

*Inside the arena site:
'hockey next fall'*

East rink roof coming soon, west rink will need 'tempo'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

From street-side, it's almost impossible to grasp the way the new Westmount recreation centre has taken shape – or the enormity of the underground structure. After all, except for cranes hoisting around buckets and beams, most of the action is below ground level, mostly out of sight.

But on December 4, journalists were invited inside the construction site as city officials and those from the contractor Pomerleau Inc. showed off the most advanced *continued on p. 8*

Princess Christmas turns up for tree lighting



"Princess Christmas" Anna Romanishyna (front) and Yi Lin Lu enjoy the Christmas fare in the packed lawn bowling clubhouse after the lighting of the tree.

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Lights were switched on at the large spruce tree outside city hall the evening of December 3 by Mayor Peter Trent, assisted by city councillors. "Does anybody know where the first lit Christmas tree was in Quebec?" asked Trent, as part of a story read to about 150 attendees. "It was right here in Westmount in 1896."

The tradition was reinstated about 13 years ago and has continued every year since. The evening events, organized by the Community Events department, included carol singing, storytelling by city councillors, jokes and snacks afterwards in the lawn bowling clubhouse.

Dawson student returns misplaced cell phone

BY ROBERT J. GALBRAITH

It seems that not a day passes that you don't hear complaints about today's youth being lazy, lacking motivation or not showing respect. But for nursing teacher Derek English, this was far from the case.

On November 16, the 37-year-old teacher was having lunch with a friend in the Alexis Nihon food court, before walking his friend over to the Dawson College campus. He soon realized he had misplaced his new \$500 Samsung smart phone. Retracing his steps and not finding it, he thought he had seen the last of the mobile.

However, the following day, his mother Frances, who works as a cashier at Westmount city *continued on p. 22*

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BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

NEWS FROM CITY COUNCIL

City awaits response from St. Matthias' on Miss Vicky's

The city has given St. Matthias' Church until the end of this calendar year to reply to a request regarding the status of its arrangement with a pre-school located in its building, city director general Duncan Campbell told the city council meeting December 3.

Replying to a question from Church Hill resident Shelley Kerman on the issue

of Miss Vicky's pre-school on the street, Campbell stated that the city had sent a letter to the church asking for proof of the arrangement between the two. Otherwise, he said, the city would "take steps to move" on the legality of the operation.

Kerman stated that residents of the street – she and Bertha Dawang, in particular – had been asking the city for a year

why a commercial enterprise had been allowed to operate on a residential street. Miss Vicky's has been located in St. Matthias' for two decades.

The school, they contend, generates an unsafe volume of traffic on the steep hill where several accidents have occurred, including one in which two youngsters on their way to the school in a stroller narrowly escaped serious injury on September 29, 2011.

In an earlier investigation this year, the city found the school did not hold an occupancy permit, and Campbell reported in January the city had asked the school to make an application "to regularize its operation." A permit was issued February 23.

Church officials told the *Independent*, in 2011, they considered the pre-school to be part of the church's outreach program with the community (see December 13, 2011, p. 1 and 3). Some 80 children, many living in Westmount, attend the school, which is considered to provide an important source of revenue to the church.

Council approves new project management fee for Genivar

City council at its meeting December 3 approved an additional payment to Genivar Inc. of some \$370,000 in project management fees related to the arena/pool project in the context of the city adopting a design-build method.

The original contract for \$443,901, approved April 20, 2011, was based on the traditional construction approach in which a city-hired architect would have overseen many aspects of the construction project.

The city's \$37.3-million loan by-law budget for the Westmount recreation centre includes an \$800,000 provision for professional fees.

The realignment of management fees reflects the more "intensive" supervisory role of the project manager, according to a *continued on p. 3*

Meilleurs vœux pour un Joyeux Noël et une bonne et heureuse année!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Jacques Chagnon

M.N.A. for Westmount-Saint-Louis
Député de Westmount-Saint-Louis

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MEETING, DEC. 3

Barnard calls for WRC audit

Melville Ave. resident Patrick Barnard asked Mayor Peter Trent at the city council meeting December 3 to hire an independent auditing firm “to carry out an independent ongoing and thorough audit of the Westmount recreation project.”

Barnard, a longtime critic of the project, read from a “formal request” letter of the same date that he sent that afternoon by registered mail.

Tool for transparency

The proposed audit, he said, would provide total spending. It would also be a tool for transparency that would serve as an independent view of costs separate from that of the contractor, Pomerleau Inc., and project manager, Genivar, which could prove useful “in any future differences or negotiations regarding extra or unforeseen costs.”

Gerbeau attends his last council meeting

Mario Gerbeau, Westmount’s city clerk and director of legal services, will be leaving his position December 14 to become city clerk for St. Lambert three days later.

His departure – at the end of a five-year contract renewed for one year – was announced at the city council meeting December 3 by Councillor Victor Drury, commissioner of Administration. He said it had been a pleasure working with Gerbeau, telling him: “I can do nothing other than wish you well at your new function.”

Gerbeau came to Westmount from the Montreal borough of Outremont in 2007, where he had served as director of the borough office. His decision to accept the position in the demerged Westmount was based largely on being able to work again

He then asked Trent to let him know of the decision, to which the mayor replied that he would.

Genivar, cont’d. from p. 2

lengthy resolution moved by Councillor Patrick Martin.

Among items listed in the resolution to modify the fee structure for Genivar is \$52,000 based on an increase in the execution of the construction contract from \$29.5 million to the design-build \$33.5 million contract, and \$115,000 for preparation of calls for the design-bid proposals.

Also included in the new amount is \$203,500 for the payment of past or future services along with a new amount of \$42,500 to review the operation of post-construction systems to maximize energy efficiency of the building.

in “a real city,” he told the *Independent*.

“It was a good chapter in my life, a challenge to work in English and something that has been very positive for me,” he said.

“As a francophone, we tend to see Westmount as a distinct society, but being able to share issues with an anglophone community is something that has changed my mind. Westmount will always remain with me.”

The position is to be filled in an interim capacity by assistant city clerk Nancy Gagnon until a successor is named.

Gerbeau, who lives on Nuns’ Island, said now he’ll be driving against the traffic to his new job.

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WWCA presents mock-ups of bike lane, greening for Sherbrooke



City council members December 3 were shown mock-ups of what Sherbrooke St. through Victoria village could look like with a green bicycle lane added between the sidewalk and parked cars. The plan was presented by Dan Lambert and Patricia Dumais, right, on behalf of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA) in what Mayor Peter Trent dubbed "Show & Tell at Westmount city council."



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Marc Garneau

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Station 12 Reports

13 cars targeted by vandalizing burglars

By ISAAC OLSON

The following news stories are based on information from police reports provided by a Station 12 constable in an interview with the reporter.

According to Station 12's Constable Caroline Gauthier, 13 cars parked in an apartment building garage were vandalized and searched sometime between the evening of December 1 and the following morning.

It is not clear, said Gauthier, how many suspects were involved nor how they entered an apartment complex's underground garage found on Metcalfe Ave. near St. Catherine St. It appears, she said, that the suspect or suspects used a screw-

driver to pry between the rubber weather stripping and glass of nine cars. This technique, with a little leverage, can break a car window easily. The other four cars that were entered may not have been locked, she said, as there was no broken glass, but the cars were obviously searched by hasty hands.

She said the dust patterns indicated the suspect(s), rather than entering each vehicle, leaned in through the windows and rummaged through the owner's belongings in search of small items, such as GPS units and cash, which can be easily carried away. However, she noted, it appears only a pair of glasses was stolen during this incident. Unfortunately, said Gauthier, there were no fingerprints found on the scene, but there were two surveillance cameras in operation. Police are currently reviewing the footage with hopes of identifying the culprits.

