to our community. Keep it up.

SINCERELY, HAROLD AND PAM PRICE

■ We read very issue of the *Westmount Independent* with great interest.

Congratulations and keep up the good work.

BOB BASSETT, SHERBROOKE ST.

■ Please add our ‘best wishes’ on your one year anniversary – you’re doing just great!

JOAN & GEOFF GRAHAM, OLIVIER AVE.

■ Congratulations on your 1st anniversary of the *Westmount Independent*. I read and enjoy each issue which keeps me up to date and informed on community news.

JOYCE ARSENAULT, DE MAISONNEUVE

■ We very much like the format of your paper and the fact that it's delivered to our mailbox.

NANCY AND CHARLES EDDIS,
SHERBROOKE ST. W

If you would like to send us a full-length letter or just add your name to our best wishes list, please write to us with your street at indie@westmountindependent.com.

Roslyn's centenary playground now well underway



Roslyn principal James McMorran at the worksite.

Roslyn is turning 100 this year and the new jungle gym built to commemorate the event was well on its way to completion on May 14. It was scheduled for completion in time for the school's centenary.

Roslyn principal James McMorran explained to the *Westmount Independent* that the new jungle gym was an "active structure" designed to keep children moving. For this reason, there are no traditional seated segments like slides or swings.

McMorran also took the *Independent* on a tour of the walking path behind the jungle gym, which was paid for, stone by stone, by sponsoring families and businesses.

There will be a rotating schedule so that all grades can access the jungle gym. It will be able to accommodate 50 to 60 children at once.

Roslyn's centenary celebration takes place on Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31 (see www.roslynschoolfoundation.ca for details). Alumni are encouraged to register and attend.



Some of the walking path's sponsored stones.

The Study hosts its annual Arts Festival at The Annexe



The Study hosted its annual Arts Festival at The Annexe on May 10. Entertaining outdoor games, which encouraged participation from all ages, got everyone moving, from the egg toss to pillow sack races. Indoors, there were craft projects as well as artisan exhibits.

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CLASSIFIED

PSYCHIC AND SPIRIT TEA Thursday, May 29, 6:00 pm-9:00 p.m. Mediums, Psychics and more. Refreshments. 1974 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West.

FREE Clairvoyance, Spirit Communication, Mediumship & Messages. Sunday, May 25, 7:30 p.m. Days Hotel, 1005 Guy Street. ALL INVITED. Bring a friend. Info: (514) 937-8359.

Notice is hereby given that the 110th Annual Meeting of NOVA Montréal (formerly VON Montreal Inc.) will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 19, 2008 at 310 Victoria Avenue, suite 403, Westmount, Quebec.

Can you give us your "best"?
If you would like to support the Westmount Independent by adding your name to a one-year anniversary "best wishes" list, please write us.

Email: indie@westmountindependent.com

Fax: 514.935.9241

Mail: 310 Victoria Ave. #105, Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9

Thank you, David Price, Editor

Westmount High alumni return to former campus



Jim Liddell and Gordon Clark, both class of 1951, catch up on old times at the Westmount High Old Boys' Association meeting.

Photo by Isaac Olson.

The Westmount High Old Boys' Association (WHOBAs) came together at Selwyn House – Westmount High's former building – on May 8 for its 73rd annual gathering of alumni. WHOBAs, established in 1936, was formed to both support Westmount High and pay tribute to students that died in war.

This year, alumni carried on the tradi-

tion of honouring those soldiers while also acknowledging the late Rev. Don Stirling, who had served as president of the association. Stirling died in April.

The current principal of Westmount High, Michael Cristofaro, and the first Canadian in space, Marc Garneau, also attended the event. Garneau was the guest speaker.

Equilibrio at The Priory



Equilibrio is a theatrical dance program for children that was part of The Priory's curriculum on the week of May 5.

Equilibrio integrates contemporary and world dance, improvisation, vocalization, mime, rhythmic percussion and theatrics. Many of the dance steps are from Africa. The program culminated in a school-wide

performance in which every student (from kindergarten to grade 6) played a part. Most of the group dancing was done in a circle, which represents "community."

"The Priory is the best school I have ever visited," said Toronto-based Sarina Condello, who led the Equilibrio week-long session.

Westmount delivers



Westmount Park coniferous trees after a spring haircut.

In a letter to the editor in the November 21 *Westmount Independent*, Stephen Chin of Sherbrooke St. wrote, "The bike path has two clumps of pine trees that have not been pruned for decades, their branches are actually creeping along the ground. There are thick bushes at the up-

hill s-curve by the tennis courts – a danger which I have pointed out in three letters to the commissioner for parks and Public Works two months ago ..."

As can be seen from the photo above, the coniferous trees by the tennis court have now been pruned.

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Westmount vous informe...

Westmount Page

Vol. 2/10
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FINANCES

Date d'échéance - taxes foncières

Le deuxième versement est exigible le lundi 2 juin. Vous pouvez effectuer votre paiement par la poste (chèque à l'ordre de la Ville de Westmount), à l'hôtel de ville (espèces, chèque ou Interac) ou de façon électronique via votre compte bancaire. Info : 514 989-5234. 🍀



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Concours littéraire McEntyre 2008

La cérémonie de remise de prix aura lieu le lundi 2 juin à 19 h 30 dans la salle de concert du Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5229.

Soirée littéraire

Venez célébrer la publication du livre *Memories of Eden: A Journey through Jewish Baghdad* de Violette Shamash lors d'une présentation des coéditeurs Mira Shamash et Tony Rocca le jeudi 29 mai à 19 h 15. Info : 514 989-5357.

