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Dawson students quietly join tuition-increase strike

Veronica Heffernan and Anthony Tre-sierra-Jansen were among several Dawson College students stationed outside the CEGEP's entrances and Atwater Metro stop last Friday morning. If not for a picket sign and a handful of quiet protesters in front of the de Maisonneuve Blvd. main entrance, one would be hard-pressed to realize that students were participating in a strike that had seen students damage classrooms at CEGEP Vieux-Montréal and UQAM, and complain of police brutality.

Only English school participating

At press time, Dawson was the province's only English-language institution whose students had voted to begin a three-day strike on Thursday, November 15. They joined more than 40,000 CEGEP and university students throughout the province *continued on page 2*

Raikes: Our man in Afghanistan



Westmounter Greg Raikes with Kuchi nomads whom he met as a UN political affairs officer in Afghanistan. See page 18

Westmount Park workgroup draws fire and apathy

Some Westmounters are keen to be on the city's advisory workgroup regarding Westmount Park's playing fields, and others don't seem to care that much.

While Mayor Karin Marks believes that the process has been complete and open, Save the Park! continues to criticize the consultation process and be apprehensive of substantive aspects.

According to the city's October 29 press release, the workgroup's mandate is to "study the latest design plan of the West-

mount Park playing fields and [...] offer recommendations to council for consideration." Councillor Cynthia Lulham explained to the *Westmount Independent* that the plan mentioned in the press release is a new document that has not yet been released to the public.

Previous proposals (now rejected) included artificial turf, and two fenced soccer fields in the fields south of the bike path, with mini soccer fields north of it. *continued on page 2*

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Frustration, apathy for Westmount Park workgroup

continued from page 1

No members of the workgroup have been announced by the city, although the four community groups assured of membership are known to have put forward names. They are: Henry Olders (Westmount Municipal Association), Christina Delaney (Westmount Park School), Annabelle Cumyn (CPE Narnia) and Jenny Patton (the Healthy City Project).

The original idea was for the work-group to report back by late November, but Lulham went on to explain that, “it will obviously be a bit longer. We will decide on November 20.”

Apathy in some districts

On the apathy front, three of the city's eight electoral districts (1, 5 and 8, represented by councillors Martin, Bowser and de Castell. For a map of all the districts go to www.westmount.org/admin/sections/documents/electoral_Westmount.pdf) fielded no candidates in time for inclusion. As a result, the city reopened those districts' nomination periods until November 19. At press time, one nominee had come forward for district 1; six for district 5 and none for district 8.

Who is included? What's the deadline?

On the other hand, several Save the Park! members (the group has no formal board or executive) have been critical of the appointment process and are keen to be included.

Marilynn Gillies wrote an open letter to Mayor Marks and councillors Lulham and Forbes (published in the November 7 *Westmount Independent*), stating, “Save the Park! would make a significant contribution to the [work]group... we should have at least one representative...”

Patrick Barnard, another Save the Park! member, attended the November 13 special city council meeting and tried to ask questions about the workgroup. When informed that only questions relating to special meeting business could be asked, he typed up and distributed three questions to council,

1. Why [has council] not answered [Save the Park!'s] request for a representative on the [workgroup]?
2. The deadline for the work ... is the end of November. The names have not been announced yet, which leaves little more than two weeks. What is the rush?
3. Why were citizens not informed of this

timeframe in the announcement of the formation of the [workgroup]?

Barnard subsequently explained to the *Westmount Independent*, “The council seems to be taking steps to exclude people who disagree with them, and the people it seems to be excluding are the most informed and critical. Would Socrates have excluded someone intelligent from one of his dialogues?”

Group member Mavis Young went further: “The selection of the members is not straightforward. It appears to be manipulated. Also, members of the workgroup should know beforehand what the scope and timeframe will be. There shouldn’t be surprises.”

Mayor responds

Mayor Marks explained her substantive view to the *Independent*, “We have to move on to other issues. We are talking about refurbishing fields. *Point*. Not artificial turf. Not fences. Soccer was hardly played when the fields were designed, but we now have over 1,000 soccer players. Let’s get a little input and move on.”

Although very complimentary to Save the Park! members ("They've raised some

very good issues”), Marks was equally critical of its position on questions of process and workgroup selection, “We can’t be accused of being anything but flexible.

“At first, we consulted nearby residents. [When artificial turf came under fire,] we opened up a website for comments prior to the May 16 public meeting at Victoria Hall. We did not want the administration’s September proposal [“Westmount Park’s Playing Fields: Developing An All ‘Natural Turf’ Strategy”] shared with the public, because council had not voted on it or approved it. Nevertheless, when asked, we did post it on the website – and some people thought it represented council’s view, although we chose not to endorse it.

Mayor: workgroup represents city

"We now have a workgroup that represents the whole community, all of which pays the taxes that support the fields. For districts that propose more than one workgroup candidate, selection will be random. We chose not to have lobby groups (including soccer parents) because we wanted the whole community to be heard.

“There is no property that has had so much time devoted to it as this one.”

Normal day at Dawson

continued from page 1

who were boycotting classes to protest Quebec's decision to boost tuition by \$500 over the next five years.

Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante planned an anti-government rally at Dorchester Square for last Friday, the high point of its week of "direct action." Unable to garner the support it needed for a full-scale strike, the organization (whose members include faculty associations at Université Laval and Université du Québec à Montréal) settled for the three-day walkout. On Tuesday, November 13, Dawson students voted in favour of a motion from the floor to participate in the walkout instead of supporting an anti-hike November 22 rally being organized by the Fédération des étudiants universitaires du Québec and the Canadian Federation of Students, of which Dawson is a prospective member. Also that day, the Students' Society of McGill University didn't get the support needed to approve a strike and voted to endorse Friday's day of action. The week before, at its own assembly, the Concordia Student Union failed to get enough support to endorse participating in the November 22 rally.

At Dawson, last Friday looked like a normal day, give or take some students milling about outside, despite the previous day's Facebook message from the Dawson Student Union urging them to "make sure classes don't occur."

Leaflet in hand on the sidewalk facing Alexis Nihon, Heffernan, who began her first year at Dawson this fall, said, "There is money there, but the government's not using it for education." Tresierra-Jansen, standing in the cold next to her, said, "They're trying to go higher and higher and higher with the tuition. Will they stop at \$500?"

Attendance down

Earlier that morning, before teaching a psychology class, as she has done since Dawson opened in 1967, Sue McKenzie said, “There are definitely fewer people around. Attendance was lower than usual at my class on Thursday.”

Of the tuition hike, she said: “Even with (a) \$500 (increase) over five years, tuition will still be low compared to the rest of the country. There are consequences to low tuition. People are looking for simple solutions to complex problems and there aren’t any.”

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Rotary and Royal LePage host food collection



Royal LePage Heritage manager Diane Ménard (left) and Rotary Club of Westmount president Heather Borrelli with the first batch of donated food. Donors can leave non-perishable food at Royal LePage's 1245 Greene Ave. office (north of the entrance to Westmount Square).

The Rotary Club has been running the collection for many years, but this year is the first time that Royal LePage has hosted the drive. The effort helps 40 to 50 families, mainly in Verdun, Point St. Charles

and Park Ex. Baskets are delivered to recipients' houses by Rotarians.

Many recipient families live in dire poverty. Royal LePage agent and Rotarian Haagen Kierulf remembers delivering a basket that contained a few toothbrushes. A child saw the contents and said disbelievingly, "My own toothbrush?"

Marks champions changed agglomeration council

During hearings on proposed changes (Bill 22) by the province to Montreal's island-wide agglomeration council held on November 15, Mayor Karin Marks called for significant modifications to the council.

Presenting in Quebec City as spokesperson of the Association of Suburban Municipalities, Marks proposed an administratively integrated but independent secretariat to act as an impartial bureau for the agglomeration.

She also asked for greater equity in sharing costs, and for demerged suburbs to collect taxes for remittance to the council. At present, taxpayers are billed by both levels.

The changes were needed, she said, to make the council more functional and democratic. Montreal appoints 87 percent of the council's members – and the 15 suburban municipalities 13 percent, although the suburbs pay 20 percent of shared costs.



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Leaves fall on deaf ears

BY EVE ASPINALL
Member of the Healthy City Project

Throughout Westmount one sees leaves along the gutters of the roadway and huge piles of leaves on lawns and driveways. As reported in the November 7 issue of the *Westmount Independent*, the city will not pick up leaves piled on private property.

These leaves must be bagged in clear plastic or paper yard-waste bags and placed on the edge of one's property. The city picks them up and they are composted. This is especially important for maple leaves that have the black spot virus. The other, less desirable alternative is to put them in orange or green plastic bags for the garbage collection. They then go to the landfills that have diminishing room, which will be another major problem in a few years.

Don't violate local bylaw

Disposing leaves onto the roadway contravenes bylaw 257, section 6, which forbids depositing anything on the road – dirt, garden debris, leaves, dead animals, etc. For more information, see www.westmount.org or seek a paper copy of the bylaw at the city clerk's office.

Leaves, both on roads and gardens, are blown by traffic onto neighbouring lawns. The prevailing wind is westerly and north-westerly, so that those piled on the west and north sides of the streets are blown onto those whose properties on the east or

south sides. This is grossly unfair and inconsiderate of other homeowners.

