

Coronation of the Kings

Banner year for hockey

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's inter-city hockey teams have brought the season to a record-setting close, winning an unprecedented 10 banners for Sports and Recreation's competitive hockey program.

The banners will be a highlight of the city's semi-annual banquet Wednesday, April 22, at Victoria Hall. More than 400 youths and adults are expected to attend from recreational and competitive levels of the hockey, skating and indoor soccer programs.

"This was a phenomenal year for Westmount in hockey," said hockey sports coordinator Andrew Maislin. Participation increased, a number of teams forged close off-ice "families," and new coaches and players strengthened team spirit.

Leading the competition victories was the regional championship won by Westmount's Midget B Predators (aged 15 to 17) who beat teams from all other zones at the finals held

in LaSalle.

The same team also brought home two other banners as season winners and runners-up in the playoffs within the Eastern Hockey League (EHL). This is the league in which Westmount plays against Verdun, LaSalle, Montreal West/Hampstead, Côte St. Luc, St. Laurent, Mount Royal/Outremont and Lachine.

Westmount's Atom A Wings (aged 9 to 11) won four banners as EHL season leaders, playoff champions, winners of the 18th annual Pierrefonds tournament, and a consolation banner in the Candiac tournament.

The Atom B Predators won two banners for topping the EHL in season play and placing second in the St. Laurent hockey tournament.

The Pee wee A Predators (aged 11-13) placed second in the EHL playoffs to pull off an unexpected victory – and another banner – that Maislin attributes to the coaching and bonding of the team.



The Kings won Westmount's Senior A in-house hockey championship April 14 defeating the Red Wings 6-2. They also finished first in regular season play. From left are: (front) Matthew Ciampini (goalie), Roderick Leider and Nicholas Martin; (middle row) Charles Colby, Alex Dostaler, Raphael Leider, Raphael Kraus and Thibault Davet; (back row) Aiden Talai, Brandon Pinchuck and Philip Cutler.

PROFILE



DR. HARRY ROSEN p. 22

Don't Miss It:

Tree Walk for Earth Day on April 22, p. 21

Famed photographer Szilasi to exhibit 50 years of work

BY ISAAC OLSON

Documenting change throughout Quebec and around the world, Gabor Szilasi, a Hungarian-born Westmouter, has long used his camera to capture everyday life. Now, at age 81, his upcoming exhibition at the Joliette Museum of Art will be a retrospective of 50 years in photography.

"Everything around us changes con-

stantly," said Szilasi. "Everything is in eternal flux. After I photographed St. Catherine St. for three years, taking about 200 photographs, I could later go back to a photograph and know it had become a different store or the building was gone. Changes in a large city happens constantly, and I am interested in change."

The upcoming exhibition titled, "Gabor Szilasi: The Eloquence of the Everyday", will display Szilasi's photos from places like Hungary, Montreal, rural Quebec and Italy – work that has garnered both national and in-

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First arena/pool public information session, p. 6-7

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Local talent at the Blue Met literary event



From left, Westmount authors Cecilia Pisos, Anne Renaud, Claire Holden Rothman and Henry T. Aubin, who are participating in the 11th annual Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival and the 2nd Blue Metropolis Children's Festival, which take place between April 22 and 26. For events involving these Westmount authors and others, in the community and outside, see p. 21.

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Stutman and Weinberg to ride across Canada for kids with cancer

BY KRISTIN McNEILL

Training for a cross-Canada bicycle ride is tough enough, and more so during Montreal winters. This did not deter Elm Ave. resident Beth Stutman, who trained on her stationary bike at home this winter, in some cases for 250 km a day.

It's like "going nowhere fast by yourself," Stutman said as she described the gruelling training regime she has undertaken to prepare for the cross-country Sears National Kids Cancer Ride this June.

Stutman and friend Mark Weinberg are the only two Quebecers among 36 Canadians who were selected to participate in this ambitious event to raise money for children with cancer and their families.

The 7,000-km ride across Canada starts in Vancouver on June 13 and ends in Halifax 12 days later.

National riders are selected based on health and ability to cover their own expenses (including airfare) and meet the minimum fundraising commitment, which was \$25,000 this year.

Stutman, who turns 60 in June, previewed it as "boot camp" with no luxuries. There are no rest days, and each member will ride 250 km a day, rotating among

groups to cover the whole distance across the country. They will sleep in a trailer.

The incidence of cancer in her family motivated Stutman to apply last year for a position on the team.

When she read about the event in the newspaper, she went to Carrefour Angrignon to hear the stories of kids afflicted with cancer.

"Something in my heart was moved like never before in my life," she said. Weinberg also said he was moved by the stories, "It tugs at the heart strings."

What Stutman found special about this charity is that "it's grassroots and volunteer-based," and that 100 percent of the funds raised are directed towards pediatric oncology centres and hospitals across Canada.

Cyclists can register to join the national riders for shorter distances around the major centres.

Join Stutman and teammates on June 21

On the afternoon of June 21, Stutman and her teammates are scheduled to arrive in Hudson and will continue to St. Justine Hospital in a "Ride Along" with those interested in participating. There are also fundraising events taking place in Mon-



Mark Weinberg and Elm Ave. resident Beth Stutman pause on April 10 during spring training for their ride across Canada in June to raise money towards pediatric care for Canadian children with cancer.

treal before June.

Stutman and Weinberg continue to raise money. To make a pledge for their in-

dividual effort, visit www.searsnationalkidscancerride.com and click on "pledge a national rider."

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Mayor's blood drive



From left, Heather Barwick of the Monklands District Guides with Westmount's assistant city clerk Nancy Gagnon, who was one of 22 city employees to give blood at Victoria Hall on April 17. Sixty-six other members of the community gave blood, for a total of 88 donors.

Ann Moffat to retire July 1

Westmount's director of library services, Ann Moffat, will retire July 1 after 20 years with the city.

Moffat, a longtime resident of Westmount, took over at the helm in 1999 during the centennial celebrations of Westmount Public Library. She had served as reference librarian since joining the city in 1988.

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Letters to the Editor

CHARACTERLESS ARENA?

Many residents remain unconvinced about the need, construction expenditures and operational costs of a two-rink arena. Whatever the true requirements may be, they should be provided for in a building which is both functional and beautiful. The proposed design is a characterless example of early '60s modernism; an affront to the adjacent buildings, it lacks vision and ignores the past 50 years of architectural development.

The eminent British architect Richard Rogers wrote "Design is not an added expense, it is an added value. Design often makes the difference between a place that simply exists ... and one that can thrive for many years to come - which is the most sustainable result of all."

Westmounters deserve a recreation centre that meets their needs and that provides pleasure and inspiration to regular users and casual observers alike. The proposed design, mundane in the extreme, should be rejected.

STEPHEN COHEN, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

SURE ROUTE TO BANKRUPTCY

The business pages this week tell me that personal bankruptcies in February were up 25.2 percent from a year earlier.

I was reminded of a recent visit to Zellers in Alexis Nihon Plaza. When paying with my Bay card, I was asked by the cashier if I would like cash. I asked the young woman if she knew what the rate of interest was. She said they weren't told that. I bet they weren't! The rate is a whopping 29.9 percent, effective from the moment of cash advance (actually a loan).

Is it any wonder that personal bankruptcies are up? To make cash available at staggering rates to those most vulnerable is a sure way to increase that percentage.

I wonder how many other companies are charging these rates - which I presume are perfectly legal.

The Hudson's Bay Company is now owned by a US chain; is it trying to drag our economy down to the US level?

HONOR BARRETT, KENSINGTON AVE.

NOT SO HEALTHY

Exercising outdoors this morning, I took full advantage of a little known feature in Westmount's widely publicized health program.

Moving slowly in a version of tai-chi, I breathed in deeply the miniscule droplets of ovicide, laticide, organochlorine and phenothiamine being spray-released into the refreshing coolness of this sunny spring morning in Westmount Park to fur-

ther enhance the good health of all residents in this truly model "Healthy City."

STEPHEN CHIN, SHERBROOKE ST.

RICHLER, PRE-WESTMOUNT

I was pleased to read in the April 7 issue of the *Independent* that Mordecai Richler was one of four Westmounters to receive a civic honour.

