



Most expensive house: 351 Redfern

**Real estate transfers
— new every month,
like the market! p.10**

**Building permits —
Westmount's only
published list p.9**



In this complex: Least expensive townhouse
(321 Melville)



Profile: Helen Rainville p. 13

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

December 5, 2007

We are Westmount

Vol. 1 No. 13

Merger years saddle Westmount with 'unbelievable' debt

Minimal tax rise in '08 as city budget unveiled

Returning for Scouting fundraiser



Sandy Chisholm (right) exchanges stories with former Westmount Scouters Don Rutherford (left) and Peter Goddard, who returned from Ottawa for a 100th anniversary dinner in Westmount. Both now serve on the eastern Ontario council. For more photos and stories, see p. 18.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The numbers are now known. Westmounters can begin calculating their tax bills for 2008.

At a public consultation meeting November 28 on Westmount's \$36.2 million operating budget for next year, the residential tax rate for locally managed services was presented at \$0.425 per \$100 of 2008 property valuation. On the average evaluation of a single family dwelling (\$887,360), this translates into a 1.1 per cent tax increase or \$43.

When combined with the Agglomeration Council's tax rate of \$0.731 for additional "island wide" services, the total effect results in an average of 2.5 per cent, Mayor Karin Marks told the meeting. The local *continued on page 2*

Margaret Trudeau addresses Shaar's ICRF event



Margaret and Justin Trudeau talk to Justin's McGill Debating Union colleague (and Independent editor) David Price prior to her speech at the Shaar Hashomayim Dec. 2. She addressed the Israel Cancer Research Fund and The Pink Lady Fund's brunch honouring Arlene Abitan, Barbara Seal and Julie Gniwisch. She spoke movingly about her bipolar condition. She advocated that mental health be treated as importantly as physical health and that sufferers seek treatment without stigma. Justin briefly spoke and related that he was often asked how he deals with being the son of Pierre Trudeau. "The answer is before you. I am so proud of my mother." 589 people attended the event, which raised \$242,000. Photo: Michael Bourguignon

Airport train on right track

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Fears over the impact an electric train service to Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport might have on Westmount appear to be unfounded and premature at the least.

"A lot of ideas have been floating around," said councillor and engineer Patrick Martin. Three studies were underway concerning possible routes to the airport at Dorval, he said.

The project is costly, logistically complex and fraught with many players who

have different objectives, he said.

A Bruce Ave. resident brought her concerns to the November 26 meeting of city council after hearing various reports from a recent consultation meeting in NDG on modifications to the Turcot yard. She was told that work to reconfigure the Turcot interchange would take place west of Westmount.

She also asked what could be expected by Westmounters who live near the tracks and are already bothered by noise, vibration and other pollutants from the railway and ex- *continued on page 3*

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Budget: Staying the course in trying circumstances

continued from page 1
non-residential tax rate would be \$1.61.
Expected to be adopted December 17, Westmount's \$36.2 million budget reflects an overall increase of 4.7 per cent over 2007.

This covers the projected costs of delivering local services (\$27.5 million), debt servicing and financing (\$5.3 million), a \$1.2 million contribution to the Montreal Metropolitan (regional) Community, and \$2 million in the pay-as-you-go financing of capital works (asset-based) projects slated for 2008.

The remaining portion of the separate capital works budget of \$7.4 million will be funded by loan by-laws in the amount of \$5.4 million. The city's debt is projected to reach \$31 million by the end of 2008.

Debt attributed to Montreal

A substantial amount of the public consultation meeting was devoted to an explanation of the city's ballooning debt attributed to the merger years with Montreal.

"Being virtually debt free after 125 years," said city director general Bruce St. Louis, "it's an unbelievable fact that in four

years of merger, we have accumulated close to \$50 million of debt."

Westmount's debt in 2001, on the eve of amalgamation, will have escalated to \$21.6 million at the end of 2007, and is expected to level out at some \$43 million in 2010 by the time the full impact of debt servicing kicks in and before Westmount can recover financially and begin paying it down.

Looking for creative solutions

"We have to find creative solutions," said Councillor Guy Charette, finance commissioner, in explaining how the city's current expectations are to reduce the debt to \$15.5 million by 2019, largely through accelerating the city's pay-as-you-go process and paydown of capital.

A large portion of the debt, he said, was racked up by Montreal on Westmount's behalf along with various other costs related to those years, the demerger transition process which included the \$9 million forced purchase of the waterworks infrastructure and other payments many of which are now under contestation.

The budget process was an arduous one in which St. Louis, city finance direc-

tor Claude Lachance and the staff have worked for several months to produce the knitty-gritty following guidelines from the city council which were to retain the current level of services while holding the line on controllable expenses.

Westmount's \$36.2 million operating budget requires \$24.4 million in general property tax after other revenues.

City of Westmount budget

Revenue & expenses 2008: \$36.2 million

Debt forecast

December 2007 \$21.6 million
December 2008 \$31.6 million

Average house (Westmount taxes only)

	2007	2008	Change
Valuation	\$819,680	\$887,360	+8.3%
Taxes	\$3,730	\$3,773	+1.1%

Employees remain at 216

While the number of permanent employees is budgeted to remain at 216, the city has allocated an additional amount to hire auxiliary personnel such as those now required for maintenance of the water works, the management of which Westmount will assume in-house in 2008 rather than out-sourcing. The budget has no provision for salary increases but will rise to cover uncontrollable increased costs of payroll benefits.

Included in the \$7.4 million Capital Works budget is \$800,000 for the Westmount Park playing fields project, replacement of water mains on Holton and part of Westmount Ave., and the redoing of the following streets: Grove Park, Anwoth, York, and Westmount Avenue (Belmont to Clarke).

Westmount's mayor walks the talk on bicycle use

Bike path's future under study

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The future of Westmount's long-standing bike path is now under review following the November 1 opening of the Montreal bicycle lane along de Maisonneuve, Mayor Karin Marks told the November 26 meeting of city council.

There are technical issues to be resolved before any adjustments are made to the bike path, she said. "It's a little premature because there is no path at the Westmount end."

