



WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 4 No. 8c

We are Westmount

August 17-18, 2010

Sports registration guaranteed for most activities, levels

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Lines and waiting lists appear to be a thing of the past for Westmounters signing up to play hockey or join most other activities. Sports and Recreation will be extending last spring's guaranteed-space policy to its fall and winter program.

"There will no stampede for spaces.

Registration should be calm and civilized," said sports coordinator Anitra Bostock. Sign-up takes place from August 23 to September 1.

Last spring's experiment proved such a success that the same guarantee is being continued, despite the challenge it was expected to create in accommodating the high demand for hockey.

"It may result in less ice time for some teams depending on the numbers of people signing up," Bostock explained. But now the number of teams will be allocated according to the number of registrants rather than pre-determined based on ice scheduling. *continued on p. 5*

INSIDE

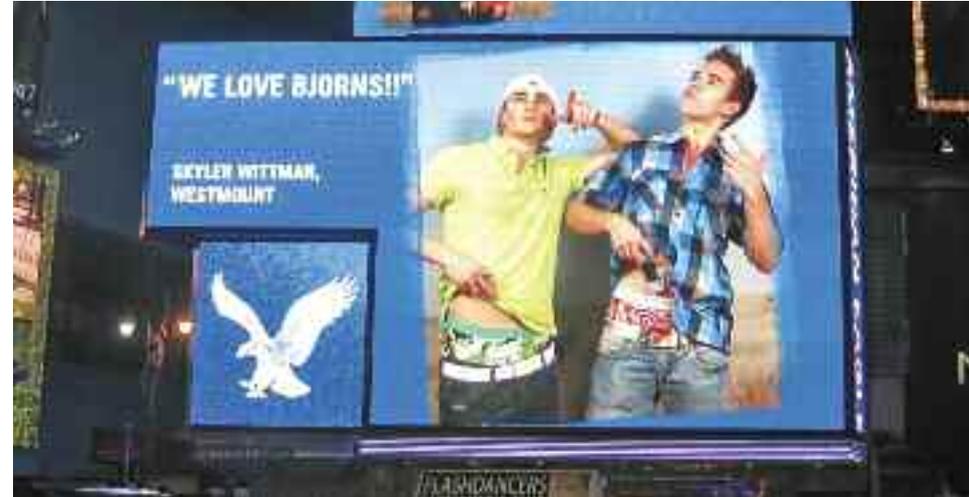
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Skyler Wittman's 'brief' moment of fame



Westmounter Skyler Wittman (left) and Misha Jackson flashed their briefs over Times Square in February and parlayed that into an advertising contract with Björn Borg underwear. See p. 5 for details.

Photo: Misha Jackson

Dawson reaches out to students on iPhones, a Quebec first

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Dawson College is reported to be the first educational institution in Quebec to unveil a mobile software application designed especially to disseminate important information and school community news to students using iPhones.

Reaching out to them via their new popular culture, the CEGEP is trailblazing the way students can access their grades, course schedules, cancellations and assemblies as well as other up-to-date changes and urgent messages – all at the simple touch of a screen.

"We're trying to open up new lines of

communication," said François Paradis, director of Information Systems and Technology.

This new application (app) was created by software developer Craig Howlett of Howlogical.

"The app opens up a new way for a school to reach its students now that devices such as the iPhone are no longer considered luxury items in our society," he explained. "Students use these devices throughout a normal day."

The app enables them to discover where in the sprawling building to find student services and other offices as they *continued on p. 7*

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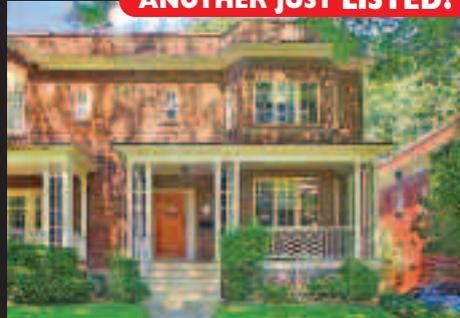


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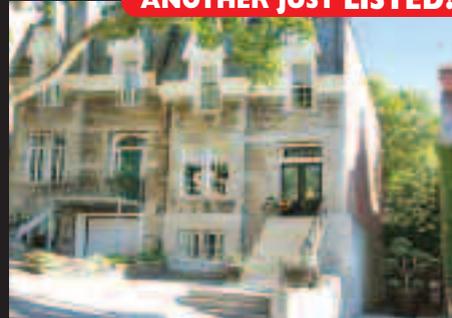
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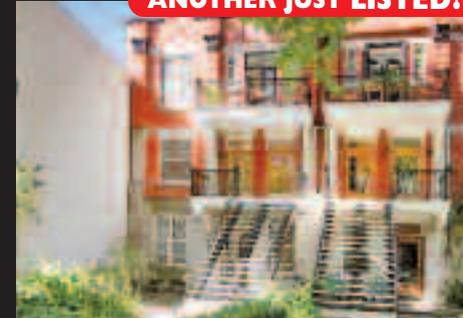
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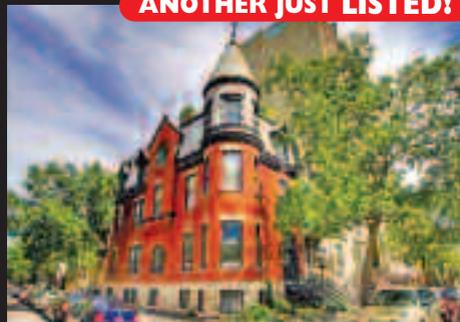
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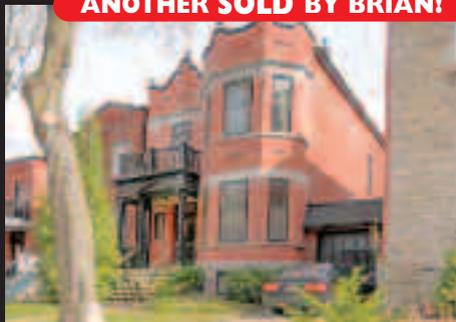
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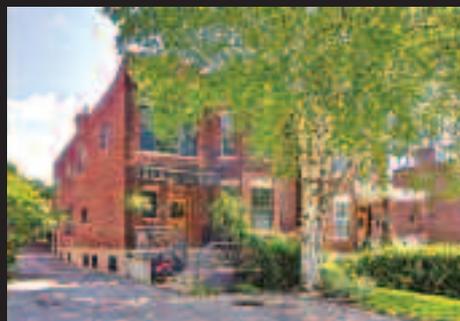
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April targetted, staging studied

Work to build the new arena/pool complex could start as early as next April, for completion in September 2012 and the hockey and skating season, city director general Duncan Campbell said last week.