Many of his novels were set in the working class area near St. Urbain St., where he grew up. And although the article states that he lived in Westmount for five years, there was no mention of where he lived 40 years ago. I have the answer.

My family lived at 5257 St. Urbain St. from 1936 to 1939, and when we vacated, the Richler family, including Mordecai, moved into the premises for a few years.

I have always been proud of the fact that my family and the Richler family lived in the same dwelling.

WILLIAM I. MILLER, WOOD AVE.

TOWN-HALL MEETING BETTER

RE: The recent suggestions by the WMA and in Don Wedge's Civic Alert column (April 14, p. 5) that the third, mid-May arena/pool consultation consist of a large single public meeting.

I attended the consultation on the arena that was held in April 2008 and I have some reservations about the small-group format.

It consisted of five separate, concurrent discussion groups, each coordinated by city employees and dealing with a different topic, i.e. rinks, pool, concessions, teen centre and 'other topics.' Each of the round-table sessions was repeated two or three times at one-hour intervals in order to accommodate all comers.

The small-group format does encourage lively participation and discussion, particularly by individuals who might not be as comfortable in a large group setting. It does, however, have the drawback of precluding general interaction and exchange. I saw little communication between all the different groups.

It seems to me that a single, large, town-hall meeting would allow all interested members of the community to receive the same information, make presentations, ask questions and discuss the issues in the same forum at the same time. It should be noted that only 130 citizens participated in the April 2008 public arena/pool forum. Roughly 400 attended the artificial turf meeting on May 16, 2007, a number certainly more representative of the community as a whole.

PETER WELDON, ACADEMY RD.

In Other Words: Westmount in the Media

New Marianopolis head

Marianopolis College announced in the *Gazette* of April 11 that it had hired Len Even as its new director general. He starts work on July 1.

Even was born in Quebec City and raised in Montreal. He holds a BComm from McGill and an MBA from Concordia. For the last 15 years, he has been the director of the Leiden, Netherlands campus of Webster University. The university is based in St. Louis, Missouri, but has over 100 satellite locations around the world.

Even follows Françoise Boisvert, CND as Marianopolis' director general (see *Independent*, October 1, p. 3).

Israeli consulate in court on Westmount Sq. security

Lawyer Robert Teitelbaum and notary Solomon Katz are suing the Israeli consulate and their common landlord at 1 Westmount Square, 9093-8119 Québec,

reported the *Gazette* on April 15.

The case began soon after the consulate moved to the office tower in August 2008. Teitelbaum and Katz contend that the consulate and landlord should provide enhanced security, including a dedicated elevator to the sixth floor, where all three offices are located.

The merits of the case have not yet been heard, because the consulate has successfully invoked diplomatic immunity in the original case against it and the landlord, and in a second one targeting just the landlord.

In the second case, Quebec Superior Court judge Paul Chaput quashed a subpoena this month naming the vice-consul as a witness, but also ruled that the head of consulate security can be served, although even he can refuse to testify.

The ruling in the original case regarding diplomatic immunity is being appealed by Teitelbaum and Katz.

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WMA looking for volunteer of the year

The Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) is looking for the recipient of this year's Derek Walker Volunteer Citizen of the Year Award. According to the citizens' group, the goal is to find an "unsung" Westmounter "who has contributed to the community over the years in several different volunteer capacities."

To submit a name, send an email to info@wma-amw.org or phone 514-846.8464.



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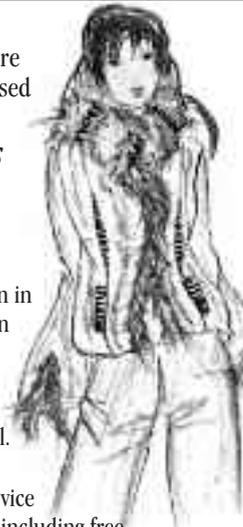
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First public information meeting attracts 60 residents

Tax impact revealed to some

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Costs of the proposed \$30-million arena/pool project would likely add \$127 next year to the average Westmount tax bill – or 1.2 percent – if the city obtains anticipated funds from government and private sources.

The tax implications of \$13 for every \$1 million borrowed were revealed April 18 by project manager Bruce St. Louis, the city's former director general, at the first public information meeting at Victoria Hall.

In the event the project were to be fully taxpayer-funded – an unlikely scenario – the same amount would rise to \$396 or 3.9 percent on the average bill of \$10,000. He referred to the low and high projections as “bookends”, however, with realistic amounts being somewhere in between.

The much-touted Saturday event attracted fewer than 65 residents to question in detail a large number of city staff, members of council and architects. Many of the citizens were those who had been following the project at regular council meetings.

“Most people have been very constructive,” said Sports and Recreation director Michael Deegan who was leading a break-out workshop on the ice rinks.

Unanimous support

“I think there's unanimous support for the project, it's just the scale,” said David Parsons, one of those questioning the tax implications during hard economic times.

Others provided suggestions or asked for changes related to common interests in traffic circulation and long-term needs. Repeated requests were made to increase the size of both the pool deck and the second ice rink by extending them closer to de Maisonneuve.

Westmount's director general Duncan Campbell explained that the city wanted to keep a setback along the street as an entrance to Westmount Park. By the end of the event, however, some of the workshop leaders were saying the requests would be looked into.

What long-term provisions and future trends in population are being planned for, asked Susan Zegray in connection with the rinks. And she expressed her concerns projecting the future needs for various age groups: “I imagine you would want to increase pool capacity.” Plans are to keep it at 299, she was told.

Program relocation unknown

Among some details yet to be worked out is the possible relocation during construction of pool and skating programs to other venues such as hockey to LCC, which has long been suggested.

Construction schedules call for 16 months of work to start in January 2010 and be completed in May 2012. With the careful juggling of programs, this would result in the loss of one summer's use of the pool and of two half-years of hockey and skating programs.

While Mayor Karin Marks opened the meeting emphasizing the plan's “prelimi-

nary design,” St. Louis later told one questioner: “This is the project. There is not going to be much change.”

However, adjustments might be made, he said, in issues of sustainability, parking or configuration of the pool if directed by the council following citizens' suggestions.

A second information session is set for Tuesday, April 21, at 7 pm at Victoria Hall.

Citizen suggestions

Following are some of the concerns, suggestions, questions and answers heard during information exchanges between citizens and city staff or architects in break-out groups:

Pools

Deck is not large enough. Needs to extend north. Part of it needs to be allocated to adults wishing to read and get away from “screaming kids.”

Requests to reposition two diving boards so children won't dive into persons swimming laps.

Increase the cost of recreation passes from \$3 to perhaps \$5 to help defray costs.

Concerns that creating a separate pool for toddlers would make it too difficult for supervising parents; enlarged version of the existing design is preferred.

Reposition the adult pool east-west rather than north-south.

Build an indoor pool, and/or cover the outdoor pools. Architects said the pool area was not being built “to accommodate a superstructure.” Mayor Karin Marks told

What the plan proposes

The preliminary design presented by Lemay consortium architects Georges Bulette and Pierre Leclerc provides for enlarged facilities to be fitted into the same general site envelope and roofline as the existing facility using a multi-level approach.

Traffic would flow in and out of the facility from both Academy Rd. and St. Catherine St.

There would be two ice rinks – one of 200 feet, and other 185 feet – two pools, underground parking for 90 cars, a café, multi-purpose rooms, a pro shop and teen centre. Ice rinks and changing rooms would be below grade with spectator stands, offices and other rooms at ground level.

For cut-away and bird's-eye view illustrations, please see the April 14 *Independent*, p. 9

the *Independent* that building a four-season pool had been ruled out due to the demands it would put on the facility and area during the winter months.

Build an indoor pool to be managed by the Westmount Y, which needs a new one.

Ice rinks

- Build both rinks to current 200-foot NHL size, “the future standard.” It was explained, however, that the one rink at 185 feet would meet current needs as a trade-off for reducing impact on the neighbourhood given tight site restraints.

- Pay the extra \$500,000 and build a 200-foot long *continued on p. 7*



The meeting began with a general presentation with former director general Bruce St. Louis, the project manager, coordinating the projection.



The pool break-out session moderated by Westmount director general Duncan Campbell (centre), architect Georges Bulette and Sports coordinator Anitra Bostock.

Residents propose many arena ideas

continued from p. 6

rink.

- Ensure second rink provides increased focus on women's and general skating.
- Keep ice surface at ground level so skaters could look out.