Westmount will use the next few months to assess the number of winter users of Montreal's bike route; also what impact it might have locally, especially through Westmount Park "because ours was designed as a recreational path."

Only one to cycle home

In a humorous account of the official Montreal opening, the mayor related how she was the only one of the invited dignitaries to actually ride the length of the path.

While she had participated initially in a short ride with others from Berri St. to the site of the opening ceremonies, once these ended, she said, "All the rest left in cars and I was the only on my bike." So she rode it back to Westmount feeling "better exercised than the rest."

At the time, however, questions were raised about Westmount closing its path in the winter and the failure of the West-

mount and Montreal bikes paths to link up.

Markers removed for winter

This, she said, raises a number of complexities for Westmount where the path is marked off by flexible flag poles that are removed during the winter. The path goes along the south side of de Maisonneuve Blvd. between Claremont and Greene avenues with a stretch through Westmount Park.

The newly installed Montreal path is separated by a permanent concrete abutment, also along Maisonneuve, from Berri west to the Westmount city limits. There, however, just west of Atwater, across from Dawson College, it comes to an abrupt end where students tend to crowd across the street.

The ending of the path also leaves a gap from there to the start of the Westmount path at Greene.

Questioners at the meeting raised a number of concerns, including the potential increased use of the Westmount bike path and the safety of cyclists in the stretch from Atwater to Greene Avenues.

It was also noted that no bike path continues beyond the Claremont end of Westmount's until the bike path picks up west of Decarie.

It was suggested that a concrete abutment might prove unsafe, impossible or even illegal given the narrowness of de Maisonneuve.

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Rail changes will take time

continued from page 1

pressway.

"What's being bandied about is a light (electric) train that would require a continuous rail," Martin said. This would virtually eliminate vibration and the existing noise from switches and joints as well as pollution from the heavy diesel engines. It would probably take eight or 10 years, "so don't be alarmed for the moment." Rather, he added, "Try to see it as possibly good news."

Martin has been closely associated with the rail idea in his former professional work with expansion of the airport and as

president of the Aéroports de Montréal International (ADMI).

Asked to elaborate on the various scenarios following the meeting, he told *Westmount Independent*, "Whatever the outcome, Westmount is going to be better off."

Three railway routes have been considered, he said.

The three possible rail routes

One is the CP line emanating from Windsor Station that stops at Vendome. A solution would have to be found for the level crossings in Montreal West. Overpasses or tunnels would be costly and "a difficult proposition" given the need to maintain rail and road traffic during construction.

This option, however, would likely serve Westmount well because the aging track would be replaced and, electric trains without diesel engines would make little more impact than a streetcar, Martin explained.

Many local residents would also benefit by being able to reach the airport quickly. CP and the Agence Métropolitaine de Transport (AMT) would favour this option.

A second scenario, to use the lower CN route through St. Henri, would likely reduce existing traffic through Westmount on the CP line, and would be the choice of those who favour direct service to Central Station. It also would open up overseas flight markets for Montreal in Ottawa and Kingston by providing easy access for those who might travel through Toronto.

This would also involve expensive tunneling to enable the CN line to cross the CP one in order to reach the airport.

A third option, which Martin said seems unlikely, would be to use the CN route from Central Station under Mount Royal. This would require rebuilding the tunnel and then tunneling below runways.

Martin reiterated his interest in enquiring further into the status of the plans and keeping Westmount residents informed of the situation.

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Toni Meanear, almost 6, was among those whose spirits failed to be dampened by pouring rain during the annual Christmas lighting ceremony at city hall November 26. Choir members from St. Matthias' Church led citizens in carol singing in the council chamber. Sweets and more singing were provided at the lawn bowling clubhouse after the tree lighting.



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Sustainable Westmount

BY MAYOR KARIN MARKS



This article is adapted from the mayor's remarks to the Westmount Municipal Association on November 6.

Where did this question of sustainability begin for me? As many know and I have said previously, I acquired environmental “religion” (although not fundamentalism) later than some.

My journey to sustainability began with a 15-year involvement in an organization called Making Cities Livable. In our discussions, we focused on the livability of cities in such things as public and commercial areas and how they can be designed to bring very different groups of people together through the creation of community activities. We also talked about the emergence of the suburb, the decline of the front porch and its replacement by the garage (and the impact of that change on the interaction between neighbours), and the rise in importance of the car.

As a result of this involvement, I initiated or supported a whole host of projects in Westmount, including the publication of clear heritage protection guidelines, the establishment of a teen centre, the re-defining of Victoria Hall as a centre for community activities, the refurbishment of the library and the establishment of a gallery highlighting local artists.

More recently, with influences of Al Gore, David Suzuki and others, it became clear that a livable city must be a sustainable city.

But it was only about a year ago that I realized that it was not only large governments that needed to focus on sustainable development. I realized that sustainability required that we, collectively and individually, alter the way we live and the way we see our needs. If change is going to come about, it will happen person by person and door by door. That being so, who better to encourage such change than municipal government, the first line of service?

The first challenge

The first challenge in changing is to define what is meant by a sustainable city. Out of many possible definitions of sustainability, I focused on one: *a sustainable community is continually adjusting to meet the social, cultural and economic needs of its residents, while preserving the environment's ability to support it.*

In Westmount, we have explored two ways to move this forward: the creation of a defined plan and the development of common values to inform decision-making generally. We started out with the idea of following the first direction. Council met and discussed what kinds of things should be addressed in such a plan. Then we assembled a diverse group of about 25 residents who met and looked at the same questions. By and large, the same elements came through, although not always

in the same order.

It is still our intention to develop a community plan, but time and resources are lacking. As a result, we have thus far been operating more in the second, values-based model, without having made any conscious decision to do so. For instance, environmental responsibility was a value chosen by both council and the resident group. So when it came time to buy vehicles for public security, we took the time to investigate hybrid models and that's what we bought.

Who is responsible for implementation?

One of the councillors with whom I worked for many years always asked, “Who has the R?” – meaning who has the clear responsibility for making sure the project moves forward. That has been our second challenge. For sustainability issues, the “R” was so divided among people with other full-time duties that we did not move forward as quickly as I would have liked. Good things happened because we raised awareness and concern, but they tended to be less measurable than I believe they should be.