The city is studying ways to stage construction in an overlapping manner to reduce inconvenience to users and maintain programs as much as possible, he explained. Three exploratory bore holes were made at the site last month in this connection.

“One of the options being studied is to maintain the main sheet of ice while working on other aspects of construction.” This way some of the programs might be saved next fall.

Negotiations are underway to accommodate the city's swim team at another pool for next summer, he added.

The city project, long in planning, is considered to be already underway, well ahead of the deadline of March 31, 2011, Campbell said. This is widely reported as the end of the government infrastructure stimulus program.

\$1.3 million already set aside for architect, others Arena budget excludes most fees

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Detailed cost estimates attached to the city's \$37-million by-law exclude the \$1.3 million already set aside in 2008 to cover architectural and other professional fees, according to city director general Duncan Campbell.

While an added \$750,000 “contingency for additional architectural/engineering fees” is included in the \$37 million, this is expected to be sufficient to cover any unforeseen amounts that might occur, he said.

Another fee buffer has been built into the \$1-million allocation for site decontamination, which is not expected to require that amount.

The Lemay architectural fees have been a source of questioning from citizens at council since the design work began.

While some \$800,000 has already been spent, including abandoned designs proposed by the previous council, Campbell said, architectural work on the current project, which is largely underground, is expected to be less than one above ground.

Fees are currently under negotiation, he explained. They are based on a per-

centage of the net construction cost of the building project, which has gone from \$19 million initially to \$28.6 million over some two years.

Added to this is \$1.5 million in construction contingencies and close to another \$1 million in “administration and profit of contractor” for a sub-total of \$31 million.

The contingency for architectural/engineering fees, project management costs, soil decontamination and taxes brings the total to \$37 million.

The \$28.6 million construction cost includes all building materials, mechanicals, special installations, ice rink and pool systems, finishing and furnishings.

The \$37-million loan in this amount is expected to be offset by the \$20-million government infrastructure grant and \$5 million in fundraising, leaving taxpayers to fund some \$12 million over 10 years.

The by-law was submitted to a public register August 17, a day after the *Independent* went to press.

The \$20-million infrastructure agreement with the federal and Quebec governments forms most of the 53 pages of attachments to the by-law.



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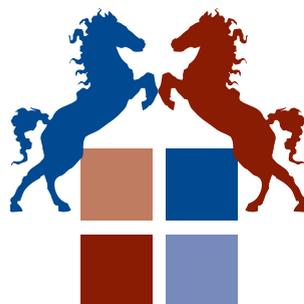
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

YES TO DISCRETIONARY ENFORCEMENT OF LEASH LAW

I have two great pleasures in life: reading the papers in the morning first thing and seeing my dog happy and tired. Both are in jeopardy.

Recently I was told by a Public Security officer that dogs off leash were only allowed at Summit Park before 9 am and after 6 pm. What has been understood by me, and most people walking their dogs, is that the sign is there so if a dog is misbehaving, it has to be put on a leash or be fined.

I have a standard poodle, Daisy, and she loves to run on the summit, the only place where she can do so off leash. Like me, people who walk their dogs on the summit are very upset at this rule being enforced at a risk of a \$200 fine. We all respect the migration season from April 15 to June 15 and you will see very few dogs up there and only on leash.

I am on the summit almost every day at different times and if I see more than 10 to 15 dogs over the course of the day, that's a lot.

We dog owners are responsible and the dogs are well behaved. If there is a problem dog, group pressure (just as in the dog runs) works. The dog runs are great places for dogs to socialize; however, dogs need exercise and most will stand there or sniff the grass and poop.

The summit is a wonderful and peaceful place and the dogs make it a safer. I say: if it works pretty well, leave it alone and Public Security can focus on real problems in Westmount: speeding,* graffiti, vandalism...

MERYLYN WILK
SHERBROOKE ST.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: It is my understanding that Public Security does not have the legal authority to ticket for moving violations.*

HERE IS SUMMIT BALANCE

As a dog owner who has been enjoying Summit Park for almost 30 years, I know I speak for all the regulars when I say that we know and really appreciate what a privilege it is for us to have this space to walk freely with our dogs off leash.

We are also respectful of the fact that we are in a public place for all to enjoy, so we obey the spring bird nesting period rules, and we pick up after our dogs. And we are happy to share the space with everyone else.

Many years ago, it seems that off-leash dog walking in spring, summer and fall was limited to before 9 am and after 6 pm so that bird watchers could have the entire day to themselves at the summit. All the years I've been walking, there have been a handful of birders, this "law" was rarely enforced, and everyone got along.

So why, the big crackdown now? Today,

especially on weekdays, there is almost no one up there without a dog.

In terms of "finding a balance," it seems that relegating us to this extremely limited timeframe defies all logic and sense of fairness.

Off-leash all day (except nesting period) and on weekends before 11 and after 5 seems much more reasonable.

I believe if the *Independent* had checked out the scene at the summit and interviewed some of the responsible citizens up there, it would have published a very different article. I'm not sure how someone can be the president of a "dormant" association, but I am sure that Bridget Blackader does not represent the views of any dog owner I see regularly at the summit.

PAULA ENGELS, AND DOG MADDIE,
VICTORIA AVE.

SAFE SIDEWALKS MEAN NO VEHICLES ON THEM

As someone who walks everywhere I was delighted to read your story last week about the Safe Walk initiative. I would like to suggest that even more dangerous than uneven sidewalk concrete or obscuring foliage is the cavalier attitude exhibited by gardeners and other contactors with respect to parking their trucks on city sidewalks.

To illustrate my point, I am sending a couple of photos taken this week of a typical behaviour that often requires walkers (particularly those pushing strollers) to move dangerously into the street to pass the offending vehicles. I am not talking about the rare situation when parking is not available or a heavy delivery is being made that requires irregular stopping of a vehicle on a sidewalk. In this case, as it is usually, there was ample parking available on the side of the street where parking is legal, yet this individual felt the need to park on the sidewalk, on the "no parking"

side, and in front of the "no parking" sign – and a fire hydrant no less. This truck was there for about 20 to 30 minutes while yard maintenance was done at several houses on the opposite side of the street. It was not necessary. It is dangerous. It happens all over Westmount with increasing frequency and it is extremely rude and disrespectful of other users of the street and sidewalk.