In mid-November, three car burglars were arrested for a string of similar crimes but, when asked, she replied that at this point, it is not possible to make a link between those arrested and the current sus-

pects. However, she added, some of those arrested on November 13 are known to be out of legal custody and this particular crime does fit their *modus operandi*.

Though it is not clear to police how the suspects got into the parking garage on Metcalfe, she said it serves as a reminder that people should be careful about letting strangers into buildings, and residents should report any suspicious activities in parking garages to police.

Woman punches man at bus stop

Public safety officers report breaking up a fistcuffs between a man and woman waiting at a bus shelter November 28 at St. Catherine and Lansdowne. Both appeared very intoxicated when the altercation was spotted by a patroller at 10:41 pm in which the woman reported was reported to have punched the man. They were identified as living in Montreal and La Tuque by the officer who stayed with them until the bus came.

Boots MacLeod's Christmas trees are back!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BRING IN ADAM SMITH ON THE PARKING METER ISSUE

Some Westmount citizens seem very concerned by the revenue from parking fees allegedly lost by opening the cycling path in the winter (usually those citizens live near the path, but I assume that it's a coincidence). I think that I found a way to alleviate their concerns.

As many shoppers in Westmount know, it is very hard to find a parking space in several commercial areas during busy hours. The reason is simple: the demand for parking space exceeds the offer. In a normal environment, the "invisible hand of the market" would react by increasing prices to restore balance. Since the price of metered parking in Westmount is below the market price, in economic terms it amounts to a subsidy from the city to the car owners.

Although the benefits of a bike path in the winter may be debatable, I'm sure that nobody would support subsidized parking. To change that, Westmount should simply roll out the computerized stations now found all over Montreal and increase rates to market level.

The stations have several advantages: higher revenue, no need for coins (which in turn reduces the burden to collect the cash), increased efficiency to track violations, etc.

The citizens who are concerned about the loss of parking revenue certainly won't mind paying more themselves, especially that the great Adam Smith would consider that it's sound economics. It may even help subsidize the addition of more bike paths.

GUY SAUVÉ, ST. CATHERINE ST.

KEEPING NICHOLAS HOARE BOOKSTORE ALIVE

I think it would be great if somebody with a love of books and some money could buy and run the Nicholas Hoare bookstore. It's already an amazing place. Think of the opportunities to make it even better.

How about making it Canada's Best Bookstore? Let's aim big, people! That magic somebody could install an espresso bar. He or she could open a new section selling and/or renting art-house DVDs. There could be another section with unusual and outstanding stationery products – check out Nota Bene on Park Ave. just north of Sherbrooke, which is the best and most unusual stationery store I have ever seen.

There could be periodic author readings as Paragraphe does. One could consider making some sort of alliance with Oink Oink down the street to sell the best kids books anywhere in North America.

These are just a few ideas that come to mind.

With a bit of creativity, we have an awesome opportunity here if someone wants to step to the plate.

JOHN STIX, MONTROSE AVE.

NEW TURCOT NEEDS HELP

I have been reading lots of articles about the "new" Turcot, all of which seem to focus on traffic from the west coming into downtown.

What never seems to get mentioned is how people who live west of Atwater and east of Girouard are going to be able to access Highway 20 West once Turcot is re-fashioned.

Right now, I have to drive all the way along St. Jacques to west of Cavendish then down the slope past Canadian Tire to find an access ramp to the 20 W.

Is there any relief in sight with the new design?

MARGARET JACKSON, LANSDOWNE AVE.

VIC VILLAGE THE WAY IT IS

It is interesting that pro-bike/anti-motor vehicle opinion letters and comments quoted in the *Indie* come almost exclusively on behalf of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA), the ideological advocacy group, mainly by two of its members who cross-congratulate each other as if they weren't already of the dead same mindset.

In contrast, letters deploring cyclist behaviour and opposing the idea of sealing Westmount off from its neighbouring commuters and, particularly, the WWCA's so-called beautification proposal for Vic village, come from a variety of sources. I know of many others who don't write and aren't organized (yet) who are equally opposed.

Thankfully the day of judgment on these matters is coming soon and we can all go back to our day jobs, depending, of course, on what the judgment is!

Vic village is a real place and, frankly, I like it the way it is. I'm not sure I want to see it cute-sified or Copenhagenized (lovely as Copenhagen is, it wouldn't transpose well to Westmount for a variety of reasons). Even cyclists appreciate it as it is. (See Cyclelogically speaking, "A place for all to ride," November 6, p. 25).

I would rather hear from the merchants than WWCA as to whether they think reduction in parking spaces would help their businesses. They have complained justifiably about this in the past when parking has been even temporarily restricted on

streets like Greene Ave. and St. Laurent Blvd. In Vancouver, turning Granville St. – at great expense – into a mall was deemed a failure, and it has now been returned – at great expense – to a normal street.

If implemented, the traffic aspect of the WWCA plan, amongst other repercussions, would become "a lightning rod for anti-[Westmount] sentiment," if I may be permitted to analogize a passage from a recently published book on municipal affairs that we all should read. Unpleasant consequences would surely follow to our great regret.

ROBERT COWLING, PARKMAN PL.

LEARN SQUIRRELERANTO

In response to "Searching for shelter or nuts?" (November 20, p. 14), and from what I have read of the squirrel reports, apparently both shelter and nuts were found. There were no actual nuts in the kitchen, the nuts drove up to the house in a Westmount Public Security truck and evicted a friend of mine onto the street.

Perhaps I am too harsh on our Westmount Public Security officers; Squirreleranto is a very difficult language for non-squirrels to learn. Moreover, very few squirrels are privileged enough, as I was, to study language and linguistics at the finest schools in Switzerland – by consequence they don't always understand what the officers are saying to them. I do teach English and French as a second language to many Westmount squirrels to help bridge the linguistic divide. But perhaps a couple of quick Squirreleranto pointers would go a long way towards reducing miscommunications between the politia and the Sciuridae: "Two nervous chirps followed by a jittery look to the right then left while shaking tail" is Squirreleranto for "Oh, hi, I was just about to leave this person's kitchen. Relax and be cool." If the squirrel adds in a "run away fast and hide," it means he is disappointed you didn't bring him any chips.

Some squirrels are rude and non-compliant. This will be communicated doing what appear to be squirrel somersaults and arranging their tails in the shape of a triangle. These squirrels will need to be forcibly removed from the dwelling.

These points and many others are covered in the squirrel appreciation training programs that we offer. Programs start up again in January, see you there, PSOs!

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No bike bridge due to pedestrian tunnel

Plans unveiled for Decarie/de Mais. intersection

By ISAAC OLSON

Montreal officials unveiled plans for the area around and just west of the Vendôme Metro station on December 6 – plans many Westmounters have been voicing concerns over, as commuter traffic will certainly worsen once the super-hospital is open for business in 2015.

For the past couple years, the community push for a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Decarie Blvd. and Upper Lachine Rd. at the de Maisonneuve Blvd. intersection has been building steam with some of the strongest voices coming from the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA).

However, that bridge was not included in the \$7-million make-over because, said city of Montreal planner Alain Trudeau, it was not found to be feasible. The planned pedestrian tunnel at 5100 de Maisonneuve would stand in the way of running the bike path behind the buildings, he said, noting that route would also mean cyclists would pedal too close to the bus turnaround behind the subway station. Routing cyclists off the bridge and under the

train viaduct, he added, would likely not work well either.

Regardless, the new plan will include closing Upper Lachine Rd. between Crowley Ave. and de Maisonneuve, rerouting westbound bus routes 90 and 104 south on what will be a four-lane Decarie Blvd. Upper Lachine, which runs under a train viaduct, will be converted into a park-like area with a green space and pathways for cyclists and pedestrians.

Bicycle lanes will be painted on streets like Decarie Blvd. and de Maisonneuve, said Trudeau. There will also be painted “bicycle boxes” added to the intersection of de Maisonneuve and Decarie so cyclists will have a designated place to wait for the lights to change. He added that the sidewalk in front of the Metro station will be rebuilt to make it more secure for foot traffic.