As a result, we are in the process of defining a job for someone who will have this as their main responsibility and assure that a plan is put in place, implemented, monitored, measured and communicated.

Determining the hierarchy of values

This brings us to our third challenge, which is determining a hierarchy of values. This can be very difficult.

Here in Westmount, we dealt with the issue of limiting the amount of unsightly and unenvironmental front-lawn driveways versus the right of people to have and park as many cars as they want on their property. Another issue looms with the building of what some call “McMansions,” which can pit issues of sustainability versus the right of people to purchase those things for which they have worked and which they want to enhance their lives.

Changing the markers of success

I asked Karl-Henrik Robèrt, the founder of a sustainability group called the Natural Step, about the possible clash between individual rights and sustainability. His answer was a good one, but not an easy one. He said, “You must change the markers of success.”

This answer resonated with me because of the case of the Toyota Prius. The Prius outsold its hybrid Honda competitor because the Prius had a different look from non-hybrid cars. People wanted to be seen driving it and doing their part for the environment.

It is not up to government to judge the personal needs and values of its constituents, but to establish community norms of sustainability. There are three R's in environmentalism: reduce, reuse, recycle. In Westmount, we are pretty good at recycling and reusing – and we will get better in the months to come.

But what of the last R, reduce? How do we motivate ourselves and others to reduce consumption? Is it our job to do so? Can we afford not to?

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EDITOR:
David Price 514.935.4537

CHIEF REPORTER:
Laureen Sweeney
laureen@westmountindependent.com

LAYOUT:
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Letter to the editor

SAVE US FROM SAVE THE PARK!

Many of us participate in community activities and attend city council meetings. We ask questions and criticize politely and civilly. The mayor, councillors and city employees always respond in a friendly manner, whether they are in agreement with our observations or not.

What is disturbing to our community is the lack of civility often displayed by the “protagonists” who attribute to themselves exclusively as “Save the Park!” There are many others who very strongly believe in *saving Westmount Park* but have other ideas as to how to accomplish it.

The “protagonists” are continuously badgering the mayor and council; they demand answers to council plans that are non-existent; when the reply is that these fantasies do not exist, very often the badgering continues.

I witnessed a multi-page tract passed around at a council meeting that was based on a false premise and contained fabricated digitized photographs of a fence blocking off the bicycle path and other things.

The local newspapers are filled with their diatribes of heavy-handed treatment by our elected officials. Not so. Public meetings have been held and a committee to examine all aspects of the park's future has been enacted. Yet they still object. They claim to have 700-plus signatures of protest but it is unclear of the methodology. After all, 19,000-plus Westmounters have not signed any petition regarding this matter.

What the “protagonists” must learn:

- To disagree without being disagreeable
- Other citizens have rights, valid opinions, desires, hopes and the availability of facts
- To smile and be friendly to others once in a while.

STAN GROSSMAN, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

Just say 'no' to the Nova buses

BY MAY CUTLER, FORMER MAYOR



Easier access? Don't bet on it

This last was the alleged reason for the original purchase. It would make access easier for us and allow wheelchair to enter at the rear door. It does none of this. Of the two seats up front reserved for us, one requires climbing up a steep step to be sat on – not easy for anyone with a crutch. The other facing it, right beside the entrance has people during the rush-crush, stepping on you, falling onto your lap, or shoving backpacks into you. Mighty dangerous if you're pregnant.

Sealing in these seats, sticking up are the two front wheels, taking space that could accommodate six passengers seated, (convenient for the elderly, etc.) plus six standing, all where space is most needed.

The back wheels, however, are under the bus. This means a higher floor. When the driver has trouble shutting the front door against the crowd, nobody wants to go up the two steps in order to stand, so the aisle there is often empty.

Completing this visual horror, at the very back, is a closet, the kind that, on long distance buses, holds a toilet. (No such convenience here.)

As for wheelchair access? Last year, I saw a man in a wheelchair waiting at a bus stop. The driver could not get the machinery to work, gave up and drove off, leaving the man to wait. For what? A woman sitting beside me remarked, "They never work."

Adjustments galore

Then there were the catch-ups and patch-ups requiring adjustments.

When these buses first appeared, those two wheels up front were covered with a flat metal top. Because kids liked to climb

up on them, the buses were taken away and reappeared with a cone over the covers. More wasted space. Normal buses have one system to request a stop. The Nova has three: a cord across the top of the windows, one down between them, plus buttons on poles. The back exit door still doesn't always respond when you obey the sign to push it. Unless the driver hears you shouting, you can be taken to the next stop. Need I go on?

All this over 10 years, and the MTC is still ordering Novas. Perhaps it should be looked into by the Sûreté du Québec.

If the *Guinness Book of Records* ever listed the worst of everything, instead of the best, Montreal would have a mention.

For what? For having the worst buses on our planet. That may not seem so terrible, unless you've had to ride in them. I have, almost daily, along Sherbrooke St. on the No. 24, and for the past 10 years, ever since the low-floor Nova buses appeared, I have felt a pang of outrage every time I got on one.

Montreal knew back then how bad these Novas were. According to the *Gazette* the MTC is still trying "to return or exchange" 452 buses received in 1996. It also is returning 13 of 22 brand new ones because of defective engines. And has another 114 on order.

I know buses. I've traveled on them in dozens of countries, always preferring them to taxis. I like people-watching. No place better than on a bus. Not that I haven't been more uncomfortable on some than on the Novas.

From Mexico to India to Sherbrooke St.

I've sat beside a crate of protesting chickens in Mexico, been terrified that a dilapidating rattler with passengers on the roof and hanging out the door would go over a cliff in India and worried close to barfing that a wild flyer would kill someone as it sped, horn blasting, down a crowded road in Jamaica – wondering if a billboard saying 103 died in accidents that year would require an updating.

But I don't blame the buses for that. I'm sure they all started out fine. You can't say that for the Nova buses.