Leaves deposited on the road become a traffic hazard as cars skid on them, nor can drivers see the curb. Furthermore the rain washes them down to the city drains, blocking them. Flooding occurs, sometimes with nasty consequences.

Special attention should be given to the maple leaves with the black spot fungus. If these leaves are allowed to remain on lawns, they can re-infect the trees next year. These leaves may be bagged for pickup to be composted by the city where their compost reaches a high enough temperature to kill the virus. Small garden composters will not reach a temperature high enough.

Just say 'no' to leaf blowers

Once again, the period from October 1 to November 15 was noisier than ever with batteries of leaf blowers going from garden to garden blowing their leaves helter skelter. Even when they bag most of them, they leave quite a lot that blow around the neighbourhood and even back onto the lawn they have just done. Far more efficient are leaf rakes on the lawns and brooms on hard surfaces. These cause far fewer toxic emissions and disperse less particulate matter.

It behooves all of us to consider our neighbours, to respect the environment and to obey the city's laws. To do otherwise is purely selfish.

Bike lanes: Contrarian follows up

In the August 15 *Westmount Independent*, I wrote in favour of bike paths that are truly separate from roads. If cars are able to veer into bike lanes, they will do so and cyclists won't be safe.

Pictured at right is a car correctly obeying pylons (not visible) put out by municipal workers and using the bike lane to move west on de Maisonneuve Blvd. at Victoria.

The problem is that the bike path itself was not closed on either side of this temporary bottleneck. Would road or utilities workers do same thing to an oncoming lane of vehicle traffic? No. But cyclists were just supposed to see the car-oriented pylons and adapt.

Even though bike paths are more nu-



merous than ever before, until they are truly separate, many people will continue see them as temporary loans from the adjacent road.

Bike lanes should be made separate. Only then will they be taken as seriously as vehicle lanes. And otherwise, they just give cyclists a false sense of security.

Letters to the editor

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT 'NECESSITY'

Your little newspaper has become a big necessity for our Westmount news – you “are Westmount,” indeed. It's good to read Laureen Sweeney again with her interesting articles. Also, we appreciate the many photos and the community news.

Keep up the good work!

JOAN AND GEOFF GRAHAM
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OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR MARKS

In the November 7 issue of the *Westmount Independent*, it was reported: “At the October 22 council meeting Mayor Karin Marks explained that this administration paper [on the Westmount Park playing fields] was not council policy... It was not voted on by council, but Marks underlined that something must be done regarding the fields given their poor state of repair.”

Would you consider “the poor state of repair” of the fields more worthy of attention and action than the poor state of repair of Westmount Park itself? Is providing a few extra hours of practice for an increased number of soccer players more important than providing a decent park for Westmount's citizens (including numerous seniors) to relax in?

The concrete paths are cracking up. An eastern wall holding the waterfall collapsed two weeks ago due to old age and neglect by the city. The garbage containers are damaged by squirrels. All the lamp posts are rusted by dogs and have not had a paint job for ages. Three of them are leaning dangerously. Two feet or more of their concrete foundations are above ground. A couple have been cut, leaving the bulbs containing the fuses above ground. The bike path has two clumps of pine trees that have not been pruned for decades, their branches are actually creeping along the ground. There are thick bushes at the uphill s-curve by the tennis courts – a danger which I have pointed out in three letters to the Commissioner for Parks and Public Works two months ago, which have not been answered. There are two flood-prone areas which have never been attended to, etc.

I trust that you will carefully consider my letter in the context of your paper, “Westmount's Playing Fields: Developing An All ‘Natural Turf’ Strategy.” A great number of residents is opposed to the fencing and restructuring of Westmount Park all for a few weeks of extra practice for soccer players.

STEPHEN CHIN
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YMCA fundraising exceeds goal, sets record



YMCA Executive Director Gary White with Rotary Club VP Cynthia Campbell



Gary White with Sergeant Yvan Richard and Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel.

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The Westmount Y treated its donors to a celebratory cocktail on November 8 to thank them for contributing to this year's Annual Community Support Campaign. The campaign goal of \$50,000 had been exceeded by \$460 at campaign close – with a few more donations left to trickle in. It was a new record.

Attendees were treated to salsa dancing and waltzing demonstrations, as well as live music.

YMCA executive director Gary White thanked the many donors. One of the principal motors for the campaign was the Team 990 morning show, who mentioned the Y's fundraiser frequently on its broadcasts. They also contributed a cheque for \$3,000 from an auction they held.

The Rotary Club of Westmount made a generous contribution to the effort, as did

the Montreal police through their "Bean lunch" program.

Proceeds will go to help ensure that the Y's children's programs remain accessible to children with special needs who require shadows and to children from financially disadvantaged families who require support. White explained to the *Westmount Independent* that raising and using funds in this way is a very important part of the Y's mandate. "We are not just a health club."



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Executive Director Gary White with Lino Ferrara

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St. Matthias bazaar a hit

St. Matthias Church held its annual church bazaar on Saturday, November 10. Pictured is Kathleen Duncan, chair of the St. Matthias Church choir (centre), with volunteers Lois Carson and Sophie Givernaud.



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For information: The Rotary Club of Westmount: 514 935-3344 – info@rotarywestmount.org

BUILDING PROJECTS: WHAT'S PERMITTED

- The following work permits for new construction, alterations and plumbing were approved by city council at meetings October 22 and November 13.
- 619 Sydenham:** to cut two trees;
 - 174 Edgehill:** to build an extension and replace windows;
 - 561 Roslyn:** to build a rear terrace;
 - 5 Bellevue:** to erect fence in rear yard;
 - 702 Grosvenor:** to replace some windows;
 - 317 Kensington:** rear landscaping to include new patio and replacement of pavers;
 - 340 Wood:** to build a rear extension;
 - 347 Redfern:** to build an extension, and landscape;
 - 465 Strathcona:** to demolish and replace garage;
 - 759 Upper Lansdowne:** to build a rear extension;
 - 4360 Westmount:** to replace roofing material;
 - 441 Argyle:** to build side and rear additions;
 - 617 Roslyn:** to build new front balconies;
 - 4560 St. Catherine:** to repair balconies and garage doors;
 - 521 Clarke:** front and side landscaping to include driveway resurfacing, and rebuilding and extending a retaining wall;
 - 801 Upper Belmont:** to replace some storm windows;
 - 642 Victoria:** to replace some windows;
 - 4466 St. Catherine:** to install a sign "depanneur 7 jours";
 - 4313 Montrose:** landscaping to include rebuilding of walls and installation of a new fence;
 - 448 Grosvenor:** to replace some windows;
 - 4394 de Maisonneuve:** to replace the front door;
 - 457 Mount Pleasant:** to build an addition and landscape back yard;
 - 537 Grosvenor:** to replace some windows;
 - 622 Belmont:** to replace a rear balcony door;
 - 567 Roslyn:** to replace some windows and

- doors;
- 815 Upper Belmont:** to install a sign "Villa Sainte-Marcelline";
- 765 Upper Lansdowne:** to replace some windows and doors;
- 4919 de Maisonneuve:** to replace some windows;
- 634 Clarke:** to replace some windows;
- 35 Oakland:** to replace some windows and doors;
- 361 Roslyn:** to replace some windows;
- 493 Mount Pleasant:** to replace balcony railing;
- 591 Argyle:** to convert a rear window opening to a door and build a landing;
- 76 Somerville:** to replace some windows;
- 4309 Montrose:** to replace rear door and some windows;
- 4270 Dorchester:** front and side landscaping;
- 22 Shorncliffe:** rear landscaping and installation of a pool;
- 65 Belvedere Place:** exterior renovations and building addition;
- 55 Belvedere Place:** to build side and rear additions;
- 610 Clarke:** exterior alterations;
- 661 Victoria:** to replace windows;
- 3033 Sherbrooke:** to replace guard rails;
- 368 Kensington:** to replace some windows;
- 78 Chesterfield:** to replace some windows and doors;
- 355 Metcale:** to install an A/C unit;
- 470 Mountain:** to build a deck;
- 384 Lansdowne:** landscaping;
- 18 Holton:** to install some windows;
- 4450 de Maisonneuve:** to install some windows;
- 109 Blenheim:** to erect a fence;
- 642 Grosvenor:** to install some windows;
- 505 Grosvenor:** to install some windows;
- 653 Victoria:** to install some windows;
- 556 Victoria:** to install some windows;
- 617 Victoria:** to build a terrace;
- 328 Victoria:** to add stairs;
- 425 Mount Pleasant:** to install some windows;
- 627 Victoria:** to install some windows and a door;
- 105 Blenheim:** to erect a fence;
- 533 Clarke:** to install some windows and doors;
- 24 Anwoth:** to install some storm windows and a door;
- 4304 Montrose:** to rebuild the roof;
- 4288 de Maisonneuve:** to cut a tree.

To grow, we need YOUR help

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That's where YOU come in.

One of our major advertisers will be assessing our effectiveness soon. They may be polling Westmounters. If you like what we're doing and want to help, please **SPREAD THE WORD** about our publication **BY NAME** (people mix up publications).