Les vendredis du cinéma

Venez visionner le film *Lost Embrace* de Daniel Burman le vendredi 30 mai à 19 h et participez ensuite à une discussion de groupe. Vous devez préalablement vous inscrire au comptoir de prêt. Info : 514 989-5386. 🍀

DATES À RETENIR

Jusqu'au 24 mai

Exposition : Œuvres de Maxine Cuttler et Randy Yates
La galerie du Victoria Hall

Le 26 mai - 20 h

Séance du conseil
Hôtel de ville

Le 28 mai - 19 h

Conférences culturelles
The Kingdom of Jordan:
Journeys through an Ancient Land
Bibliothèque

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES
Art Westmount 2008**Appel de soumissions**

Westmount invite les artistes et les sculpteurs à participer à la 2^{ème} édition d'Art Westmount. Cette exploration pédestre des studios et des expositions d'artistes a été créée dans le but de faire connaître les artistes de Westmount. Ouvert à tous. Les formulaires de participation sont disponibles au Victoria Hall ou sur notre site Web et doivent nous être transmis par la poste, dûment complétés avec les frais d'entrée, au plus tard le 16 juin à 17 h. Info : 514 989-5265. 🍀



FINANCE

**Installment Deadline
Municipal Property Taxes**

Your second installment is due on Monday, June 2. Please note that payments should be made by mail (by cheque made to the order of City of Westmount), at City Hall (by cash, cheque or Interac payment) or electronically through your bank. Info: 514 989-5234. 🍀



LIBRARY

McEntyre Awards Ceremony 2008

The McEntyre Awards Ceremony will take place on Monday, June 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall at Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5229.

Literary Event

Come celebrate the publication of *Memories of Eden: A Journey through Jewish Baghdad* by Violette Shamash on Thursday, May 29. A multimedia presentation by co-editors Mira Shamash and Tony Rocca will begin at 7:15 p.m. Info: 514 989-5386.

Film Fridays

Join us on Friday, May 30 at 7 p.m. to watch the film *Lost Embrace* by Daniel Burman and discuss it afterward. Please register for this event at the circulation desk. Info: 514 989-5386. 🍀

DATEBOOK

Until May 24

Exhibition: Works of Maxine Cuttler and Randy Yates
Gallery at Victoria Hall

May 26 - 8 p.m.

Council Meeting
City Hall

May 28 - 7 p.m.

Cultural Lecture Series
The Kingdom of Jordan:
Journeys through an Ancient Land
Library

COMMUNITY EVENTS
Art Westmount 2008**Call for Artists**

Westmount painters and sculptors are invited to participate in the 2nd edition of Art Westmount, created to showcase artists through a walking tour of open studios and exhibitions. Participation forms are available at Victoria Hall or through our Web site. Completed forms must be received by mail, along with the entry fee, no later than June 16 at 5 p.m. Info: 514 989-5265. 🍀

Journée familiale 2008
au parc Westmount**Le samedi 31 mai**

Depuis 33 ans, il n'y a rien de mieux pour fêter l'arrivée de l'été à Westmount.

Activités pour tous âges

Participez à de nombreuses activités tout au long de la journée incluant jeux gonflables, zoo pour enfants, kiosques d'amusement, expositions d'artisanat ainsi qu'un ensemble Dixieland. *Programmation complète disponible sur notre site Web.*

En cas de pluie, plusieurs des activités auront lieu à l'Aréna.

Family Day 2008
in Westmount Park**Saturday, May 31**

For 33 years, there's been no better way to start off your summer in Westmount.

Activities for all ages

Enjoy inflatable games, a petting zoo, carnival booths, handicraft exhibitions and much more throughout the day, including music by the Dixieland Band. *Complete programme available on our Web site.*

In the event of rain, many of the activities will be held at the Arena



Westmount, à votre portée. Pour toute question ou commentaire, veuillez nous contacter :
Westmount at your fingertips. Contact us with any comment or question:

www.westmount.org
assistance@westmount.org

Teddy Bear Breakfast



Westmounter and future Study student Isabelle Grant snuggles up to Boomer, The Study's mascot, at the school's annual Teddy Bear Breakfast on May 15. Future kindergarten and grade 1 girls, and their parents, had breakfast and mingled to become familiar with their new school.

Westmounters participate in Geordie fundraiser

Geordie Productions will stage Norm Foster's play, *Bedtime Stories*, at its annual benefit. At least three Westmounters (Vincent Prager, J. F. Buffoni and Philip Johnston) will be involved. The benefit helps Geordie make English professional theatre accessible to over 80,000 children, teachers and parents each year. Annually, volunteer actors from Montreal's business and legal community donate their time and talents for the fundraiser.

The play will be presented this week on May 21 and 22 at 7:30 pm and followed by a reception. All funds raised through ticket sales and donations to the event go directly to help Geordie.

The show will be presented at the D. B. Clarke Theatre (1455 de Maisonneuve). Tickets are \$100 (includes a \$75 receipt for tax purposes). For more information or to purchase tickets, call 514.845.9810 or go to www.geordie.ca.



Three Westmounters rehearsing for *Bedtime Stories*. From left, standing: Vincent Prager and J. F. Buffoni; seated: unidentified and Philip Johnston.

Mother's Day at Miss Vicky's



Westmounter Tracey Powell has a little "boogie" with her daughters, Karolina (left) and Willa.

A wonderful time was had by all at the annual Mother's Day celebration at Miss Vicky's preschool on May 9. The Pre-

Kindergarten class performed songs and dances. After the show, the mummies were invited to join in for a dance.

Annual dance recital at Victoria Hall



The five-year-old Westmount ballet group showing off pirouettes and pliés at Victoria Hall on May 4.

Westmount Sports and Recreation presented its annual ballet recital at Victoria Hall on May 4.

Parents, friends and family crammed

into the hall to be delighted by dance performances by all age-groups. Every single costume was handmade by ballet teacher Joanie Moreau.



526 CLARKE AVENUE. Spectacular bright home on large lot with city views is beautifully renovated. This family home has a new cook's kitchen, private master bedroom with sitting area and sunroom as well as six more bedrooms, central air and humidification, new Marvin windows, integrated 2 car garage, large deck, garden and many more features. A must see. Asking \$3,150,000.

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Julie Bédard

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514 591 2338
vaemma@sympatico.ca

The Inventory: Houses on the market

The Inventory is content provided by the Westmount Independent, and is compiled from public sources, listing agents 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 listed houses) available to them on a private network.