Parking, traffic, general site

- Relocate the teen centre to the train station.
- Need space for bike racks.
- Will the tennis practice board remain? It is not on the current plan and might not fit. Nevertheless, no decision has been taken to remove it.
- How will the city control security at four entrances to the facility? What about theft from changing rooms?
- With two-way traffic on Academy Rd., plus parking on one side, encourage use of the St. Catherine entrance to prevent congestion on both Park Place and Academy.
- Improve traffic flow by positioning un-

derground parking beneath the smaller, more northerly rink allowing for one-way traffic to enter by Academy and exit by de Maisonneuve. Differences in land grade apparently pose a problem.

- Consider importance of parking since green cars of the future may change negative environmental attitudes to car use and increase usage.
- Impose time limitations on underground parking to prevent its abuse by non-users of the facility, especially during snow removal operations.

Sustainability

Among many questions raised was the possible use of both solar power and geothermal heating. It was explained that in such a large building of this usage, however, the "huge capital cost" of installing ground-source heating would not produce return on investment, especially given the relatively low cost of electricity from Hydro Westmount. "Will that be so in the future?" asked one questioner.

Empty Bowls event raises funding, hunger awareness



Plateau-resident Susan Briscoe (left) inspects pottery and talks with Alison Hall, a board member at the Unitarian Church of Montreal, during this year's Empty Bowls event hosted by the Unitarian Church on April 18.

BY ISAAC OLSON

The Congregation Dorshei Emet and the Unitarian Church of Montreal have once again joined hands in hosting a hunger-fighting fundraiser dubbed "Empty Bowls", an annual event aimed at raising hunger awareness and funding for local organizations like the NDG Food Depot.

Originated by a group of Michigan-based artists back in 2000 and launched by Montreal's Unitarian Church a year later, the program has since been cropping up across Canada and the United States. The event is hosted by volunteers and fueled by donated goods, meaning zero over-

head expenses as guests first select a bowl at \$20 a piece and are then served soup while listening to live music. Quebec artists such as Sheila Caplan donated all of the handcrafted pottery and all of the money raised went to local non-profits.

"It means a lot for us because we, of course, benefit from the funding," said Kathryn Aitken, an NDG Food Depot board member. "It's also a wonderful chance to connect with our community and bring people together."

The Unitarian Church hosted the event on April 18 and the Congregation will host another on April 26. More information can be found at www.EmptyBowlsMontreal.org.



Councillor Cynthia Lulham cancelled her attendance at the Green Cities Conference in Portland, Oregon to attend the arena meeting.

Two and a Half Centuries of Jewish Life in Montreal By award-winning journalist and historian Joe King

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– Eiran Harris, archivist emeritus, Jewish Public**

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Bridge for Bright Brains Out of space or down to earth?

BY GEORGE RETEK

A year ago, NASA astronaut Greg Johnson took the Ace of Spades card into orbit on his journey on the shuttle *Endeavor*. Each astronaut was allowed to bring ten personal items and, owing to his love of bridge, one of the items Johnson brought was the highest ranking card in the deck.

I had the pleasure of meeting Greg Johnson in Houston at the North American Bridge Championships, where he had proven himself to be more than a competent player, as the following deal described in the ACBL Daily Bulletin will show. Johnson occupied the North seat.

Dlr: East

North
 ♠ A J 8
 ♥ K 7
 ♦ 9 6 4 3
 ♣ 10 7 6 5

West
 ♠ K 6 5
 ♥ J 8 6 5 4 2
 ♦ J 10 2
 ♣ A

East
 ♠ Q 10 3 2
 ♥ A 10
 ♦ Q 8 7 5
 ♣ J 9 2

South (Visitor)

♠ 9 7 4
 ♥ Q 9 3
 ♦ A K
 ♣ K Q 8 4 3

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1 Club
2 Heart (1) Pass	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	2 NT	all Pass	

(1) Ostensibly weak.

West's jump overcalled with a moth-eaten suit and a trick and a half on defense outside the suit would not be the choice of many experienced players. Johnson probably should have simply raised clubs at his first or second turn, but it's easier looking at all four hands than in real life -- his partner might have opened on three low clubs (not likely, of course, but bridge players are trained to fear the worst).

Also dubious was South's balancing double with length in hearts.

At any rate, East started with the heart A and a heart to Johnson's king. He played a club to the king and West's ace. He won the heart continuation in dummy, cleared clubs and claimed eight tricks for plus 120 and a cold top.

Lion, Witch & Wardrobe production to honour Elsa Bolam

Elsa Bolam, founder of the children's theatre group Geordie Productions, will be honoured at a special production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

The former Westmounter was recently awarded the Order of Canada, for "making theatre accessible to remote communities."

The play, to be held at Ogilvy's on Sunday, April 26 at 1 pm, will benefit Geordie and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada. Tickets are \$35.

Bolam founded the children's theatre group in 1980 and continues to be actively involved in many projects.

She will be directing Geordie's annual benefit production, which this year will be *Arsenic and Old Lace*. It will be held at Concordia's D. B. Clarke Theatre (1455 de Maisonneuve) on Wednesday and Thursday, May 20 and 21, at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$100.

For more information about either play, please call 514.845.9810 or go to www.geordie.ca.



Elsa Bolam

Cinema V to become Empress?

Another large project on Bolam's plate is the creation of the Empress Cultural Centre out of the old Cinema V building at Sherbrooke and Girouard. She is on the project's board and serves as its vice president.

The goal of the refurbishment is to create a permanent home for Geordie and Black Theatre Workshop. Geordie has been using the D. B. Clarke for its plays, but will be unable to do so starting in 2010.

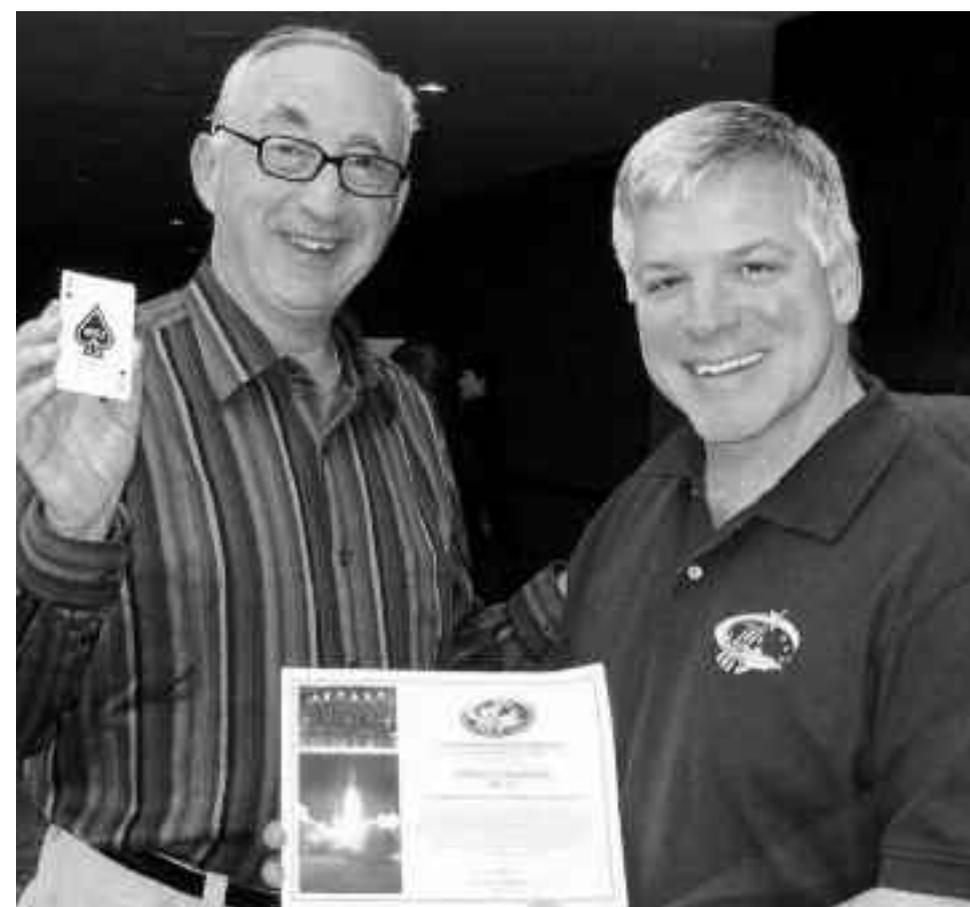
Repercussion Theatre and Teesri Duniya are also involved in the planned re-

birth of Cinema V.