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DAVID PRICE, EDITOR

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Westmount's arts scene

Victoria Hall Gallery: Cosy quilts, crazy quilts

BY HEATHER BLACK

Quilts are colourful and quilts are cosy. But those of the “Patchwork” exhibit, with lively themes, colourful appliqué and delicate stitchery, are definitely art.

A travelling exhibit now at Victoria Hall, “Patchwork” consists of 52 quilts from the Laurentian Quilters’ Guild and the Association Béziers Patchwork from the Languedoc-Roussillon region of France. A collective “challenge” rather than a competition – there are no prizes – the aim was to promote the art of quilting and friendship between the two guilds.

A guild challenge

As part of the challenge, each member received eight squares of fabric (50cm x 50cm), four selected by each guild. The perimeter was set at 3.2m to 4m, and each quilter was required to use six or more of the chosen fabrics although others could be added. The result is 52 individual wall hangings which, when displayed together, form a visually cohesive and attractive exhibit.

But with no restrictions on shape, technique or subject, individual expression prevails. Tying – where the thread or yarn passes through all three layers at regular intervals – is common to many as is the traditional patchwork technique of appliqué. Yet, it is the subject or theme that is particularly unique to each quilt.

Close to home

Many of the themes reflect the quilter's life in Quebec or the south of France.



Jacqueline Rousselon's quilt “Féria de Béziers” depicts a young woman, fan in hand, as a matador sidesteps a charging bull. Another illustrates a windmill surrounded by a colourful border. Scenes of conifers or Angela Quinn's blue and Habs red hockey game are quintessentially Quebec.

Perhaps the most whimsical is a colourful repeat of 12 women in flowered hats complete with the occasional cat. Catherine Aupetitgendre of France, the creator of this playful pattern, challenges the viewer to find all the “stitched” creatures.

Colourful masterpieces

Some quilts reflect current art trends and are colourful, abstract compositions. Others, like Suzanne Sauvé's classic central floral pattern, bordered by triangular shapes, are more traditional. Exhibited together, the mix of modern and traditional styles create a pleasant contrast.

But it is the beautiful “stained-glass” palette – the ruby reds, cobalt blues and gold tones that makes each quilt a work of art. And it is these “selected” colours which allow every wall hanging – regardless of size, shape or theme – to relate to each other to create a harmonious exhibit.

Family fun

Once a frugal means to create warm bedding, since the AIDS Memorial Quilt and those of Alabama's Gee's Bend collective, quilting has been elevated to art. And why not?

The “Patchwork” wall hangings – both classic and contemporary – are personal statements, and demonstrate an aesthetic use of colour, form and texture. Sure to evoke pleasure and at times humour, this colourful exhibit is one that both young and old will enjoy.

The vernissage takes place at the Gallery at Victoria Hall on Wednesday, November 21 at 6 pm. “Patchwork” opens on November 22 and continues until December 15. The gallery is at 4626 Sherbrooke St. (514.989.5226).

Heather Black is a Westmount communication designer. Contact her at atcitizen@gmail.com.

‘Hi Grammie’



Under the watchful eye of her 2-year-old granddaughter, Kylie, Mayor Karin Marks welcomes Westmount volunteers, newcomers and other guests to the city's November 7 reception at Victoria Hall prior to the opening of the 65th annual Fall Chrysanthemum Show at the adjacent conservatory.

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Or buy their book. *Recipes and nutrition for children aged zero to one!*



Kensington Knitters donate to Dans la Rue

The Place Kensington Knitters have just made another donation of blankets, hats and scarves to Dans la Rue. The knitters' group is led by residents Miriam Berger and Elinor Cohen. “Miriam is the driving force,” said Cohen. With their team of more than 25 resident knitters, they have donated 325 hand-knit blankets to Dans la Rue in the past seven years.

Retired social workers Elinor Cohen and Myriam Berger, known as the “dynamic duo”, are the organizers of the Place Kensington Knitters



QEHC to launch fund-raising effort

With a slew of Westmounters leading its fundraising efforts, the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex (QEHC) is set to kick off its annual campaign.

“All the funds that are raised during the next three years will go to digitalizing the infrastructure. We want to install the electronic patient-file mode that the provincial government is going to,” said the QEHC foundation's Elaine Lalonde, who added that the non-profit doesn't receive any government support. “It's a \$2 million campaign. But just digitalizing will cost \$1.3 million.”

Board members from Westmount include Richard Clare, Domenico D'Alesio, William Gagnon, Miriam Green and Dr. R Ludman. On the Community Services board are Westmounters Deborah Corber,

Domenico D'Alesio, Sheila Goldbloom, Robert Johnson, Timothy Price, Maurice Vézina and chairwoman Nancy Wright, as well as Tony Fagnoli, whose family has owned and run Tony's Shoes on Greene Ave. for four generations. QEHC executive director Irene Tschernomor is also a Westmounter.

To further raise money, the QEHC's fifth annual wine-tasting will take place in the spring.

Located at 2100 Marlowe, QEHC bills itself as “a pioneer in health care, comprised of expert health professionals in public and private sector organizations offering a comprehensive range of quality medical services all under one roof.” Lalonde said, “We do so much.”

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<div></div> <div>SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE</div> <div>Collecte de denrées non-périssables</div> <div>Vous pouvez apportez votre soutien à la campagne annuelle de la Sécurité publique en donnant des denrées non périssables au profit des personnes dans le besoin. Des contenants prévus à cet effet sont disponibles dans tous les édifices municipaux, ainsi qu'au Centre Greene situé au 1090, avenue Greene. Les dons en argent sont également acceptés de même que les jouets neufs dans leur emballage d'origine. Soyez généreux ! Info : 514 989-5468. 🍀</div> <div></div> <div>SPORTS ET LOISIRS</div> <div>Inscription aux activités d'hiver</div> <div>Pour la session d'hiver, des places sont encore disponibles dans plusieurs activités de sport et loisirs, incluant les programmes tels Jouer au cinéma, Danse moderne, Danse jazz, et Création d'albums de photos. Consultez notre site Web pour accéder à la liste complète des activités ainsi que les modalités d'inscription. Info : 514 989-5353. 🍀</div> <div></div> <div>TRAVAUX PUBLICS</div> <div>Collecte de feuilles mortes</div> <div>Veuillez noter que le personnel des Travaux publics ne ramassera QUE les feuilles et autres résidus de jardin qui auront été mis dans des sacs en PLASTIQUE TRANSPARENT ou des sacs en PAPIER destinés à cette fin. Les feuilles entassées en vrac derrière le trottoir NE SERONT PLUS ramassées. Info : 514 989-5390. 🍀</div> <div></div> <div>BIBLIOTHÈQUE</div> <div>Les dimanches des Amis</div> <div>Joignez-vous à nous pour un après-midi en compagnie de l'écrivaine canadienne Frances Itani, le dimanche 25 novembre à 14 h 30. Cet événement est présenté par les Amis de la Bibliothèque, avec le soutien du Conseil des Arts du Canada. Info : 514 989-5386. 🍀</div>	<div>DATES À RETENIR</div> <div>En cours</div> <div>Floralies d'automne Conservatoire</div> <div>À compter du 22 novembre</div> <div>Échange franco-canadien de patchwork/courtepointe La galerie du Victoria Hall</div> <div>Le 26 novembre - 20 h</div> <div>Séance générale du conseil Hôtel de ville</div> <div>Le 28 novembre - 19 h</div> <div>Rencontres avec les auteurs : <i>Neil Smith</i> Bibliothèque</div> <div>Le 30 novembre - 19 h</div> <div>Les vendredis du cinéma : <i>In My Country</i> Bibliothèque</div> <div>Le 5 décembre - 16 h 30</div> <div>Fête de la Hannoukah Hôtel de ville</div> <div></div> <div>PUBLIC SECURITY</div> <div>Holiday Food Drive</div> <div>Anyone wishing to contribute to Public Security's annual food drive may do so by depositing non-perishable food items at any Westmount municipal building or Centre Greene (1090 Greene Avenue). Cash donations and new toys in original packaging are also welcome. Please give generously! Info: 514 989-5468. 🍀</div> <div></div> <div>SPORTS & RECREATION</div> <div>Registration - Winter Activities</div> <div>Spaces are still available for the winter sessions of many of our sports and recreation activities, including such programmes as Acting in Film, Modern Dance, Jazz Dance and Scrapbooking. Consult our Web site for a complete list of open programmes and for details on how to register. Info: 514 989-5353. 🍀</div> <div></div> <div>PUBLIC WORKS</div> <div>Autumn Leaf Collection</div> <div>Please note that all leaves and other similar yard waste must be bagged in either CLEAR PLASTIC or PAPER yard waste bags for collection by Public Works crews. Leaves piled loose behind the sidewalk WILL NOT be picked up. Info: 514 989-5390. 🍀</div> <div></div> <div>LIBRARY</div> <div>Sundays with Friends</div> <div>Join us for an afternoon with Canadian author Frances Itani on Sunday, November 25 at 2:30 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Canada Council for the Arts. A Friends of the Library event. Info: 514 989-5386. 🍀</div>	<div>DATEBOOK</div> <div>Ongoing</div> <div>Fall Flower Show Conservatory</div> <div>Beginning November 22</div> <div>Franco-Canadian Quilting Challenge Gallery at Victoria Hall</div> <div>November 26 - 8 p.m.</div> <div>General Council Meeting City Hall</div> <div>November 28 - 7 p.m.</div> <div>Fall Author Series: <i>Neil Smith</i> Library</div> <div>November 30 - 7 p.m.</div> <div>Film Fridays: <i>In My Country</i> Library</div> <div>December 5 - 4:30 p.m.</div> <div>Chanukah Party City Hall</div> <div></div> <div>COMMUNITY EVENTS</div> <div>Christmas Tree Lighting</div> <div>Bring the family to this year's Christmas Tree Lighting Party at City Hall, Monday, November 26 at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy Christmas stories and carols along with a cup of hot chocolate. The party is free, but donations of non-perishable food items for Westmount's Holiday Food Drive are welcome. Info: 514 989-5265.</div> <div>Flu Vaccine Clinics</div> <div>The CLSC Métro is offering free Influenza vaccines for eligible residents in Westmount. The clinic will take place on Friday, December 7 at Victoria Hall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for adults and from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. for babies and children. Info: CLSC Métro at 514 934-0354. 🍀</div>

What's Cooking in Westmount?