You see the mess as soon as you get on. Normal buses have one floor level inside. The Nova has four, one towards the front, one beyond the back exit, one where the driver sits and another behind him, reserved, the signs say, for us who are elderly, disabled or pregnant.

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Dawson helps budding online entrepreneurs

BY BEN SHINGLER

A new course offered via Dawson College's continuing education program helps budding entrepreneurs set up their business online.

The course gives students all the necessary tools to build a successful website. By the time they complete it in December, many of the 21 students will have their site up and running.

Web hosting company SiteSell is offering the class. All the tools to build a website are available online but students appreciate their time in class, said SiteSell Instructor Amel Mehenaoui. "They have to take three hours, work on their business and solve problems together," Mehenaoui said.

Westmounter Edmund Nash is designing a new web page for his multimedia poster company, mPaevum. Most of his clients are based in Montreal and he hopes

his new website will bring in business from all over the world – from "Poughkeepsie to Bora Bora," he said with a smile.

The class is made up of a cross-section of people ages 35 to 65, said Donald Cogan, SiteSell's education director. "The common thread is that these people are trying to design their own business," he said.

"It gives me control of my site. I don't need a webmaster," said Westmounter Marilynn Vanderstaay, a student designing a website that tells her story as a cancer survivor. She said she wants to provide support to other people fighting the disease – for the "spirit, soul, and body."

For more information on the course, visit www.sitesell.com or phone 514.671.9914. To learn more about continuing education courses at Dawson, visit www.dawsoncollege.qc.ca or phone 514.933.3771.



Westmounter Marilynn Vanderstaay is designing a website to support those fighting cancer.

A place of their own



From left: Tyler Job-Gagnon, Jevon Young, Jesse Bernini (back), Cynthia Job-Gagnon.

Westmount's TAG Teen centre offers local students a place to hang out, play pool or do school projects in a supervised environment. (The name "TAG" comes from one the centre's original posters, which invited teens to place their "tag" – as in a graffiti signature – on the poster. The name stuck.)

Located at the Westmount Arena, the after-school and weekend program includes hockey, swimming and tennis, as well as movies and educational activities. Marianne Knai coordinates the centre, while McGill students Jason Lesniak, Daniel Lasry and Brett Pedvis assist as counsellors. Originally a business-class assignment for the McGill students, the three continue to volunteer once a week and enjoy making a "difference in the community."



From left: Devon Michel, Giancarlo DiCenso, Avery Thompson, Callaghan Marley, Scott Paré.



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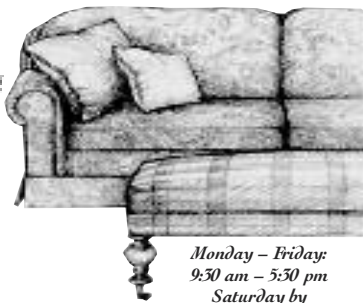
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Healthy breakfast, city and house

Emmanuel Cosgrove of Écohabitation.com addressed a small group of Westmounters at Victoria Hall on November 29 as part of the Healthy City Project's breakfast series. His topic was "green" construction.

Cosgrove is an expert in both his personal and professional life. His own house on Park Ave. has reduced its heating/energy bills from \$4,600 to \$500 (while doubling its living space) after what he characterized as an average-budget renovation project.

His other remarks focused on the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environ-

mental Design) standard (to be unveiled in its Canadian version in June 2008), which certifies a house to a green standard that he finds to be "without holes." LEED sets high standards for a house's durability, location, and – most importantly – energy and water efficiency. His remarks were optimistic (buildings in Quebec can be made so as not to need anything but sun-based heating) and pessimistic (building codes, standards, knowledge and material availability are nowhere near where they could easily be).

Parks trees coming down

One tree will be felled in Westmount Park as well as several others in Sunny-side Park, Councillor George Bowser reported at the council meeting November 26. All are judged unsafe. Located near the water course, the Westmount Park tree has an incurable fungus and a large cavity at the base. In an earlier story, *Westmount Independent* reported that the condition of the tree was being monitored. Those immediately below the summit lookout represent a hazard to walkers, the councillor explained.

No help from Montreal to curb Remembrance traffic

Since the designation of Sherbrooke St. as a Montreal arterial responsibility following demerger, Westmount has no control over rerouting traffic during the annual Remembrance Day services at the cenotaph, Mayor Karin Marks said at the city council meeting November 26.

Despite north lanes being closed, buses in particular continued to use the south ones "even during the most solemn" moment at this year's ceremony November 11, noted Jane Martin during the question period.

"We expressed our desire to close the street," the mayor said, "but police will not close it." It is, she added, "one of the frustrations."

"It's a very sad commentary," Martin concluded.

Mayor Marks suggested that perhaps the transit authority might voluntarily reroute its buses for the occasion. She would "bring it up" at the next board meeting of the Société de Transport de Montréal, of which she is a member.

Keeping the power on

Pierre Dubé is the newly named director of Hydro Westmount. He replaces Marc Roy, who is leaving after holding the position some 10 years. Following an executive search, Dubé was hired as an administrative consultant on a five-year contract affirmed by city council November 26.



RE/MAX Westmount once again this year will be collecting non-perishable food for **Share The Warmth**. Please help the less fortunate by dropping off your contributions in the lobby at 1330 Greene Avenue. Thank you one and all. **RE/MAX Westmount Inc.**