The Empress would include three theatres with 350, 125 and 50 seats, as well as office space and space to display art.

Bolam explained that the relevant studies have been done and grant applications have been filed with the Department of Canadian Heritage and Quebec's Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition Féminine.

Said Bolam, "The city of Montreal is also very supportive. We have our fingers crossed."



George Retek (left) with NASA astronaut Greg Johnson in Houston, March 2009.

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Rothman makes mRb cover



Claire Holden Rothman has been chosen as the cover feature for the April 16th *Montreal Review of Books (mRb)*.

Rothman is the author of *The Heart Specialist*, a novel based on the life of Maude Abbott, a “doctress” in Montreal at the turn of the 19th century.

According to *mRb* reviewer Aparna Sanyal, Rothman’s novel will appeal to those who enjoy medical or Montreal history. The book is a new acquisition at the Westmount Public Library.

The *mRb* is published three times a year by the Association of English-language Publishers of Quebec, which is headquartered at the Atwater Library. Copies are available at the Westmount Public Library, the Atwater Library, Nicholas Hoare and Babar en Ville. Rothman is the daughter of Joan Rothman, former Westmount city councillor and school board commissioner.

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SHOP WESTMOUNT!

What does spring mean at Lisa Anella Advanced Esthetics?

“As soon as the snow is off the ground, people get up, look in the mirror and say to themselves, ‘I need a fresher look,’” explained owner Lisa Anella last week at her St. Catherine St. location, where she has been for four years.

“They are also getting ready for wedding and graduation photos in the later spring. Once you take a picture, that’s it.”

Anella’s new elos hair-removal machine is also proving especially popular. “Unlike many therapies, the light-based system doesn’t hurt,” continued Anella, “and unlike most traditional laser therapies, which target dark colours, it works against fair hair and can be used safely on dark skin.”

Indeed, according to Anella, light-based



From left: Cathy, client Paul Mallette and Lisa Anella.

therapies are gaining ground in a number of aesthetic fields, including cellulite reduction. She offers an infrared-based treatment that works to reduce cellulite by heating, and dissolving, the water and fat that form it.

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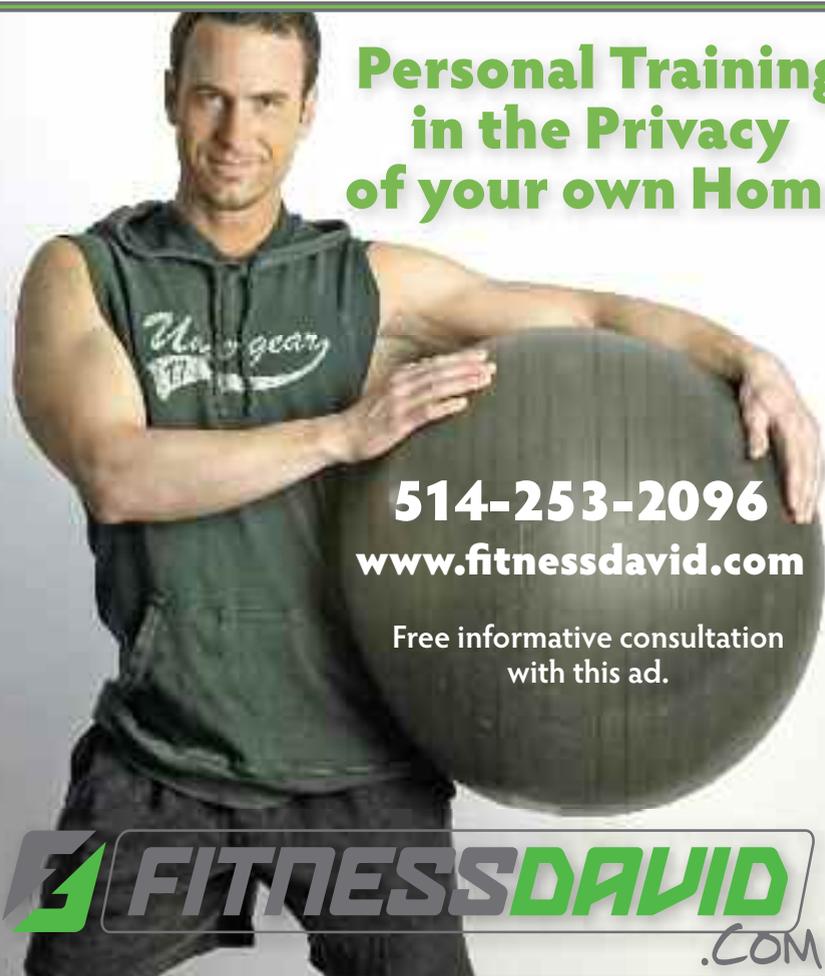
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Westmount Youth Orchestra to host open house



From left, back row, Han, Étienne, Adèle, Evelyne, Angelina, Sarah, Yonje, Lyne, Julieta, Lauren and Anne. Front row, Thierry, Arthur, Flavie, Vivaik, Annabelle, Celina, Auril, Philip, Emmanuel and Fabrice. The youngest members of the Westmount Youth Orchestra on April 18 at Victoria Hall. All sections of the group will be hosting an open house on May 2 from 10 am to 2 pm, also at Victoria Hall.

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Vol. 3/08

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ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

La galerie du Victoria Hall

La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les œuvres de Cynthia van Frank du 30 avril au 23 mai. Info : 514 989-5226.

Soirée printanière

La soirée printanière de Westmount aura lieu le jeudi 21 mai au Victoria Hall. Le cocktail débutera à 19 h et sera suivi d'un dîner dansant. Coût du billet : 90 \$ (maximum de 10 billets par personne), payable par chèque ou comptant. Les billets seront en vente au Victoria Hall le 27 mars de 18 h à 20 h et durant les heures de bureau par la suite. Info : 514 989-5226.

Salon des métiers d'art de Westmount – Appel d'offres

La 11^e édition annuelle du Salon des métiers d'art de Westmount aura lieu les 14 et 15 novembre 2009 au Victoria Hall. Les artisans habitant à Westmount sont invités à présenter trois ou quatre échantillons complets de leurs œuvres au comité de sélection le mercredi 13 mai entre 14 h et 18 h au Victoria Hall, 4626, rue Sherbrooke O. Info : 514 934-0294 ou 514 484-1974. 🍷



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Vente de livres des Amis de la bibliothèque

Les Amis de la bibliothèque tiendront une vente de livres les samedi 25 et dimanche 26 avril, de 10 h à 17 h, dans la salle Westmount de la bibliothèque. Tous les profits tirés de cette vente serviront à acheter de nouveaux livres pour la bibliothèque. Info : 514 483-5604.

Réception des clubs de lecture - Journée mondiale du livre

Afin de souligner la Journée mondiale du livre, la bibliothèque invite les membres de ses clubs de lecture à un vin et fromage dans la salle Westmount le mercredi 23 avril à 18 h. Info : 514 989-5386. 🍷

DATES À RETENIR

30 avril au 23 mai

Cynthia van Frank

La galerie du Victoria Hall

Le 26 avril – 12 h à 14 h

Envirojam

Nettoyage du parc Summit par les Scouts de Westmount

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Rappel aux propriétaires de chiens : durant la période migratoire des oiseaux, soit du 15 avril au 15 juin, les propriétaires promenant leurs chiens au parc Summit doivent les tenir en laisse en tout temps. Les officiers de la Sécurité publique patrouilleront le secteur et émettront des contraventions de 75 \$ aux personnes qui ne respecteront pas ce règlement. 🍷



COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Gallery at Victoria Hall

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present the works of painter Cynthia van Frank from April 30 to May 23. Info: 514 989-5226

Spring Soirée

The Westmount Spring Soirée will be held Thursday, May 21, at Victoria Hall. Cocktails begin at 7pm, followed by dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$90 each, payable by cash or cheque, maximum of ten tickets. Tickets will be on sale at Victoria Hall on April 27 from 6pm to 8pm and during business hours the following days. Info: 514 989-5226.