All hail the winter squash!

BY ANTHEA DAWSON

It is official. Winter is knocking on our door and there is not much we can do to hide from it. The most obvious gauge of the outside temperature in Westmount is not the thermostat but the dismal produce section at the local supermarkets.

The fat stalks of South American asparagus and obscenely large strawberries from California are a sure sign that the warm days of 2007 are long gone. But there is one local vegetable that is just hitting its stride. Lucky for us, the winter squash comes in all shapes and sizes and tastes to suit everyone.

Squash is reaching its peak

Unlike almost every other vegetable, winter squash is just reaching its peak

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once the cool weather sets in. Its customary thick skin and bright yellow and orange flesh make it stand out from its summer counterparts. Winter squash has a long shelf life. It can be stored at room temperature for up to four months and, like a fine wine, can improve with age.

Types of winter squash are easy to identify by their distinct shape. The sweet and nutty flavour of the bell-shaped butternut squash makes it the most popular of the varieties, especially with the kids. Easy to peel and steam or roast in the oven, butternut squash (99 cents a pound at Metro Fletcher) is ideal for whipping up into a healthy side-dish, a hearty soup or even a pie filling. December is really when butternut squash reaches its prime, so it's a good idea to start stocking up.

Not 'spaghetti squash' for nothing

Other varieties popping up more and more these days are the aptly named acorn and spaghetti squash (\$2.18 a kilogram at Fruiterie Mont Victoria). The small size of the acorn makes it a perfect serving for two but be sure to look for the one with the most green on the rind (as opposed to orange) for a sweeter flavour. To understand where the spaghetti squash gets its name, after it's cooked, dig out its flesh with a fork. It's a huge hit with the kids and a great low-cal substitute for the real thing.

Delicata season is about to end

My personal favourite of the winter squash is the one with the shortest season here in Quebec. The delicata squash (long and skinny, resembling a knobby cucumber) can only be found between late September and the end of November, making it all the more urgent to enjoy them now.

The creamy sweet flavour of the delicata (\$2.29 a kilogram at Les 5 Saisons) is similar to a sweet potato and can be easily baked or roasted to make a great accompaniment to pork, chicken or fish. I like to braise my delicatas in a little stock and maple syrup for about 45 minutes and serve them as side dish. Their shape makes them the perfect vessel for stuffing with some wild rice or couscous. Unlike any of the other varieties of winter squash, the thin skin on the delicatas is edible.

Westmounters support Atwater Library

Dozens of Westmounters gathered at Atwater Library on November 14 for a cocktail party and silent auction to raise money for the library and its learning centre.

Gazette editorial cartoonist Terry Moshier was the honorary guest at the second annual event. Former CBC news anchor Dennis Trudeau was MC. Items up for auction ranged from a toy train set to a Montreal Canadiens sweater worn by Bob Gainey.

Executive Director Lynn Verge estimated this year's event raised more than \$60,000 – an increase from last year's \$53,000.

Governments provide only 10 percent of the centre's annual budget. For the rest, the library depends revenue from its services and on private donations.

"Our core mission is promoting learning," said Verge. "It was founded in 1828 to offer educational programs to working people. And that's very much what we do today."

The majority of the users are anglophones who live downtown and in Westmount. The centre aims to assist people who suffer from social isolation, poverty and illiteracy. The library has eight full-time staff and more than 120 volunteers.



From left: Allan Aitken, Sally Aitken and Cynthia Lulham

Westmounters help defeat Ward 6 incumbent

Richard Lalonde unseated incumbent Daniel Andrelli, 165-107, during the November 4 Ward 6 English Montreal School Board election. There were 5,101 eligible voters. On the French side, incumbent Kenneth George ran unopposed. Ward 6 is comprised of a part of Westmount, plus St. Henri and Point St. Charles. Most Westmounters vote in Ward 7.



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Mayor Karin Marks lays the city's wreath during the service, accompanied by Public Security Director Richard Blondin, at the November 11 ceremony at the Westmount cenotaph.



Place Kensington veterans get together on November 8. Seated left to right: James Coristine, Everett Hunt, Gilles Tremblay, Edward Clarke. Standing left to right: Richard Stevenson, Jeanette Wiseman, Nick Carter, Peggy Kay and Ernest Skutezky. Not present: Jan Dylla, Robert Levine and Jehanne Warwick.



Westmount Park school children plant a Remembrance garden on November 9. From left, Seung Hwan Lee, Afshana Ahamed, Shanel Sankar, Keegan Fletcher-Barfour, Zhiyuan Zhang, Principal Christina Delaney, Captain Marinier of the Royal Montreal Regiment and James Gilchrist.

Westmount remembers its veterans

A large turnout of citizens and community groups attended the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Westmount cenotaph November 11 along with federal, provincial and municipal representatives, military officials, veterans and units from the Canadian forces. The service was organized in conjunction with the Royal 22nd Regiment, 712 Communications Squadron and HMCS Donnacona.

A Remembrance Day ceremony was

held on November 8 at 2 pm at Place Kensington in honour of the 100,000 Canadian soldiers who died during World War I, World War II and the Korean War as well as the 71 Canadians who have recently died in Afghanistan. In attendance were an honour party comprised of representatives from the Canadian Merchant Navy Veterans Association, the Vanier Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Canadian Air Force, the Air Cadet League

of Canada, the Royal West Academy Honour Band and a flag party of air cadets from 1 West Montreal Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron. About 80 Place Kensington residents attended the ceremony, some of them veterans. One of the resident veterans, retired Lieutenant-Colonel Ernest Skutezky, recited *In Flanders Fields*.

The following day at lunchtime, the Royal Montreal Regiment of Westmount joined Westmount Park School's grade

five and six students to plant a Remembrance garden in front of the school. In attendance were Principal Christina Delaney, volunteer James Gilchrist and the classes of Mrs. Price, Mrs. Benjamin and Ms. Drouin. Cycle three student Afshana Ahamed made a speech, which was followed by Principal Delaney, who said, "This is a great idea and it is one that has a deeper meaning."

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Photo Credit: Tyrel Featherstone

Most expensive/least expensive recently sold Westmount home



In October, this house on Redfern (left) sold for \$1,525,000 and this house on Grosvenor sold for \$509,000, making them the most and least expensive homes sold that month, respectively.



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Westmount Duplex in lower Westmount, walking distance to Greene Ave. Both units have 3 bdrs w/finished bsmts, independent parking. Both have outdoor area and balconies. Upper unit has been upgraded. **Asking \$699,000**



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Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1334394



St-Lambert Newer building. Enticing views and finishes. Close to Victoria St., bus to downtown. Top floor 2-storey corner 2 bdr unit. Hardwood floors, modern kitchen, terrace. **\$465,000**

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THE WESTMOUNT LAURENTIDER

Walk, shop, eat and be happy in the Laurentians

By Roger Haughey

It is almost winter in the Laurentians and the cold and eventually the snow will be slowly starting to take control. It is the perfect time to sneak in one last stroll along one of the excellent hiking paths in the region.

Hiking paths lead to shopping

The P'tit Train du Nord is the largest and best known. It runs from St. Jerome to Mont Laurier. Along the route, the old train stations have been converted into cafés, restaurants, and even a small museum (450.224.7007). Another option is the Parc du Corridor Aerobique, which offers 58 kilometers of hiking and cross-country skiing from Morin Heights to St. Remi d'Amherst (450.226.1220). Both boast trails that are wide groomed and well patrolled, offering spectacular scenery and natural views.

Two magnificent choices for gourmet meals

After a nice walk, what could be better than a gourmet meal, prepared by one of Quebec's finest kitchens?

L'Eau à la Bouche (3003 Blvd. St. Adèle, 888.828.2991), features the cuisine of Quebec chef Anne Desjardins. Her award-winning dishes are based on local and regional foods such as veal from Charlevoix, venison from the red deer of the Laurentians and Abitibi caviar. Dishes such as "Loin of Boileau Red Deer with Red Wine, Pepper and Juniper Sauce and Jerusalem Artichoke Purée" and "Organic Tomato Gazpacho with Sea Scallop Tartar, Cilantro and Vegetable Confetti and Tomato Granité" highlight the blend of local ingredients with the creative vision of a world-class chef.