\$409,000**	address unavailable	\$675,000†	116 Lewis Ave.	\$885,000*	486 Argyle Ave.
\$419,000**	104 Abbott Ave.	\$679,000	60-62 Columbia Ave.	\$895,000**	657 Lansdowne Ave.
\$454,000**	4866 St. Catherine St.	\$689,900	address unavailable	\$895,000	612 Grosvenor Ave.
\$489,000*	112 Abbott Ave.	\$699,000*	59 Columbia Ave.	\$895,000**	330 Victoria Ave.
\$499,000*	136 Irvine Ave.	\$699,000*	4614-16 St. Catherine St.	\$895,000*	61 Thornhill Ave.
\$539,000**	4840 St. Catherine St.	\$739,000	550 Lansdowne Ave.	\$895,000*	717 Upper Roslyn Ave.
\$559,000*	75 Somerville Ave.	\$739,000*	4104 Dorchester Blvd.	\$915,000*	491 Argyle Ave.
\$565,000	address unavailable	\$749,000*	address unavailable	\$925,000*	557 Roslyn Ave.
\$575,000	71 Columbia Ave.	\$759,000**	337 Metcalfe Ave.	\$939,000	4293 de Maisonneuve Blvd.
\$639,000	12 Chesterfield Ave.	\$789,000*	439 Elm Ave.	\$975,000*	415 Mount Pleasant Ave.
\$649,000	address unavailable	\$799,000	9-11 Parkman Place	\$980,000*	598 Grosvenor Ave.
\$649,000**	8 Burton Ave.	\$799,000*	address unavailable	\$989,000**	611 Victoria Ave.
\$649,000	322 Prince Albert Ave.	\$809,000**	588 Lansdowne Ave.	\$995,000*	address unavailable
\$655,000*	383 Claremont Ave.	\$846,000	380 Lansdowne Ave.	\$998,000	address unavailable
\$665,000**	306 Roslyn Ave.	\$855,000*	328-330 Grosvenor Ave.	\$1,075,000	318 Côte St. Antoine Rd.
\$669,000	57 Columbia Ave.	\$875,000	Metcalfe Ave.	\$1,095,000	4308 Montrose Ave.
				\$1,095,000*	address unavailable
				\$1,095,000	4350 Westmount Ave.
				\$1,095,000*	address unavailable
				\$1,098,000	628 Victoria Ave.
				\$1,125,000*	address unavailable
				\$1,150,000	464 Victoria Ave.
				\$1,155,000	490 Argyle Ave.
				\$1,175,000*	address unavailable
				\$1,195,000†	4258 Dorchester Blvd.
				\$1,195,000**	4306 Montrose Ave.
				\$1,195,000	address unavailable
				\$1,199,000**	667 Belmont Ave.
				\$1,249,000*	address unavailable
				\$1,250,000	629 Belmont Ave.
				\$1,275,000**/††	4335 de Maisonneuve Blvd.
				\$1,275,000	754 Upper Lansdowne Ave.



61 Thornhill (above) and 717 Upper Roslyn (below) are two new listing at \$895,000 each.



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Continued: for the most expensive listings
in Westmount at the moment and more
photos, please turn to p. 20.

*New since April 15-6 Inventory.

** New price since April 15-6 Inventory.

† Private sale

†† Also for rent.



After many months in that position, 104 Abbott (right) is no longer the least expensive house listed in Westmount. It is now asking \$419,000. The house to the left of it (one of our "address unavailables") is now the least expensive at \$409,000. Both houses have reduced their prices since the April Inventory: 104 Abbott from \$439,000; the other house from \$459,000.

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WESTMOUNT

**MOUNT PLEASANT**

Near Montrose - 1st time on the market in 43 years! Awesome views from every level of this 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

WESTMOUNT

**COLUMBIA**

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

LE SUD OUEST

**DU CENTRE**

Historic Sherwill building. Real loft - 12.5 ft height open space with closed, spacious bedroom, walk-in cc. Divided office space & Mezzanine for guest accommodation. Original charm - expansive windows, exposed brick walls, wood beams. Super location - canal, market & metro! **Asking \$1,400/month**
Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1429327

WESTMOUNT

**METCALFE**

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

**COLUMBIA**

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

N.D.G.

**WEST HILL AV.**

Unique blend of contemporary and traditional NDG home in prime location. Bright, spacious 3 bedrooms with high ceilings, mouldings, many built-ins, oak floors, chair rail paneling FP, garage, mature and exotic garden. **Asking \$550,000**
Photo: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1445266

LE SUD OUEST

**DU CANAL**

Great loft with wall to wall windows with city views. 11-ft ceilings, originals beams, brick wall. Huge windows on this corner unit, overlooking the canal, bike path, walk to Old MtI, downtown. Garage, gym locker. **Asking \$299,000**
Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1407510

WESTMOUNT

**MAISONNEUVE W.**

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 eat-in kitchen. Ext. pkg for 3 cars. Ideal family house. **Asking \$999,000**
Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1410550

WESTMOUNT

**BRUCE**

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, parking. **Asking \$598,000**
Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1399557

NOVA move seamless

Continued from p. 1

NOVA and the move to our new offices here have gone seamlessly,” said Marla Stovin, executive director. “Even our fundraising results have increased.”

And this is key to a small organization that depends on the community for most of its financial support.

While it works in partnership with hospitals and CLSCs to meet needs in home care, it has received no government funding since Quebec introduced the CLSC system in the 1970s.

Westmount provides central base

The move to Westmount at 310 Victoria Ave. came last October after the sale of the organization’s aging building – Harrington House – on downtown’s Bishop St. The new site has proven to be central for the nursing staff. Interestingly, a majority

ernor-general, she recognized a lack in nursing care for women and children, establishing the VON with original branches in Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Halifax, Vancouver and Kingston.

The order spread out across the country with numerous branches. Its nurses became a familiar site in their navy blue and white, traveling to and from homes on bikes, public transportation or in the VON “Beetles”.

Formed autonomous groups

When the national organization adopted a centralizing policy in 2006, however, the boards of the Montreal and 10 other branches in Quebec, Ontario and BC decided to form their own autonomous groups.

“Since we are grassroots organizations, it was felt it would be better for our clients to maintain local control,” Stovin said.

All three Quebec groups – Montreal, West Island and Hudson – adopted the bilingual NOVA name proposed by a nurse at NOVA Montreal. While working in collaboration, each operates at the grassroots level, so that their services reflect purely local needs.

NOVA Montreal, which covers the city west of St. Denis St. to LaSalle, has 13 registered nurses (RNs) working in different programs as well as one registered nursing assistant (RNA) and 24 home health aides with basic nurse’s aide training.

CLSCs made huge impact

The advent of Quebec’s CLSC system made a huge impact on the Montreal organization, Stovin said. Its government contract for home-nursing services was discontinued. With many of its nurses absorbed into the new system, it remained dormant for a few years, maintaining only a pilot program to liaise with newly diagnosed cancer patients.