Westmount Artisans' Festival – Call for Submissions

The 11th annual Westmount Artisans' Festival will take place on November 14 and 15, 2009 at Victoria Hall. Artisans residing in Westmount are invited to submit 3 to 4 samples of their completed work to the selection committee at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke Street West, on Wednesday, May 13 only between 2pm and 6pm. Info: 514 934-0294 or 514 484-1974. 🍷



LIBRARY

Friends of the Library Quality Book Sale

The Friends of the Westmount Public Library will be holding a book sale on Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26 from 10am to 5pm in the Westmount Room of the Library. All proceeds from this sale go towards purchasing new books for the Library. Info: 514 483-5604

World Book Day Reception

In celebration of World Book Day, the Westmount Library invites book club members to a wine and cheese reception in the Westmount Room on Wednesday, April 23 at 6pm. Info: 514 989-5386

DATEBOOK

April 30 to May 23

Cynthia van Frank
The Gallery at Victoria Hall

April 26 – Noon – 2pm

Envirojam

The Westmount Scouts will be cleaning up Summit Park.

Everyone is welcome to join in at the Summit Lookout at noon.

Work gloves & refreshments provided.



PUBLIC SECURITY

Parking Restrictions for Street Cleaning

Please be advised that parking restrictions for street maintenance are once again in effect. Check the street signs in your area to avoid potential fines.

Summit Park Migratory Period

Dog owners should take note that during the bird migratory period - April 15 to June 15 - dogs in Summit Park must be kept on leashes at all times. To ensure that this regulation is respected, Public Security Officers will be carrying out random patrols and issuing \$75 fines to any violators. 🍷



Hello, Westmount

GALERIE D'ESTE

PHOTO & STORY BY ROBERT J. GALBRAITH

Owned by Westmount resident and contemporary art aficionado, Mark Leibner, Galerie D'Este moved into 1329 Greene Ave. three years ago, which was previously occupied by an antique shop.

Leibner collected for years before focusing on contemporary art and opening his gallery. "We're new and have had a very good response since we opened," said Charlotte Racine, director of Galerie D'Este. "Here we feature contemporary art and artists, both local and international. The art we promote is very collectable, with many of our contributors having their works exhibited in galleries, art centres and museums around the world."

Racine, who has an extensive background in the field of contemporary art studies, recommends that potential art buyers do their homework and look for potential investment before buying the first piece they come across. "Look for artists, and galleries with good CVs. Know your artist and their art." She also suggested that buyers look outside of Canada in search of a good piece of artwork.

From April 18 to May 3, an exhibit of the works of Dominik Sokolowski – a 33-year-old Quebec abstract artist, originally from Poland – will be featured. "He's well established for a young artist and has had shows in Europe, the USA and Canada," said Racine.

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Galerie d'Este's director, Charlotte Racine, seated in the large open gallery. Beside her, on the right, is a work by Canadian artist, Sophie De Francesca, entitled "Poopsie on the Prowl". It is composed of galvanized and stainless steel, aluminum and Swarovski crystals.

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continued on p. 20



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ON THE SHELVES

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

Magazines

“A time for muscle-flexing: as Western economies flounder, China sees a chance to assert itself – carefully” in *The Economist*, March 21, 2009, p. 27.

“China crumbles, can the US cope? With the global economy in meltdown, China is in big trouble – in the short term. But the longer term threat is to America.” by James Fallows, in *The Atlantic*, April 2008, p. 54.

“Art et submersion: souvenirs d’un rêve chinois” by Sylvain Campeau in *Ciel Variable*, février-mai 2009, p. 34.

DVDs

Life Force Yoga to Beat the Blues – This DVD is designed to balance mood and sustain optimum mental health.

Rachel Getting Married – In and out of rehab for the past 10 years, Kym Buchman returns home for the wedding of her sister Rachel but brings with her a long history of personal crisis and family conflict.

Health matters

Cholestérol, mensonges et propagande by Michel de Lorgeril – The author, a cardiologist and researcher, presents controversial points of view in his latest exposé. He claims that anti-cholesterol drugs are wildly over-prescribed and have no significant preventive effects.

La santé par le plaisir de bien manger by Richard Béliveau, Denis Gingras – According to the authors, two thirds of people who are in good health at an advanced age owe it to healthy habits. They describe simple rules of healthy living and demonstrate how they decrease the risk of cancer, diabetes and heart problems.

Feisty independence and fast opinions

Three for a Wedding by Mary C. Sheppard – In this young adult novel from Newfoundland, Violet Blue and her mother, a widow and town matriarch, plan a wedding in a place where the “tight-knit-ness born of the hard work of fishing and living in a fish bowl” makes for a wonderful story of friendship.

Mary Austin and the American West by Susan Goodman – A biography of Mary Austin (1868-1934) whose life and writings contributed to the development and understanding of the American West. Austin offered her opinions freely on land and water issues, advocated on women’s issues and on the preservation of Indian and Mexican culture in the Southwest and kept up spirited correspondence with many literary figures including Jack London, D.H. Lawrence and Willa Cather.

Novels for 9-12 year olds

Savvy by Ingrid Law – Mibs Beaumont is about to turn 13 and finally discover her “savvy” or magical power. When her father is injured in a car accident and her mum leaves to be with him in a faraway hospital, Mibs must face her birthday and the unpredictable results of obtaining new power alone with her siblings. Before she truly understands her new power, Mibs is certain that she can restore life so she sets off to save her father by sneaking on board a travelling salesman’s school bus with her brothers and friends.

Indie Kidd: Je (ne) suis (pas) riche, riche riche! by Karen McCombie – This is the fifth volume in the popular series by McCombie. Indie Kidd decides that she needs \$40 to buy the Amazing Thing in a local shop window! She becomes very creative in her means to become a gazillionaire.



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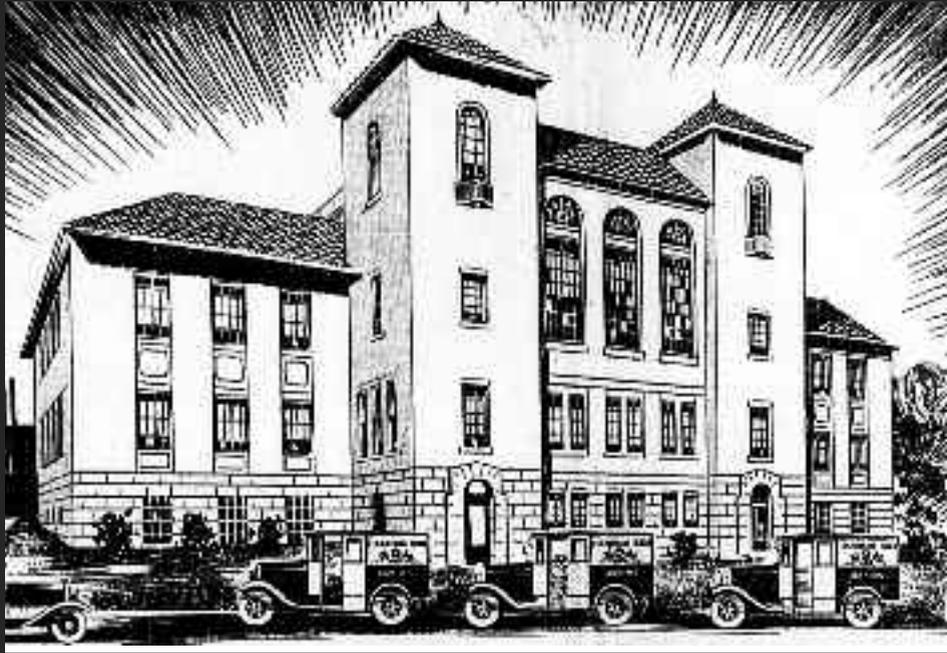
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Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before



BY DOREEN LINDSAY

Question: When was POM Bakery opened at the Glen? For the answer, see p. 18.

Atwater Library and the New City Gas building

BY SUSAN MCGUIRE

A statement by David Hanna of UQAM that the historic New City Gas Company building in Griffintown is threatened by a planned new high-traffic bus corridor has resonance at the Westmount-based Atwater Library and Computer Centre, where gas light fixtures still grace the mezzanine floor of its 1920s building.

