Many fail to heed evacuation orders at Alexis Nihon

Fire ignites highrise concerns

By Laureen Sweeney

A recent highrise fire that caused an estimated $100,000 in damage to one apartment has fanned flames of concern by fire officials and at least one tenant.

Many residents did not evacuate the upper levels of the 33-storey Plaza Tower apartments as directed during the supper-time fire July 17, said Fire Prevention Chief Daniel de Vries.

“The evacuation did not go well because people always think it’s a false alarm,” he explained.

Kitchen gutted

The fire gutted a kitchen on the 17th floor after a stove burner was reportedly turned on under a coffeemaker while the tenant went down to the IGA.

No injuries were reported, he said, but the incident became a good lesson in never leaving a stove on unattended and in heeding advice to evacuate.

Failure to follow evacuation procedures also happens at other large buildings, he explained.

And longtime Plaza Tower resident John Johnson said he believed such complacency is compounded at his building by a number of short-term tenants – “tourists” – “who don’t know the procedures.”

Welcome to the “Hotel Alexis Nihon”?

And the latest incident, he said, simply fuels the complaints he has voiced over many years to city council alleging the building operates some units as a hotel.

(Plaza Tower is, in fact, listed in the Yellow Pages in English and French under “hotels”, stating in a display ad that unfurnished apartments are “also” available).

Johnson, who lives on the 14th floor, said continued on page 2

Dispatcher Claudette Gauthier signs off

By Laureen Sweeney

She was on duty for the memorable Alexis Nihon fire in 1986 and for seven days during Ice Storm in 1998.

And now after 22 years on the job, Claudette Gauthier is retiring as senior dispatcher for Westmount’s protective services, at the hub of radio and phone communications for Public Security, and the fire department before its move into Montreal’s island-wide service.

“We’re the nerve centre,” she says, juggling calls on her last day, Friday the 13th (of July).

Even as she speaks, she’s interrupted by a call from a citizen requesting special attention at his property while out-of-town. At the same time, there’s information coming in from a parking inspector on the road, and a patrol car to dispatch. They all require times and other information to be recorded.

Calls never stop

If ever there was a multi-tasking job, this is probably it.

“It’s our job to be the eyes and ears of the community,” she explains. “We even moni- continued on page 2

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55 firefighters on hand to help Alexis Nihon residents

continued from page 1

The evacuation orders had been very clear.

Once the preliminary alarm became a general one (characterized by continuous ringing), “a very loud voice could be heard in the hallway over an intercom alerting everyone to proceed down the stairs as quickly as possible.”

He immediately joined those who did leave.

“There were some people who needed help badly,” he said. “One man in his eighties, who has trouble walking, told me he had been picked up by a young man and carried down 10 storeys!”

Evacuation help

Need assistance in evacuating a house or apartment in event of fire or other emergency?

Persons who do are encouraged to register with the Montreal Fire Department by following the instructions on this form. Once five or more residents are registered at any one building, its management is notified to record those apartments inside the fire alarm panel, where they can be quickly found by fire crews.

Registration for evacuation assistance

According to Chief De Vries, 70 residents of the building are registered with the fire department as needing assistance in evacuation. But he suspects there may be others who have not registered (see separate story).

Firefighters assisted those so registered, starting at the upper floors of the 33-storey building.

Interestingly, he said, “people wondered afterward why we had broken in a door on the 6th floor. It was because one of the residents who left the building told us he had left the stove on.”

In the case of the apartment where the fire started, Chief de Vries said the tenant discovered it full of smoke on opening the door. The sprinkler head just inside activated simultaneously and the tenant immediately shut the door and pulled the alarm, “which was the right thing to do.”

Building security called 911 at 6:13 pm and firefighters from Westmount’s Station 76 and St. Mathieu’s Station 10 responded initially, followed by others. “We raised the level of alarm by one because of the evacuation need,” Chief de Vries said.

Large firefighter presence

A total of 55 firefighters and 16 fire engines arrived, along with numerous fire cars, vans, and police vehicles. “I counted 47 emergency vehicles,” Johnson says.

While Westmount Public Security was not called for assistance by the fire department, two officers were on the scene, said Sgt. Dave Sedgwick.

BBQ briquettes ignite home

Barbecue chefs using briquettes: take heed.

A house at 121 Arlington Ave. sustained estimated damages of $20,000 July 7 when a bag of briquettes caught fire.

Fire officials said that somehow one or more coals from a hibachi slipped into the bag when more were being added. The bag was subsequently taken inside, its contents igniting. Firefighters were called about 6:20 pm.

Some of the damage occurred when firefighters opened walls to check for possible extension of the fire.

Dispatcher to spend more time with family

“My dream,” she says, “would be to open up an Angel House to help teens who need special care when they transition from the social services system to living on their own at age 18.”

Not only has Claudette trained numerous dispatchers over the years, but she also became a strong advocate for workers’ rights. She served as president of the city’s white collar union and negotiated its first labour agreement after its accreditation.

In 1985, when she joined the fire department, she was one of the first female dispatchers in the mutual aid system, where her voice quickly became identified with Westmount over the airwaves.

But times change, she notes, with a hint of nostalgia in her voice.

She’s already outlasted many of the staff with whom she worked closely under crisis situations.

Changing times

And one of her greatest feelings of loss came with the merger of the fire department into Montreal’s island-wide service. With it also went her networking with 911 and Urgences Santé through the dispatching of the first responder.

Going away? PSOs will check out property

The Public Security Unit has already received more than 220 requests this year for Special Passing Attention, most related to the summer vacation period.

Officers call daily at such addresses to look out for telltale signs of absence that could tip off a would-be burglar. Parcels, circulars and papers left at the door are among the most common problems.

Recently, one resident left without locking the front door. Officers relayed the information to someone listed as a reference.