During the next decade, the Montreal group became revitalized with the launch of the foot-care clinics as part of Keeping Canada on its Feet program. This led to the progressive introduction of other programs to supplement gaps in CLSC home care varying from area to area.

In the last year, the foot-care program alone recorded 3,234 visits during 469 clinic days, mostly from seniors.

In-home services included 3,121 hours of palliative care to 401 patients, 5,817



Marking National Nurses’ Week, May 12-19, some of NOVA Montreal’s Westmount board members display the organization’s new logo depicting “a new star on the healthcare horizon.” From left; seated: Deirdre McLlwraith, William Ridley and Carol Harrison; standing: Dr. Michael Laplante, Boyd Whittall (president), Dr. Robert Faith and Jean-Pierre Picard.

hours to 43 families caring for adults with loss of autonomy, and 3,618 hours to the caregivers of 42 special needs children.

“Nursing with NOVA provides a lot of satisfaction and variety,” said Stovin. “We’ve been very, very lucky in being able to attract staff. The work is never boring and it feels good working for a charitable organization that gives back to society.”

Now that NOVA Montreal is “well settled, focused and looking ahead,” Stovin said, it will once again make a pitch for government help to expand services in

home care, which it helped pioneer some 100 years ago.

Play Day at Art-enfant

Thomas and Friends Play Day will be held on Saturday, May 24 from 10 am to 5 pm at Art-enfant (4968 Sherbrooke St., 514.488.1022, www.art-enfant.ca) for ages two and up. Little engineers can play and help to build a giant track layout with tons of track and trains. This activity is free.

BUILDING PROJECTS: WHAT’S PERMITTED

The following work permits for exterior new construction, alterations and landscaping were approved by Westmount city council at a special meeting May 14.

4124A St. Catherine: to install a new awning;

333 Metcalfe: to build a rear two-storey extension;

122 Aberdeen: to build a rear addition;

399 Clarke #3B: to replace windows and a door;

18 Holton: to replace two windows;

53 Chesterfield: to rebuild the rear retaining wall and stairs;

543 Roslyn: to replace the roof;

21 Ramezay: to modify front entrance and replace garage door and canopy;

4026A St. Catherine: to install a new sign for Ongles Expert & Spa;

24 Holton: to replace windows and a door;

210 Edgehill: to landscape and build a

pool;

743 Upper Roslyn: to replace the roof;

464 Argyle: backyard landscaping;

360 Clarke: to redo the St. Léon school yard;

28 Edgehill: to replace the garage door and flashing;

457 Lansdowne: to do some landscaping at side and rear;

4120 St. Catherine: to create a new opening for new entrance doors;

655 Grosvenor: to replace the roof and garage door;

4910 Sherbrooke: to install sign for Madame de Pompadour;

56 Somerville: to modify rear façade and balconies;

9 Springfield: to replace some windows and a door;

361 Roslyn: to rebuild front balcony.



Marla Stovin

of the volunteer board are Westmount residents as well.

“We have a very active board that continues to further our goal of identifying unmet needs and trying to find innovative solutions,” Stovin explained.

“Our volunteers are extremely dedicated,” said board president Boyd Whittall.

A board member for 15 years, Whittall said he has been particularly supportive of the children’s respite program, which was launched in 2000 as a pilot project with The Montreal Children’s Hospital as one of the first in the country. “It gives the caregiver a chance to breathe,” he explained.

In-home care is long tradition

Citing in-home care as “the big trend in healthcare today,” he said this has long been the organization’s specialty since it was founded by Lady Aberdeen.

Coming to Canada from England with her husband as he served his term as gov-

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Amazing Argyle

491 av Argyle
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new price

Majestic Mansion

3262 av Cedar
asking \$2,995,000



Historic Home

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asking \$2,995,000



Move-In Masterpiece

455 av Roslyn
asking \$2,475,000



Spectacular Semi

488 av Mountain
asking \$1,550,000 or
\$7,750/MO



new price

Sunny Semi

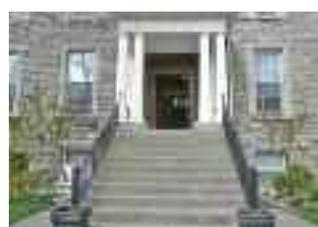
3593 av Marlowe
asking \$749,000



new price

Nifty Nest

337 av Metcalfe
asking \$759,000



Convenient Condo

343 Clarke #4
asking \$469,000



new price

Cozy Cottage

4736 av Victoria
asking \$689,000

Trend Watch

Nia and açai touch down locally

BY ANNIKA MELANSON



Nia classes are now being taught by Marianopolis Community Recreation (4873 Westmount Ave.). Created in California in 1983, Nia (Non-Impact Aerobics and Neuromuscular Integrative Action),

is the all-gain, no-pain cardio body, mind and spirit fitness program that combines movements from dance (jazz, modern, Duncan dance), martial arts (Tai Chi, Tai Kwan Do, Aikido) and body integration therapies (yoga, the Alexander Technique, the Feldenkrais Method).

Nia's benefits include increased flexibility, stability, agility and strength. This exercise is suitable for all ages and fitness levels.

"Nia is the hottest thing around be-



Marilena Paolucci teaching a Nia class at Marianopolis.

cause it is not a static exercise. Each class is divided up into different techniques and blended with fun music, then finishes off with a meditative aspect," said Alex Polkki, the manager of Marianopolis Community Recreation. The classes are taught by Marilena Paolucci, who is soon to be the only brown belt-certified Nia instructor in Quebec, as well as by Felicia Shulman, who is completing her blue belt in Nia. A white belt, the first level of Nia practice, is required to teach. Additional levels are blue, brown and black.

The Nia classes at Marianopolis are open to all. Marianopolis alumni and peo-

ple over the age of 55 receive a 25 percent discount. For more information or to register, call 514.937.0265 or check out the website www.marianopolis.edu/mcr. Marianopolis Community Recreation will also have a booth at Westmount Family Day on May 31.

Açai berry juice

While staying with a friend in California last month, I noticed that she drank açai juice every morning. She raved about the health benefits of the juice and was shocked that I had no idea what she was talking about. The açai berry (pronounced assa-ee) grows in the Amazon rainforest on açai palm trees and looks like a dark purple grape.

Açai berries have a unique tropical fruit flavour, contain high levels of antioxidants and provide many nutritional benefits.