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<div></div> <div>PUBLIC WORKS Snow Removal</div> <div>The City of Westmount depends on the cooperation of all drivers to ensure that snow is removed quickly and efficiently throughout the winter. Whenever you park, look up and check carefully for orange signs. Vehicles blocking snow removal operations will be towed.</div> <div>Private Contractors</div> <div>Please remind your contractor that snow from private driveways and walkways must never be placed on public sidewalks, lanes, or streets. During snow loading, snow may be added to the existing snowbanks prior to removal. Info: 514 989-5311. 🌿</div> <div></div> <div>PUBLIC SECURITY 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 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>2008 Facility Membership Cards</div> <div>Due to productions delays, the 2008 facility membership cards will be available as of Monday, December 10. For more information on the facility membership cards, please consult our Web site. Info: 514 989-5353. 🌿</div>		<div>DATEBOOK</div> <div>Until December 15</div> <div>Franco-Canadian Quilting Challenge Gallery at Victoria Hall</div> <div>December 12 - 6:45 p.m.</div> <div>French Book Club Library</div> <div>December 15 - 2 p.m.</div> <div>Fall Author Series - <i>Stories by the Fireside</i> Guest: Author and illustrator Marie-Louise Gay Ages 6 and up Library</div> <div>December 17 - 8 p.m.</div> <div>General Council Meeting City Hall</div> <div>December 18 - 7 p.m.</div> <div>English Book Club Library</div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>COMMUNITY EVENTS 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: 514 934-0354.</div> <div>Chanukah Celebration</div> <div>The City of Westmount, Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom and Congregation Shaar Hashomayim invite the entire Westmount community to the Chanukah Candle Lighting on Wednesday, December 5 at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall. After the lighting, everyone will head to the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim synagogue at 450 Kensington for Chanukah activities and treats. Info : 514 989-5265. 🌿</div>	

WHAT'S PERMITTED: A SURE SIGN OF WINTER

It's a sure sign of winter when the number of building permits presented to Westmount city council dwindles to nine, Councillor Cynthia Lulham declared at the meeting November.

The following were approved.

70 Belmont Cresc: to build a solarium;
4928B Sherbrooke: to install a sign;
660 Grosvenor: to repair second-storey balcony;

624 Belmont: to replace some windows and a door;
364 Olivier: to replace some windows;
429 Mount Pleasant: to replace some windows and doors;
4926 Sherbrooke: to install an awning sign for Rooney;
54 Oakland: to place a window;
578 Côte St. Antoine: to erect a fence.

Fire officials provide tips to help

Chief: Plan for safe holidays

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Having a safe Christmas means planning for one.

"The festive season is a time when the risk of accidental fires increases with entertainment, general merriment and visiting," said Westmount Fire Prevention Chief Daniel De Vries.

"When many people are likely to be gathered together, it is especially important not to be distracted while cooking, block doorways with decorations or sleep in basement areas not usually used. Be sure to check for escape routes and functioning smoke detectors when visiting others or staying in infrequently used country homes. Take a spare battery with you."

Keep tree away from heat sources

If you're starting to put up a natural tree inside, keep it well watered and away from heat sources and candle flames.

"Since cooking is the most common cause of fires, it is important never to leave it unattended," De Vries said.

Extension cords you may use to string together decorative lights can provide a particular hazard as well as the overloading of electrical circuits. Ensure that extension cords are not worn or frayed, and not covered by rugs.

Candles have been a frequent source of fires in Westmount. Over the festive season, in particular, when people are caught up in partying, it is easy to forget about a candle until it burns down onto a table or is left where the family pet can tip it over.

Cats love to explore the flickering flame.

Be sure to buy enough batteries for gifts and toys and never remove a battery from a smoke detector to power something else. You'll rob your family of their best alert system in the event some fire condition does occur.

And speaking of fires, remember that when you have one burning in the fireplace this is one that is already under way. Be sure the chimney has been inspected and/or cleaned at least once a year.

Don't build large hot fires

Keep a screen in front of the fireplace when fires are burning. And avoid building large, hot fires. In older homes such as those found in Westmount, excessive heat may radiate to the older, dryer wood beneath the hearth or around the chimney.

Resist the temptation to burn wrapping paper and evergreen boughs as these, in particular, create very hot fires.

"It's important to practise fire safety at all times of year," De Vries said. "Not only during Fire Prevention Week. Let's have a safe and fire-free Christmas in Westmount this year."

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Sacred Sites of South India Travel Retreat, January 24 – February 14 2008, \$5188. A journey to the Heart. Itinerary and powerpoint preview available. 514 271-5941, kyra@aei.ca, www.bodybeingheart.com

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Astri Prugger with Westmounter Katie Pothier and Anna McGaughey.

Fashion designer Astri Prugger (322 Victoria Ave., 514.369.4799) served champagne and goodies on Friday, November 9 from 5 to 8 pm to kick off the Discover Victoria Village retailers' weekend. In the New Year,

Prugger will be joined at her store by

jewelry designer Tracy Gartner of Trink Jewelry (344A Victoria Ave, 514.223.7688). Both do custom work and will complement each other "because you always need jewelry for your dress and vice versa," said Gartner. Prugger also does alterations.

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Bought & Sold: Real estate transfered since October 26