The already existing, but closed ramp exiting the southbound Decarie express-

way (A-15) onto what will be a two-way de Maisonneuve west of Decarie Blvd. to Addington St. will be opened, said Trudeau.

When it comes to the WWCA’s suggestion of closing de Maisonneuve to private car traffic in front of the metro station and allowing only for buses and taxis, Trudeau said “we are taking this into consideration. We will be looking at it to see if it is a good thing to do.”

Construction on Decarie Blvd. is slated



A rendition supplied by the city of Montreal showing new green space.

to begin 2013 and the work on Upper Lachine and de Maisonneuve is supposed to get under way by 2014.



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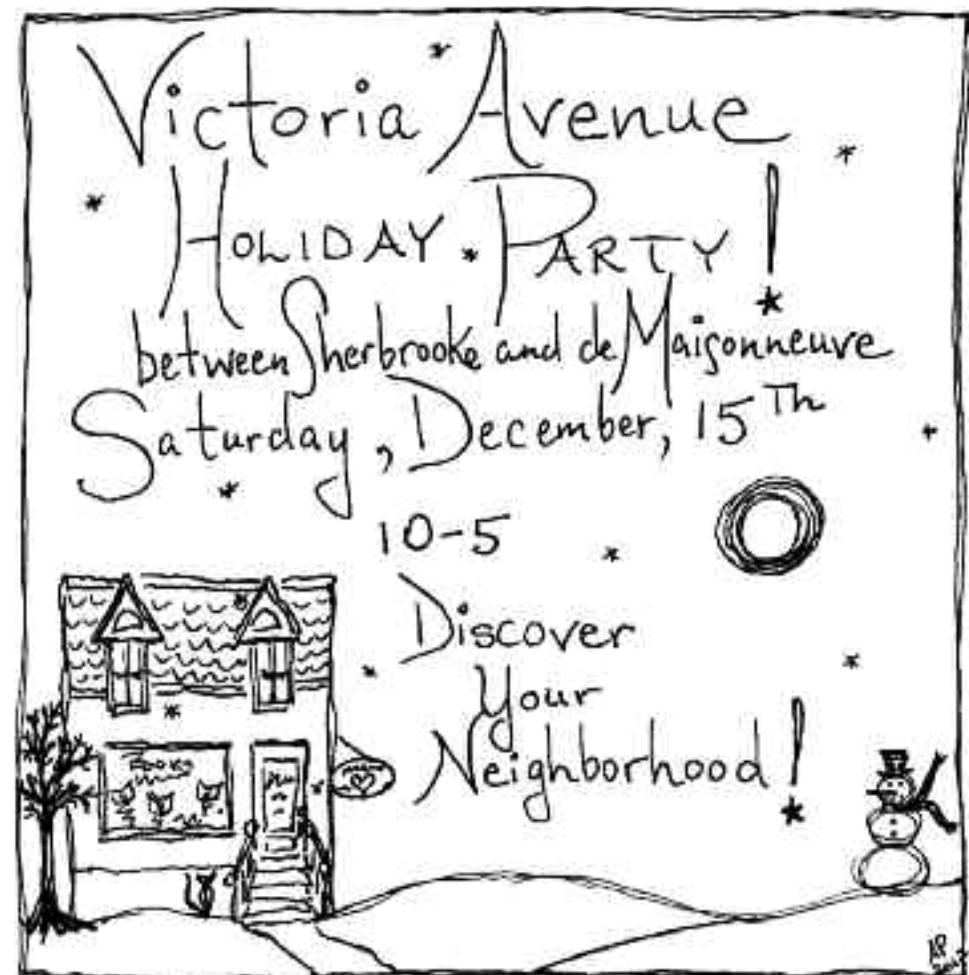
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Want to know what happened to these underdogs?



The Underdog Club

KRISTIN McNEILL

Several readers of our column have asked us: “What has become of the dogs” that we have profiled. Well, here is the best update that could be obtained, based on the information that the rescues were able to provide.

After two years in foster care through Boxer Rescue Quebec, the older boxer Moe with hip arthritis, was adopted by his foster mum on October 31.

The update received from rescue organization Frontier Animal Society was that Zip, Carson and Blair were adopted, and through reading the Underdog column, Athena and Buddy were adopted. Lonnie and Zeus are still looking for homes.

Eleven-eleven Rescue’s Petite Puce found a home from an *Indie* reader. Remi, the little guy with skin problems, is still looking.

All the dogs we featured from the SPCA’s emergency shelter (the Annex), including Henri (the rottie/shepherd mix), the Atticus and Aurora pair, Ralph (the terrier mix with a fused elbow) and Picasso (German pointer) were adopted. Buster was adopted from someone who read about him in the Underdog column. Read-

ers will be happy to know that Toyo and Mindy were re-homed together, as was the shelter’s hope.

Here is the status report on dogs we featured from Sophie’s Dog Adoptions: The adoption of three-legged Pax is pending, Chico (the shih-tzu) was adopted by his foster home’s dog walker, Baguerra from Lebanon and the giant black schnauzer Fidji were adopted. Little Leo, whom we featured twice, is on adoption trial. The fat cocker spaniel Sir Mckenzie was adopted. And the recently featured husky Nusu is still looking for a forever home.

From Gerdy’s Adoptions and Rescues, we received the following update: Ulysse and Fado were adopted, as was Easter from his foster home. The rescue was successful in placing Chucky and Buddy together, and the rescue believes the owners read about this pair in the Underdog column. The recently profiled fat cocker spaniel Princess was adopted, likely through the column, and the mini schnauzer Mickey was adopted from someone who read about him in these pages.

The little survivor terrier mix Chiffon and the eccentric middle-aged beagle Dudley are still looking for homes.

We wish to thank our dedicated readers and supporters for following the stories of these underdogs and helping us promote them through word of mouth. We also want to re-iterate our appreciation for all the hard work the rescues do. Happy holidays!

www.underdogclub.org

Arena site



The east rink December 4 just before steel roof beams (in the foreground) were lifted into place.

cont’d. from p. 1

portion – the east ice rink – before the roof seals over this section within the next couple of weeks.

It also provided an opportunity to see just how the different areas of the arena/pool project are proceeding simultaneously at various stages of construction, as well as to speak with those overseeing the 50 to 100 workers who are making it happen.

“We’re a little behind but hope to make it up later,” said Rocky Roy, Pomerleau vice president for construction in the Montreal area. “They’ll be playing hockey here next fall,” he said, a timeline repeated by Pierre-Luc Dumas, the vice president for public infrastructure development.

From the viewing platform at the most easterly edge of the complex, where the former tennis courts were located, one

overlooks the east section that stretches north-south from the bike path to Academy Rd. This is the 200-foot east rink that was extended from an original 185-foot design.

Here, the changing rooms at ice level have started to take shape with the agora, multi-purpose rooms and others immediately above, all dividing the two rinks that are otherwise side by side. As a result, the west rink and offices along Lansdowne were not clearly visible from the viewing platform.

This west section likely won’t be ready for its roof until well into January or February, according to Pomerleau officials, so work until then will continue under a makeshift cover. It had previously been reported that the building was scheduled to be enclosed by January in time for the winter.

Meanwhile, an excava- *continued on p. 20*



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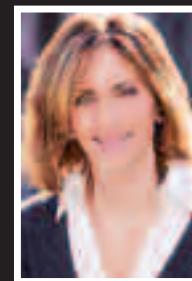
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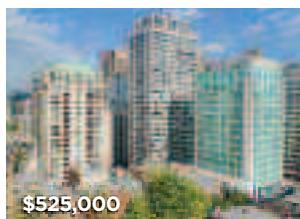
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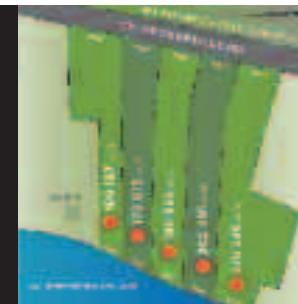
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Atwater Library supporters raise \$70K



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmount's Atwater Library and Computer Centre held its seventh annual benefit cocktail on November 7. Tickets were \$125.