They also contain omega fatty acids, amino acids, fiber, iron, as well as many other vitamins and minerals. Natives of the Amazon have enjoyed the açai berry as part of their diet for hundreds of years and now the word is spreading to the rest of the Americas. It's powerful stuff, but it isn't cheap.

The Genesis brand of açai juice is available at Aliments naturels à votre santé (5126 Sherbrooke St., 514.482.8233) in two sizes, 946 ml (\$61.89) and 118 ml (\$10.99).

Correction

In the last Retail Watch, Naturino's address was incorrectly reported. The correct address is 1325 Greene Ave.



Foot Care Clinics

Initial Visit: \$30
Additional Visits: \$25

Queen Elizabeth Health Complex

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Griffith McConnell Residence

Fridays
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Croquet through the arches of time



George Ostrowski and Aurélien Guillory.

Interior designer and Westmount Rotarian Aurélien Guillory has partnered with graphic designer George Ostrowski to produce croquet Archi-Wickets (as in archi-itecture). Guillory drew arches of historical landmarks that could be used as croquet wickets.

He then approached his friend of more than 30 years, Ostrowski, who scanned the drawings and transferred the digital images to sintra, a weatherproof, hard-compressed foam that they are using for prototypes.

The result is a croquet game through the ages, from Stonehenge to the Chrysler building and everything in between. The Archi-wickets are certainly conversation starters.

The next step for Guillory is to add a trivia component. Guillory and Ostrowski will be at Westmount Family Day with prototypes of their Archi-wickets.

Future plans involve selling the wickets and donating part of the proceeds to the Rotary Club of Westmount.



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Westmount Art Scene

Blue skies and sheep

BY HEATHER BLACK

Spring is definitely on show at Westmount's galleries.

Brian Hunter's blue-skied landscapes follow Valerie Butters' current display of colourful florals at La Galerie sur Greene. At Galerie de Bellefeuille, Joe Fafard's sculpture of David Suzuki presides over cows and sheep. While at Galerie D'Este, Sophie DeFrancesca's wire slips and gowns and Susan Szenes' unique cityscapes raise questions of identity.

Valerie Butters and Brian Hunter at La Galerie sur Greene

Valerie Butters' large oversized flowers bloom on canvas. Painted with thick brush strokes, her florals and whimsical teacups are colourful and cheerful. Her flamboyant swirls of raised colour combine realism with impressionistic brush strokes. This exhibit continues until May 25, when blue skies smile on new works by recent Concordia graduate Brian Hunter.

Brian Hunter captures the water, forests and fields of the Canadian landscape with palette-knife swathes and strong brush strokes. His bold use of texture and colour for scenes of Quebec, Ontario and the West recall the Group of Seven or the American Abstract Expressionists. But at age 23, the work of this artist is surprisingly refined and mature.

Joe Fafard and Schmitz-Schmelzer at Galerie de Bellefeuille

Joe Fafard creates remarkable sculptures of sheep, cows, and well-known individuals like geneticist David Suzuki. With a readily identifiable style, Fafard is one of Canada's most celebrated artists, a recipient of the Order of Canada, and recent exhibitor at the National Gallery. His subjects are also easily identified and include the artists Emily Carr, Henri Rousseau and Vincent Van Gogh. Delightfully whimsical, Fafard's painted bronzes are curious, distinct, and definitely memorable. The exhibit runs from May 22 to June 2.

Harald Schmitz-Schmelzer eschews realism for three-dimensional bands of colour. Sculpture-like, his images are often horizontal or vertical layers of colour. Constructed of stacked layers of acrylic on wood panel, colour harmony predominates. His palette of primary colours, with often red and yellow, is joyous and exuberant. Each creation is unique, and his artistry lies in colour choice and polished technique. Starting on June 5, the exhibit continues to June 16.

Sophie DeFrancesca & Susan Szenes at Galerie D'Este

Sophie DeFrancesca's lace-like slips, brassieres or evening attire are both exotic and playful. Made of wire mesh with crystal beads the transparent, attractive yet cage-like apparel create a push-pull fascination. Questions of the confining nature of wardrobe are raised, along with gender roles. Exhibited with Susan Szenes' map-like creations or scenery, the theme of identity – are we more than our roles or clothes, or our location – is accentuated.

Szenes creates mixed-media cityscapes of maps, buildings or scenes. Using objects like trade tickets and wood slats, her collages are architectural and some paintings resemble city plans. Trained in graphic design, her work leads us to our own particular environment – to the locale or city grid that shaped our own perceptions and identity. But Szenes' palette is increasingly colourful and her message, positive. Imagination – like the dirigibles that float over her cityscapes – flies high over the defining and confining aspect of our environment.

Artistry or imagination

Texture is key to the artistry of these exhibits. Often the handmaiden to colour or form, the skilled use of impasto paint or crafted wire and wood slats is what often conveys the message.

Yet it is imagination that, spring-like, renews our spirit and perceptions. In Albert Einstein's words: "I am enough of an artist to draw freely upon my imagination. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."

Heather Black is a Westmount communications designer

9 Lives

BY LYZANNE

I hope that you will help me find families and homes for Gribouille and Kinlono.

Gribouille is quite a memorable fellow! As you will agree, he is a handsome black-and-white shorthair. The very distinctive marking on his nose makes him look a bit abstract. He is 7 years old, neutered and very healthy. He is incredibly sweet, calm and affectionate. Gribouille is a perfect family cat, excellent with children and other pets (dogs too!). Let's find him a loving home. (No. 905).

Kinlono is a jet-black stunner, with incredibly soft and silky fur. He has the most mesmerizing green eyes! He is 3 years old, neutered, and very healthy. He is quite calm yet loves to be stroked and petted. Kinlono is good with children but still a little worried about dogs. (No. 78).

If you are interested in knowing more about them, please email Alanna Devine at the SPCA at adevine@spcamontreal.com or call her at 514-735-2711, ext. 2245.

The members of the new SPCA board of directors and executive are working very hard to help pets in need. It is a wonderful opportunity to lend them our support.

Artwork by Laura S. Cohendet



Gribouille



Kinlono

Underdog

BY FERN BRESLAW

Mollie is a 14-year-old Jack Russell who has lived the quiet country life with her owner, who passed away in mid-April.

Mollie is a charming and bright personality and, although she is a senior now, she is still in decent health and enjoys her days spending quiet time with a friend eating easy-to-chew snacks and gossiping about the neighbours.