Address	Price	Evaluation	Buyer	Seller	Date
4225 Dorchester Ave.	\$ 27,066,318	\$ 26,100,000	Minister of Public Works and Government Services	Canadian Leaseback (GP) Inc.	31-Oct
351 Redfern	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 1,388,600	Ines Maria Linares	Anna Burgos	20-Nov
31 Ramezay Ave.	\$ 2,080,000	\$ 1,640,000	Richard Sioufi	Rosa Rodin	1-Nov
30 Edgehill Road	\$ 1,830,000	\$ 1,442,600	John Essaris	Fouad Saliba, Myrna Al Taraya Geagea	2-Nov
652 Roslyn Ave.	\$ 1,660,000	\$ 914,900	Copley Investments Inc.	Richard Simard	16-Nov
577 Roslyn Ave.	\$ 1,540,000	\$ 899,500	Michele Gaul	Francis Legault	8-Nov
339 Victoria Ave.	\$ 1,480,000	\$ 1,231,300	Sirus Homayun	6846611 Canada Inc.	8-Nov
735 Upper Belmont	\$ 1,294,500	\$ 1,230,100	Carlo Verrillo, Vanessa Pizzi	Gerald F. Kandestin, Janice Kramer	31-Oct
497 Lansdowne Ave.	\$ 1,187,500	\$ 828,700	Elizabeth Ann Ross	John Essaris Family Trust	31-Oct
447-449 Mount Stephen	\$ 1,175,000	\$ 688,100	Copley Investments Inc.	Joan Davis	12-Nov
3223 Cedar Ave.	\$ 1,167,500	\$ 942,500	Huan Zhao, Xi Hua Li	Christopher Brown	5-Nov
4547 Sherbrooke St. W.	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 542,400	Les Cosmetiques P.C.Inc.	Edouard El Kaim	29-Oct
543 Roslyn Ave.	\$ 936,000	\$ 712,400	Sharon Lynn Sparling	Lawrence Reusing	9-Nov
570 Grosvenor Ave.	\$ 910,000	\$ 828,500	Martin Clarke, Susan Campbell	Diane Polis	1-Nov
14 Arlington Ave.	\$ 865,000	\$ 525,200	Susan Kirby-Jones, Hugh Arthur Jones	Lesley Pretula	2-Nov
450 Mount Stephen Ave.	\$ 780,000	\$ 702,200	Gergely L. Lukacs, Judith Szapor	Grace Ann Phillips	16-Nov
556 Victoria Ave.	\$ 669,000	\$ 562,600	Philippe Tomic	Martin Koch, Catherine Mary Rayside	31-Oct
8 Lorraine Ave.	\$ 640,000	\$ 509,100	Adrian Dunn, Amanda Jelowicki	Timothy Leyne, Christel de Coussergues	16-Nov
4771 Sherbrooke St. W.	\$ 554,000	\$ 480,600	Jose Duraes	Laureen Sweeney	12-Nov
321 Melville Ave	\$ 490,000	\$ 476,100	Robert Babczak	Succession de Susan Purdie	2-Nov
399 Clark Ave - # 7A	\$ 435,000	\$ 445,000	Martha Hancock, William Friend	Maier Blostein	30-Oct
267 Olivier - Apt. 104	\$ 318,000	\$ 316,100	Rachelle Deitcher	Danesh Rajae, Mahin Vafaie	26-Oct
399 Clark Ave - # 203	\$ 285,000	\$ 296,200	Tahmineh Ghassemlou, Nousheh Saidi - Garakani	Samuel Rabinovitch	30-Oct

UGG opens (officially)



Paparazzi and celebrities, such as Westmounter and Montreal media personality Orla Johannes, gathered for the UGG official store opening (4891 Sherbrooke St., 514.907.7844) on Wednesday.

Manoir bazaar



Manoir Westmount held its annual Christmas Bazaar on November 28, which raised \$6,300 by selling raffle tickets and knitted goods, among other items. Most of the funds raised (about \$5,000) will be donated to several local charities. Pictured is Manoir resident Julienne Riendeau with volunteer co-ordinator Lily Lam.

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Westmount Elegant house on one of Westmount's most desirable streets. View from the sunroom is the finest of residential greenery. Landscaped garden, 2 fp's and much more. **Asking \$1,550,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1368728



Westmount adj. Wonderful, well-maintained and updated detached duplex with bachelor situated on tree-lined street. Offers 2 exterior parking spaces, and 2 revenues. Occupancy in the upper for the new owner. **Asking \$665,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1341867



Westmount Unbeatable price in Victoria Village. Lrg 3-bedroom+den w/fp. Woodwork! Bedroom has basement and family room. Exposed brick, decorative fireplace. Planned kitchen, pantry, adj. mudroom. Deck, garage. **Asking \$655,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1298227



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 \$685,000**



Westmount adj. Situated in secure and convenient location in Fort de la Montagne. Large entertainment space, secluded private terrace with bright, clear cityscape view in the winter. Take advantage of the Fort's luxurious amenities. **Asking \$525,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1358278



St-Henri Great one bedroom corner loft-style condo in the Corticelli. Just off the bike path, this location is ideal for sports enthusiasts or people commuting downtown by bike. High ceilings, large windows, views, exposed brick walls. Garage, gym, locker. **Asking \$299,000**



St-Henri Loft Sherwill. Spacious master bdr with walk-in cc. Mezzanine off lvr and dnr. 12.5 ft ceilings, large windows. Living area has a separate office space off kitchen and dnr. Walk to market, metro. **Asking \$282,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1368870



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Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1381890



NDG Best price per square foot in this location. Three-bedroom condo on the 2nd floor in handsome greystone. Walk to Monkland Village, Villa Maria metro, buses, tennis courts. Approx. 1,500 sf, master bedroom ensuite. **Asking \$325,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1334394

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Wine: What's In Store...

The foolproof holiday gift

By CAROLA PRICE



With the holiday season fast approaching and the barrage of people we must give gifts to, the question is how to purchase wine- and alcohol-related bebies without breaking the bank or offending the receiver. The SAQ has done an incredible job of stocking great gifts that are perfect for someone you want to impress, like a prospective father-in-law, or someone you don't know very well, like the kid's teacher or your manicurist. The following gifts may be a great way to achieve the status of generous client or treasured friend.

Shop like a pro

A boxed set of delicious scotches from a particular region, a bottle of sake with a stylish set of mini cups and carafe, a luscious Limoncello in a beautiful decanter with two cute glasses, for the foodie a set of stemless wine glasses with a bottle of Sebastiani Zinfandel and a gift certificate to Bowfinger for great barbeque, a small but beautiful gift bag filled with SAQ gift cards of different denominations is perfect for the budding wine geek and, last but certainly not least, a wine magazine subscription and a gift certificate for a wine

course given by me. Now who wouldn't love to receive these treasures?

To drink perchance to relax

With all the running around you must take the time to decompress and relish in this wonderful season. Enjoy your friends and family and most of all these well-priced wines to help the food shine at your holiday table. Remember that moderation is the key to a long holiday and life. Drink wisely.

Chenin Blanc, Brut Vouvray Mousseux, Chateau Monontour, Loire, France – SAQ#00430751, \$18.95

This is the perfect starter wine for oysters, shrimp cocktail, salmon mousse and grilled vegetable bruschetta with goat cheese. This sparkler is dry and fruity with a medium body and nose of green apple and lime peel with gooseberry jam and pear in the mouth on the finish. Good for the holidays but not for the cellar.

Available at the following SAQs (at press time): across from Atwater Market, Victoria, Westmount Square, Pepsi Forum, Atwater Market.

Moscatel/ Arinto, Albis, Jose Maria de Fonseca, Terras do Sado, Portugal SAQ# 00319905, \$11.45

This white is almost dry with luscious green fruit and a slight grape flavour on the finish. It offers lots in aroma and is

Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before

Can you name that sculptor?