Guests of honour were Westmounters **Patterson** and **Norman Webster**, a Rhodes scholar, who served as a correspondent for *The Globe and Mail* in Beijing and London, and who has won two national newspaper awards. Webster was also editor in chief at *The Globe* and the *Gazette*. His wife Patterson, a founding member of Blue Metropolis, is a photographer and artist.

Acclaimed journalist **Dennis Trudeau** was emcee and the **Dave Turner Jazz Trio** played fabulously as in past years. Food was a Montreal classic:

smoked meat sandwiches from Dunn's. There were also hors d'oeuvre and chocolates, catered by Chocolaterie Volupté.

Atwater Library president, former Westmount resident **Marshall Wansbrough** and **Sue Elliott** greeted guests with other Westmounters, including event chair **Reford MacDougall**, his daughter **Alexandra MacDougall Colas**, and committee members **Mary Rivard-David**, **Nikola Reford**, who



Richard Pound and Reford MacDougall.



Norman and Patterson Webster.

created the lovely decor with Westmounter **Errol Perreira**.

Other local residents enjoying the evening included **Julie Keith** and **Richard Pound**, **Pat** and **Lionel Blanshay**, **Marc Delplace**, **Lynn** and **Michael Belmer**, **Diana** and **George Hendy**, **Claude David**, **Diana** and **John Bennett**, **Joan Ivory**, **Christine Harkness** and **Pierre Lapointe**, **Bob Johnson**, **Judith Kashul** and **James Coulton**, **Joan** and **Alex Paterson**, **John Burgess**, **Nancy** and **John Gallop**, **Sylvie Plouffe** and **Barry Cole**, **Ellen Wallace** and **David Laidley**, **Helen** and **Fred Wiegand**, and Acad-

emy Award-winner **Adam Symansky**, with his wife **Judy**, and daughter **Beth**, a member of the library staff.

Westmount's **Alain Simon Fleurs** created a spectacular arrangement of flowers and candles. A party atmosphere was created with special lamps and lights borrowed from Union Lighting, and spotlights arranged by **James Douglas** of **Geordie Productions**.

The event raised over \$70,000 for the library's community educational, cultural and social programs.



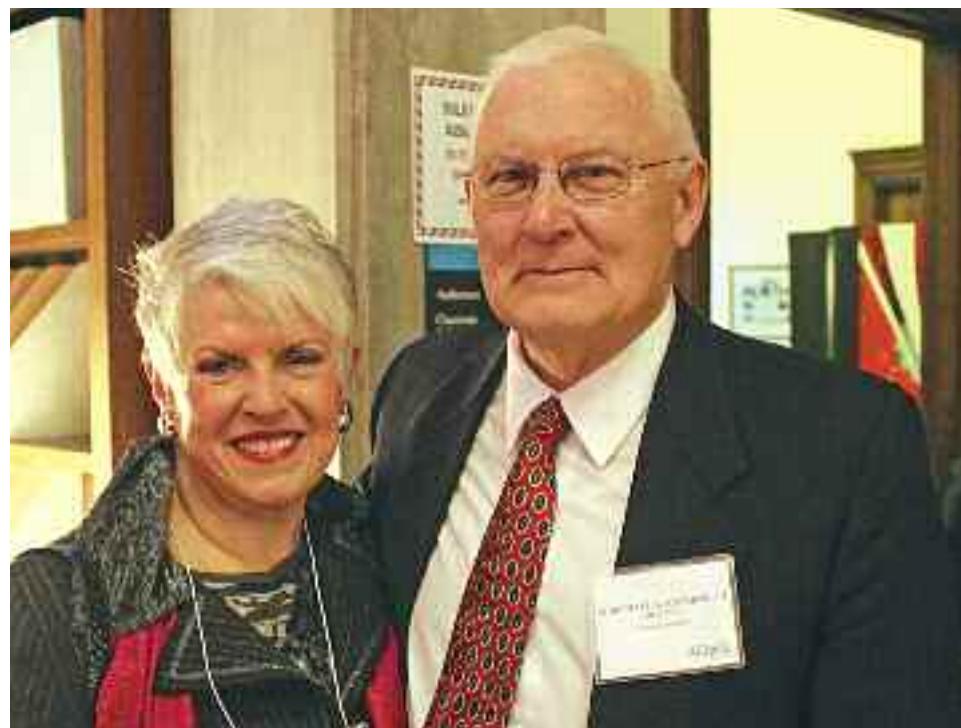
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Thank you to the many friends and clients I had the privilege of serving
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for all your real estate needs going forward. Meanwhile.....

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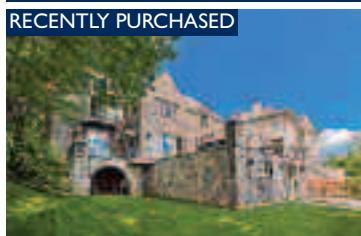
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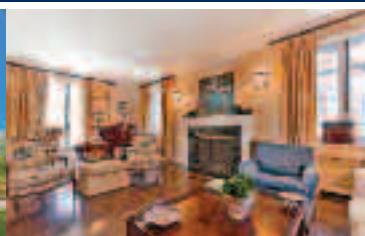
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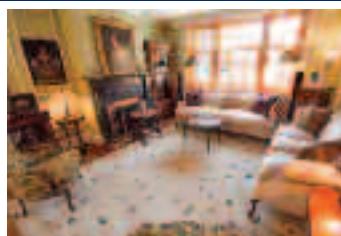
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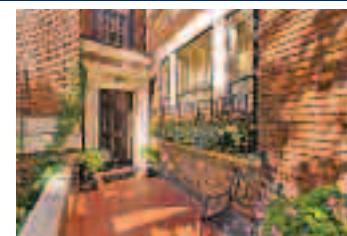
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Pierre Lessard on a recognition of design



In conversation

HEATHER BLACK

Industrial designer Pierre Lessard has been involved in the Montreal visual arts community since the 1960s. A member of the Royal Academy of Arts (RCA), I recently spoke to the Westmount resident about the RCA and his career.

Early years

The son of a Quebec City architect, Lessard was introduced to design at an early age. As an industrial design student in Montreal, he was asked by a local firm to work on Expo 67 signage. Lessard jumped at the opportunity and has never looked back.

Over the years, he formed the design firms of ARC, Morin, Lessard and McGinnis, and Axion Design. Together with his associates, he worked on corporate identity and signage for CN and Via Rail, Bell, Petro Canada, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and Mont Tremblant. For Lessard, design is “an opportunity to create the image the company wants to project.”

The 1976 Montreal Olympics signage system was one of his more challenging projects as hundreds of thousands of signs were needed for buildings, city streets and even border crossings. Projects for the paper giant Norske Skog took him to Australia, Chile and Brazil. For Lessard, “it was a wonderful opportunity to visit countries I would never have seen otherwise.”