On leaving for vacation, residents are advised to cancel newspapers, arrange for the lawn to be mowed, lock all windows and doors carefully, use timers to turn on lights at night and take other measures to give the house a lived-in look.

The Special Passing Attention service may be obtained by calling Public Security at 514.989.5222.
Parks master plan to be developed

City council has taken the first steps in launching a master plan for the parks and green spaces in Westmount.

At a special meeting July 11, a selection committee was set up to assess bids for professional services related to developing the master plan.

Those named to the committee were public works director Jacques Lahaie, city horticulturist Claudette Savaria, urban planning director Joanne Poirier and director general Bruce St. Louis.

The committee is part of a system being created to establish rules to evaluate bids, explained Councillor George Bowser.

Asked after the meeting if the master plan happened to be related to citizen requests for a survey of parks and playing fields in connection with the renewal of the soccer fields in Westmount Park, Councillor Bowser said the master plan had already been planned for some time and was not related.

Claudette Gauthier on her last day of duty.

unit.

While the communications centre is staffed 24 hours a day by three dispatchers on 8-hour shifts, Claudette has often been called back from her home in St. Philippe de Laprairie during major emergencies when lines were swamped with calls.

“Sometimes in a snowstorm at night, I would be the one to open up my road,” she says.

“But the most worrisome thing for me was the Ice Storm when I was ‘locked-in’ here for seven days while my family was in the hardest hit area.”

But, she adds, “I’ve always been proud to work in Westmount. And I leave with a sense of accomplishment.”

Digging for gas?

A number of road reconstruction projects are in full swing and gas leaks caused by excavation are not far behind. Among the incidents reported are this July 16 gas leak on Chesterfield Ave., and one July 23 outside 668 Belmont Ave. Firefighters typically evacuate homes until gas crews cap the leak. Residents may return to discover their gas pilot lights need relighting.

Claudette Gauthier on her last day of duty.

A special thanks

To everyone for making going to work a pleasure over the past 49 years at BMO Claremont/Grosvenor branch. I have met so many nice people and for that I consider myself a very lucky lady. Thanks for all your cards and, most of all, thanks for the memories.

Sincerely, Betty Devlin

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At Second Glance: Operation Afghanistan: A PR battle

By Heather Black

With mounting casualties in Afghanistan, many are questioning Canada’s combat role. But isn’t creating dissent a Taliban goal? And don’t international missions require a more aggressive stance? Look at Bosnia or Rwanda!

To get a clearer view, I spoke to Captain Gabriel Granatstein at the Westmount Armoury and surveyed the major media outlets for information. The armoury is home to the Royal Montreal Regiment and the 712 Communications Squadron, five soldiers from which have served in Afghanistan.

Peace-Support Operations

At the request of the Afghan government, Canada has three “peace-support operations”. These include an advisory team to President Karzai; instructors to the Afghan National Army; and 2,500 troops for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

ISAF’s goal is to secure areas so that aid distribution and rebuilding can take place. In many areas, schools have reopened and democracy has returned. But in Kandahar province where our troops are located, it’s a different situation. In a televised interview, aid worker Edward McCormick described starving children in refugee camps and called for more troops to secure the area.

But without sufficient personnel on the ground, ISAF relies on air strikes against the Taliban. And since January, with over 1,000 strikes, civilian deaths have increased to over 200 or 300.

Civilian deaths are what the Taliban want

Like Hamas and Hezbollah, jihadists use villagers as shields. Lotfullah Mashal of the Afghan Security Council told Al Jazeera: “Now the Taliban are intentionally trying to increase civilian casualties to increase civilians’ anger at the government.” And at ISAF.

But the Taliban’s use of suicide bombers and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) has increased casualties. While the combat role is considered by many politicians to be the cause of military deaths, since January only one was combat-related. 19 were caused by IEDs. The Taliban know that military deaths will decrease support in the West.

And their tactics are working. Public support for the mission is down from 2001. The total casualties — now 66 — is unsettling. Yet that number is similar to other high-risk voluntary services: 75 firemen perished across Canada in the same period. Even peacekeeping held risks for our soldiers, 114 Canadians died from 1948 to 2005.

Reality check

The consequences for not doing enough are evident this week as the trial of Bosnian Commander Rasim Delic progresses. Charged by the UN war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, he is accused of allowing his men — including 500 mujahideen — to shoot, torture and behead Bosnian Serb and Croat prisoners.

And last month we were reminded of UN inaction in Rwanda, when Major Bernard Ntuyahaga was convicted of murdering 10 Belgium peacekeepers. That event triggered the pull-out of 2,500 peacekeepers, leaving Canadian General Romeo Dallaire with less than 500 men. His denied request for a force of 5,000 peacekeepers would have prevented the genocide of 500,000 Tutsis.

And in Canada, although jihadists used our Afghan mission as a justification to overthrow parliament and behead our prime minister, terrorism was a goal before 2001. Only a kilometer from Westmount, the Millennium Bomber plotted the murder of many civilians.

Reaching consensus

Recently, Prime Minister Harper spoke of a need for consensus on our Afghan mission. Yet according to a recent poll, only 23 percent of Canadians think that the government has effectively explained Afghanistan.

But it’s important to note that progress is being made in Kandahar. Returning members of the 712 Communication Squadron have told Captain Granatstein, that life is improving for local villagers on many levels. And that’s what we want to hear!

Do you see stars? Westmount’s light problem

By Eve Aspinall

When night falls, can you look up and see the stars? Are they bright and clear? What about the Milky Way, the Big Dipper? Can you see the stars? Are they bright and clear?

Aside from a few dim stars here and there, our light pollution is likely to be the cause of the dimness of our night skies. Light pollution has crept up on us gradually. It has an impact on each of us in many ways. It diminishes the quality and quantity of sleep and increases stress. We can no longer enjoy our astral skies. It disturbs animal life, stopping reproduction when bright lights disturb their habitat and causes migratory birds to fly off course. In Florida, sea turtles currently are endangered by light pollution. Bats, which help to control the increasingly dangerous mosquito population, are particularly averse to bright light and now are rarely seen locally. Excessive light is costing us a lot of money and wasting a vast amount of power when we should be reducing our consumption.