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Q Restaurant is located in the Quintessence Hotel at the base of Mont Tremblant, just steps away from the resort and ski hill (3004, chemin de la chapelle, 866.425.3400). Like L'Eau à la Bouche, Q looks for locally sourced ingredients. They get organic vegetables and fruits delivered from Runaway Creek farm in nearby Arundel (featured in the September 19 issue of the *Westmount Independent*). According to Executive Chef Lindsay Petit, "We use as many local products as possible, and even grow many of our herbs on site." With appetizers such as "Autumn Squash and Roasted Apple Soup," served with "Duck Confit and Thyme and Chard Spiced Coconut Cream," and main dishes such as "Northern Elk with Squash Berry Paint and Wild Game Jus," served with "Fondant Potatoes and Young Soybeans," Q will challenge and delight the most sophisticated tastes.

If you are looking for a special lunch or dinner experience, L'Eau à la Bouche and Q are two of the finest restaurants in Quebec and the perfect way to enjoy city sophistication in the heart of the beautiful Laurentian countryside.

Events:

Art for Christmas 2007, Arts and Culture Centre, St. Faustin, until January 15 (819.688.2676). Do your holiday shopping at this exhibition and sale featuring local artists.

Christmas Market, Place Lagny, St. Agathe, December 13-16 (819.326.4595). This fair brings together the arts, music, and food tasting presented by the Laurentian School of Hospitality.

170th Anniversary of the Patriots' Rebellion, La Petite Église Art Centre, St. Eustache, December 14 (450.974.5170). A series of activities and conferences organized to celebrate the 1837 Rebellion.

Photography Exhibition, Mont Laurier, until December 22 (819.623.2441). Each installation is inspired by a poem or text of a local author, which serves as a point of departure for a photo essay.

Big Thursdays Concert Series, Prevost Community and Cultural Centre, until December 13 (450.436.3037). Concerts featuring local and internationally acclaimed classical and jazz vocalists and musicians.

24h Tremblant, Mont Tremblant Resort, December 7-9 (888.738.1777). The seventh annual skiing marathon to raise money for several charitable foundations also features live music, contests and other special events.

Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before Can you name that lawn?

By Doreen Lindsay

Question: What is the large triangular expanse of green lawn in front of Westmount city hall called? For answer, see page 16.



Arts and crafts galore at Contactivity bazaar



Westmounter Jeanette Boucher, left, with crafts volunteer Vera Burt, knitted two tables worth of warm woolen clothes that were sold during the Contactivity Centre's annual Artisan Sale and Bazaar on Thursday, November 8 at Westmount Park Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. "Most of the items on sale have been made by our members," said Contactivity executive director Mary Stark. Other artisanal items, jellies and holiday gift baskets were among the many items for sale. The bazaar helps raise money for the group, including its crafts classes, Stark said.

Look for the seniors and their arts and crafts from 11 am to 2:30 pm Mondays and Wednesdays though December 12 at the Centre, as well as at next year's Family Day in the Park.



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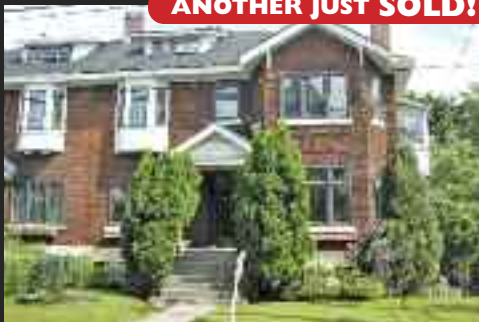
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Westmount – 322 Elm Ave.
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Westmount Profile: Patricia Roman

Giving back to Marianopolis

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For as long as she can remember, Patricia Roman has been working for the welfare of students and trailblazing programs on the cutting edge of education, both as a volunteer and a professional.

But her current focus as a member of the Marianopolis governing board is especially meaningful to the longtime Westmounter since it combines her many experiences in bringing together all segments of a school population along with outreach into the community.

“This is the kind of thing we do on the board,” she explains.

Signing from the same song sheet

“We ensure that the administration and board as well as the student faculty and staff are all singing from the same song sheet.”

And that’s been Roman’s expertise as a university lecturer, member of numerous governing boards and in many leadership positions in Westmount and beyond.

Among many professional positions she has held was a 12-year mandate as vice-president of the Corporate-Higher Education Forum, which brought together university presidents with CEOs to support each other in their common goals.

Integrating in the community

But as a Westmount resident, in particular, she has been able to bring particular insight to the Marianopolis board as the school planned its move to Westmount and integrated into the neighbourhood.

And it has been Roman’s second opportunity to help shape its history.

“One of the reasons I was appointed to the board in 2002,” she says, “was because I had been there through the move in 1975 from Peel St. to the Sulpician property at Atwater and McGregor.”

The first transition

She also had played a key role its transition from a girls-only university into a coeducational CEGEP. It continues to be a private English CEGEP offering only the two-year academic program.

“Diversity has always played a major role at Marianopolis, but strikingly so today,” she says. “Our students and faculty represent such an international conglomerate with wide-ranging interests.

“With a student population of 1,800, it’s even more evident given that more

than 70 student clubs are devoted to broadly diverse interests.”

Being on the board, “is an exciting way to give back based on my experience. It’s also very satisfying to be part of such a team and work through a period of change not only at the college but all the other changes going on in education.”

On the forefront of change

And Roman has always been on the forefront of change: in the early days of French immersion, developing educational concepts, advising in the field or helping establish new associations.

“Looking back, that’s what I’ve always been doing either professionally or through volunteer service.”

Roman chaired the Roslyn school committee when it morphed from the Home & School Association into the new government model.

Roslyn’s 70th

She coordinated its more than 20 after-school activities as well as the school’s extensive 70th anniversary celebrations in 1977.

She also co-authored the school committee’s briefs to the Quebec government on Bills 22 and 101 from the perspective of a French immersion school.

She also served as president of the Montreal Children’s Library and was a member of the boards of Trafalgar School, Concordia’s School of Community and Public Affairs, and the Positive Action Committee, a group dedicated to keeping Quebec in Canada.

One project that remains close to her heart is her board work for Project Chance, a subsidized residence for single mothers continuing their education.

Roman also volunteered with Brownies and Guides and was coordinator of the Meals on Wheels program at Dominion-Douglas (now Mountainside) Church.

Blamed for the stop signs

As a founding member of the Westmount Citizens’ Committee for Pedestrian Safety (1976-80), she says, “My family still blames me for all the stop signs and traffic lights.”

Born and raised in Hamilton, Roman was an active worker on school publications, a debater and a member of the ski team.

Her first exposure to international student affairs came at the University of



Patricia Roman helps steer Marianopolis into its transition to Westmount.

Western Ontario in London, where she obtained her bachelor’s and master’s degrees. She was selected as a Canadian representative to a World University Service (WUS) summer seminar in Germany.

A real influence

The topic: universities and freedoms. “It was an eye-opener and had a real influence on me,” she says. It also became a springboard to her career.

She went to work at the headquarters for the World University Service of Canada in Toronto before moving to Vancouver and teaching at UBC while her husband, medical intern Ted Roman, played football for the BC Lions and did his residency.

When he moved to Hamilton, Roman lectured at McMaster University. She then moved to Montreal with his posting to the Royal Victoria Hospital, where he retired recently as Chief of Radiation Oncology.

Taught 14 years at Marianopolis

This brought her to Marianopolis in 1962 when it had university status. She taught English there over 14 years becoming acting chair of the department and developing a high school liaison program.

It was during a 10-year break to raise her two children, Jennifer and Paul, that Roman immersed herself in volunteer service.

Set up national office

In 1982, she resumed her career. She set up national offices for the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education and then the Corporate-Higher Education Forum.

As an international consultant on

changing relations among business, education and government, her work took her to the U.S. and Mexico. It also led to the development of the Community University Research Alliances across Canada based on a Dutch model for university research.

Pointing out how lessons learned in community service translate into the workplace and vice versa, Roman says that with the move of Marianopolis into Westmount, “opportunities are going to open up for the community to use some of our facilities and attend some of the courses.”

Marianopolis, she adds, “is a very happy place where exciting things are going on.”

Westmounter directs play

McGill University’s Department of English is kicking off its season with Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew* with Westmounter Jessica Hill as assistant director. This is Hill’s directorial debut. An English drama student, she is an honours graduate of the Professional Theatre Department of Dawson College, where she received the Brian Cloutte Memorial Award. Hill performs as Petra in *Enemy of the People* at the Saidye Bronfman’s Segal Center.

The Taming of the Shrew will be performed at Moyse Hall, Arts Building, 853 Sherbrooke St. W., at 8 pm on Wednesday, November 21 to Saturday, November 24 and Thursday, November 29 to Saturday, December 1. It costs \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, seniors and groups. For reservations, please call 514-398.6070.

The Westmount Parent

'Tis the season for holiday-time family fun

BY ANNIKA MELANSON



With visions of sugar plums dancing in our heads, it's time to discover what fun holiday activities are happening around town for our little ones. Nothing says Noël like the Ogilvy's holiday window of adorable Steiff mechanical animals working in The Mill in the Forest (1307 St. Catherine St. W., 514.842.7711, www.ogilvycanada.com). The window always draws a crowd. To warm up, head into Café Romy, Ogilvy's restaurant on the lower level for breakfast with Santa. Reserve your place now for December 1, 8 or 15 at either 8:15 am or 10:15 am. Breakfast, juice and coffee are served followed by a visit from St. Nick, who gives each child a gift. The price is \$11.50 per person.