By DOREEN LINDSAY

Question: Who was the well-known Quebec sculptor who designed the winged angel hovering protectively over a proud soldier marching out atop the War Memorial at the apex of Garden Point's triangular open lawn? For the answer, please see page 14.



medium bodied, which matches perfectly for the turkey or roast veal. Simplicity is key here so don't match this wine with heavier gravies and sauces. The fish eater will also delight because it would match with Sole Florentine or Halibut with a fruit salsa.

Available at the following SAQs (at press time): Atwater Market, across from Atwater Market, Victoria.

Monastrell/Syrah/Cabernet, Laderas de El Seque, Alicante, Spain SAQ# 10359201, \$12.95

Although the nose smells like macerating fruits due to the alcohol, the longer it airs out in the glass the more it mellows. In the mouth it is so soft that I can't believe there is Syrah in it. The finish is dry and medium bodied with lots of blackberry and cherry, some coffee and green pepper. The alcohol balances with the fruit on the finish and will match beautifully with the roast birds, including duck and pheasant.

Although it wouldn't stand up to the heavier demi-glace I think we may try it with herbed roast beef and Yorkshire puds this year.

Available at the following SAQs (at press time): across from Atwater Market.

City: Keep that snow off the road

With more of the white stuff sure to come, Westmount city council has served notice that the city will get tough on private contractors and residents who dump snow into the street.

While most are respectful of the by-laws, pointed out Councillor John de Castell, there are those who contribute to an ongoing problem of blocking the street, raising safety concerns and adding to snow removal costs.

"It's a situation everyone has to pay for," said Councillor George Bowser in introducing amendments to the nuisance bylaw that would set fines for the offence ranging from \$100 to \$2,000. Subsequent offences would be charged at \$200 to \$4,000.

City snow removal operations are often hampered by the plowing of snow into the street instead of being place on existing windrows. Particularly on streets with long driveways, large mounds often protrude into the traffic lanes.

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Westmount Profile: Helen Rainville

Harp provides new challenge

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Most people would probably agree with Helen Rainville when she says “just about anything you play on a harp sounds like Christmas.”

But then she adds: “I didn’t think I’d ever be playing “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” on the harp.”

And that’s exactly what this Westmount harpist, organist, pianist and soprano has been practising for one of the Christmas concerts in which she is involved at this busy time of year.

“I only took up the harp four years ago,” she explains. “It’s been quite a challenge.”

Retired as organist and choir director

It has also become her latest interest since retiring in September as organist and choir director at St. Malachy’s Church

in Snowdon.

Rainville was looking for a keyboard to purchase when the harp caught her attention. And she hasn’t looked back.

Her first acquisition, a Paraguayan harp, soon led to the purchase of a Celtic harp. Both are smaller than the concert harp and easier to transport.

This is particularly useful when she carries the Celtic harp with her from her home on Lansdowne Ave. to Manoir Westmount where she plays it twice a month. “The wind blows the strings and it sounds beautiful,” she says.

Active in the community, Rainville is a member of the city’s Community Events Advisory Committee (CEAC) and the Westmount Quilters’ Guild, and treasurer of the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA).

She discovered her musical ability al-



Helen Rainville at home with her two harps.

most by accident.

Discovered music at 10

“I was 10 – a late starter – when I heard about a teacher who was giving group piano lessons after school,” she recalls. “We didn’t even have a piano at home at the time, so I practised on a cardboard keyboard.”

She enjoyed it so much that she quickly made up for lost time. As a young teen, Rainville began singing in the choir at St. Malachy’s, and playing the organ. She became the organist’s assistant and was performing at weddings at age 15.

When the organist retired in 1985, she replaced her as organist and choir director.

Constant commitment

“It was a constant commitment,” she says. “Now, since my final service on September 16, I’ve been doing weddings and funerals.”

She’s freer to spend time with her husband, WMA President Dr. Henry Olders, four stepchildren – Michael, Jennifer, Lisa and Becky – and five grandchildren.

She and Olders met in a choir. Since their marriage in 1994, they have joined the Orpheus Singers and occasionally perform together.

Olders also plays the cornetto, a small Renaissance wind instrument that was used in the courts of Europe.

Starting a busy musical season

Despite her retirement, Christmas continues to be a busy season for Rainville.

She and Olders have been practising for the Orpheus Singers’ concerts Dec. 9

at St. Matthias’ Church and again one week later at St. Joachim’s in Pointe Claire.

Rainville will also be playing with a harpist trio Dec. 13 at the Town of Mount Royal town hall, and on Christmas Eve, will play the organ at the Loyola Chapel.

Rainville, who originally thought of nursing as a career, switched from health sciences to music while at Marianopolis. She obtained a bachelor’s degree in music – specializing in piano – from McGill University in 1980, and has also studied Spanish and German.

She skated with the McGill Figure Skating Club and the Silver Blades, obtaining her Bronze level in ice dancing. “I was really into that for 10 years but dropped it when I met Henry.”

After several years at The Bay in administrative areas, Rainville went to work at the Kane & Fetterly Funeral Home on Decarie Blvd. for the owner whom she knew from playing the organ at funerals.

She worked there for a decade until 1996.

Organized chair challenge

It was in 1994 following her marriage that Rainville moved to Westmount. Her introduction to community work came soon after when she and Olders helped organize one of the many block parties for the city’s Chair Challenge to purchase furniture for the refurbished Westmount Public Library. “It was a great way to meet the neighbours,” she recalls.

Now, along with her Christmas concerts, Rainville is preparing to host an annual neighbourhood caroling event – a fitting combination of her love for community and passion for music.

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Trend Watch

How to make holiday-gift dreams come true

By ANNKA MELANSON



Holiday shopping is in full swing. It seems like every which way you turn, there is a present to give: parents, children, extended family, friends, co-workers, your boss and hairdresser. Fortunately, there is a gift to suit every person and budget, right here in the 'hood. Heave a sigh of relief that you won't have to deal with the holiday hubbub downtown.