Montreal as bright as New York

In satellite photos of the world at night made by NASA, Montreal shines as brightly as all of New York City, although the population of New York is five times that of Montreal! Furthermore, the amount of energy used by North Americans is about twice that of the European average and five times as much as developed Asian countries. Canadians top the scales.

Light pollution covers three main areas: light trespass, glare and urban sky glow. Light trespass refers to the spillage outside of its designated area, e.g. light shining onto other people’s property or into their homes. Glare is created by blinding or hazardous lighting that impedes the ability to see clearly and/or hinders people’s activities. Glare can be hazardous to cyclists, drivers and pedestrians. Urban sky glow comes from light reflected upward instead of downward where it is needed and results in the orangey glow that has replaced the once inky black, star-studded sky. All three forms waste significant amounts of energy. For every hour a given light is on, additional greenhouse gases plus the by-products of the power generating process are released into the atmosphere.

What we can do

With global warming an imminent threat, it behooves all of us to do our part to lessen our contribution. There are many things that citizens can do.

1. Lower the wattage of bulbs and use environmentally friendly light bulbs. By lowering wattage of outside lights, you gain greater visibility, making it easier to see into the shadowy areas of your garden. Using lower wattages both indoors and outdoors will save money and energy.

2. Turn lights on only when needed. Dawn-to-dusk lights are wasteful and in-

continued on the next page
**Retailers fight breast cancer**

Westmounter (and son-in-law of Bead Emporium owner Ruth Shine) Lupo Masse Blume is “using water as a vehicle for awareness” by launching the Chain of Hope campaign. Businesses can contribute to breast cancer awareness by pledging that they will raise $1,000 by selling Hope in Bottle spring water within a one year period.

Many Westmount merchants are participating, including Metro Fletcher, Pom’ Cannelle, Mademoiselle Pinki, Bertucci Designs, Elite Laser, Movieland and Coral.

**Reality check**

A brush with death after being diagnosed with meningitis in 2005 gave Masse Blume a “reality check.” It was then that the charismatic, Peruvian-born dynamo decided to launch Hope in a Bottle.

The founder of Aqua Media, a marketing company that uses the labels on bottled water to promote advertising, has combined his marketing expertise and philanthropic nature.

For each bottle he sells, he donates 10 percent of the wholesale price to the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation. His water is sold in over 200 Metro stores across Quebec. Says Masse Blume: “One can write a cheque and put it towards breast cancer research, but what is needed is education and awareness.”

He goes on to explain that breast cancer is one of the illnesses with the highest survival rate when detected early; hence the need for women to be educated about early detection and lifestyle choices that can help in reducing chances of them succumbing to this devastating disease.

Lupo sums up his efforts by passionately saying “every Chain of Hope member has a chance to join and make a difference.”

To become a link in the Chain of Hope, contact Masse Blume at 514.845.2782, lupo@aquamedia.biz, www.hopeinabottle.ca.

**Letters to the editor**

**Where has Greta been?**

I recently received your July 4, 2007 edition of the Westmount Independent, and was not pleased at what I discovered, in fact, did not discover within the pages.

WHERE was Greta von Schmedlapp? WHAT kind of publication is this to let a poor old lady lose her job?! We need her back: a sense of humour and fun information are urgently requested from your publication.

WHERE is she?!!!

Mrs. R. Takeishi
Frustrated Westmount reader

[Ed.’s note: Greta will return in the next issue of the Westmount Independent.]
Totem pole fund reaches $6,000

By Lauren Sweeney

A BC totem pole in a tropical forest? A most unlikely place, you may say. But we’re talking about the tropical room in Westmount’s greenhouse. And that’s the humidity-controlled environment that’s considered best suited to prevent further deterioration of the totem pole whose restoration has been the objective of many fundraising projects.

With the fund now reaching some $6,000 after events this summer, the totem’s refurbishing appears imminent.

“We’re now looking for restorers,” said city horticulturist Claudette Savaria in announcing this year’s proceeds to the fund. A suitable location for its permanent installation also remains to be chosen.

The Secret Garden Tour netted more than $4,000 to add to the $700 from the sale of plants at the Plant Exchange and Family Day.

The pole requires cleaning, consolidation of flaking paint, removal of fungus or other types of growth, the matching of colours, repairs and installation.

Virginia Elliott, Assistant Community Relations Coordinator, says this year’s mounting of the totem on a base has stemmed some deterioration caused by its contact with the ground.

The 12-foot totem pole was a star feature in the Campbell garden at 21 Edgehill Rd. after it was reportedly brought back from BC in 1927 by a family member. Its cultural origins are unknown.

After Westmount acquired the Campbell garden land, the totem was donated to the city and eventually came to stand in the playground of Westmount Park.

Somewhat faded from the elements, its restoration has been taken on as a special project by the city’s Horticultural Advisory Committee (HAC).

A BC totem pole in a tropical forest?