Free admission at Museum of Fine Arts

The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (1390 Sherbrooke St. W., 514.285.1600, www.mmfa.qc.ca) offers great holiday activities and admission is free from November 23 to January 6. Start the festivities with a visit of the museum's annual Christmas tree display where over 35 trees decorated by volunteers from a variety of associations and ethnic groups will be on display in the Michael and Renata Hornstein Pavilion. Christmas concerts will be given by Montreal choirs on November 25, December 2, 9 and 16 at 3 pm at the Hall of Mirrors. Before leaving the museum, be sure to visit its boutique for original holiday gift ideas. This year, the museum features creative games and toys such as animal models to assemble and space adventurer mobiles.

Christmas Village

The Christmas Village at Complexe Desjardins (514.845.INFO, www.complexedesjardins.com) is back through December 24 (the village is closed Mondays and Tuesdays). There are many Santas in

town, but this one's the real deal. After sitting on Santa's knee and having a photo taken, zip down the giant inflated slide and let the kids loose in the indoor winter maze. This is a convenient spot to spend the morning as the food court is on the same level as are the public bathrooms, equipped with diaper change tables. For those who want to borrow a stroller, this service is available at the customer service desk.

Spend the holidays with Eloise

For a comical alternative to *The Night before Christmas*, pick up a copy of *Eloise at Christmastime* by Hilary Knight. The book is filled with the hilarious tales of Eloise, a precocious New York City six-year-old who lives in the penthouse of The Plaza Hotel with her "mostest" companion, Nanny, her pug Weenie and her turtle Skipperdee. The Eloise series has been making both children and adults chuckle since the 1950s. The book is available at Oink! Oink! (1343 Greene Ave., 514.939.2634, www.oinkoink.com) and Babar Books (1235 Greene Ave, 514.931.0606).

Book your tickets to The Nutcracker

The Nutcracker is a holiday tradition not to be missed. Book your tickets now to ensure seats. Show times are at 2 and 7:30 pm on December 15, 20, 22, 28 and 29. On December 16, 23, 26, 27 and 30, the show is presented at 2 pm only. It takes place at Place des Arts (175 St. Catherine St. W., 514.842.2112, www.pdarts.com) in Salle Wilfred-Pelletier and is two hours long with an intermission. Tickets for adults range from \$30 to \$95 and \$17 to \$50 for children. The recommended age group is five and up. Make sure to check for Westmount Sports and Recreation's ballet teacher Joanie Moreau, who will be dancing in the show.

Scrapbooking Sundays

Scrapbooking Sundays are a great way



Ogilvy's window, delighting young and old since 1947.

to spend a cold Sunday afternoon inside at the Marguerite-Bourgeois Museum (400 St. Paul East, 514.282.8670). The next ones will be held on December 2 at 1 and 3 pm. I would suggest this activity for age 7 and up. Reservations are required and the cost is \$3 for children, \$6 for adults.

Jerry and Jessica Seinfeld

I took my little "honey" (I know, that was corny) to see *Bee* movie last weekend and it was a hit. With no scary parts, this movie is suitable for all ages. Great for the

parent who never has time to sit. Taking the kids to an occasional movie equals two hours of total relaxation.

Speaking of Seinfeld, his wife Jessica has written a cookbook, *Deceptively Delicious: Simple Secrets to Get Your Kids Eating Good Food*. The idea is to get children eating veggies, even if they are resistant. The solution? Purée your veggies, freeze them in individual portions and sneak them into mac 'n cheese, quesadillas and even brownies. After seeing Mrs. Seinfeld on Oprah, I picked up the book at Bon Appétit Cookbooks (388 Victoria Ave., 514.369.2002).

News Flash

I was disappointed to learn that Enfants du Quartier closed recently. The café, at Sherbrooke and Marci, billed itself as a place where kids could be kids and adults could be adults. The play area made it a great place for adults to relax with a cup of coffee while their children frolicked nearby.

Record for annual food drive



Public Safety Officer Yook Wong receives donations to the Christmas food drive November 11 at Victoria Hall. The honours were carried out the day before by auxiliary PSOs Kate Pelletier and Janine Lachapelle.

The generosity of citizens attending the Artisans' Fair at Victoria Hall November 10 and 11 resulted in a record launch for the Public Security Unit's annual Christmas food drive. More than \$1,690

was collected at the door in cash donations along with non-perishable food. One citizen donated \$100.

Food containers have been placed at the entrances to municipal buildings in the hopes that citizens will continue to remember those less fortunate and bring in non-perishable items.

The baskets will be delivered to some 20 or more families in Westmount selected by the CLSC as needing assistance.

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THE WESTMOUNTERS

NEWS

The members of the **Westmount Rotary** marked Remembrance Day at their November 7 luncheon by honouring local veterans. On November 14, they uncharacteristically held their weekly meeting at night, with a dinner honouring their own past presidents. Local Rotarians meet every at 12:30 pm every Wednesday at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. W. For more information, please contact 514. 935. 3344 or info@rotarywestmount.org.

Meals on Wheels seeks volunteers

Do you have 90 free minutes each month to help nourish our community's needy and shut-ins? Meals on Wheels is looking for people willing to volunteer once a month from 11 am to 12:30 pm on Monday or Thursday. Please call Liliane Kohl at 514. 483.6479.

WMA hosts Mayor Marks



Mayor Karin Marks (right) and Patricia Dumais peruse *The Art of Placemaking – Interpreting Community Through Public Art and Urban Design* by Ronald Lee Fleming, donated to the Westmount Public Library by the Westmount Municipal Association on the occasion of the mayor's November 6 speech, "Challenges of Sustainable Westmount."

COMING UP

Tree-lighting at City Hall

Tis the season – almost! The city's

Christmas tree will be lit at 6:30 pm on Monday November 26 at city hall.

Calling all philatelists

All stamp collectors are invited to attend the Philatelic Club of Montreal's next meeting, at 7:30 pm on Tuesday November 27 in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library. Admission is free. For more information, please call 514-735-3941.

Chanukah dinner

December 3 is the registration deadline for the Temple Sisterhood/Brotherhood Chanukah dinner at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. The dinner takes place at 6 pm on Friday, December 7, and features a full-course kosher dinner with wine and, for the kids, dreidels. It costs \$29 for temple members, \$34 for non-members, \$18 for students and \$12 for children ages four to 12. To reserve your place, please call Candi Boroff-Shatilla at 514.343.0447. The temple is located at 4100 Sherbrooke St.

Entrepreneurial workshop on tap

The Centre local de développement Les 3 Monts will host on November 22 in Victoria Hall the workshop "How to retain your most productive and profitable employees." Human resources specialist Linda Constant, of Optimus Performance agency, will offer the two-hour workshop, in collaboration with EMPLOI-QUÉBEC. Participants will be introduced to employee-retention practices best suited to their business needs. Four other workshops, presented between January and April 2008, will deal with various subjects including cultural diversity and reasonable accommodation, customer loyalty development and workplace intergeneration differences. For more information, call 514-737.1253 or see www.cldles3monts.com.

Temple presents two films

Two movies will be screened at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom on Sunday November 25. Ezra Soiferman presents his film *Posthumous Pickle Party*, a nostalgic celebration of one of the Main's now-extinct landmarks, during the Temple Sisterhood/Brotherhood cultural bagel breakfast, which starts at 9:30 am. The film will be shown at 10. Admission is \$5. At 3 pm, the HBO Documentary film *Ghosts of Abu Ghraib* by Rory Kennedy will be shown for free. For more information, please call 514-937-3575. People should enter the temple via 395 Elm Ave.

History quiz: municipal life's centre

By DOREEN LINDSAY

Question from page 12: What is the large triangular expanse of green lawn in front of Westmount city hall called?

Answer: Garden Point.

This large triangle of wonderfully open green grassland in front of Westmount city hall on the point of land between Sherbrooke St. and Côte St. Antoine Rd. has been a centre for municipal life as far back as anyone remembers.

Aline Gubbay, author of *A View of their Own, The Story of Westmount*, tells us that it probably was an early Iroquoian village, one of many settled by the early native peoples alongside their well-travelled dirt pathway through the forest as they followed the curve of the mountain. This pathway of course developed over the years to become our Côte St. Antoine Rd. of today. The striking triangular formation was formed when Sherbrooke St. was put through in 1893 and we were deliberating a change of name from the Town of Côte St. Antoine to the Town of Westmount.

First council meetings

Early council meetings were held in a two-storey brick building owned by the school board on Stanton St. just north of the open space. A post office and village store were in the ground floor of a house nearby. It was not until 1922 that our present city hall was built. In the same year Westmount commissioned a war memorial to be built on this same point of land to honour the dead from World War I. The popular Quebec sculptor George Hill was selected to create a bronze statue of a soldier being protected by an angel with outstretched arms and wings.

Hill also designed the Sir George-Etienne Cartier monument on the east slope of Mount Royal beside Park Ave. At present, proposals are being made for the development of the newly created open space where Park Ave. crosses Pine Ave.