We all believe she is not ready to leave this planet yet and we are hoping someone out there might have the right situation to offer love and stability to this little adorable lady.

She is not good with other pets or in a busy household.

She needs a simple, peaceful home with a little yard or garden where she can do her business and take short little walks.

Mollie is a bit dodderly, but is such a funny, personable gal and she could bring love to someone who is missing a furry friend in their lives.

The family most certainly will support and cover her bills and deal with health problems.

They just want her to have a nice summer, fall, and whatever other time she has left.

Find out more about adopting Mollie by contacting Rae Staseson at 514.522.4902 or rae.staseson@sympatico.ca.



Mollie

Selwyn teacher caught in US molestation sting

Selwyn House elementary teacher Richard Doucet was arrested by state of Virginia authorities on May 8 on charges related to sexually soliciting a 13-year-old boy, and possession and distribution of child pornography.

The "boy" in question had allegedly been in correspondence with Doucet over the internet since late December and was in fact John Chapman, a detective with the Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Doucet was in Atlanta, Georgia for a teachers' conference when he allegedly attempted to meet with the boy in Freder-

icksburg, Virginia. The 37-year-old LaSalle resident had no previous criminal record. He was also a choirmaster at St. Augustine of Canterbury Catholic church on NDG Ave. He is married with no children. His wife sings in the St. Augustine's adult choir.

Selwyn House instituted counselling sessions for its students and information sessions for parents on May 9 and over the May 10-11 weekend. The school immediately suspended Doucet indefinitely.

When contacted by the *Independent* on May 16, Selwyn House headmaster William Mitchell confirmed that no im-

proprieties have been alleged or found regarding Doucet's time at Selwyn House.

As previously reported in the April 29-30 *Independent*, Selwyn House's proposed, no-admission, \$5-million civil settlement regarding previous, unconnected sex-abuse allegations involving three teachers over a decade ago has been taken under advisement by the judge in that case.

Doucet faces a prison term of 30 years or more if convicted on all counts. He remains in custody. His preliminary hearing is set for June 9.

INVENTORY... *continued from page 14*

\$1,279,000	377-379-381 Clarke Ave.	\$1,825,000	3605 The Boulevard
\$1,295,000**	356A/B Olivier Ave.	\$1,825,000	25 Oakland Ave.
\$1,295,000	636 Murray Hill Ave.	\$1,845,000	address unavailable
\$1,299,000	address unavailable	\$1,850,000	757 Upper Belmont Ave.
\$1,299,000	782 Upper Belmont Ave.	\$1,995,000	110 Upper Bellevue Ave.
\$1,300,000	528 Mount Pleasant Ave.	\$1,995,000*	29 Bellevue Ave.
\$1,350,000	22 Arlington Ave.	\$1,999,000	30 Surrey Gardens
\$1,389,000**	address unavailable	\$2,200,000††	365 Redfern Ave.
\$1,395,000**	366 Kitchener Ave.	\$2,225,000**	29 Forden Ave.
\$1,398,000*	786 Upper Belmont Ave.	\$2,250,000	The Boulevard
\$1,475,000	54 Aberdeen Ave.	\$2,390,000*/††	address unavailable
\$1,495,000	631 Roslyn Ave.	\$2,399,000*	74 Gordon Cres.
\$1,550,000*/††	488 Mountain Ave.	\$2,400,000	address unavailable
\$1,550,000	561 Grosvenor Ave.	\$2,400,000	3255 Cedar Ave.
\$1,575,000	3720 The Boulevard	\$2,448,000	address unavailable
\$1,575,000	10 Willow Ave.	\$2,475,000	Roslyn Ave.
\$1,590,000**	24 Melbourne Ave.	\$2,499,000	4354 Westmount Ave.
\$1,595,000	488 Elm Ave.	\$2,675,000	3745 The Boulevard
\$1,595,000	3249 Cedar Ave.	\$2,699,000	118 Upper Bellevue Ave.
\$1,595,000	359 Redfern Ave.	\$2,800,000**	address unavailable
\$1,690,000	175 Côte St. Antoine Rd.	\$2,850,000*	4455 Montrose Ave.
\$1,695,000	320 Côte St. Antoine Rd.	\$2,988,000	70 Belvedere Pl.
\$1,750,000	352-354 Elm Ave.	\$2,995,000	736 Lexington Ave.
\$1,750,000*	467 Strathcona Ave.	\$2,995,000	38 Belvedere Ave.
\$1,785,000*	740 Upper Lansdowne Ave.	\$2,995,000**	3262 Cedar Ave.
		\$3,095,000*	3 Murray Ave.
		\$3,150,000	526 Clarke Ave.
		\$3,150,000*	3223 Trafalgar Ave.
		\$3,155,000*	4302 Montrose Ave.
		\$3,199,000**	109 Upper Bellevue Ave.
\$1,790,000	3284 Cedar Ave.		
\$1,799,000	311 Kensington Ave.		

THE WESTMOUNT TOWNSHIPPER**Tour des arts turns 20**

This summer marks the 20th anniversary of the Tour des Arts, an annual cultural event showcasing the visual arts in the Eastern Township regions of Sutton, Mansonville and Knowlton. This summer, the event will take place July 12 to 20.

The inauguration for the 20th anniversary will be held at the Arts Sutton Gallery. There, visitors may see a sample of what awaits them on their tour of the studios. In the following nine days, 38 artists and artisans will open their studios to the pub-

lic. Many creative mediums and techniques will be showcased: painting, watercolor, sculpture, folk art, jewelry, ceramic, woodworking, stained glass and mosaic. Music, poetry and theatre will also be on the menu. Even if you are not a Towns-shipper, why not make a weekend of it and stay at one of the region's charming country inns for the weekend?

For more information, check out www.tourdesarts.com.

TOWNSHIPS TREASURES

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*New since April 15-6 Inventory.
** New price since April 15-6 Inventory.
† Private sale
†† Also for rent.

Westmount Park playing fields moving ahead

The city of Westmount recently announced that residents can now consult a detailed plan for Westmount Park's lower playing fields, along with several changes to the foot and bicycle paths. Copies of the plan are posted at the Melville Ave. and Academy Rd. entrances to the park.

Residents can also consult the complete set of plans at the Public Works offices, located at 10 Bethune St.

The city launched a call for tenders on

the work April 29. The name of the selected tenderer will be made public during the city council meeting on May 26, following a rigorous selection process.