Tax $ at work

Water line renewal and garbage pickup lead spending

A breakdown of the tenders accepted (contractors, and costs with taxes included) at a special meeting of city council July 11 were:

- Renewal of contracts for the collection and disposal of refuse in four sectors (A, C, D, and E) for a 12-month period starting Oct. 1, to Enlèvement de D échets Bergeron Inc. in the amount of $2,311,959;
- Renewal of the contract for the collection and disposal of refuse in sector B for a 12-month period starting Oct. 1, to JR Services Sanitaires in the amount of $326,740;
- Insertion of a structural liner in the water line on Belvedere Place, by Aqua Rehab Inc., for $80,642;
- Replacement of a water service line on Belvedere Place, by Les enterprises Canbec Construction Inc. for $99,137;
- Insertion of a structural liner in the water line on Wood Ave., by Aqua Rehab Inc. for $98,498;
- Replacement of a water service line on Wood Ave., by Les Enterprises Canbec Construction Inc. for $89,637;
- Supply of computer hardware equipment, by Dataworld (Canada) Inc. in the amount of $3,983;
- Supply of two distribution transformers as part of the refurbishing of Block Q12 for Hydro Westmount, by Transformateur Pioneer Littée for $27,240; and,
- Labour and material to replace old lamp post bases and to carry out conduit work on Mout Pleasant Ave. (Sherbrooke to Holton), by Les Entreprises Transeselect-Common Inc. in the amount of $37,212.
Is it really time to be thinking about returning to school?

With CEGEPs opening in two-and-a-half weeks and Westmount’s public and private schools following quickly behind, the answer is a surprising “yes.”

While savouring the (gulp) last days of summer, parents are half-heartedly planning their children’s return to school and beginning the attendant shopping.

In early July, fall clothes started “flying off the shelves” at LMNOP children’s boutique, said Shelley Kerman, who, with Sharyn Fagan, owns the 4919A Sherbrooke St. store. In mid-July, snowsuits arrived

**Earth tones are out of this world**

So what are the hot colours for this autumn?

“Pink is always in for girls,” said Kerman, who knows a thing or two about such matters, having run the kids’ clothing store for 16 years. “You can’t ignore pink. But reds are also big. Burgundy. Olives and earth tones.

“With boys, navy is always big. Brown, too. It took awhile for people to accept it but brown is big, for both boys and girls. Earth tones are big.”

**Webkinz joins ranks of Cabbage Patch Kids, Elmo and Beanie Babies**

At Westmount Stationery, owner Thomas Forestell is fighting to keep up with a latest craze: stuffed animals called Webkinz. “They continue to be our most popular product. We had trouble keeping them in stock this spring, but we are well supplied at the moment.”

**The back-to-school staple**

A must for any child is that back-to-school staple, the all-important backpack. Disney’s brilliantly marketed and ubiquitous Princesses continue to be favoured by the under-10 girl crowd, as does Barbie. Dora is also popular this upcoming fall season.

With the younger boys, Spiderman is edging out SpongeBob SquarePants, as he has for a while now.

**Potter mania hits Westmount**

Babar en ville hosted a memorable evening on Friday, July 20 in honour of the launch of J. K. Rowling’s last of the Potter series: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. While anxious Potter fans lined up at the entrance to the bookstore, they were entertained by fire spinners and met by Hagrid and Draco Malfoy and Professors Snape and Trellawny. The party started at 10:30 pm and went on until 1 am. More than 200 people attended and over 100 books were sold. “This was a memorable community event for fellow Potter readers,” said Maya Byers, the

**Teen cyclists fined**

Two teenagers were ticketed July 16 for riding their bicycles in Westmount Park after a previous warning, public safety officials report. The statements of offence carried $37 fines. Parents of the youths were informed.

On July 19, a man was issued a $75 fine for carrying a small pocket knife. He came to the attention of officers when asked to leave Westmount Park at 3:15 am because of the parks curfew. Acting nervously, he apparently admitted to carrying a knife.

Two days later, at 2 pm, a man with no known address was reported to have been drinking beer at Sherbrooke and Roslyn. Police were called to help identify him. Intoxicated, the man had no known address. He was also issued a $75 fine.
### Bought & Sold: Real estate registered since June 27