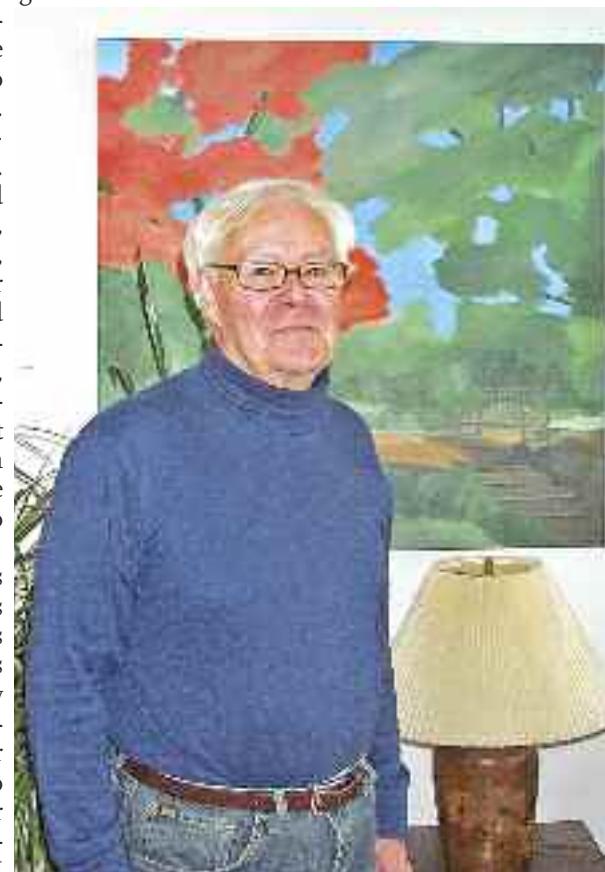
Career recognition

However, the highlight of his career was the CN pavilion for Expo 86 in Vancouver. As project manager, he worked with architects and designers to create an elegant, light-filled structure. Not only did the design enhance corporate perception, it won the Prize of Excellence.

Lessard was elected to the RCA in 1996

for his contribution to the visual arts. While many are familiar with the academy’s recognition of painters and sculptors, the membership also includes those in design and architecture. Similarly honoured architects with Westmount roots include Percy Nobbs, William and Edward Maxwell, Alexander Hutchinson, Raymond Affleck, Harry Mayerovitch, Richard Bourke, Melvin Charney, Moshe Safdie and Phyllis Lambert.

Proud of his association with the 132-year-old institution, Lessard would like to see a “RCA renewal with more cross-Canada exhibits. It would be nice for the academy to regain the prestige it had at the time of the Group of Seven.”



Pierre Lessard in front of his work “Elsie’s Bench (Jardins de Métis)” in his Westmount home, November 27.

Nature artist

A painter in recent years, Lessard first started drawing as a child, sketching birds and animals at the museum in Quebec City. Today nature, enlivened by bold colour, is a source of inspiration for his paintings. Lessard is currently represented by Avenue Art in Old Montreal as well as galleries in Toronto and Calgary.

Filmmaker Saint-Hilaire recognized for lifetime achievements

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Alain Saint-Hilaire, a director of French-language travelogues who has lived in Westmount for nearly three decades, was honoured for his lifetime achievements during an evening held on

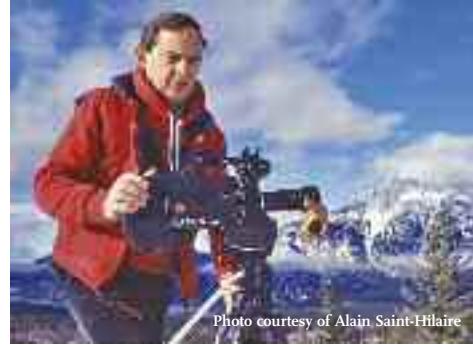


Photo courtesy of Alain Saint-Hilaire

Alain Saint-Hilaire is seen here during a shoot in 1990 in the Canadian Rocky Mountains for a film on Canada he was working on.

October 28 during the Festival du monde arabe de Montréal.

A resident of Willow Ave., Saint-Hilaire is known by Montrealers who attend Les Grands Explorateurs travelogue series for

his finely-wrought travel documentaries.

In an interview with Danielle Saint-Hilaire, his wife, the *Independent* learned that some of the first film footage Saint-Hilaire took in 1964 recorded the last pearl divers on the Persian Gulf before the rise of the oil-rich states.

Although many of Saint-Hilaire's films were shot in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen and Iraq, he has also made a few films that focus on the far north of Canada.

While the burning hot desert and the frozen arctic are two environmental extremes, a common trait that Saint-Hilaire found in both was the nomadic peoples, said Danielle.

Saint-Hilaire, 71, was born in Paris. While still quite young, he was initiated to Arabic culture while studying the language. At the age of 23, he first visited the United Arab Emirates.

It was also around then that he was introduced to the travelogue concept when he became a cameraman for Jean-Claude Berrier, a well-known travelogue presenter in France.

"Alain's films are more than just documentaries, they were magnificently poetic

works which were informed not only by their language but also their imagery," Étienne Tiffou, an emeritus professor of linguistics at the University of Montreal and a longtime friend of Saint-Hilaire, said during the tribute held at the Maison de l'Afrique in Montreal's Rosemont district.

"Suffice it to say that his reports bore witness to a profound understanding of the subject, as well as empathy and good will towards those who were his subjects."

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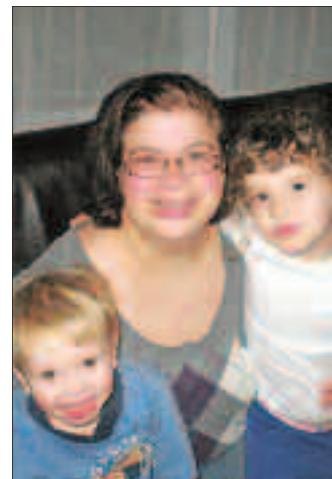


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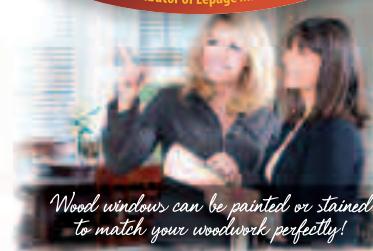
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Surrey Gardens bungalow has full history



History by the house

ANDY DODGE, CRA

What had been one of Westmount's numerous top-of-the-mountain bungalows at 18 Surrey Gardens is now being transformed into a two-storey cottage, a practice

which is becoming more popular these days to the detriment of what had been a distinct architectural style in Westmount's history.

The bungalow was built in 1955 by Lazar Pinkus and may have been designed by Stanley Shenkman, but only after the land on which it was constructed became part of Westmount's early history.

In a sheriff's sale in 1828, a wealthy Scotsman named Charles Bowman purchased the Lacroix farm, involving land stretching up the mountain behind his huge "Forden" mansion on Côte St. Antoine Rd. to the edge of what is now Westmount's northern city limits.

Bowman died in 1848, leaving the property to his son Charles Junior, who died three years later with no children, thus leaving the land to his sister, Elizabeth. She married Captain Robert Taylor Raynes and they moved into Forden, raising a large family.

When The Boulevard (then Westmount Boulevard) was built a few years later, the Raynes family holdings on Lot 239 were split into sections "A" (between The Boulevard and Côte St. Antoine) and "B" (north of The Boulevard, between the Murray estate and land belonging to Angus Notman



18 Surrey Gardens as it appeared in 2007.

& Co.).

It was not until 1909 that Herbert Samuel Holt, president of Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company, and Charles Blair Gordon, president of Dominion Textile Company, purchased Lot 239B with the clear intention of developing the top of Westmount Mountain, dividing it into lots and streets including Gordon Cres., Holt Crescent (now Shorncliffe Ave.) and Park Cres. (now Surrey Gardens). This was all a part of West Crescent Heights, which the two were planning as an exclusive area of high-value homes. According to the deed, Lot 239B comprised 1,461,000 square feet, for which Holt and Gordon paid \$189,930, or 13 cents per square foot.

After laying out the streets and devising the construction plans, the pair sold 20 of the subdivisions, including Lots 239B-134 and -135, to William Rodden, president of Mount Royal Realities, for 50 cents per square foot. They were very specific in the deed that "any building on said lots shall be a first-class dwelling or dwellings, de-

tached or semi-detached and accessories built of stone or solid brick on stone or concrete foundation only, and of the value of not less than seven thousand dollars each and not more than one dwelling house shall be erected on a single lot..." The deed stipulated the location of telephone poles and building lines and declared that all of this was a matter of servitude that would carry through to subsequent owners of the various lots (and still is mentioned in the most recent deeds).