Actual construction work will begin on the project at the beginning of July.



On the Shelves will return May 27

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Admission is \$14 for ages two and up. The park will open on Friday, June 13 and closes at the end of August.

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Comin' Up...

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

Thursday, May 22: Contactivity Centre's Annual General Meeting, followed by luncheon and music – 12 pm at Contactivity Centre. \$7.50. To reserve: 514.932.2326.

Myriam Cloutier, Mount Royal Cemetery Director of Heritage Programs, on the

history of Mount Royal Cemetery – 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre (1200 Atwater).

Friday, May 23: Open House of Artists' Studios and Group Show – 12 to 9 pm at Espace d'art, Complexe Canal Lachine (4710 St. Ambroise, suite 113).

TGIF at Centre Greene, meal followed

by themed activity for ages 5 to 11 – 6 to 8:30 pm at Centre Greene. \$10. RSVP: 514.931.6202.

Saturday May 24: Westmount High's "Car Boot Sale" – 9 am to 2 pm at Westmount High (rain day is Sunday May 25).

Sunday, May 25: Annual Klezmer Concert Cultural Breakfast featuring the Montreal Klezmer Trio – 9:30 am at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. \$15. To reserve: Heather 450.672.9788.

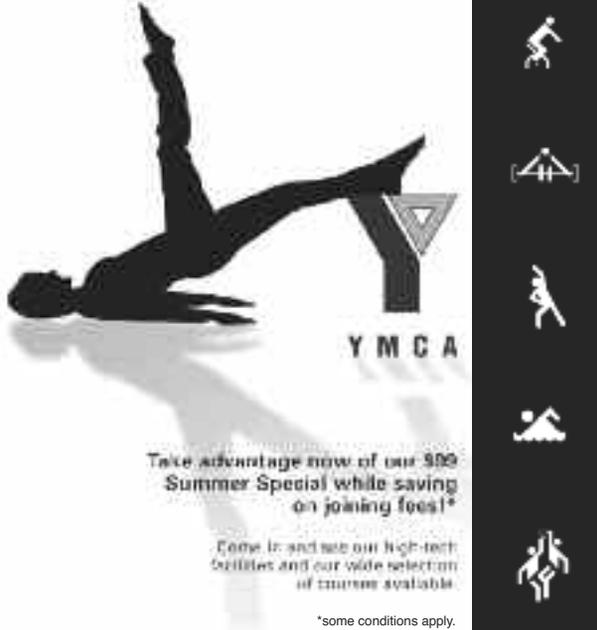
Monday, May 26: City council meeting

– 8 pm at city hall.

Tuesday, May 27: A free Feldenkrais class (improves motor skills, physical abilities, relaxation) by master practitioner Philippe Leblond – 7:30 to 8:30 pm at Marianopolis Community Recreation's dance studio. To reserve: mcr@marianopolis.edu or 514.937.0265.

"Demystification of Alzheimer's Disease" by speaker Laura Guerschanik, Education Coordinator of the Alzheimer Society of Montreal – 7 pm at Westmount

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What is Rotary?

Rotary is a worldwide organization of men and woman that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world.

Rotarians take an active role in their communities while greatly enriching their personal and professional lives. A Rotary club contains a diverse group of professional people from the community that the club serves.

Membership offers a number of benefits, including:

- Effecting change in the community.
- Developing leadership skills.
- Gaining an understanding of – and having an impact on – international humanitarian issues.
- Developing relationships with community and business leaders.

Programs of The Rotary Foundation offer opportunities to form international partnerships that help people in need worldwide. Rotarians make significant contributions to the quality of life at home and around the globe.



Rotary at a Glance

ESTABLISHED: February 23, 1905, in Chicago by Paul Harris; first international club: Winnipeg, 1910.

CLUBS: 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries.

MEMBERSHIP: 1.2 million men and women.

GLOBAL AID: Rotary has given \$1.5 billion to humanitarian programs that promote literacy, alleviate hunger, provide safe water, and advance world peace.

EDUCATION: Every year, Rotary offers 1,000 international college-level scholarships and sponsors 8,000 international exchanges for high school students.

Experience Rotary

Rotary membership gives men and women a rewarding opportunity to help communities locally and internationally.

Rotary clubs are autonomous and meet weekly for fellowship and to determine their own service projects based on community needs and the talents and interests of their members. Clubs often team up with clubs in other countries to carry out international service projects, enhancing members' personal and professional development and advancing world peace.

Rotary clubs are non-religious, nonpolitical, and open to men and women of every race, culture, and creed.

To learn more visit the extensive Rotary International website www.rotary.org.

Locally contact:

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St. James Literary Society's Annual Dinner with guest speaker Judge John Gomery – 6 pm at the Atwater Club. Info: 514.484.0146.

Wednesday, May 28: Captain Montgomery Price of the Canadian Forces on the efforts of Canada's provincial reconstruction team in Kandahar – 12:30 pm at Atwater Library and Computer Centre.

Thursday, May 29: Community Youth

Project exposition at The Gallery in Victoria Hall. Runs until June 13.

Contactivity luncheon followed by "Oldies & Goodies" sign-along – 1 pm at Contactivity Centre. \$5. To reserve: 514.932.2326.

Neil Bissoondath reads from his latest work, including *The Unyielding Clamour of the Night* – 7:00 pm at Atwater Library and Computer Centre.

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

Sunday, June 1: Memorial service for Professor Michael Lawrence – 11 am at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. Info: 514.344.3417.

Thursday, June 5: Annual Super Sale – 1 to 6 pm at St. Leon Parish (330 Clarke). Info: 514.935-4950.

Friday, June 6 at 8 pm; Saturday, June 7 at 2 pm and 8 pm; and Sunday June 8 at 2 pm: Dramatis Personae's *Departures and Arrivals* Victoria Hall. Free.

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What's Cooking in Westmount? Caprese salad

By ANTHEA DAWSON



As I perused the Atwater market this past weekend in a desperate attempt to get a late start on my spring gardening, I was quickly sidetracked by all the colourful fruits and vegetables that have begun to line the stalls.

Spring has certainly sprung in regards to produce, and though not much of it is local just yet, the improvement in both quality and taste is unbelievable.