I would like to see the city be more proactive at ticketing these infractions in the hope that contractors will think twice about blocking the safe passage of pedestrians. This would be a significant improvement in pedestrian safety at no cost to the city.

HELEN MATHESON
LANSDOWNE AVE.

NO LEADERSHIP ON CITY'S BIGGEST EVER SPEND

Regarding the arena/pool project, let's re-cap – faulty needs-analysis, bad interpretation of said needs-analysis, perverse focus on covered hockey rinks (two!), false sense of urgency from the "time sensitive" government grant, no covered pool for the swimmers, laughable reference to Sustainable Westmount, and a pathetic interpretation of an amateur questionnaire to conclude there's "phenomenal support" for this project, with council's unanimous vote to proceed.

And now, come on, one day for 500 people to express hesitation for the project, in the quietest period of the year? Council's members have to be sensitive about their overall conduct here – no demonstrated needs, no money, no democracy, no transparency, and now no more time? Could this equal no leadership? How disappointing.

Westmount's biggest-ever spend, impacting several generations into the future, with all these issues, and council can't muster the confidence in their plan to allow further debate and improvement? It's hard to believe this is the way things have to be, or to claim the public is being served by its council on this issue.

Good thing we have great administration and coaching and volunteering and support to cheer on our championship hockey players and swimmers and skaters, and to encourage our older athletes too. This proposed new arena project won't change the excellence we have known in this regard, thank goodness.

WILLEM WESTENBERG
STAYNER ST.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

Weekly
Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

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CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney
PROOFREADER: Stella Mindorff

LETTERS & COMMENTS:

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. If you do make amendments, please "redline" them instead of resending the whole letter. Email any letter or comments to indie@westmountindependent.com.

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An offence with no excuse

Photo: H Matheson

Registration...

continued from p. 1

Among the few exceptions are senior and executive hockey, power skating for kids and several programs geared to kids.

There might also be a slightly condensed hockey or skating schedule depending on the start of construction for the new arena, city director general Duncan Campbell told the *Independent*. It is hoped to get the shovel in the ground in April or as early as possible.

Typically, ice is removed mid-April and

most programs wind down by spring breaks in March, according to Sports and Recreation director Michael Deegan.

"We've expanded our repertoire and it should be really exciting," Bostock said. "We're going after every kid and person in Westmount."

All activities and times are listed in the handbook distributed to all Westmount homes last week as well as posted on the city website at www.westmount.org.

Registration times are generally during office hours weekdays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Exceptions are the two Wednesdays (August 25 and September 1) when hours are noon to 8 pm.

Among this year's new offerings for adults is the current Zumba Dance craze as well as seminars in Understanding Human Behaviour. New youth classes include Teen Tai Chi, Youth International Dance and Yoga Fun.

An All Star Society program for kids aged 1 to 6 features three courses called Art Play, Creative I and Exploration. There is also a parent and child (2 to 5 years) dance program.

"We're anticipating increased registration for girls' indoor soccer (ages 10 to 14), which will provide six teams, the first time ever," Bostock said. Last year, registration increased to 40 from 20.

Wittman's 'brief' moment of internet fame

BY ERIN STROPES

Westmount teen Skyler Wittman showed off his favourite boxers on a huge electronic billboard in Times Square, and has won a jackpot of Swedish designer underwear for his trouble.

The 15,000-square-foot billboard only briefly displayed the image of Wittman and classmate Misha Jackson flashing their Björn Borg boxers, accompanied by a caption reading "We love Bjorns! Skyler Wittman, Westmount." But the moment was immortalized in a photo that got top votes in the popular European designer's "Be a Swedish Export" photo contest.

Wittman heard about the contest from Westmounter Anthony Salvo, a Selwyn House student and inter-city hockey teammate who won the contest, and "his weight in underwear," last summer with a photo taken in Hawaii.

Wittman had discovered the Björn Borg label during a 2008 trip to Holland, where the brand enjoys high popularity. But with prices hovering around \$30 a pair, a drawer full of Björns could be an expensive foray into the fashion world.

So Wittman and Jackson, who both completed grade 11 at Royal West Academy

this year, decided to take a shot at the prize themselves. Inspiration struck during a class trip to New York City in February 2010. "Our friends were all getting their pictures put up on the billboard, and we realized that was the perfect place."

So, what is Wittman going to do with his half of more than 100 pairs of Swedish designer boxers? "Well, I'm probably going to keep 15 or 20 pairs, but I'm planning to give a lot of them away. I've got enough to last me forever."



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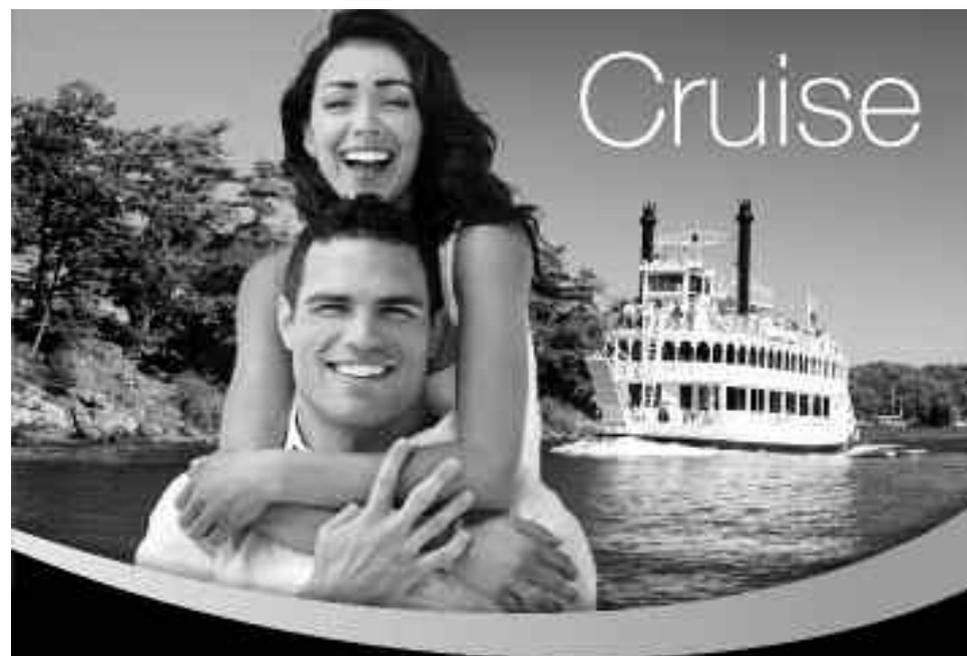
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Comin' Up