Unfortunately, Rodden was unable to attract buyers to such a remote area and after trying for a decade to find interested buyers with scant few results, he finally gave up most of the land in a sale for taxes, surrendering it back to Holt and Gordon for \$4,200, in October 1922. At the time, *Lovell's* directory reported the existence of six homes in the whole area east of Lexington and north of Sunnyside.

Three years later, Holt transferred his interest to *continued on p. 17*

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Surrey Gardens | \$2,500,000

285 Clarke | \$1,295,000



\$3,000 in fines issued at WRC

During the month of November, Public Security issued \$3,000 worth of fines to a subcontractor at the site of the new recreation centre, officials report. The tickets were issued for starting too early in the morning on a Friday and Saturday, and for failing to obey an order to stop. On Satur-

day, December 1, however, the operator of a loader was described as being “very cooperative” when asked to turn off the engine at 7:35 am ahead of the 8 am permitted time. He stated he had been heating up the vehicle and was not ticketed.

Surrey Gardens, cont'd. from p. 16

a company called Realities Securities Limited in an attempt to kick-start the development of the area. While a few more houses may have emerged in the later 1920s, most of the neat 50- to 70-foot lots, which had been laid out on paper by the two investors, remained undeveloped.

Soon after his death in 1939, Blair Gordon's interest was sold for \$1 to C. Howard Gordon, vice president of Atlas Construction Corp. (whose headquarters was a large stone building at the corner of St. Catherine St. and Lansdowne Ave. demolished in the 1980s). Holt died in 1941 and the two companies started selling off small portions of real estate, transferring Lots 239B-134 and -135, where 14 and 18 Surrey Gardens now stand, to Rose Weinfield, wife of Sidney Levy, in January 1947.

With soldiers returning from World War II and the beginning of the Baby Boom, the once forgotten area of Westmount finally started drawing the interest of architects and builders. Weinfield-Levy sold to local real estate agent Ernest Mills “in trust” in November 1950, then a month later he turned it over to Eric

Moore (presumably for whom he had held it “in trust”). By 1952, Lot 239B-135 moved into the hands of Forest Homes Limited, a Town of Mount Royal-based firm run by Charles Forest. He turned it over to Stanley Shenkman, an architect and follower of Frank Lloyd Wright in 1954.

Four months later, Lazar Pinkus, described as an insurance agent, took over the property and began construction of the bungalow, eventually establishing himself as a construction company called Pinkus Construction.

Finally, in September 1955, the address of 18 Surrey Gardens appears on a deed, which grants the house to Elise Duhamel, wife of Ernest Emile Mongeau, a “tavern-keeper,” though she quickly divests herself of the premises, selling to Jacques André Corbeil, an industrialist, less than two months later. At the time she declares that the house is vacant and ready for occupancy.

Stay tuned: In the early new year, I will continue to examine the ownership of 18 Surrey Gardens.



Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount

AVIS PUBLIC ALIÉNATION DE BIENS

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné que, lors de sa séance ordinaire du 3 décembre 2012, le conseil a autorisé la vente de ferraille soit du cuivre, de l'aluminium et divers métaux provenant de fils de câbles obsolètes, radiés de l'inventaire du magasin central à *SMR/Société des métaux recyclés* selon le poids total de tous les matériaux au prix total de 29 670,91 \$, toutes taxes comprises.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 11 décembre 2012.

PUBLIC NOTICE SALE OF GOODS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that, at its regular sitting held on December 3, 2012, Council authorized the sale of various types of scrap metal (copper, aluminium and miscellaneous metal) from obsolete cable wires and various fixtures removed from the Stores Inventories, to *SMR/Société des métaux recyclés*, based on the total weight of all materials for a total price of \$29,670.91, all applicable taxes included.

GIVEN at Westmount, this December 11, 2012.

Mario Gerbeau
Greffier de la ville / City Clerk

Vous êtes invités à l'Assemblée générale du Centre Greene Jeudi le 17 janvier à 19 hres

Le Centre Greene est un centre communautaire sans but lucratif qui se consacre à fournir des services récréatifs, sociaux et éducatifs aux personnes qui vivent dans le voisinage et aux membres de la collectivité d'une façon générale.

L'assemblée générale est une occasion pour tous de participer à la célébration de notre centre communautaire.

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You are invited to attend Centre Greene's Annual General Meeting Thursday, January 17 at 7 p.m.

Centre Greene is a not for profit community centre with a strong commitment to its community and dedicated to providing quality social, cultural and recreational services to its neighbours, as well as to the community at large.

Please join us on January 17th, 2013. The Annual General meeting is an opportunity for us to celebrate our centre.



Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount

AVIS D'ADOPTION RÈGLEMENT 1435

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné à tous ceux qui peuvent être concernés que le règlement n° 1435 intitulé « **RÈGLEMENT SUR LES ENTENTES RELATIVES À CERTAINS TYPES DE TRAVAUX MUNICIPAUX** » a été adopté par le conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount, lors d'une séance ordinaire tenue à l'hôtel de ville le 3 décembre 2012.

L'objet du présent règlement est de soumettre la délivrance d'un certificat d'occupation, selon le cas, à la conclusion d'un accord entre le demandeur et la Ville concernant le travail pour la construction d'une installation municipale dans la zone C5-24-13.

Ce règlement entre en vigueur aujourd'hui.

Toute personne intéressée peut consulter ce règlement sur le site web de la ville : www.westmount.org et en obtenir copie au bureau du greffier situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 11 décembre 2012.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION BY-LAW 1435

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to all who may be concerned that By-law No. 1435 entitled “**BY-LAW CONCERNING CERTAIN TYPES OF MUNICIPAL WORK AGREEMENTS**” was adopted by the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount at a regular sitting held at City Hall on December 3, 2012.

The object of this by-law is to subject the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, as the case may be, to the conclusion of an agreement between the applicant and the City concerning work for the construction of a municipal facility in Zone C5-24-13.

This by-law shall come into force today.

Any interested person may consult the said by-law on the City's website: www.westmount.org and obtain copies thereof at the Office of the City Clerk located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

GIVEN at Westmount, this December 11, 2012.

Mario Gerbeau
Greffier de la ville / City Clerk

Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Fourth **Chanukah candle-lighting**, 5 pm at Westmount city hall with Mayor Peter Trent, members of council and the rabbis from Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom and Shaar Hashomayim synagogues. A reception with traditional music, games and food to follow. Info: Community Events 514.989.5265.

• **"Vodka and Latkes"** 7 pm to 8:30 pm at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. Learn how to make traditional and non-traditional latkes. RSVP by December 7 to rosie@templemontreal.ca or 514.937.3575, ext. 213.

• **"The Cult of Beauty and Comfort"** with Pamela Grimaud, 2 pm at the Westmount Public Library. "Fashions that Went Against the Grain of the 19th Century Victorian Costume." Free. Register: Circulation desk or 514.989.5299.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

• Actor Barrie Baldaro presents *A Child's Christmas in Wales* by Dylan Thomas, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater. Free.

• Westmount Historical Association presents **"From Farmhouse to New House,"**

with speaker Caroline Breslaw, 7 to 9 pm in the Westmount Public Library. The talk will focus on the evolution of houses on Côte St. Antoine using archival photos. Admission free for members; non-members \$5 at door. Info: 514.989.5510.