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Valuation</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Sellers</th>
<th>Buyers</th>
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<td>610 Argyle Ave.</td>
<td>$1,160,700</td>
<td>$1,495,000</td>
<td>The Memphre Trust</td>
<td>Mark &amp; Karen Parry Billings</td>
<td>06/27</td>
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<td>7 Belgrave Rd.</td>
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<td>$838,000</td>
<td>Sun Qian</td>
<td>Jennifer Shaw</td>
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<td>55 Belvedere Circle</td>
<td>$2,650,000</td>
<td>$5,250,000</td>
<td>Guy Casgrain</td>
<td>9184-0413 Quebec Inc.</td>
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<td>3306 Cedar Ave.</td>
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<td>Leslie Martino</td>
<td>Samuel Ramsey</td>
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<td>4380-4382 Côte des Neiges</td>
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<td>Benoit Turcotte</td>
<td>Isabelle Therrien</td>
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<td>9 De Casson Rd.</td>
<td>$753,500</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>James Little &amp; Marie-Josée Castonguay</td>
<td>Bruno Roy &amp; Isabelle Folco</td>
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<td>461 Elm Ave.</td>
<td>$522,000</td>
<td>$760,000</td>
<td>Claude Letellier de Saint-Just</td>
<td>Janet MacKinnon &amp; Marie Vegiard</td>
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<td>655 Grosvenor Ave.</td>
<td>$723,600</td>
<td>$1,225,000</td>
<td>Mark Chistolini</td>
<td>Paul Levesque &amp; Lucie Jean</td>
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<td>Carl Sigmund Bang</td>
<td>Isabelle Landry &amp; David Perlman</td>
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<td>673 Grosvenor Ave.</td>
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<td>$850,000</td>
<td>Bernice Landry</td>
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<td>341 Metcalfe Ave.</td>
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<td>Hubert Savoie &amp; Camille Habel</td>
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<td>Osman Izaz &amp; Nazish Hussain</td>
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<td>617 Victoria Ave.</td>
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<td>Jonathan Tétrauld &amp; Elizabeth Camiré</td>
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<td>$635,000</td>
<td>Helen Gross</td>
<td>Alexandre Gliklad</td>
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<td>622 Belmont Ave.</td>
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<td>$1,450,000</td>
<td>Linda Jane Shaw</td>
<td>Bernard Anzarouth &amp; Cindy Morantz</td>
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<td>646 Carleton Ave.</td>
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<td>$2,650,000</td>
<td>Denis Hennion &amp; Sophie Tscheltzoff</td>
<td>Jamesine McKeever</td>
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<td>24 Forden Ave.</td>
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<td>$1,550,000</td>
<td>Nancy Veinish</td>
<td>Antony Kovic &amp; Donna-Lynn McMurray</td>
<td>07/10</td>
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<td>435-9 Grosvenor (usufruit, 2.63%)</td>
<td>$4,600,000</td>
<td>$162,500</td>
<td>Développement Villa Grosvenor Inc.</td>
<td>Louis Chapelain</td>
<td>07/05</td>
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<td>352 Kitchener Ave.</td>
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<td>$819,000</td>
<td>Marguerite Laflamme</td>
<td>James Bowker &amp; Arlene Kipling</td>
<td>07/09</td>
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<td>4495 Sherbrooke St.</td>
<td>$530,000</td>
<td>$699,000</td>
<td>Dietrich Karau &amp; Sylvia Borau</td>
<td>6796311 Canada Inc.</td>
<td>07/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Springfield Ave.</td>
<td>$423,800</td>
<td>$580,000</td>
<td>Susan Anne Hislop</td>
<td>George Peter Vaitkunias &amp; Karla Grudis</td>
<td>07/11</td>
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<td>45 Stayner St.</td>
<td>$389,300</td>
<td>$477,500</td>
<td>Peter Blusanovics &amp; Diana Coviello</td>
<td>McShane Jones &amp; Elena Postnikova Jones</td>
<td>07/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>4830 St. Catherine St.</td>
<td>$381,000</td>
<td>$545,000</td>
<td>Succ Nancy Carrell</td>
<td>Robert Lewandowski &amp; Anne Latour</td>
<td>07/03</td>
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<td>465 Strathcona Ave.</td>
<td>$1,040,700</td>
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<td>Barry Anthony Cohen</td>
<td>Jean-Christophe Renondin &amp; Laurence Milot</td>
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<tr>
<td>488 Strathcona Ave.</td>
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<td>$1,750,000</td>
<td>Guy Laframboise &amp; Vannessa Benitz</td>
<td>Kaplan Family Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Willow Ave.</td>
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<td>$1,350,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Leslie Martino</td>
<td>07/03</td>
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### Three 100-year birthday celebrations

A very special birthday party took place at Place Kensington on July 18 to celebrate the birthdays of three resident centenarians: Evelyn Alexander (born in Montreal June 29, 1907), Harriet Cohen (born in Brooklyn, NY June 30, 1907) and Hedwig (Heddy) Unterberg (born in Vienna, Austria July 3, 1907).

All three have spent most of their adult lives in Montreal. To honour these ladies who have lived through almost the entire 20th century as well as the beginning of the 21st, a luncheon was served. “Centenarian and Plus Club” certificates and white teddy bears were given to each one.

An exhibit made from newspaper excerpts looking back at our world over the last 100 years was on display, highlighting events that these ladies have experienced during their lifetime.

![Image of three women celebrating]
TRUST. REACH. RESULTS.
The Westmount Gardener

Cleaning up

BY STUART ROBERTSON

A few garden chores can make all the difference between an ordinary garden and a well-kept, smart-looking one: things like trimming and weeding – particularly and a well-kept, smart-looking one: things

difference between an ordinary garden organization.

A simple operation which makes the lawn and garden look 100 percent neater with your own plants.

A lot of people have asked me how to make manure tea as a fertilizer. You have to soak a bag of manure in a bucket of water overnight, which is not always easy for the city gardener. There is an easier way to brew it nowadays. A Canadian business called The Barnyard Tea Company makes easy-to-use “tea bags” filled with composted manure. You pop one of them into two litres of hot water and let it sit for 24 hours. (You can make larger quantities with more bags.) Then water all your flowers, vegetables and container plants with the odourless 2-3-2 mixture for a gentle, organic fertilizer boost. Throw the used “tea bags” into your compost.

Manure tea

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Wearing Westmount to raise money

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) will be hosting its 17th annual gala dinner and fashion show on August 20 at 6 pm at Centre Mont-Royal (2200 Mansfield). The theme is “Wearing Westmount”.

Many Westmount fashion retailers are participating: Bloom Maternity, Mimi & Coco, Lulu Lemon, Boutique Emma, Georges Rech, LMNOP, James, Bella, Collange, Rivet Laundry, M2 and Trink.

Question: Who wanted to create Westmount Park? For answer see p. 12.
DATES À RETENIR

Jusqu’au 18 août
Proche de nous
La galerie du Victoria Hall

Le 13 août
Concours Collectivités en fleurs
Arrivée des juge

Le 18 et 19 août - 19 h
Théâtre en plein air
Scapin the Schemer!
Parc Westmount

Le 21 et 22 août - 18 h
Inscriptions pour les activités de loisirs
Victoria Hall

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

La galerie du Victoria Hall
La galerie du Victoria Hall est fier de présenter l’exposition de groupe Proche de nous jusqu’au 18 août. Dix artistes westmountiens participent à cette exposition. Info : 514 989-5226

Concerts d’été au parc Westmount
Jusqu’au 12 août à 14 h
Venez assister à des concerts professionnels près de l’étang du parc Westmount les dimanches à 14 h. En cas de pluie, les concerts auront lieu au Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5226

Le 5 août L’Esprit de la Nouvelle-Orléans
Le 12 août Trio Jon Gery

Théâtre en plein air

SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Répertoire de loisirs
Le répertoire des activités de loisirs automne/hiver sera distribué aux résidants de Westmount à compter du lundi 6 août. Ce répertoire sera également disponible dans les immeubles municipaux et sur notre site Web dès le 9 août. Info : 514 989-5353

TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Collectivités en fleurs
La Ville de Westmount encourage tous les résidants et propriétaires d’entreprises à accorder une attention particulière à l’herbe à poux au cours des prochaines semaines, alors qu’elle se prépare à recevoir la visite des juges nationaux dans le cadre du concours Collectivités en fleurs.


SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Couvre-feu dans les parcs
En raison de l’augmentation spectaculaire des rapports de vandalisme, de graffitis et d’infraction relative à la toxicomanie dans les parcs municipaux, la Ville de Westmount instaure un couvre-feu dans tous ses parcs. Les parcs sont maintenant fermés au public tous les soirs, de minuit à 5 h. Les contrevenants sont passibles d’une amende minimum de 37 $.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Club de lecture vacances 2007

SPORTS & RECREATION

Recreation Activities Guide
The fall/winter edition of the Recreation Activities Guide will be delivered to all households in Westmount beginning Monday, August 6. The Guide will also be available in municipal buildings and on the City’s Web site as of August 9. Info: 514 989-5353.

PUBLIC WORKS

Communities in Bloom
The City of Westmount is encouraging all residents and business owners to pay special attention to ragweed over the next several weeks, as the City moves closer to judging the Communities in Bloom competition.

A nuisance that’s nothing to sneeze at, ragweed is one of the leading causes of hay fever and other seasonal respiratory allergies in the Montreal area. A full description of the effects of ragweed, photographs of the plant and tips for minimizing hay fever symptoms is available on our Web site at www.westmount.org.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Park Curfew
Due to a dramatic increase in reports of vandalism, graffiti and substance abuse infractions in municipal parks, the City of Westmount is instituting a curfew in all parks.

All parks in Westmount are now closed to the public nightly from 12 a.m. to 5 a.m. Violators will be subject to a minimum fine of $37.

LIBRARY

Summer Reading Club 2007
Until August 24! Blast off to the outer reaches of the universe in this annual summer reading club. The theme this year is To the Library and Beyond! You can still register for this activity in the children’s section of the Library. Info: 514 989-5229.

DATEBOOK

Until August 18
Close to Home
Gallery at Victoria Hall

August 13
Communities in Bloom Competition
Arrival of Judges

August 18 & 19 - 7 p.m.
Theatre in the Park
Scapin the Schemer!
Westmount Park

August 21 & 22 - 6 p.m.
Registration for Recreation Activities
Victoria Hall

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Gallery at Victoria Hall
The Gallery at Victoria Hall is proud to present Close to Home, a group exhibition featuring ten Westmount artists. The exhibition will run until August 18. Info: 514 989-5226.

Summer Concerts in the Park
Until August 12, 2 p.m.
Join us on Sundays at 2 p.m. at the lagoon in Westmount Park for free concerts by professional musicians. Rain location: Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5226

August 5 L’esprit de la Nouvelle-Orléans
August 12 Jon Geary Trio

Theatre in the Park
This summer, Repercussion Theatre will be presenting Molière’s Scapin the Schemer! Saturday, August 18 and Sunday, August 19 at 7 p.m. in Westmount Park. Admission is free. Bring a lawn chair. Info: 514 989-5226 or www.repercussiontheatre.com.

WEB PAGE

Vol. 1/5
Publié par Westmount ‹ Published by Westmount
Molière in the park

Free theatre in the park? Sign us up. Actually there is no need to sign up or register. Just show up at Westmount Park for ties and events at the arena, library and Victoria Hall.

History quiz: Westmount Park

The result of many people’s efforts

Question from page 10: Who wanted to create Westmount Park?

Answer: The Côte St. Antoine Improvement Committee in 1890.

In my last article ("Who owned WEST MOUNT?"), I mentioned that William Murray sold 10 acres of his land for a park below Sherbrooke St., which had just been extended this far west. Land was also bought from J. H. Shearer, Thomas Badenack, H. L. Penny and Smith & Watson for a total of 20 acres. The land extended from Sherbrooke St. to Western Ave. (now de Maisonneuve Blvd., this section of which is now closed to traffic) and from Melville Ave. to the rear of the properties on Lansdowne Ave.

Westmount Park is our oldest park

The Côte St. Antoine Improvement Committee’s recommendation that the town purchase 16 acres of still undeveloped land finally became a reality in 1898. The Town of Côte St. Antoine had become the Town of Westmount in 1895 and two years later people were looking for ways to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. In 1898 they named the newly created parkland Victoria Jubilee Park.

When Westmount created parkland out of woodlands and deep ravines, it was following the ideal of the times. There was a feeling all across North America that a city needed a place for recreation, a place for communication with nature and a focus for civic life.

To fulfill the third ideal and also to celebrate Queen Victoria, Westmount citizens decided to build a public library and a cultural centre in the park. The cultural centre was named Victoria Hall.

In 1874 Montreal hired Frederick Law Olmsted (who had designed New York’s Central Park in the 1850’s) to come to Montreal and design Mount Royal Park. It also opened on Victoria Day, 1876. Some councillors wanted to ask Olmsted to work out a plan to convert our wooded ravines into parkland for residents, but other councillors thought he’d hire for $1,000 too high. Although he did not design our park, it had many of the features that Olmsted established in Central Park: a variety of trees, separate areas for relaxation, reading, walking paths, even twig bridges to surround the ravines similar to those built in The Rambles in Central Park.

Growth and repair

Later, the Glen stream and some ravines were filled in and other ravines had cobblestone retaining walls built to stop erosion. Additional land was added, landscape architects were called in to tidy up the original forested land, a bandstand was designed and flowerbeds created. Then, after a period of neglect, a major facelift was undertaken in 1964.