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Summer Film Club at the Westmount Library, 2 pm. Contact the Circulation Desk for film title & description, 514.989.5299.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20

Westmount Public Library's Chess and Scrabble Club meets at 2 pm in the Westmount Room, all welcome.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

Book launch at Babar en Ville: 2 books by Cecil Castellucci. Tea will be served. 2 pm, 1235A Greene Ave. Info: 514.931.0606 ● Place Kensington Seniors Residence holds its garage sale from 11 am to 5 pm at 15 Hillside Ave. Proceeds to the Children's Wish Foundation and Place Kensington's Recreation Department. All welcome, also on Sunday ● Westmounter Eleanor Hynes leads the Montreal Urban Hikers Walking Club on a guided tour of lower Westmount. Meet at Victoria Hall at 9:30 am rain or shine. \$2 donation requested. Info: Eleanor Hynes 514.938.4910 or www.montrealurbanhikers.ca

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

Sheila Goldbloom will discuss Aging, Myths and Reality at the Shaar Hash-

omayim, 425 Metcalfe Ave. Lunch and program \$5, reservations required. Time: Noon for Lunch, Program 12:45 pm. Tel. 514-937-9471 ● Stones and Beer Bike Tour: Explore local history, architecture, secret spots and building stones on your bike. Begins at the Redpath Museum, travels through Westmount and glides downhill through the Glen to McAuslan Brewery for a tasting of 5 different microbrews and finishes with the ghosts of Griffintown. Price: \$25 regular or \$15 for students/seniors, includes the popular booklet *What Building Stones Tell* and beer tasting at the McAuslan Brewery with fresh market bread, fruit, and cheese. Reservations: 514.398.4094 or email: in-grid.birker@mcgill.ca. Limited to 20 participants.

MONDAY, AUGUST 23

Poetry in the Park: local poets present an evening of poetry and spoken word in Westmount Park at 6:30 pm. Bring your own chair to the lagoon, rain location Victoria Hall. Info: Wanda 514.481.9891

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

Harmonia Westmount, a women's community choir, will hold its annual auditions for new members. Experienced and inexperienced singers welcome. Info: harmoniawestmount@gmail.com or 514.762.0216 to make an appointment.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

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Favourable decision on 72 Summit Crescent City asked to clarify demo law

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

News of a favourable decision by the city's demolition committee came quickly after it heard plans August 11 to alter more than 50 percent of all façades of a modern house at 72 Summit Crescent and add two second-storey rooms.

The decision to grant a demolition permit was announced the next day by Councillor Patrick Martin, chairman, after the project went unopposed.

It was the city's process used to calculate the 50 percent figure, however, that was questioned as being unclear. A demolition permit is required when this much work is planned even when the building is not being torn down.

"I think there should be a distinction between actual demolition and someone who wants to change a house in a significant way," said Adam Borowczyk of Archettura, who had presented the renovation plans.

Raising his concerns during and after the hearing, in response to a question by committee member Theodora Samiotis, he outlined the potential for people to "cheat" in determining what is included in the 50-percent requirement.

One could reduce the percentage by excluding a window in the total, for example, and later apply for a second permit. Or, carry out a project in stages. "If you have a law, it must be simple and clear," he said.

The city is becoming stricter, knowing that borderline cases can often reach or exceed the 50-percent level during construction, explained Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier. Then the work has to be stopped while a demolition permit is obtained, which can be a costly process.

In this particular case, she said, the proposal called for only 46 percent.

His design for transforming the home into a more traditional residence with a less prominent garage had already been approved in principle May 18 by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

Situated at the corner of Summit Crescent and Shorncliffe, the 1966 house needs replacement of brickwork and other repairs, he explained. The owner, Barry Cohen, also wants to add a bedroom and den on top of a one-storey portion that fronts on Summit Crescent.

Rated Category II by the city, the house bears no historical significance, explained PAC chairman Carole Scheffer. While situated in an area of other contemporary houses, "we feel it lacks cohesion with the setting," she said. It belonged between

buildings rather than on a corner lot.

The new design, by comparison, "has a clear artistic expression more consistent with a traditional manor house," and will integrate well into the context. The work is estimated at \$500,000.

Committee member Kathleen Duncan questioned the proposed higher sloping roof relative to the neighbour's lower one. Chairman Patrick Martin asked about zoning setbacks while Samiotis wondered whether or not the materials removed would be recycled.

For homeowner Cohen, who has been trying to undertake repairs and renovations almost from the time he purchased the property in 2007, a favourable hearing could pave the way to the end of a long process that has involved two architects, he told the *Independent*.

"We had to make about 10 submissions the first time," he said. The PAC kept requiring changes, which were made, he explained. "At the end, they asked, for a new design. They led us down the garden path." That's when he changed architects.

His last hurdle now is to receive council approval to detailed plans.



François Paradis (left) and Craig Howlett demonstrate the new Dawson student iPhone application.

Dawson goes mobile

continued from p. 1

move around the school. This is expected to be particularly timely for students returning to class in the next two weeks, especially those new to Dawson.

In the event of a lockdown, fire or other campus emergency, students would also be able to use the app to find out what is happening or receive directives.

On the hot list

Rolled out May 16, just at the end of the school year, the app has already been downloaded by 1,200 users of iPhones, iPods and iPads, and over the summer it

has been on the "hot list" of educational applications from the "App store."

A week later, the new software was presented to IT directors from CEGEPs across Quebec at a semi-annual conference, where it was met with enthusiasm by other schools expected to follow Dawson's lead.

Immediately following the shooting incident at Dawson in September 2006, when students had experienced difficulty accessing information, college officials announced the need to improve communication to students. "This is an important step in the process," Paradis said.

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9 Lives

LYZANNE

We are featuring two wonderful cats for adoption this week, both from SPCA Montréal.