New City Gas was founded in 1847, when today's Atwater Library was known as the Mechanics' Institute. In February 1848, New City Gas supplied gas *gratis* for the institute's annual week-long mechanics festival, and then began supplying gas for lighting its rented rooms. When the institute moved in 1855 into its brand-new Mechanics Hall at the corner of St. Peter and St. James streets, New City Gas supplied the lighting.

The history of street lighting in Montreal goes back almost 200 years. J. H. Dorwin in his *Reminiscences* of 1816 records that the first 22 oil lamps, 54 feet apart, were installed in front of stores along the west end of St. Paul St. in November 1816. In December, the store proprietors along the east end of the street lighted their end. A short time later, lights were installed on Notre Dame St., at a cost of \$7 each.

In 1836, the parliament of Lower Canada passed legislation to form the Montreal Gas Light Company. Among the shareholders were active members of the Mechanics' Institute (which was inoperative between 1835 and 1840), including civil engineer Moses Judah Hays, businessman François-Antoine Laroque, printer Robert Armour, banker C. H. Castle, brewer William Dow, builder Joseph R. Bronsdon and contractor John Redpath. Active in the company's development were architect John Ostell and Albert Furniss, who went on in 1841 to develop gas light-

ing in Toronto.

Eleven years later, in 1847, New City Gas Company was formed to compete with the Montreal Gas Light Company. Its directors included businessman James Ferrier, soap and candle manufacturer John Mathewson and hardware merchant Henry Mulholland – all also Mechanics' Institute members. In 1850, John Ostell, having retired some years before from the Montreal Gas Light Company, became a director of New City Gas, and was its president from 1860 to 1865. He also was president of the Mechanics' Institute from

1845 to 1847.

The McGill University website "Industrial Architecture in Montreal," says the New City Gas building was designed by John Ostell, construction was started in 1859 and was completed in 1861. It is one of the oldest industrial buildings in Montreal. Hanna says the venerable building is in danger of being pounded to death if the new bus route is established.

New City Gas evolved into Royal Electric Company, then Montreal Light, Heat & Power, and latterly into Gaz Métropolitain.

Underdog: 3-legged Charles

BY FERN BRESLAW

Being a basset hound is full of hardship in and of itself; with all the running to keep up, premature wrinkling and the constant threat of drowning. As if having pathetic, short little legs wasn't hard enough, Charles has had to make it through life on only three of them.

He had a front leg amputated after an accident but has learned to get around just fine and has a true Terry Fox attitude. Still, it would be best if he did not have to climb stairs at home to reduce stress on his good front leg.

Charles is only two, he loves dogs, kids and has been around cats too as there were cats in the barn where he used to live. Being a barn dog,

Charles still needs some housetraining but he should catch on quickly. He has all his shots, fixings and is waiting by the phone as I write. If you would like to meet him, please call Gerdy's Rescues at 514.203.9180.



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History quiz: Origins of the POM bakery

BY DOREEN LINDSAY

Question from p. 17. When was POM bakery opened at the Glen?

Answer: September 22, 1930.

POM stands for Pride of Montreal or Pain Orgueil de Montréal. The POM bakery opened on September 22, 1930 on St. Catherine St. east of the Glen. Dent Harrison, founder of the original Harrison Bakery, was then 61 years old and became POM's chairman of the board. His oldest son, Will, was president and sales manager, while son Gordon became vice president and production manager, and son Dent Jr. took on the position of second vice president. Harrison was also keenly interested in his community. He served as an alderman on the Westmount city council for eight years (1927-1935) while George Hogg was mayor.

By June 1985, the successful POM bakery had outgrown its building at the Glen. The family sold it and the land to a developer for \$2.5 million and moved to the east end into larger premises. Today the original building has been renovated, added to and redesigned into an 80-unit condominium complex named Westmount Park Towers. The residents are very

proud of their home and have mounted an interesting historical exhibition in the lobby.

The land had previously been the Lithcoe Farm. The architect of this modern Spanish tile-roofed bakery was Sydney Comber who had designed the family's previous bakery a few streets west on Prince Albert Ave.

The bakery at 319 Prince Albert Ave., opposite Burton, had opened in 1902 and was called Dent Harrison & Sons Limited. It was here that Dent Harrison developed an entirely automatic bread making plant. An avid inventor, Dent worked with engineer W. J. Roberts to develop the first travelling bread oven. In 1909, the oven was delivered to Prince Albert. Six feet wide and 50 feet long, it produced 3,300 perfect loaves of bread the first night. By 1914, Dent's family included six children, William, Florence, Gordon, Edna, Ruth and Dent Jr., the youngest, who was born in 1908, the same year that Westmount gained city status.

In 1894, before operating the Prince Albert Avenue bakery, Dent Harrison had opened his own D. Harrison Baker and Confectioner, Wholesale and Retail at #1 Dunlop Place in 1894. It was where West-

mount Square stands today. The same year Dent married Ellen Whiley, and they lived above the bakery. This was the first of three Harrison bakeries in Westmount.

In 1889, if we go back to the beginning, we find that Dent had come to Montreal in 1889 with his friend Thomas Allat. They settled in Point St. Charles where other English and Irish immigrants lived and listened to their compatriots' desire for "tea and crumpets." People made their own tea but no one was making crumpets.

The two young men went back to England to learn the secrets from Dent's Uncle Hartley and Aunt Jane. Coming back to "The Point" they baked crumpets at night and delivered them during the day. After a year they opened their first store together, Allat & Harrison, Confectioners, at 119 St. Antoine St.

Doreen Lindsay is the president of the Westmount Historical Association.



Today's Westmount Park Towers was yesterday's POM bakery.

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Two and a Half Centuries of Jewish Life in Montreal

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“Every Jewish community should have a Joe King book written about it.”

Eiran Harris, archivist emeritus, Jewish Public

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One book, many stories

A lavishly-illustrated book chronicling two and a half centuries of Jewish life in Montreal, *Fabled City*, will be launched in May, Westmount publisher Price-Patterson Ltd. has announced.

The author is award-winning journalist/broadcaster Joe King. Master story-teller King, author of the bestselling *From the Ghetto to the Main*, and the internationally-celebrated *Jewish Contribution to the Modern World*, has outdone himself in providing an extraordinary collection of 379 illustrations – many being published for the first time.

Smoked meat & Peres' socks

And he has collected more than fifty breezy anecdotes, ranging from documented confirmation on who introduced the bagel and smoked meat to Montreal, to a yarn about Shimon Peres' socks.

Arguably Montreal's most popular speaker, King's books have won rave reviews worldwide. An Israeli, under rocket fire in Sederot, wrote that he knew all about Jewish Montreal because he had “read Joe King's *From the Ghetto to the Main*. And the Jewish Public Library's archivist-emeritus, Eiran Harris, has written “every Jewish community should have a Joe King book written about it.”

Dubbed the “Historian of Jewish Montreal,” the 85-year-old King poured 40 years of research into the new book.

Canada's shame

In thirty chapters, his research has turned up sensational findings on the Canadians who schemed to prevent Jews from escaping Hitler's Europe while assisting war criminals to enter Canada. In one instance, he found that, when the French government sent a warship to bring a convicted killer of Jewish children back to justice, he was tipped off by a Canadian prime minister and fled!

He reveals how Canada's first Jewish winner of the Rhodes Scholarship was offered the chance to become prime minister of the United Kingdom – but turned his back on the opportunity!

A good example of his intensive research is a story he developed on how a 15-year-old boy, wounded in World War I, brought back a rare Bible – presented to him at his *bar mitzvah* in England – and donated it to a Montreal museum.

The author particularly focuses on the extraordinary contributions made, by Jewish men and women, to Canada from September 8, 1760 – the date when Jews could legally enter the country.

Szilasi garnered international acclaim

continued from p. 1

international acclaim. The exhibition will move on to Ottawa's National Gallery of Canada in October before coming back to Montreal next year. Szilasi recommends the Joliette showing, slated to commence on May 24, as the exhibition was designed especially for that museum.

Szilasi and his wife, Doreen Lindsay, bought their townhouse on Grosvenor Ave. in 1968 and now, after raising their daughter and building their lives together, the welcoming home radiates loving memories, creativity and intellect. Be it the basement darkroom, kitchen or living room, the colourful walls not decorated with art are lined with shelves full of prints, books and magazines. Szilasi, who could pass for a much younger man, grew up in Hungary but, in the 50 years since settling in Quebec, has come to identify as a local.