Today Westmount Park consists of 26 acres and is the second largest park in Westmount. The largest is the Summit and Belvedere Park consisting of 57 acres.
For story,
see paper archive.
**The Westmount Townshipper**

**Something to please every taste**

With dozens of festivals, five-star lodging, 80 tourist attractions – from the Granby Zoo to Bleu Lavande, Canada’s largest lavender producer – 500 kilometers of roads out of a cyclist’s dream, four national parks and more, is it any wonder the Eastern Townships has been a beloved summer destination for generations of Westmounters?

“We have more than 150 festivals in the Townships, mostly during the summer. There is one to please every taste,” said Danie Béliveau of the Eastern Townships Tourism Association.

Regional and provincial competitions, horse pulls, concerts, exhibitors and children’s games take place during the Weedon Dalton Horse Show and Professional Rodeo, August 3 to 5 and 9 to 12. For more information, please call 1.866.259.2786 or 819.877.3102.

Compton will offer a taste of local chefs’ offerings during its *Weekend with a Country Flavour*. This unique gastronomic experience takes place 11 am to 7 pm, Saturday, August 4 and 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, August 5 at the Louis St. Laurent National Historic Site of Canada. For more information, please call 819.835.5448.

Swimmers will go the length of Lake Memphremagog (among other less ambitious events) during the 29th edition of Memphremagog International Swim Competition, which ends on August 5. This internationally renowned swimming event includes many professional and amateur sporting activities open to the public, including animation, performances, fireworks, a children’s village and exhibitors. For more information, please see www.tlm.net or call 1.800.267.2744 or 819.847.3007.

Got milk? The *Milk Fair* takes place through August 5 in Coaticook. A family event, it features animal exhibits and judging, tractor pulls, samplings of dairy and regional products, farm visits, concerts, rides, crafts and a parade. For more information, please call 819.849.6010.

Come and meet artists at work in downtown Granby during the *Painters’ Symposium*, through August 5. For more information, please call 1.866.472.6292 or 450.375.8338.

North Hatley hosts *Band Concerts* at Dreamland Park on Sundays August 5 and August 12 at 2 pm. For more information, please call 819.842.1091.

*Le P’tit Bonheur de Saint-Camille* runs August 6 to 10 and features a painting workshop with professional artist Seymour Segal. At 162 Miquelon St. in St. Camille. For more information, please call 819.828.2664.

What better place to catch a Perseid meteor shower than ASTROLab? From August 9 to 13 there will be shuttle service to the summit, observation workshops, lectures and thematic concerts. At Notre Dame des Bois. For more information, please call 1.800.665.6272 or 819.888.2941.

Indoor and outdoor concerts, many of them free, will be performed as part of the *Orford Festival* through August 12. Dinner/show packages are available. For a full listing, please see www.arts-orford.org or call 1.800.567.6155 or 819.843.3981.

The * Arnak Shriners Country & Western Rodeo Festival* runs August 10 to 12 in Brome. It features a rodeo, country music bands and other family activities, including tent and RV camping at the Brome fairgrounds. For more information, please call 1.866.617.6336.

*Musical mornings* take place 11:15 to 12:15 Sunday through August 26 at an old marble quarry in Dudswell. A heritage church is the rain location. For more information, please call 819.887.6093.

Do you believe in lake monsters? Then check out the *Legend of Memphrémagog*, an exhibit of artwork inspired by Lake Memphramagog’s legendary creature. Running until August 30, the show also includes artifacts found in the lake as well as documents and photographs relating to the lake’s history. For more information, please call 819.868.1881.

And last but not least: *Brome Fair* from August 31 to September 3. The fair is an annual fall agricultural fair and educational exhibition that takes place in the tiny village of Brome. It is the third largest agricultural fair in Quebec.

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**Underdog**

Underdog is a small organization founded by former Westmounter Fern Brezlaw that aims to find special owners for dogs with special needs. These are often older, handicapped or simply unloved dogs that can’t compete with purebreds or puppies. As a result, they often go unnoticed at local shelters.

*Shiloh* is one such dog: an eight-year-old cocker spaniel who narrowly avoided death row at the pound and is now in desperate need of a good home. Because he is older, Shiloh is calmer than many young dogs and has already been through the headache of toilet training. He is an absolute lovebug and will make a wonderful pet for someone who can see beyond his gray hair and bad teeth. To find out more about adopting Shiloh, write to sophiedogadoption@hotmail.com.

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**Retail Watch: The Victoria Village**

**Pom’Cannelle moves back**

Pom’Cannelle is home sweet home (4860 Sherbrooke St. W., 514.483.1787). The high-end children’s clothing boutique moved back to its old location after a short stay on Victoria Ave. during extensive renovations. The store has undergone a complete facelift and even has a wheelchair access button so that doors open automatically. Translation for parents: stroller access.

**Summer punch**

Enjoy a glass of summer punch on Thursday, August 2 from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm at Studio Trink and M2 (344A and 346A Victoria Ave., 514.223.7788 and 514.510.9778). The two boutiques will be open and offering cocktails as well as 20 percent off merchandise.

**Hunting for vintage**

Hunting for groovy vintage clothing and collectibles? Veteran shop owner Lynn Majdell, who owns The Hunt in TMR for 15 years, is opening her second boutique on August 10 (316 Victoria Ave., 514.461.0388). From Christian Dior suede fringed ponchos to Yves Saint Laurent men’s ties and croquet sets, The Hunt is a place to find antiques, estate jewelry and vintage clothing, accessories and collectibles. “Everything here is one of a kind,” says Lynn, “the boutique will be a groovy New York Soho kind of vintage store.”
The Westmount Parent
Swimming, dancing and gardening
Annika Melanson

My daughter Amel and I are enjoying every moment of sunshine at the Westmount pool this summer. I recently discovered that private swimming lessons are offered by the Westmount pool lifeguards, who are certified by the Canadian Red Cross as instructors and are qualified to administer first aid and CPR. A half-hour lesson is $15 to $20. For the lucky few who have their own swimming pool, the instructors are available to teach at your home. You can speak to the lifeguards or call 514.989.5200 and ask to be connected with the pool desk.