Mae
This beautiful female long-haired is Mae. She is a year old, quite petite and elegant with an extremely sweet and affectionate nature. She was found outside and brought to the SPCA Montréal for adoption. She is very healthy, has been spayed,



Hickatine
vaccinated and completely vetted. This strikingly handsome white male shorthair with black markings is Hickatine. He is four years old, and he is extremely affectionate and cuddly. He is declawed on his front paws, which makes him an indoor-only cat. He was left at the SPCA Montréal shelter when his family moved and is now more than ready for a loving home. He is also the picture of health, is neutered, vaccinated and completely vetted.

For more information on lovely Mae and huggable Hickatine, please call the SPCA Montréal at 514.386.5960 or email info@spcamonteregie.com.

Your neighbour, Lyzanne

Jesse, too sensitive for pound

Underdog

MARY LAMEY

Not much good ever comes of being a pit-bull terrier in the dog pound at Christmas. That's exactly where 10-month-old Jesse, a red and white pitty, found himself last December. It was all too much for this sad, scared pup, who promptly developed a fever and then stopped eating.

"We arranged five kinds of dog food in bowls in his cage, but he was too depressed to eat," said Jacqueline of Reach for the Stars Rescue. "He would only eat a little if we were there patting him."

She vowed to find Jesse a home in time for the holidays, but it just didn't come to pass.

Lately, Jesse has been living in a foster home, where he plays all day with a big dog. In fact, this sweet-natured guy could be a poster pup for pit-bull awareness because he gets loves everybody.

"He's super animal friendly," said Jacqueline. "He gets along with all dogs,



Jesse

all cats, everybody!"

Unfortunately, his foster friend is leaving Montreal for the US very shortly and though she'd love to, she can't take sweet Jesse with her. At the very least, he needs a foster home. Is a forever home too much to hope for?

Jesse is house broken and crate trained - he looves his crate. He's been neutered and had all his shots. He doesn't have a mean bone in his body.

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Guez's chair design honours her mother, Myriam Libratti



In Conversation

HEATHER BLACK

ation in chair design. Yet this artist's creations have soul! Using classic forms, stark triangles and sensuous circles, she invites storytelling and Myriam is no exception.

A large and comfortable design, Myriam represents maternity.

The chair's silhouette resembles a woman, while the large circular cushion suggests an embryo. The white fabric exudes a calm comfort.

Yet a sense of whimsy prevails that invites role playing. When we are enveloped in soft fabric like a mother's arms, "we can sometimes be the child... or a mother with a child."

For the artist, it speaks of "protection."

A larger dream

First exhibited in March 2009 at Victoria Hall, the chair took form after the death of her mother, Myriam Libratti, whom Guez describes as "her best friend." Yet the artist is not content to stop there.

A stone version of the chair is planned for the garden of her mother's former workplace, the Hadasah Hospital.

There Libratti, a midwife, assisted women in the maternity ward.

To realize this dream, Guez has teamed up with the Canadian Hadassah WIZO (CHW) of Greene Ave. A philanthropic organization that supports women, children and healthcare, here and in Israel, CHW features Guez's project on their website.

A tribute to mothers

Called the Myriam Libratti Memorial Fund, all proceeds will go to the hospital.

But for Guez, a young mother of two



Nathalie Guez's Myriam chair

herself, this project is not just a tribute to her mother, but to "all mothers."

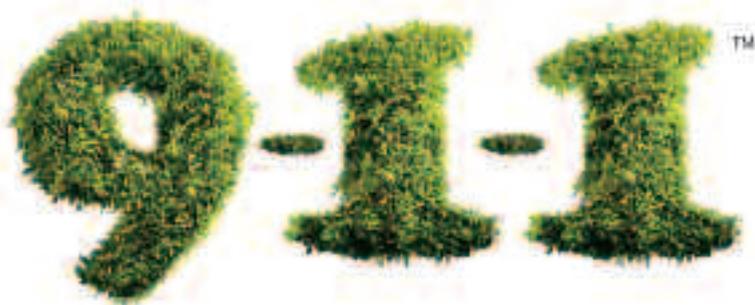
A plaque on the finished sculpture will commemorate donors' mothers or "second mothers" – those women who have played a nurturing role.

Moreover Myriam will be a centerpiece of the hospital's garden – coincidentally named "Myriam's Garden" – a place where mothers relax and children play.

For Guez, chairs are "portraits of individuals and mirror society." Certainly that is true for the artist's tribute to her mother – a design that transcends borders and cultures.

For more information on the project, visit: www.chw.ca/en/page/256.

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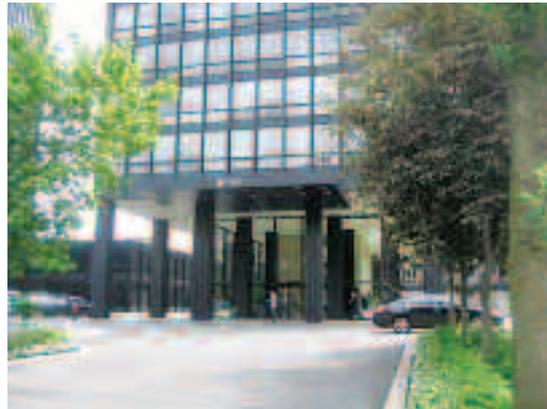
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The art of the figure: Dvorezky and Van Hove



Westmount Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

Dvorezky captures life-size subjects on large, textured canvases. Defining his subjects by broad strokes over a thin wash, while final drips of oil glaze convey the wetness of water and exertion.

In "Leo's Birthday", a leaping boy pinches his nostrils before plunging into water. Painted against a warm orange background, his exuberant energy recalls Tom Sawyer or Huck Finn. Like "Jumping Boy", also set against an orange background, the subject's foreshortened limbs enhance volume and gesture.

This technique also creates drama. In "Horse Head", a tethered horse with flaring nostrils is viewed from below. Set against a grey-gold background, this distortion is fun, if not humorous. Modern in colour and rendition, the artist's use of scored lines exaggerates its nervous energy.

A departure for the classically-trained artist – previous work referenced Velazquez, Hals or Sargent – Dvorezky's new subjects are colourfully acrobatic. Displayed in the gallery's "Extreme Painting Exhibit", this series illustrates the artist's playful humour and own sense of adventure.