Public ceremonies

Many times a year the public is invited to join the mayor and councillors in commemorative ceremonies. On July 11 a flag was raised announcing Westmount's participation in the Communities in Bloom national competition. Remembrance Day ceremonies were recently held on November 11 and the Christmas tree lighting ceremony will take place on November 26.

On the north side just as the land begins to slant up (where Selwyn House is today), Westmount has always maintained a school. Before being a private boys' school, it was Westmount Senior High School and before that, in a previous

building on the same location, it was Côte St. Antoine Academy which had been constructed to house the additional students when the original Stanton Street School became too small.

An open space for all

The experience of walking or running across this wonderful expanse of open green lawn provides a welcome freedom from the densely populated areas around it. City hall workers, students from the two schools as well as the fortunate residents living in private homes and apartments on either side experience its magical qualities every day. Its open space offers us who ride past in a car or bus the opportunity to look across and up to observe the lookout.

Doreen Lindsay is president of the Westmount Historical Association.

Underdog

By FERN BRESLAW

Every issue of the Westmount Independent features an animal from the Underdog Club, a new organization aiming to find special owners for hard-to-place homeless dogs.

These two boys were sent over from Lebanon, following the bombing of the animal shelter in which they were staying. They were found among rubble on the roof. Some very good people decided they needed a chance in a peaceful place. These two dogs are very loving.

Body is a 8-year-old Corgie mix. He is blind in one eye, hard of hearing and a little on the roly-poly side. Nobody knows if his blindness can be treated but this is a little old man who wants to sit on a lap and receive large amounts of coddling.

Sunny is a one-and-a-half-year-old Golden mix. Unfortunately, he has lymphoma. We don't know how advanced his condition is. He is absolutely beautiful and has a incessant need to have his paw held. Both dogs listen, are gentle and would make awesome pets. They truly deserve a good soul, who will want to give them a better life after having survived so much.

Find out more about adopting Body or Sunny by contacting sophie@rimasec.net or by calling 514.523.5052.



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Selwyn shaves to save

Proceeds from Selwyn House's third annual Shave to Save to raise research money for breast cancer topped \$20,000, a total that has increased \$1,000 each year since the school first participated in 2005. This year, twins Graham and Trevor Hooton (grade 11), Jeremy Micheletti (grade 8), and teachers Mike Downey and Dean Phillips volunteered.

As the *Westmount Independent* reported, the Hootons began their fundraising with a September 8 carwash. That raised \$500.

October 25 was D-Day. Lisa Player, Murray Sherrifs and Tom Buddo from the Mix 96 morning team arrived with LaCoupe stylist Allessandra Vasallo to start cutting.

Each volunteer had to raise a minimum of \$2,000. "At the onset, [the twins] were trying to raise their buy-ins plus \$1,000,



The halfway mark.

for a total of \$5,000 for the two of them," said Julie Hooton. "They ended up bringing in \$7,500."

"We doubled our goal," said Senior School Director Shawn O'Donnell.

Grant means floors at St. Margaret's

Four floors at St. Margaret's Home at 50 Hillside will be completely renovated thanks to \$1,993,000 from the Ministry of Health, as part of \$2,750,500 in funding announced on November 12 by Jacques Chagnon, member of Quebec's provincial assembly representing Westmount-St. Louis, on behalf of provincial health minister Philippe Couillard.

St. Margaret's is among four care centres in Montreal to benefit from money al-

located under the Minor Functional Renovation Program, which funds renovation, redesign, transformation and replacement projects to improve quality of service, accessibility and efficiency.

"These facilities provide very important services for seniors requiring extra help in their daily activities," Chagnon said. "The funding ... will improve the living environment for our elderly in assisted living facilities."



Among the many new arrivals at Westmount Public Library singled out this week for special interest by the library staff are:

Magazines

The Year's Best Art, winners of the 24th annual art competition tell the stories behind their paintings in *The Artist's Magazine*, December 2007, page 31.

How Manga conquered the US, a 10-page graphic guide to Japan's coolest export in *Wired*, November 2007, page 233.

DVDs and CDs

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

Away from Here. A beautiful love story despite onsetting Alzheimer's, with Gordon Pinsent and Julie Christie in the leading roles. The film is based on an Alice Munro story *The Bear Came over the Mountain*.

Noel, Nowell, Noel, a CD of Christmas music by Corelli and Gabrieli.

English Adult

Breakfast with Buddha by Roland Merullo. A New York editor, grieving for his parents finds new *joie de vivre* on the drive to the family farm with his sister's guru who is inheriting half the farm – a comedy with soul.

The Greenpeace Green Living Guide. If you want to know how to leave "a lighter foot-

print," this book offers ideas of environmental living at home.

French Adult

La soeur de Judith by Lise Tremblay. Seen through the eyes of a budding teenager, a realistic portrayal of rural Quebec after the Quiet Revolution.

Chagrin d'école by Daniel Pennac. Best-selling author Pennac gives us this memoir, winner of the 2007 Prix Renaudot. A teacher for 25 years, he reminisces about his school days as a dunce.

Reference

GE, le guide de l'emploi: l'unique répertoire des entreprises qui recrutent.

La Nouvelle Encyclopédie des Antiquités du Québec by Michelle Lessard

Gramophone Classical Music Guide 2008, an authoritative guide to the best classical music on CDs, DVDs and downloads.

Children's

Russell's Christmas Magic by Rob Scotton. When Santa and his broken sleigh are stranded in Firefly Wood, Russell the sheep comes to the rescue.

Casse-Noisette by Lucie Papineau. This retelling of the magical story of Ernst Theodor Hoffmann's *Nutcracker* is beautifully illustrated in delicate watercolours by Quebec illustrator Stéphane Jorisch.

Colourfully Yours: finding the chair that will say all the right things

BY AURELIEN GUILLORY
& GRETA VON SCHMEDLAPP



Well, my dears! It's your designer sleuth Greta again. Do let me apologize for the lapse of the last weeks – Aurel has been under construction deadline mode, shuttling between a total gut job at Le Château downtown and a super expansion up at Lac Supérieur with a spa and indoor pool. Needless to say (but I must), he's always tracking in plaster dust over my *best* Persians when he drops over for a martini to discuss the projects.

Perfect for sipping martinis

The dust is finally settling, so we are going out to discover the *plus que parfait* armchair for sipping martinis – and a superb table to rest it upon between sips. I always remember what he chanted at one of his design conferences: "Next to each

chair, please find a horizontal surface at least a foot square – for your martini."

I'm certain, dear readers, that you've been in several sumptuous living rooms in your day but, missing that little space, put your drink on the floor and when your old friend Caroline swept into the room, the dear next to you kicked it over when she rose for her kiss. That gin will really take the finish off.

So we must find the chair that says all the *right* things about me and my home. What might they be? First, above all, it must fit at the small of my back, deep enough for my buns and high enough for my legs. Also, do I hear the words "footstool"? "Ottoman"? "Pouf"?

Say 'no' to the barcalounger, 'yes' to style

Really my dears, no offence, but those EZ-chairs and barcaloungers take up so much space with their retractable this and that – not in *my* living room! A firm separate foot support about 18 inches high is

rather practical and can always act as another seat for a party.

Of course, the other aspects are style and scale. I must fit my needs and further amplify my style. I want something classic but not too froufrou mahogany or walnut wood frame with the seat having a separate cushion. Down and feathers 40 to 60 percent is the best ratio. Also, reversible means extra wear (or the homey side and the company side). I want the fabric in a rose or peach ultra suede so that it'll be a sexy and practical accent to the room and all will know it's for Greta and not their buns.

Well, we must go to Fraser over on Devonshire, off Royalmount and Décarie, stop in at Thomasville and also see what Union has. Then over to Paré to see the folks at Chrysalis with their different collection, then run over to Ambiente (where Kenny Wong's was – remember, they were in St. Leonard before). They have joined the cluster around the Jean Talon and Décarie junction. The area is really

looking super.

Oh, yes, scale! Do try to have the size of your new chair relate to the rest of the room, not a bedroom slipper size or a giant throne. Although you want the best chair in the room, don't let it upstage the occupant.

Measure and photograph

Always take measurements and photos of possible candidates so you don't fall in to un-filled love. A super colour or size out of context can be toxic when it's delivered. Oh, I can't believe where the time has gone, so let's pause for a you-know-what (with olive) and relegate the rest of Aurelien's and my search for the purrfect chair for next time. Where will we find it? East? Laval? Knowlton?

Bye-bye for now, your dear Greta and her ever patient Aurelien. Oh, if you want to know where he's speaking in the next few weeks, e-mail his office at aurelien@colorsbyaurelien.com.

Westmouter works in 'deteriorating' Afghanistan

Raikes cites critical need for support

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The situation in Afghanistan is deteriorating and in peril of slipping into chaos without continued support from Canada and other countries, says a Westmouter working there with the UN.

On a recent trip home Greg Raikes provided first hand insight into the situation he analyses on a day-to-day basis as a po-

litical affairs officer based northwest of Kabul.

"The lack of security dominates all," he told the *Westmount Independent*. "It is deteriorating in the areas in which we operate. If our troops left tomorrow, it would descend into chaos in a short period of time."