• Annual **"super bazar"** 1 to 6 pm at St. Léon Church, 4311 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Clothing, books and music.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

Free workshop for seniors on online government services in areas of health, housing, retirement income and rights, 1 to 3 pm. Advance registration required: contact Eric Craven at 514.935.7344, ext. 207 or dlp@atwaterlibrary.ca.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

Christmas lessons and carols composed by Pearsall, Rachmaninoff and Moulton sung by the St. Matthias Church choir, 5 pm at 10 Church Hill. Free, but donations suggested. Info: 514.933.4295.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

Special **budget presentation meeting**, 8 pm at city hall.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

• The Atwater Library's **"Alzheimer Café,"** to feature holiday choral music, 1 to 3 pm in the main-floor reading room. Info: Beth Symansky at beth@atwaterlibrary.ca or 514.935.7344.

• The Westmount Public Library's English Book Club meets to discuss *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens, 7 pm in the Westmount Room. Coffee and discussion. Info: Donna Lach 514.989.5386 or dlach@westmount.org.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

Special Christmas performance by the Montreal Storytellers' Guild, 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Cookies and coffee/tea. Free. 514.593.9947 or mtl-storytellersguild@gmail.com.

Contactivity's mini bazaars go to Dec. 19

Contactivity senior centre's arts and crafts group will continue to hold its mini-bazaars Mondays and Wednesdays until Wednesday, December 19. The sale takes place from 10:30 am to 3 pm at 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. and features hand-knit items, "unusual handmade crafts," natural products and preserves. The bazaars started in mid November. For more information: 514.932.2326.

AND IN 2013...

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

• **"The Ancient Library of Alexandria"** with Hassan Elshafei, 2 pm in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library. Register at the circulation desk or call 514.989.5299.

• **Poetry workshop** with Ann Lloyd, 10:15 am. Arrive with an idea and learn to write a poem. Info: Donna Lach at dlach@westmount.org

Plourde invites residents to police blood donor clinic

The second annual blood donor clinic to be held by local police Station 12 takes place Wednesday, December 19 at Victoria Hall this year after its inaugural event a year ago at Westmount Square.

Police commander Stéphane Plourde said officers from the Westmount station will volunteer throughout the time period – 11 am to 7 pm. He also will be on hand to speak with people. "If anyone has something they would like to discuss with me, I will be available," he said.

Lisée to address WMA

Member of the provincial legislature and minister for the Montreal region Jean-François Lisée will be the guest speaker at the Thursday, January 17 meeting of the Westmount Municipal association (WMA), board member Maureen Kiely told the city council meeting December 3.

Kiely took the opportunity during question period to make the announcement, which immediately prompted Mayor Peter Trent to take out a pocket agenda and write down the date and 7 pm time.

Lisée is speaking on his new position, its challenges and issues he deems important to Westmounters.

According to WMA president Peter Starr, finding a date and venue when Lisée was available was its own challenge. "We were looking for a bigger venue than the Westmount Room but everything was booked, so we expect to have a packed-tight evening – a wonderful opportunity for Mr. Lisée to meet Westmounters." Inviting Lisée was in keeping with the WMA's new policy to invite politicians from outside the community, he said. NDG borough councillor Peter McQueen was the first.

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Purse stolen from lib.

An NDG woman lost her purse to a thief at the Westmount Public Library November 29, according to Public Security officials. The victim, who had arrived at the library at 1:20 pm, had been so absorbed in her work that she did not notice the purse was gone until after 5 pm. No information was recorded regarding how the theft might have occurred.

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Wheels not 'curbed' in school zone

A public safety officer reported finding several cars parked in the school zone outside ECS November 20 without their wheels turned against the curb, as required by law. Public Security officials said notices were left on the offending vehicles, warning drivers about the correct way to park on a hill.

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Parked cars obstruct fire trucks

Firefighters complained to Public Security November 15 that cars parked in a no-parking zone on Côte St. Antoine outside Selwyn House at 7:38 pm made it difficult for the fire trucks to turn the corner up Stanton St. on their return to the fire station after a call. The incident took place

during parent-teacher interviews but was described as an "ongoing problem," according to Public Security officials. Since the school event was almost over, the parking was tolerated but the issue was to be raised later with school authorities.

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Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount



AVIS PUBLIC CALENDRIER DES SÉANCES ORDINAIRES 2013

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné que, lors de sa séance ordinaire du 3 décembre 2012, le conseil a établi comme suit le calendrier de ses séances ordinaires pour l'année 2013 :

- le 14 janvier à 20 h;
- le 4 février à 20 h;
- le 4 mars à 20 h;
- le 2 avril à 20 h;
- le 6 mai à 20 h;
- le 3 juin à 20 h;
- le 2 juillet à 20 h;
- le 5 août à 20 h;
- le 3 septembre à 20 h;
- le 1^{er} octobre à 20 h;
- le 11 novembre à 20 h;
- le 2 décembre à 20 h.

PRENEZ PAR AILLEURS AVIS que le conseil peut cependant décider qu'une séance ordinaire débutera au jour et à l'heure qu'il précise plutôt que conformément à ce calendrier. En pareil cas, le soussigné devra faire publier un avis public à l'égard de toute séance ordinaire dont le jour ou l'heure diffère de ce que prévoit le calendrier.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 11 décembre 2012.

PUBLIC NOTICE 2013 REGULAR SITTINGS SCHEDULE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that Council determined the schedule of its regular sittings for the year 2013, at its regular sitting held on December 3, 2012:

- January 14 at 8:00 p.m.;
- February 4 at 8:00 p.m.;
- March 4 at 8:00 p.m.;
- April 2 at 8:00 p.m.;
- May 6 at 8:00 p.m.;
- June 3 at 8:00 p.m.;
- July 2 at 8:00 p.m.;
- August 5 at 8:00 p.m.;
- September 3 at 8:00 p.m.;
- October 1 at 8:00 p.m.;
- November 11 at 8:00 p.m.;
- December 2 at 8:00 p.m.

PLEASE BE ADVISED that Council may decide that a regular sitting is to begin on a date and at a time other than those specified in this schedule. In such a case the undersigned shall give public notice of any regular sitting to be held on a day or at a time other than that specified in the schedule.

GIVEN at Westmount, this December 11, 2012

Mario Gerbeau
Greffier de la ville / City Clerk

Human library takes shape at Westmount Public Library in Nov.



Taking part in the Westmount Public Library's Human Library event on November 17 were, from left: T. F. Rigelhof, Tim Hornyak, Pat Donnelly, Una Kay, Marci Babineau, Jeanie Riddle, Paul Bracegirdle and David Szanto.

Photo courtesy of the Westmount Public Library

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

To all the resources one normally hopes to find at a public library – from hard-bound volumes to CDs, DVDs and e-books – you can now perhaps add another.

People are the main ingredient in a concept relatively new in Montreal. Known as a “human library,” the idea originated in Denmark about a dozen years ago to encourage dialogue and build relations between people.

Individuals become books at a human library event, during which they recount their experiences. During a 20-minute “loan” period, a reader has a conversation with a “human book.”

Some of the basic rules are that the conversation must remain respectful, the reader must not record, videotape or take pictures, nor may there be any request for

personal contact information.

On Saturday, November 17, the Westmount Public Library held its first ever human library event. Library members checked out one of the nine human books, who were all members of the community with interesting stories to share.

Adults and children enjoyed discussing art, food, sustainability, literature, travel, theatre and the environment. Each participant walked away with a new perspective on a different lived experience.

In late January, the Atwater Library will also be hosting a human library event. Though library director Lynn Verge said she could not provide more details because it is being done cooperatively, the library event will be held in conjunction with the CBC, Hillel Montreal and the Ismaili Council for Quebec and the Maritimes.

.....
cont'd. from p. 8

tor and crane were still working away on the most southerly portion of the complex.

The challenge, according to Pomerleau site superintendent Marc Plamondon, is that it's an underground arena. “I think it's the first time it's been done in North America.” Thick steel beams will support a nine-inch concrete roof, earth, grass and the weight of snow and ice.

To Mayor Peter Trent, addressing the media accompanied by councillors Patrick Martin, Cynthia Lulham and Nicole

Forbes, the project represents innovation. “We're actually pioneering something,” he said.