Francine Van Hove at Galerie de Bellefeuille

In contrast, French artist Van Hove is acclaimed for delicate tones and detailed, photo-realistic style. Painting from life, her young models are bathed in a soft, otherworldly light. Conveying an idealized femininity,



"Le plongeur" by Francine Van Hove.

meticulous brushstrokes on fine linen allow the colours to blend harmoniously. In "Le plongeur" a young woman has fallen asleep with the book *Anna Karenina* still in her hands. Nearby, three poppies add colour and romance to the almost monochromatic garden scene. Here the foliage and rug is painted in fine detail, while the book's title is easily read. The scene is eloquently timeless.

"La méga-flore" also has storybook appeal. In this scene, a young brunette and blonde – not unlike Snow White and Rose Red – are entranced by a book of botanical prints. "Triple je" also harkens to a past era, yet is distinctly modern. Standing before a three-panel mirror, the multiple re-

fections of a young woman enchant the viewer.

Known for transparent skin tones and delicacy of detail, Van Hove's art evokes the sensuality of Bouguereau or the young Manet. This exhibit – her first solo at Galerie de Bellefeuille – runs until August 25.

Sense and sensibility

The words active, vibrant and fun describe Dvorezky's "Jump" series, while gentle and lyrical convey Van Hove's romantic ideal. Yet as both artists match technique with subject – bridging imagination and understanding – the viewer is left spellbound.

Late August at the art galleries

Galerie de Bellefeuille – Joan Elliott: paintings, exhibit August 14 – 25. Francine Van Hove: paintings, exhibit August 14 – 25. Sylvain Louis-Seize: paintings, exhibit August 28 – September 8.

1367 Greene, 514.933.4406. Parisian Laundry – Group show "Summertime in Paris". Exhibit continues to August 28. 3550 St. Antoine, 514.989.1056.



"Jumping Boy" by Costa Dvorezky.

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ON THE SHELVES

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

Adult English – A Bit of Mayhem

A *Cook's Tour* by Anthony Bourdain – Join chef Bourdain as he describes his round-the-world tour aimed at discovering the holy grail of cooking and eating. His writing and travel styles are entertaining and no holds barred, and his accounts of

his forays into the weird and wonderful in far flung places like Puerto Angel, Mexico and Siem Reap, Cambodia are eye-opening, to say the least.

The Black Minutes by Martín Solares – This tale covers many a literary genre and device including: miscarriage of justice à la *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, a hint of magical realism, surrealism, and time shifting. This first novel by Solares was a finalist for the Grand Prix de Littérature Policière de Paris and has been garnering rave reviews across Europe.

Adult French – The Winds of War

L'alouette affolée by Gilbert Boulanger – Boulanger relates his experience as a gunner on a Canadian Air Force bomber during World War II. An avid airman, now 87,

he also describes how he built a custom-made airplane with a friend when he was 84!

HHhH by Laurent Binet – Winner of the Goncourt prize for a first novel, this book tells how two Czech paratroopers were sent from London in 1942 to kill Gestapo chief Reinhard Heydrich and recounts the chase that ensued. Though presented as a work of fiction, *HHhH* is based on a true story and the author's extensive historical research.

Reference

Guide info-famille: organismes, livres, sites Internet, DVD by the Centre d'information du CHU Sainte-Justine.

Westmount Parks and Green Spaces.

Magazines

"A hole in the world: the BP disaster reveals the risks in imagining that we have complete command over nature" by Naomi Klein in *Nation*, July 12, p. 14.

"Comment sauver les océans? Pétrole,

gaz, métaux précieux...Les richesses des fonds marins attisent les convoitises des scientifiques ainsi que des grandes sociétés pétrolières et minières. Jusqu'où iront-ils?" by Marie-Eve Cousineau, in *L'Actualité*, August 2010, p. 26.

DVDs

The Children of Huang Shi – Inspired by true events, this film is set in 1930s war-torn China and chronicles the life of George Hogg, a young Englishman who leads 60 orphaned boys on an extraordinary journey of almost a thousand miles across the snow-bound Liu Pan Shan mountains to safety on the edge of the Mongolian desert.

Unmistaken Child – This extraordinary documentary follows the four-year search for the reincarnation of Lama Konchog. The Dalai Lama charges the deceased monk's devoted disciple to search for his master's reincarnation, a child who may be anywhere in the world.

Children's

Miss Brooks Loves Books! (and I don't) by Barbara Bottner – An enthusiastic librarian is determined to pass on her love of books to a little girl who doesn't like reading.

Croque-matou by Géraldine Elschner – A tiny mouse dreams about the day when he will be big enough to save the world!

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Westmouter drafted by Atlanta Thrashers

Cisse might have what it takes to go all the way



Off-Sidel

NOAH SIDEL

Ever notice those Montreal Wanderers Stanley Cup banners in Westmount arena? Indeed, this community has a richer professional hockey history than you might think. Now, Westmount's latest contribution to the sport might have his own shot at history.

Standing at 6-foot-3, 210 pounds, Yasin Cisse, 18, is a solid forward built in the Dustin Byfuglien mould – and since Cisse was drafted by the Atlanta Thrashers shortly before Byfuglien was traded there, they might one day be teammates.

But for now, Cisse is focused on trying, to set himself up to crack the Thrashers' roster down the road.

"It's definitely a special feeling coming from Westmount and making it this far. It's an honour to finally bring something back to the community," Cisse said.

"I grew up playing for the Westmount Wings and I would play roller hockey with my neighbours almost every day; Westmount arena was my home for 15 years."

Cisse's road in hockey has taken him from the cusp of Mount Royal to the banks of Iowa's Des Moines River and maybe one day to Atlanta, Georgia.

But first was a long stretch at Westmount's own Selwyn House School.

"Selwyn House hockey was a great time and was a lot of fun. We had a great team and won the 2007 GMAA championship, which was the school's first time winning in over 20 years. I played Selwyn hockey since grade 4," said Cisse, who will likely make his next hockey stop with the Boston

University Terriers.

Cisse's mother, Cathy Sucher, said her son always had the hockey bug.

"We used to hear about one percent of players make it to the NHL and we thought they were a different species. But gradually as we saw some kids we knew move up the ranks, we thought, hmm, [Yasin] is as good as those guys and is going to have good size. If they can make it, why not him?" she said.