New adult swim rules

Speaking of the pool, apart from the new “no mandatory bathing caps” ruling, there is another change this year: no children allowed at all in the pool during adult swim. For as far as I can remember, children under the age of six were permitted in the shallow end, accompanied by an adult.

Marc-André Delorme, the pool manager, and upper management have decided to disallow kids in the pool during adult swim because of “past complaints from adults” and “parents lying about their children’s age.”

Funky Feet

Funky Feet dance classes encourage children of all ages to experience the joy of dance by exploring space, rhythm, moods and music through fun activities and games. Classes will be offered at Westmount Preschool (4350 St. Catherine St. W. 514.914.5656) starting mid-September for kids ages two to five. Each session lasts 30 minutes and all types of music will be introduced from disco and salsa to jazz and hip-hop. Funky Feet is also available for special events and private parties. For more information about the fall session, contact Jennifer Jones at the above-mentioned telephone number or visit www.funkyfeet.ca or www.mummieslist.com.

Blooming book of motherhood

Pregnancy and motherhood are both very special experiences. Bloom Maternity (4937 Sherbrooke St. W., 514.486.4572) is asking mums-to-be, mummies and grandmothers to share their experiences, stories, anecdotes and favourite quotes or sayings about motherhood. These valuable keepsakes will be compiled in a book, Blooming: Stories for Delivery, which will be published and sold to mums “as a fun distraction while waiting to push.” All proceeds will be donated to the Montreal Children’s Hospital. E-mail your quotes or stories to info@bloommaternity.ca or drop by the store and make an entry in the “store collection book”. The deadline is March 2008.

Retail therapy

Bloom Maternity has always offered a jeans conversion service, where pregnant mummies bring their favourite designer jeans to Bloom and have them converted into maternity jeans…then converted back to their svelte shape after delivery. Bloom is now carrying Mavi jeans, which are more affordable than other high-end jeans ($140) and stretchier than other name brands. Other new maternity items include the Delicious line of maternity t-shirts, all priced under $45 and Raz Baby pacifiers, such as the “Keep It Clean” model, which when dropped on the floor, has wings that fold inwards protecting the nipple. This ingenious item is only $6.

For those of you who like a good tidbit of gossip, Brad Pitt was in Bloom recently and purchased a Belli Cream gift set, which included a body exfoliator, belly oil, body lotion and body wash for $85.

A little beyond Westmount: Little green thumbs

The Canadian Centre for Architecture (1920 Baile St., 514.939.7026, www.cca.qc.ca) is offering roof garden workshops for children ages 5 to 12 accompanied by their parents. Junior landscape architects will learn all about green roofs, roof gardens and their benefits.

My daughter and I attended the workshop a few weeks ago. We were asked to bring an empty two-litre milk or juice container (great for recycling), which served as the “pot” in which we planted our garden. From poking drainage holes into the bottom of our containers to layering rocks and soil separated by a textile membrane (a j-cloth), each step was explained in a thorough way easily understood by the children. Of course, we took our creation home with us where it is living happily on our balcony.

The Green Roof workshops are offered every Sunday in August as well as September 9 and 16 at 10:15 am and at 2 pm. The duration is two hours and reservations are necessary. The cost is $6 for adults, $4 for children. If it rains, an indoor activity will be offered.

Follow-up

As a follow-up to last month’s column, it has come to my attention that LMNOP (4919A Sherbrooke St. W., 514.486.4572) carries flotation bathing suits similar to the ones I mentioned. They are about $50 and come in an assortment of colours. The boutique also has NoZone bathing suits, which are UV resistant, come in sizes 0 to 14 and cost $54 and up.

Westmounter exhibits his Normand Hudon collection

Westmounter Denis Lépine first encountered the art of Normand Hudon in 1986 and made his initial purchase of the artist’s work the following year. That started the ball rolling: Lépine now has over 100 books containing Hudon’s work and nearly 100 original pieces by him, including lithographs, paintings, cartoons, record covers and card games.

“I purchased Portrait de famille in 1987. Several months later, it appeared in an art book with the description, ‘Collection of Denis Lépine.’ It felt funny to already have a collection,” said Lépine.

Normand Hudon was a versatile artist best known for his caricatures and cartoons in La Presse, Le Petit Journal and Le Devoir. He was born in Montreal in 1929 and died in 1997.

Hudon’s work struck Lépine like a thunderbolt: “The subjects interested me right away. Hudon was a visionary. He commented on politics and criticized Union Nationale politicians in a way that was ahead of his time. In addition, he worked quickly and often used just one line when composing a new work.”

Lépine’s works are on exhibition at the Maison de la culture Mercier until August 26. They will also form part of a larger retrospective being done in Sherbrooke at the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Sherbrooke from October 20 to mid-February 2008.

Three portraits by Normand Hudon of his friend, Père Ambroise Lafontaine, a Quebec priest who travelled extensively in Africa doing missionary work.
A guide to Montreal’s parenting resources for every Montreal parent. In either language!

The guide for Montreal cyclists.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

As of issue #5, we’re doing great, but we could still use your help!

If you like what we’re doing, please:

Tell our existing advertisers. Even if you’re not using their services, let them know that you saw their advertisement and that you read the Westmount Independent. Remember that the City of Westmount is an advertiser.

Tell other potential advertisers. Our response from readers has been overwhelmingly positive, but real estate agents and retailers have many things on their minds. If you know any of them personally or professionally, please tell them about the Westmount Independent.

If you don’t like what we’re doing, please tell us – and we’ll try to fix it.

Many thanks to everyone for their encouragement and contributions.

David Price, Editor
514.935.4537 – davidprice@pricepatterson.com

Looking for stuff to do with the kids? Look no further! In either language.