An uphill battle

The work facing NGO workers and military personnel is "already an uphill battle," he explained. "We're at a very precarious point because of the political wavering going on. It's important for Canadians to support our military mission and to know that our presence is valued and that our troops are doing a fantastic job."

While "good things are happening and there are many victories, it's a stalemate," he said. "There are more areas with Taliban presence and attacks are close to Kabul with an escalation of suicide bombings."

In his position with the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Raikes is based in Bamyan in the central highlands where the Taliban in 2001 bombed the Buddha statues, outraging the world community.

As the political affairs officer for the provinces of Dai Kundi and Bamyan, Raikes acts as a mediator to promote reconciliation in disputes involving village elders and various levels of government.

Disputes can range from a lack of representation within the provincial government to accusations of ethnic bias or quick resolution of a criminal case.

He tours the region to speak with as many groups and individuals as possible to obtain "as broad a base as possible from as diverse a population as possible."

"We meet with the province governor, chief of police and local councils to get a sense of burning issues and how we can



Meeting with villagers is an important part of Raikes' job.



Some of weapons Raikes has persuaded tribal commanders to turn over as part of disarmament efforts.

help. We write analytical reports about these as well as the needs of local shopkeepers and others in sustaining day-to-day life."

Checking out all information

There are certain things people don't want to talk about, such as naming names of poppy cultivators or commanders with certain weapons, he explained. "Everything has to be checked to try to get the real story. As foreigners, we have to play by their rules."

He identifies and promotes the need for more resources within a program and helps government officials vet police applicants, whose quality is gradually improving, he said. Given the chronic unemployment, "many join the Taliban who pay more."

Raikes also liaises regularly with New Zealand troops in Bamyan who are hunting down the Taliban as part of the coalition force.

Positive acceptance of UN

In his region, he said, there is positive acceptance of the UN's role. "You can spot our UN marked vehicles from a mile away."

"This is stunningly beautiful country with its mountains, jagged peaks, green valleys and rivers." Poppy crops are more

lucrative than potatoes, wheat and almonds.

Along with having the opportunity to bring people together and eliminate divisions, he cites among his achievements being active in disarmament and encouraging weapons to be handed over.

Raikes has been to Kandahar (where Canadian troops are located) for a regional meeting of governors of southern provinces.

While he has lost friends to an air crash and murder, he said, "On a day-to-day basis, I don't fear for my life. But you have to have some acceptance of the risk versus the rewards. I'm not cavalier about my safety."

Raikes, 35, graduated from Selwyn House in 1989 and holds a master's degree in international political affairs from the University of Leeds. He worked with the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London and the UN Institute for Disarmament in Geneva before going to Afghanistan in 2005.

"I'm absolutely passionate about being there," he said. "The living conditions are such that if you're not committed you'd leave. The work is the motivator. This is exactly what I want to be doing at this time of life."

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Montreal bridge stars prove themselves at 2007 World Bridge Championship

By George Retek

At last month's Bridge World Championship in Shanghai, the Canadian Senior Team easily finished first at the round robin stage lead by Fred Hoffer and Dan Piafsky, who had the second highest score in the Butler ranking among 60 pairs. Our Ladies Team led by Julie Fajgelzon, Francine Cimon and Sylvia Caley also easily qualified for the KO stage. Unfortunately, both teams lost their quarterfinal match. Our open team had its ups and downs and finished close to the bottom at the round robin stage.

Probably you have often wondered how the mind of an expert functions. The best recent example is a fascinating deal played between the two USA teams at the Shanghai World Championships, as described brilliantly by Barry Regal and Phillip Alder in the Daily Bulletin.

The clash of the Titans

Dealer North. All vulnerable.

N ♠ K 9 7 6 5 4 3
♥ Q 5 3
♦ J 7 2
♣ –

W ♠ 8 2
♥ J 9 4
♦ A K Q 8 5 3
♣ 9 6
S ♠ Q J 10
♥ 10 6 2
♦ 9 6
♣ K Q J 3 2

E ♠ A
♥ A K 8 7
♦ 10 4
♣ A 10 8 7 5 4

Open room

West	North	East	South
Rodwell	Garner	Meckstroth	Weinstein
	2 ♠	Dbl.	3 ♠
5 ♦	All pass		

Rodwell won the spade lead and crossed to a top diamond to ruff a spade. Now the club ace was rudely ruffed and when a spade came back Rodwell knew that the heart queen had to be on his left. Otherwise a heart play would have left him with no chance.

Accordingly Rodwell ruffled the spade and ran his trumps, coming down to a four-card ending where South wanted to keep two clubs and three hearts but could not do so.

N ♠ 5 4
♥ Q 5 3
♦ –
♣ –



Westmounters Marie and George Retek at last month's Bridge World Championship in Shanghai, where Westmount and Montreal were well-represented.

W ♠ –
♥ J 9 4
♦ 3
♣ 9
S ♠ –
♥ 10 6 2
♦ –
♣ K Q

E ♠ –
♥ A K 8
♦ –
♣ 10 8

On the last trump North threw a spade, East a club and South a club. So Rodwell exited with a club and guessed hearts when South returned the suit.

Closed room

West	North	East	South
Zia	Hamman	Rosenberg	Lall
	2 ♠	Dbl.	3 ♠
Dbl.	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♦	All pass		

At the other table, Hamman for USA II opened with a weak two, requiring a stronger suite for a vulnerable three-bid. After Rosenberg doubled and Lall raised to three spades, Zia doubled in the hope that his partner could bid three no trump. But East jumped to five clubs and West continued with five diamonds. Then East, deducing that the double indicated a two-suited hand, bid five hearts, which West had to correct to six diamonds.

North led the spade three. Thinking that North had a six-card spade suit, West deduced that this lead was a suit-preference signal, indicating a club void. Backing his judgment, Zia won with the spade ace and called for a low heart.

When South played low, West put in his nine, knowing that if South had the queen, he would have taken the trick and given his partner a club ruff.

North took his heart queen and returned a heart. Declarer won with his jack, ruffed a spade on the board, drew trumps and claimed, his club loser going on dummy's last heart.

Minus 600 and plus 1370 gave 13 IMPs to USA I.

Artisans' Festival



Co-chair Flora Lee Wagner at the ninth annual Westmount Artisans' Festival on November 10.

The annual Westmount Artisans' Festival was held on November 10 and 11. Westmounters Ilyse Segal and Flora-Lee Wagner co-chair this event. Segal used to hold the event at home until approached nine years ago by Linda Stern, then Westmount's community events coordinator. It was then moved to Victoria Hall. Wagner joined Segal shortly afterwards. "It keeps getting bigger every year," said Segal.



Kesler Woodward Snow at Christmas (detail)
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UPPER CLARKE – Unsurpassed southern views are offered throughout this unique detached 5 bedroom home. With central air, 2-car garage and renovated kitchen opening onto an intimate garden complete with waterfall, this home is truly unique! **Asking \$2,450,000**



BELVEDERE: Modern multi-level 5 bdrm home filled with light, spectacular views, c/a, fireplaces, 2 car garage & great for entertaining! **Asking \$2,349,000.**



SUMMIT CIRCLE: VIEWS! VIEWS! VIEWS! Unlimited potential in this home with breathtaking panoramic southern views! Renovate and/or rebuild to your taste and enjoy all this property has to offer! **Asking \$1,750,000**



BELMONT: LOCATION! LOCATION! Wonderful 4+1 bdrm renovated family home backing onto Murray Hill Park w/central air, high ceilings, fireplace, skylights, large eat-in kitchen, master bdrm w/ensuite, finished bsmt & 2-car pkg. This one won't last! **Asking \$1,299,000**



OPEN HOUSE SUN 2-4

4308 MONTROSE: Delightful & sun-filled 3+2 bdrm detached home featuring lovely master w/ensuite, enchanting top floor w/private deck & views, granite kitchen, wonderful lower level w/sep. Entrance (ideal for home office/great teenage quarters), central air conditioning and 2-car garage. A "must see!" **Asking \$998,000**



THE BOULEVARD: First time on the market in over 40 years! Wonderful 3-storey, 6 bdrm family home with 2-car garage and views. Fabulous woodwork and detailing throughout make this truly a classic "Westmount" home. A renovator's delight! **Asking \$895,000**



GROSVENOR: Renovated Lambert duplex w/occupancy in remodeled upper! With its fireplaces, skylights, sun-drenched balconies, lovely garden, bachelor w/sep. entrance & 3-car garage, this duplex is priced to sell below evaluation! Hurry!! **Asking \$699,000**



SOLD

EDGEHILL: Spectacular, elegant and meticulously maintained 4-storey stone residence offering views, central air conditioning, granite kitchen, incredible woodwork, 5+1 bedrooms, master ensuite, amazing lower level den ++. This home is for the most discriminating family who enjoy entertaining on a grand scale! **Asking \$3,275,000**



SOLD

ELM: Completely renovated Greystone with the finest of taste & materials! This home is truly 'move-in' featuring beautiful mouldings, 12' ceilings, "Marvin" windows, wall-mounted a/c, master ensuite, delightful kitchen with doors to a private deck, 2-car parking and more. A visit is worth 1000 words! **Asking \$1,379,000**

OUR SUCCESS IS MEASURED... ONE FAMILY AT A TIME