"Seeing him get drafted was an exciting moment for us, but at the same time, we have no illusions. While it's flattering to see your son chosen, it's just the beginning. He'll have to work extremely hard and prove himself over and over in the coming years. We kind of allowed ourselves 24 hours to bask in the glow and then we just put it on the back burner," Sucher added.

Thrashers scout Dan Marr believes Cisse has the right tools; now he just



Cisse more recently



Yasin Cisse in his Westmount days.

needs time to develop them.

"[He's a] power forward game with a good scoring touch, but he needs some development time as he missed a full season due to injuries. As well, he's still physically maturing," Marr said.

"I would expect he needs at least a couple more years before we get a better picture of how close he is to an NHL opportunity. Going to Boston University will afford him the development situation he requires."

For Sucher, this is just one more step the evolution of her son's love for the sport.

"Yasin played on the Westmount soccer teams and loved it, but I will always remember towards the end of September

when soccer and hockey would overlap and he would be racing from the field to the rink," she explained.

"Once the rink opened, he would spend all his time there, he just never seemed to have enough. He would scrimmage with whoever was there from little kids to grown men, then those people would leave and he would stay on and continue playing. He almost scared me sometimes because he just wouldn't and couldn't stop playing," she added.

"We have a school yard across the street from our house where the same scenario would play out with street hockey – usually on roller hockey skates. I would bring big pitchers of ice water and plates of bagels and he would always be the last one to come home. Then he would skate home with the net."

You can always reach me at noahsidel@gmail.com.



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Public Security Unit survives many changes over 30 years

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

When Westmount created the Public Security Unit 30 years ago, it hired Sidney Ashford to set up and operate it for the first five years under the city's department of Public Safety.

He had spent 27 years with the Westmount Police Force before it was folded into the Montreal-island service, outside the control of Westmount.

But he wasn't chosen only because he had been the police chief here and knew how the system worked. Public Security was not to be a para-police service. Ashford was hired because he knew every back alley and all about the Westmount culture.

And that became a hallmark of the new Westmount force: that the community could be best served by permanent city

employees who came to know Westmount well and the needs of the public. They were not to be "rent-a-cops," here today, gone tomorrow.

Set Westmount apart

This is what has set Westmount Public Security apart from most of the other services that would soon spring up in other suburbs, explains retired director Richard McEnroe, who joined the new unit four months after it began. He succeeded Ashford as director from 1985 to 2006.

The distinction between police and Public Security was made evident in the first 15 officers Ashford hired from among 300 applicants. Those he chose came from many different backgrounds, most without police training.

He considered their variety of skills and personality traits to be valuable assets in creating a well-rounded department that could connect with the community and understand the importance of its by-laws. For some years now, recruits have been required to have training in police technology.

The first officers worked briefly out of Victoria Hall until the new quarters at 4 Hillside were ready and on a grueling "old police" shift schedule of six days on, two off.

The "jet lag effect" took a toll on many and was one of many complaints the officers put to the city council in 1984 that included confusion over their role with MUC police, the lack of emergency flashers on patrol cars, leadership and communication issues – even the lack of a photocopy machine.

Then-mayor Brian Gallery took their concerns seriously and paved the way for an era of change and growth between 1985



Westmount's Public Security Unit rolls out its 30th anniversary at Family Day.

Photo: Louis Léger

and 2006 that followed after the appointment of McEnroe as the new director.

A golden era

It could be said that the next two decades became the heyday of Public Security.

During that time, Neighbourhood Watch, Apartment Watch and liaison with merchants, schools and community groups flourished.

A flurry of new programs included address and night checks, special passing attentions, lost and found items, Halloween safety and the home decorating contest as well as child identification, Christmas food baskets, the Vial of Life program, Dog Day Afternoons and the Junior PSO program. Some still exist.

The unit adopted a higher profile in 1988 with the installation of flashers on its vehicles. These were finally agreed to by police after certain confrontational tactics and on condition the vehicles be painted yellow to distinguish them from police.

Westmount's unit gained a high profile on the municipal scene when McEnroe became the president of the Association of Montreal Public Security Directors.

Adoption of the new police schedule – four-days on, three off – improved morale. A close working partnership evolved with the successive arrival of police station directors John Dalzell and Pierre Vézina, both of whom understood Westmount's particular concerns.

An animal control officer was hired, the parking office was created and fulltime staff increased. The budget went from

\$245,000 to create the unit, to almost \$3 million in 2010. The number of calls for assistance exceeded 5,000 a year throughout the 1990s and up to the mergers.

Public Security moved up the hill to 15 Stanton at the end of 1989 before being combined administratively four years later with the Westmount Fire Brigade to form Protective Services, though both retained their own operational identities.

With the forced municipal mergers at the end of 2001, Westmount's loss of its fire department brought about more changes in Public Security. It no longer runs the fire and medical calls to assist in protecting the scene. Its presence is now rarely requested by Montreal firefighters.

More changes followed McEnroe's retirement in 2006 and the hiring on contract of Richard Blondin as the new director.

A retired Montreal police officer without prior knowledge of Westmount or the unit, he adopted a different approach and introduced many new procedures. Long-time PSOs retired. Auxiliaries and new recruits were hired, some staying only until offered police positions.

Following Blondin's departure in February, the captain, Richard Bourdon, was appointed interim director with a mandate to train a successor from within the unit. This will be someone, he says, who will be able to reshape the force to focus more on community and return the unit to its roots.

As he told the *Independent* in June: "It's time to hand Public Security back to Public Security."



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Public Security first took to the streets this month – 30 years ago Aims to resurrect best practices

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It was 30 years ago exactly that Westmounters began spotting the city's first Public Security patrols – though the plainclothes officers went unnoticed to many. The dark blue, low-key patrol cars had arrived on time. But the uniforms hadn't.

So it took until the morning of September 18, when the uniforms arrived, for the new unit to officially become operational by enforcing by-laws and issuing its first parking tickets. They were not yet able to accept calls.

Created to be the “eyes and ears” of police, and provide a missing community element after the folding of Westmount's police force into the island-wide service, Public Security's early days unfolded with little pomp and ceremony.

The uniforms were the exception, with their distinctive red trouser stripe and hat band and the legacy silver buttons on the tunic. Emblazoned with the city crest, the buttons – still worn today – came from a supply left over from the defunct Westmount Police Force.

Link with the past

Together with the hat badge, since changed, they provided the link to the past and the importance the city has historically placed on the security of citizens and enforcement of by-laws.