"I consider myself a Canadian – a Québécois – not a nationalist, but I am a Québécois," he said, noting he speaks English at home and French everywhere else. "I like very much the bicultural aspect of Montreal."

Escaping communist Hungary

Born in Budapest, Szilasi was studying medicine when he first attempted to escape the communist-ruled country in 1949. Caught at the border, he was imprisoned for five months. When released, he was deemed an enemy of the state, disallowed an education and forced to take up work in construction. In the early '50s, he bought a Russian-made camera, read the instructions and started taking photos. Through practice, he began to teach himself the craft as he photographed everyday life during the Hungarian Revolution.

Szilasi, who only spoke Hungarian and German at the time, first landed in Halifax in 1957 but eventually settled in Quebec two years later. After learning French and English, he took work with the Office du film du Québec (OFQ), a post that demanded he travel around the region photographing everything from the rural countryside to life in Montreal during the Quiet Revolution. It was this experience, he explained, that truly set the foundation for his life as a photographer.

Szilasi took some photography courses, attended workshops and continued to hone his blossoming craft. After 12 years with the OFQ, he became a teacher. First at a French-speaking CEGEP and then as an associate professor at Concordia Uni-



Gabor Szilasi in his basement darkroom with a photograph he took of the late Yves Gaucher, a well-known, Montreal-based artist. The photograph of Gaucher is one of the few Szilasi has taken of someone famous as he preferred to focus more on the everyday lives of everyday people.

versity where he worked for 15 years before retiring in 1995.

"Through all my work, I have always maintained my personal photography," said Szilasi, who has published three books and participated in an estimated 50 exhibitions. "My main interest is people and their environment. I do landscape only if I can discover the traces of man. If there is a beautiful landscape with a telephone line crossing through, I may photograph it. But if there is no human presence, I am not interested. I left that to Ansel Adams."

Over the years, Szilasi has returned to Hungary to photograph the place he grew up and has travelled extensively in Europe and North America. For two years before taking a sabbatical in Italy, he learned to speak Italian and, while there, he gave talks in the local language and photographed life in the historic country.

"When I travelled in Greece, I did not really speak Greek so I only took a few photographs," Szilasi said. "It's important

for me to be able to communicate. I was able to do a lot of work in Italy because I spoke the language. Culture is language,

and I was always very interested in culture and social change."

Houses for sale continued

continued from p. 15

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Comin' Up...

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

• The bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) holds its second public information session on the **re-vamping of the Turcot interchange**. 7:30 pm at Salle Octogone du Buffet Il Gabiano (1550, Lapierre St., LaSalle.)

• Second **public information meeting on the arena/pool project** at 7 pm at Victoria Hall. Info: www.westmount.org.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22: Westmount Healthy City Project **Tree Walk for Earth**

Day, 4 pm. Guide Bronwyn Chester. Assembling Westmount Park, Library entrance. Free. All welcome. In case of rain, a talk will be given in the Gallery.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

• Henri Habib's talk "**Middle East in Turmoil**" at the Westmount branch of the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors (395 Elm Ave.) examines Iranian affairs, Israel after the February election and the Israeli-Palestinian dilemma, from 10 am to noon. Cost \$15. Reserve: 514.342.1234.

about his novel in French on Thursday, April 23 at 10 am. Benny Library 3465 Benny Ave.). To reserve: 514.872.4669.

• A workshop using props and audience involvement with Jennifer Lloyd, for ages for kids 5-8 years old, at the Westmount Public Library on April 23 at 1 pm.

• *Rise of the Golden Cobra* by Henry T. Aubin, for ages 11 to 14. Aubin speaks about his novel in English on Friday, April 24 at 1:30 pm at the Westmount Public Library. To reserve: 514.989.5300.

• Atelier de haiku avec André Duhaime et Hélène Leclerc, in French, for ages 10 to 12. Friday, April 24 at 5:15 pm at Babar en Ville (1235A Greene Ave.). To reserve: 514.931.0606.

• Anne Renaud reads from her book *Misuk's Snow Geese* and directs a craft project, for ages 4 to 8. Saturday, April 25 at 1 pm at Babar, Pointe Claire (46 Ste. Anne Ave.) To reserve: 514.694.0380.

• Drawing with Yayo, for ages 8 to 12. Saturday, April 25 at 1 pm at Babar en Ville (1235A Greene Ave.). To reserve: 514.931.0606. The same event takes place on April 22, 12:45 pm at the Montreal Children's Library (Atwater branch).

• "Reading time and workshop: What is there inside a magic box?" a workshop in Spanish with Cecilia Pisos, for ages 5 to 9. Volver Café Culturel (5604 Parc Ave.) on Sunday, April 26 at 11 am. Cost: \$3. To reserve: 514.272.4419.

• "Play detective to uncover our history," a talk delivered by Anne Renaud on how she did research for her non-fiction books, for ages 11 and 12. Sunday, April 26 at 1 pm at Eleanor London Public Library (5851 Cavendish Rd., Côte St. Luc). To reserve: 514.485.6900.

The schedule may change so confirm date and time at bluemetropolis.org/Festival/Programme/Children.

• Montreal Branch World Federalist Movement – Canada holds a public meeting with guest speaker Dr. Khalid Medani, McGill professor in Islamic Studies. Topic: Sudan's Political & Humanitarian Crisis: **The Case of Darfur**. 7 pm at Unitarian Church of Montreal (5035 de Maisonneuve W.). 514.426.4170.

FRIDAY APRIL 24

• **TGIF** at Centre Greene (1090 Greene) from 6 pm to 8:30 pm: dinner, games and fun, under the theme of Earth Day. \$10 per child, 5 to 12 years. www.centre-greene.org or 514.931.6202.

• **Human rights** expert and former McGill University Dean of Law, Peter Leuprecht, delivers "Reason, justice, dignity: A journey to sources of our shared humanity," the 2009 Marianopolis College Liberal Arts lecture from 4 to 6 pm. In the amphitheatre at 4873 Westmount Ave. Seating is limited. Confirm attendance at 514.931.8792, ext. 258.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

• Rummage sale at **St. Matthias Church** (131 Côte St. Antoine) from 10 am to 1 pm. Household goods, clothes, toys, linens, books, appliances and more. 514.933.4295.

• Books roadshow with **antiquarian booksellers** Wilfrid de Freitas and Susan Ravdin. Get an expert opinion on the value of your special books. From 1 to 4 pm at the Atwater Library (1200 Atwater). Regu-

9 Lives: Young Victor

BY LYZANNE



Victor is a one-year-old domestic grey and white shorthair, with the most exquisite amber-coloured eyes. Affectionate and loving, he shows amazing loyalty to people. He is a considerate gentleman of a cat, working his charms in gentle ways to make you love him. Victor had a very sad start in life but is now the picture of health. He is neutered, has received all his vaccinations and has been completely vetted. Please welcome young Victor into your heart and your family.

For more information on Victor, please contact Gerdy on her cell phone at

514.203.9180 or email her at info@gerdys-rescue.org.

• **Spring book sale** at the Westmount Public Library April 25 and 26 between 10 am and 5 pm. Donations of books in good condition can be dropped off at the front desk anytime before the sale, or pick-ups can be arranged. Info: Friends of the Westmount Public Library, Carolyn O'Neill at 514.483.5604.

• The **Orpheus Singers**, under the direction of Peter Schubert, present "Dolor et Gaudium," a concert of Renaissance music for Holy Week and Easter, featuring works by Gesualdo, Tallis and Lassus. 8 pm at St. Matthias Church, Reserve: 514.846.8464.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26: The choir of Mountainside United Church and the chamber orchestra of FACE present a **spring concert** of Bach, Pergolesi and Schubert at 4 pm. Tickets at door: \$15, general; \$12, students and seniors. 514.486.1165.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29: "**From Earth Art to Monumental Stone Sculptures by Blending Art and Science**" with Dr. Harry Rosen. 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30: Lunch and guest speaker at **Contactivity Centre**: Horse rescue volunteer Karin Gebert talks of her experiences rescuing abandoned or mistreated horses. Lunch at 1 pm. \$5. Reservations needed by Tuesday 514.932.2326.