He also positioned the complex as demonstrating how a major public project could be brought in “on time and on budget,” within one percent and some as-yet-unknown additional costs related to decontamination of the site (see December 4, p. 1).

Also, he said, the fundraising component, now targetting \$6 million, will enable the community to take ownership of the project.



Westmount vous informe...

Westmount Page

www.westmount.org
info : 514 989-5200



Vol. 6/23

Publié par Westmount • Published by Westmount



CONSEIL MUNICIPAL Budget 2013

Le conseil municipal présentera le budget de la Ville de Westmount pour l'exercice financier 2013 et le programme triennal d'immobilisations pour les exercices financiers 2013, 2014 et 2015 lors de la séance du lundi 17 décembre à 20 h à l'hôtel de ville. Info : 514 989-5200.



TRAVAUX PUBLICS Floralies des Fêtes

Ne manquez pas l'exposition traditionnelle de poinsettias au Conservatoire de Westmount. Consultez l'horaire ici-bas. Info : 514 989-5230.

Services de collecte : horaire des fêtes

Veillez noter que les collectes de résidus alimentaires et d'ordures du 25 décembre et du 1^{er} janvier seront remises au lendemain et que la collecte de matières recyclables aura lieu selon l'horaire régulier au cours de la période des fêtes. L'horaire modifié des collectes pour le secteur commercial est disponible sur le site web au www.westmount.org Info : 514 989-5311.

Arbres de Noël

La cueillette des arbres de Noël débutera le 3 janvier. Placez l'arbre (dépeuillé de toute décoration) à l'arrière du trottoir. Veuillez noter que le déneigement pourrait retarder la cueillette. Info : 514 989-5311.



BIBLIOTHÈQUE Club de lecture en anglais

Joignez-vous au Club de lecture en anglais le mardi 18 décembre à 19 h pour discuter du roman *Great Expectations* de Charles Dickens. Info : 514 989-5386.

Club d'échecs et de Scrabble

Nous sommes toujours à la recherche de nouveaux joueurs; joignez-vous au club les vendredis à 14 h dans la salle Westmount. Info : 514 989-5386.

Films pour enfants

Soyez des nôtres pour des projections de films les jeudi et vendredi 27 et 28 décembre à 14 h dans la salle Westmount. Info : 514 989-5229.



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES Fête de Hanouka à l'hôtel de ville

Joignez-vous aux membres du Conseil et aux rabbins du Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom et de la congrégation Shaar Hashomayim le mercredi 12 décembre à 17 h pour l'illumination de la 5^e chandelle de la Hanouka. Une réception avec de la musique traditionnelle, des friandises et des jeux suivra. Info : 514 989-5226.

Concert : People's Gospel Choir

Le 15 décembre à 19 h 30 au Victoria Hall. Billets : 20 \$ et 10 \$. Présenté par le Club Rotary de Westmount. Info : 514 771-2250 et 514 935-3344.



CITY COUNCIL 2013 Budget

City Council will unveil the budget of the City of Westmount for the fiscal year 2013 as well as the three-year programme of capital expenditures for fiscal years 2013, 2014, and 2015 during the Council meeting of Monday, December 17 at 8 p.m. at City Hall. Info: 514 989-5200.



PUBLIC WORKS Holiday Flower Exhibition

Enjoy the traditional display of poinsettias in the Westmount Conservatory. Consult the opening hours below. Info: 514 989-5230.

Collection Services: Holiday Schedule

Please note that the kitchen waste and garbage collections of December 25 and January 1 will be moved to the following day and that recycling collection will follow the regular schedule during the holiday period. To consult the modified schedule of collections for the commercial sector, visit www.westmount.org. Info: 514 989-5311.

Christmas Trees

Christmas tree collection will begin January 3. Place trees (free of all decorations) behind the sidewalk. Please note that snow and other conditions may delay pick up. Info: 514 989-5311.



LIBRARY English Book Club

Join the English Book Club from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, December 18 at 7 p.m. for a discussion about *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens. Info: 514 989-5386.

Chess and Scrabble Club

Drop by for a friendly game on Fridays at 2 p.m. in the Westmount Room; we look forward to meeting new players. Info: 514 989-5386.

Movies for Children

Join us for movies at 2 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, December 27 and 28 in the Westmount Room. Info: 514 989-5229.



COMMUNITY EVENTS Chanukah Party at City Hall

Join members of council and the rabbis from Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom and Shaar Hashomayim Synagogues on Wednesday, December 12 at 5 p.m. for the lighting of the 5th candle of Chanukah. A reception with traditional music, games and food will follow. Info: 514 989-5226.

Concert : People's Gospel Choir

December 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Victoria Hall. Tickets: \$20 and \$10. Presented by the Rotary Club of Westmount. Info: 514 771-2250 and 514 935-3344.

SERVICES MUNICIPAUX : HORAIRE DE LA PÉRIODE DES FÊTES

Décembre 2012 December 2012

	vendredi 21 Friday	samedi 22 Saturday	dimanche 23 Sunday	lundi 24 Monday	mardi 25 Tuesday	mercredi 26 Wednesday	jeudi 27 Thursday	vendredi 28 Friday	samedi 29 Saturday	dimanche 30 Sunday	lundi 31 Monday	mardi 01 Tuesday	mercredi 02 Wednesday	jeudi 03 Thursday	vendredi 04 Friday
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Hôtel de ville et administration City Hall and administration	8 h 30 - 16 h 30			Fermé Closed			8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30			Fermé Closed			8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30
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Bibliothèque Library	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h		Fermé Closed		10 h - 21 h		Fermé Closed		10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h			
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Conservatoire Conservatory	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h	Fermé Closed	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h	Fermé Closed	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h
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Victoria Hall et la galerie Victoria Hall and The Gallery	8 h 30 - 16 h 30			Fermé Closed			8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30			Fermé Closed			8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30
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Police – PDQ 12
Police Station 12

Tous les jours de 9 h à 19 h
Every day from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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Derek English with his mother Frances December 7 in front of the de Maisonneuve entrance of Dawson College.

Cell phone, cont'd. from p. 1

hall, received a phone call from a person whose only identification was that he was a Dawson College student, saying that he had bought the phone from a homeless person in the Atwater Metro for \$5, and wanted to return it to its rightful owner.

"I hadn't even paid for the phone [yet]," explained English. "I thought it was gone for good. Its return is one of those things you never think would happen. But I am a nurse and I help people, so I guess what goes around comes around. I am happy to know that there are people out there who care about their fellow citizens."

2 dog owners, zero licences

Two dog owners were given 14 days to obtain dog licences during spot checks of the dog run in Murray Park, Nov, 13 and 19, Public Security officials report. Both

lived in Westmount. Tickets would be issued if the required permits were not obtained in time.

Tree lighting had already happened



One dedicated Independent follower showed up on December 5 at 6:30 pm for what he thought was to be the lighting of the city Christmas tree, and some food and cheer. He had read about the event erroneously detailed in this newspaper's Comin' Up column December 4. But when he arrived, the tree was already lit and not a soul was to be found. The wheaten terrier waited for some time by the tree and then patiently sat on the steps of city hall, hoping to hear Mayor Peter Trent and city councillors sing a few carols. He soon gave up and had to go home without any biscuits. Fortunately, everyone else had attended the event on the correct day, December 3, for which the Independent was grateful. No one else had commented on the error.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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Elegant 4+1 bedrooms, beautifully renovated, amazing woodwork, large private garden. **MLS 9422346**



WESTMOUNT 303 Grosvenor \$1,075,000
Beautiful, renovated 3+1 bedroom attached, with lovely garden and finished basement. **MLS 10329472**



VILLE MARIE 3577 Atwater #517 \$619,000
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WESTMOUNT 4549 Sherbrooke W. \$1,198,000
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