After many growing pains and changes over the years,

Public Security is now preparing to celebrate its 30th anniversary with a reunion gala at Victoria Hall in the fall, a booklet – and an overhaul of the department.

“We're starting to bring back some of our best practices from the past – a lot of the good things that people want,” says Sergeant Kim Colquhoun who is coordinating the activities assisted by Sergeant Greg McBain.

“We want to broaden services to the public so that we can become closer to the population, especially an aging one,” she explained. Colquhoun is the first woman sergeant.

The unit has already made a start by bringing back the bike patrol, adding additional personnel in the parks and on foot patrol to liaise with merchants.

Recently, with the retirement of all original officers, budget tightening, evolving times and changes in leadership, some programs have been abandoned or laid dormant.

Now with the training of new officers, a return to a more traditional Public Security approach is being led by the current interim director, Richard Bourdon, and the sergeants.

The design of Westmount's Public Security could have been used as a model for community policing when that

concept was introduced by the Montreal island-wide police service more a decade ago, said Bourdon who served with the police force at the time.

“It's perhaps the best example of what community policing is all about. We're close to the community and we care about it.”



Public Security staffing has come full circle with the hiring of Joseph Léger (right) as a dispatcher. He is the son of Louis Léger (left), a longtime PSO and a retiree hired back for occasional part-time service.

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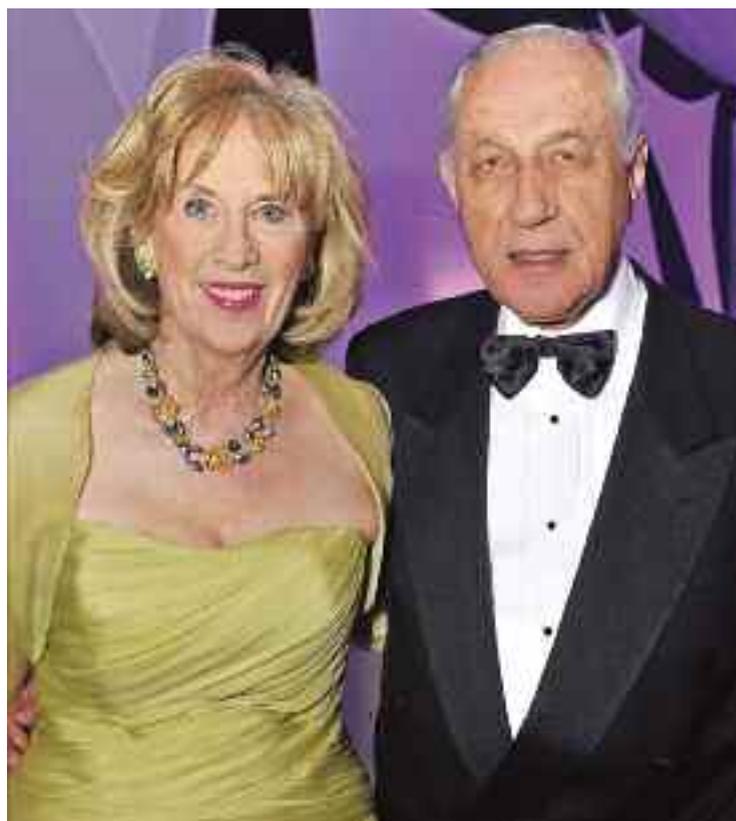
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Penny Echenberg and team chair glam Goodman gala



*Social Notes
from Westmount
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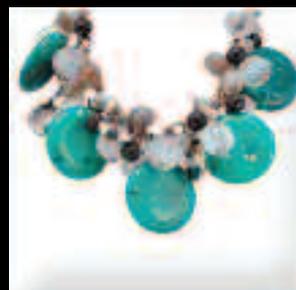


*Marvyn and Sheila Kussner with
Westmounters Diane and Aldo Bensadoun*

Pelting rain did not hinder the success of the Goodman Cancer Research Gala, held on June 5 under a massive white tent on McGill University's front lawn. The inaugural benefit for a cancer research centre was the brainchild of **Morris and Rosalind Goodman** (lovely in palest green), who hosted the sold-out evening.

Chairs were gala pres and Westmounter **Penny Echenberg** (shimmering in silver), with hubby **Gordon**; **Dr. Marla Shapiro** (honorary chair) with husband former Westmount MP **David Berger**; **Marvin Corber** (fundraising chair) with wife **Harriet**, and **Bernard Shapiro** (dinner chair) with wife **Lois**.

Noted amidst the black (and purple!) ties and couture outfits (both short and long) were Quebec Health minister **Yves Bolduc** and **Chantal Trépanier**, McGill chancellor **Arnold Steinberg** with wife **Blema**, *continued on p. 19*



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Len Blum and
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Westmounters Gordon Echenberg
and Derek Drummond

continued from p. 18

MP Irwin Cotler, Quebec provincial legislator Lawrence Bergman, Dean Richard Levin and wife Jane, McGill principal and Westmounter Heather Munroe-Blum and husband Len, Dr. Phil Gold (honouree) and wife Evelyn, and Westmounters Anne and Derek Drummond, who was the ever-witty emcee.

Arriving under umbrellas thoughtfully provided by valet Bob Perras' team, were Hope & Cope founder and chair Sheila Kussner and hub Marvyn, Sal and Diane Guerrero, (CURE Foundation) and West-

mounters Raphael and Evelyn Schachter (in palest blue), Stephen and Julia Reitman (in black lace), Douglas and Joanne Cohen (classic in black and pearls), and Tom and Gwen Nacos (beautiful in burgundy).

Other Westmounters noted were Richard and Laurie Samuelson (in a little black dress), Markus Martin and Susan Schwartz (glam in a long gown), Norman and Ellie Latsky (lovely in white), Marina and Henry Etingin, with daughter Karen, (chic in black with bling straps).

Over \$2.5 million was raised – a record-breaking success for a Montreal gala.

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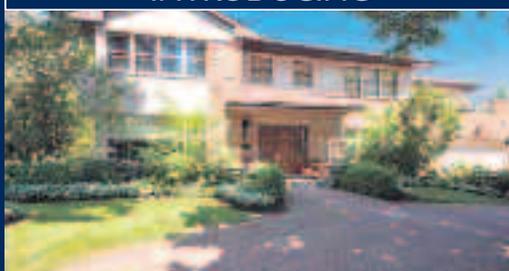
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