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Many thanks for giving this young fellow a chance at adoption.

Your neighbour,
Lyzanne

Artwork by Laura S. Cohendet



Blue Met events featuring Westmount authors and locations

Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival 2009 includes several Westmount authors this year, including Henry T. Aubin, Cecilia Pisos, Anne Renaud, Claire Holden Rothman, Eric Siblin and Joel Silverstein. Blue Met takes place between April 22 to 26. The schedule may change so confirm date and time at bluemetropolis.org.

Cecilia Pisos is taking part in a roundtable discussion "La Force des mots: Argentine / Palabras de peso: Argentina" in Spanish, about contemporary Argentinean literature on Thursday, April 23 at 7 pm at Volver Café Culturel (5604 Parc Ave.) \$10 at the door.

"Becoming a Writer" is a panel discussion on Saturday, April 25 including Claire Holden Rothman, Licia Canton, Miguel Syjuco, Alice Zorn at Delta Centre-Ville at 12:30 pm. Cost: \$10.

Readings in the afternoon, with Eric Siblin, Ami Sands Brodoff, Monique Proulx, Andrew Steinmetz. Siblin will read from his latest novel *The Cello Suites*. Friday, April 24, 4 pm at Delta Centre-Ville. \$10.

Joel Silverstein is taking part in the launch of *Quebec Roots*, a book of photographs and texts reflecting the cultural diversity of Quebec communities that he helped produce. Thursday, April 23 at 2 pm at Delta Centre-Ville. Free.

Children's festival

This year will be the second Blue Metropolis Children's Festival. Several events involve Westmount residents or locations:

- "Be A Cover Artist" with Raquel Rivera, ages 6 to 12) on April 22 at the Westmount Public Library at 1 pm. Rivera will ask children to help her design the covers for imaginary books, based on their titles.

- *L'ascension du cobra d'or* by Henry T. Aubin, for ages 11 to 14. Aubin speaks

Westmount Profile: Dr. Harry Rosen

Blending art and science

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Dr. Harry Rosen applies the same principle to his pursuit of stone sculpture and earth art as he does to his long career as a pioneer and McGill professor in restorative and reconstructive dentistry.

“What fits together or functions well usually looks good,” he says.

“By introducing engineering principles to dentistry, it allows us to save teeth by redistributing the load. Later on, we can actually see evidence that bone healing has occurred through the creation of a conducive healing environment. We do this in health sciences all the time through surgical intervention so that nature can do the healing.”

And for Rosen, “it’s the same thing with earth art in its purest form – harvest the rocks from the lake, combine them with trees and let nature take its course.”

To speak at the library

The link between art and science is one of his favourite topics – one he will explore as a guest speaker in the Westmount Public Library’s culture lecture series Wednesday, April 29 at 7 pm. Fittingly, the library has played a significant role in the life of this longtime Westmount resident and his family.

It was after Rosen acquired a country home in 1961 at Entre Lacs in the Laurentians, however, that he was inspired to build the gravity-held stone figures that now grace his sculpture garden. Some tower up to 12 feet and weigh up to 10 tons.

His work evolved from the dynamic effects he had achieved in moving boulders from the lake to build a wall for preventing erosion. And Rosen turned his focus to reshaping the sedimentary rock by breaking it apart along natural layers created over millions of years.

It literally took his dentistry skills to a much higher level, for which he had to devise a system of levers and pulleys to position and balance the heavy rocks.

Sculpture to hospital

One figure, a 6-foot sculpture of a child he calls “Little Hercules”, will be moved in July to the entrance of the Montreal Children’s Hospital, Rosen says.

Inspired by his eight grandchildren, the sculpture depicts a child wearing his cap backward and lifting a weight above his

head. It represents the strength of a child, he explains, which, from the hospital’s point of view, symbolizes the child leaving the hospital with renewed strength and resilience.

At age 80, Rosen still maintains his dental practice on Côte des Neiges Rd. below the Montreal General Hospital, where he continues to teach. He is also an active professor emeritus at McGill.

“I’m a social animal,” he explains, “I enjoy my contact with people. However a major part of my success in life and art is my ability to be by myself – eliminating the rest of the world – and to focus on my work whether it be one tooth or one rock.”

Learning to focus

Rosen learned how to focus as a child. Growing up with grandparents on St. Urbain St., he was given many tasks by his grandfather, a do-it-yourselfer who rewarded him for a job well done. “With numerous success experiences, you can raise the bar,” he says.

It’s a message Rosen imparts to students, and one that has guided his own life.

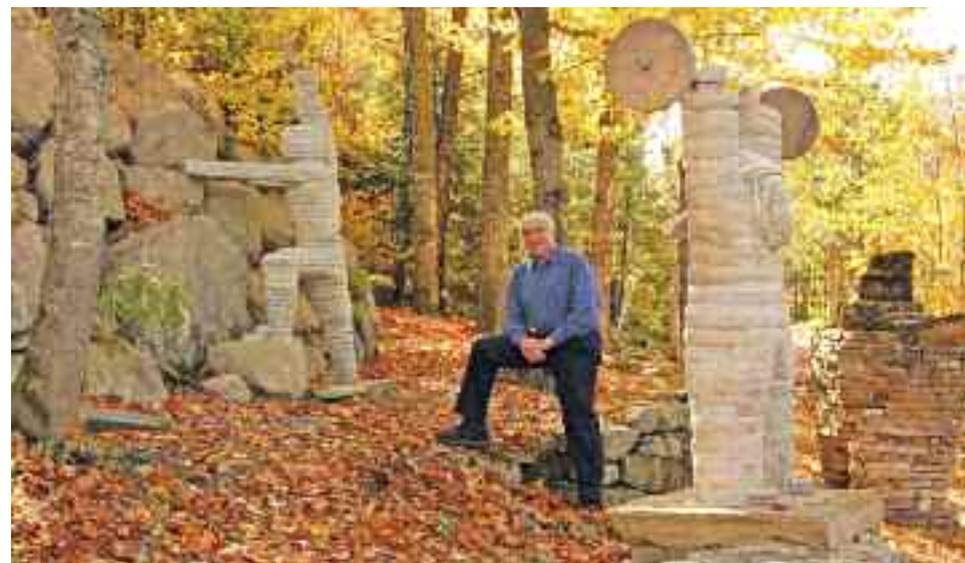
Describing his early wall-building efforts, he was fascinated by the way he could fit the rocks together by size, shape, colour and texture using the same correlation between aesthetics and function as he does in dentistry.

He noticed how the wall changed with the years as cedar seedlings and other vegetation began growing through the rocks, and he came to realize how function and beauty were being enhanced by nature itself – even though one day the wall would be obliterated. “I only created the conducive environment,” he says.

It reminds him of the rock temples in Cambodia that have become overgrown with the roots of huge trees as “nature takes it all back.” Rosen has travelled extensively. “Wherever there’s stone, I’ve been there.”

His first sculpture was a 9-foot image of a man with outstretched arms. Reminiscent of Inuit stone figures called Inummariit, it has earned the name “Bonhomme”. This type of Inuit figure is commonly referred to as Inuksuk sculpture.

Then came “Universal Woman on a Half Shell” based on Botticelli’s “The Birth of Venus”. Rosen’s 12-foot monument was a challenge in balance, he says. “How do you get the rocks to stand together without falling over?” The answer, he suggests,



Dr. Harry Rosen with “The Ascent” (left) and “Little Hercules” (right).

lies in the equilibrium of the female figure symbolized by her role in providing family stability, a tribute to his own wife, Delores.

She and Rosen moved to Westmount just after their marriage and raised their three children on Upper Roslyn, Carleton and Anwoth. Eric is now an entertainment lawyer; Joy, a TV producer; and Paula lives in Vancouver, where her husband – former McGill dean of law Stephen J. Toope – is president of UBC.

Rosen enjoyed being able to cycle up

and down the hills and around Summit Circle after a day’s work. An outdoors person, he acquired the country home to take up windsurfing, he says, “before my interest in landscaping took over.”

He is currently completing his newest sculpture, “The Ascent”. It depicts a man climbing a wall and is based on lines from poet Robert Browning that epitomize Rosen’s own philosophy of life: “A man’s reach should exceed his grasp, or what’s a heaven for?”

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