Early season fiddleheads, big plump sweet strawberries, and beautiful big ripe vine-ripened tomatoes all caught my eye, and instantly my mind began spinning into menu-planning mode. Though the tomatoes are still imported from the US, local fare is not far off, and the vine-ripened hot-house Savouras are a pretty adequate substitute in the meantime. Images of my favourite summer salad, the classic Caprese, popped into my head, and I began a hunt for the ingredients to whip it together.

Simple recipe

The Caprese salad, a famous and in-

credibly simple recipe from Italy, consists of just the basics: sliced sweet, juicy, ripe tomatoes (unrefrigerated) layered between thick slabs of melt-in-your-mouth *mozzarella di bufala campana* (buffalo milk mozzarella) and freshly torn basil. The ensemble is lightly drizzled with extra-virgin olive oil, and a sprinkling of kosher salt and freshly ground pepper. Some people also add a drizzle of aged balsamic vinegar, although purists would argue that that's not a *true* Caprese. The salad could not be simpler, but its incredible taste completely depends on the quality and freshness of its ingredients.

At the Atwater or Jean Talon markets, you can easily throw together all the right ingredients by visiting a variety of stalls. In Westmount, however, you may have to visit a few different places to get everything you need. The local grocery stores (Metro, Cinq Saisons, Fruiterie Mont Victoria) seem to be carrying the same quality tomatoes and fresh basil plants as I've seen at the markets, but be sure to reach for the vine-ripened tomatoes instead of the Romas (or plum tomatoes) as they are certainly sweeter. But when it comes to the buffalo mozzarella, it is a much different story.

Hunting buffalo

Buffalo mozzarella is made from buffalo milk, a dense, sweet and high-fat milk used to make only the finest fresh cheeses. Its trademark striated layers are made by stretching the freshly coagulated curds when warmed, keeping its centre sweet and moist. It is formed into tight, round balls, encased in a thin skin that forms when the cheese is hand-pinned into its shape.

Bocconcini, small mozzarella balls made from cow's milk, are not the same thing and are a poor substitute in a Caprese salad. They lack the depth of flavour and richness that the buffalo mozzarella adds and that makes the salad so delicious. Unfortunately, it is much easier to find bocconcini in Westmount (and it is much more affordable), but for a special treat, I would highly recommend trying the real thing.

The hard part is finding it.

Once again, you will have no trouble at the Jean Talon or Atwater markets, where you can find a few varieties of the imported Italian cheese (a package with one mozzarella ball can range anywhere from \$8 to \$15).

Westmount, however, was a bit more of



a struggle. The grocery chains were write-offs, although both Metro and Cinq Saisons carry bags of Saputo's Fresh Soft Cheese, which is a much more flavourful substitute for buffalo mozzarella than bocconcini.

I also struck out at local cheese shops like La Fougagerie and Gascogne, but then I passed the neighbourhood restaurant Saporì Pronto (4894 Sherbrooke St.) and noticed that they sold take-out food. I was in luck! A package of very high quality *mozzarella di bufala* (containing one large ball of the fresh cheese) rang in at \$12, and it was truly excellent.

A little decadent for the average Monday night dinner perhaps, but worth every penny! I highly recommend indulging in this culinary treat at some point this spring or summer. You will not be disappointed!



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In the Community: Dramatis Personae

Drama group revitalized

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Independent and revitalized, Dramatis Personae – Westmount’s Community Theatre, is thriving and about to strut its stuff at four performances in Victoria Hall June 6 through June 8.

Previously sponsored as one of Westmount’s Sports and Recreation programs, the group is now going it alone – but together – following a year of reorganization and challenging resurrection.

“We’re back to our original roots as an independent theatre,” says Ann Elbourne, joint coordinator with Ellen Rubin.

Started in 1985 as the Studio Theatre Workshop under the direction of Ann Page, the group was taken under the city’s umbrella in 1987 at the urgings of then city councillor, Sally Aitken.

But last summer, Elbourne says, “the city told us they could no longer carry us as a Recreation program because the group had become too small to pay for the director, but we could continue to use Victoria Hall.”

Created new model

Unwilling to lose the passion and expertise they had developed over 23 years, the group, whose numbers were down to seven or eight, set out to create a new model and renew themselves.

“We hired ourselves a new artistic director, Jacqueline Van der Geer, and went out to actively recruit,” Elbourne says. The new director has extensive experience in community theatre in Holland and Montreal, and is making a name for herself as an actor in local productions.

“Like a hockey team that can change overnight, we have now doubled our size and set out to perform again after an absence of a year.”

Busy airport scenario

Now in final rehearsals, the group of 15 will present Carol Shields’ *Departures and Arrivals*, a series of 18 vignettes staged at a busy airport and providing scenes within scenes.

Performances take place Friday, June 6 at 8 pm, Saturday at 2 pm and 8 pm, and Sunday at 2 pm. Admission is free but donations are requested.

The group, which has a wide age range, meets Wednesday evenings in the Lodge Room of Victoria Hall. Membership fees are \$120 per semester for adults and \$60 for students. Most members, like El-

bourne, are residents of Westmount – or live nearby.

“While we are no longer part of Recreation,” Elbourne says, “we have received so much support from Maureen Lafrenière (community events coordinator) and Ron Harris (maintenance) at Victoria Hall, which has helped to make our renewal possible.”

Establishing ‘cultural oasis’

Elbourne, who has been a member of Dramatis Personae for 10 years, says the group has taken pride in presenting classical and contemporary plays by major playwrights and in establishing a community theatre in Westmount to provide “some sort of English cultural oasis in Quebec.”

Being a community theatre as opposed to a professional one, she said, provides an opportunity for all interested citizens to participate, brings together a diversity of talent and allows members of the public to explore and discover theatre.

One of the biggest challenges, she added, is finding a play that can give everyone a good part – and one that can be comfortably performed to a family-oriented community. “There has to be some form of censorship. I’m not going to stand up in front of my daughters and say something that would embarrass us all.”

The group last performed *Departures and Arrivals* 10 years ago under the directorship of Richard Lock.

“We have a lot of fun,” Elbourne says. “We all love theatre and don’t mind making fools of ourselves. We all have different levels of experience and acting skills which makes us a team that learns a lot from each other. Part of being a group is learning to have some humility. It’s character forming.

“We’re there to make friends, work as a group and learn some skills.”



Among those rehearsing are from left: (front) Pauline Beauchamp, Ann Elbourne and Ellen Rubin; (centre) Judith Philpott; (back) Fabienne LaPanse, Hugo Pieters and Malcolm McRae.

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