For the person who has everything, head over to the iStore (386 Victoria Ave., 514.333.6737, www.boutiqueistore.com) for some Bamboo Fun. The latest tablet pad from Wacom comes with a wireless mouse and an electronic pen (\$100). Designed for amateur photographers, the tablet pad enables users to create digital

content, including pictures and paintings, as well as sketches and photo retouching. This is a great tool for fashion designers, architects and people in construction.

Sox Box (1357 Greene Ave., 514.931.4980) always has a variety of fun stocking stuffers in a wide price range. Most of these items are suitable gifts for co-work-



Sox Box carries an assortment of beautifully wrapped scented soaps, suitable for men and women, as well as an array of multi-coloured hair accessories.

ers (except the Hanky Panky panties):

- Scented soaps, suitable for men and women, \$18
- Thermal deco sleeves for coffee cups, \$16
- Sportsac cosmetic cases, \$15 to \$20
- Decorative note cubes, \$24
- Hair accessories galore, all prices
- Trupette themed socks: cowboy boots, Mary Janes, Converse, Chanukah. These are in available in newborn sizes (zero to 12 months). A package of five costs \$36
- Hanky Panky panties: always a favourite, one size fits all, \$23
- Socks and tights, all prices
- Harricana winter hats and scarves, made from recycled leather and fur in an assortment of styles and colors, from \$100 to \$300.

With lots of parties to attend and hostess gifts to buy, head over to Marie Dumas (1212 Greene Ave., 514.932.9977) for a staggering volume of home decoration accessories, lovely bath products, tea sets, pretty paper napkins, scented candles, decorative clocks and affordable *faux bijoux*. I dare you to leave without buying anything.

Centre du Rasoir (4818 Sherbrooke St., 514.486.3214) is an electronic gadget haven. Check out the Rowenta iron and steamer set (\$169.99). This German-made professional steamer is exclusive to the Westmount Centre du Rasoir and the demand in the neighborhood is high. The unit comes with storage space for all included attachments, including a lint brush. Another popular item is the Philips male body groomer (\$59.99). The razor is cordless, waterproof and great for groom-

ing hair on the chest, underarms, back and shoulders, legs and groin area. This little gadget is fabulous for the metrosexual man. The boutique takes phone orders and offers free delivery service.

A gift for the trendsetter

Rubber Duck snow jogger boots have been spotted on celebs like Sienna Miller, who was spotted with a pair at Sundance. Hilary Duff and Jessica Alba are also fans. These boots remind me of my school cubby at Roslyn School in the late '70s. Great for rocking the ski bunny look, the trendy footwear is available at James Boutique (4910 Sherbrooke St., 514.369.0700) in red, black, white, blue, pink and gray. They cost \$99 and are sure to delight the fashion slave in your family.

Classic sterling silver at affordable prices

Folklore (4879 Sherbrooke St., 514.486.8852) is a great place to shop for sterling silver jewelry. The styles are lovely and the price is right. A pair of sterling silver

hoops cost anywhere between \$12 and \$80. Pick up an all cotton nightgown for \$40 to \$60. The boutique also carries festive holiday decorations and ornaments from Mexico.

If all else fails and you are still scouring the town for that perfect present, a gift certificate from Mod's Nails (4201 St. Catherine St., 514.935.9827), for a mani and pedi is always welcome. Another great stand-by is a gift certificate to the movies. Perhaps not as exciting as some of the above-mentioned ideas, but better than an unwanted ornament that will only collect dust.

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Underdog

By FERN BRESLAW



Just like so many women before her, Jackie was cast aside by society when her youth and looks were no longer those of a young girl.

For no apparent reason apart a cultural obsession with adolescence, Jackie was set to be euthanized at a small shelter outside Montreal. Her health was peachy, she was well mannered and though her jogging days were over, she was a dignified girl.

Luckily, Jackie was rescued just in time and is now looking for a home where she can relax and enjoy her golden years. She is a medium size, 10-year-old girl and may have put on a few pounds.

Compared with most dogs, Jackie is low maintenance and will be very happy watching movies and maybe have a snack (or seven). She is spayed, has her shots and is parasite free. This is really great gal who still has lots of sparkle in her one good eye.

Find out more about Jackie by contacting Gerdy's Rescue & Adoptions at info@gerdysrescue.org.

The Underdog Club is a new organization aiming to find special owners for hard-to-place homeless dogs.



History quiz: memorial statue

Question from page 12: Who was the well-known Quebec sculptor who designed the winged angel hovering protectively over a proud soldier marching out atop the War Memorial at the apex of Garden Point's triangular open lawn?

Answer: George William Hill in 1922.

Hill's bronze 12-foot high soldier and angel stand heroically facing Westmount City Hall, which was unveiled in the same year, 1922. Westmount had commissioned the cenotaph as its first post-war municipal project to honour the men and women from Westmount who had served and fallen in World War I. After World War II, architect Percy Nobbs designed a handsome base. On two of its sides women are depicted in marble relief attending to their duties while a faithful dog looks on. The names of the fallen are engraved into the stone platform surrounding the base. Every year a Remembrance Day ceremony is held to pay honour to Westmount's brave soldiers who defended their country.

From the Townships to Paris

George William Hill (1862-1934) was born in the Eastern Townships. From 1889 to 1894 he studied at Paris' École des Beaux-Arts and the Académie Julian. On returning to Montreal in 1894 he opened a studio and began to collaborate with ar-

chitects. He specialized in public monuments and public sculptures to develop into one of Canada's major sculptors at the turn of the century.

In 1898 he collaborated with Westmount resident architect Robert Findlay to design two reliefs, one for each side of the front door of the Westmount Library leading from Westmount Park. You can examine his detailed windswept tree and majestic hand holding a torch along with the text carved in relief each time you walk up the steps.

A successful collaboration

In 1916 he designed an angel with outstretched wings to honour Sir George-Étienne Cartier. It is a very successful collaboration between Hill's magnificent sculptural talents and the architectural vision of brothers Edward and William Maxwell who designed the base. Considered one of Montreal's grandest monuments, it stands proudly on the east side of Mount Royal overlooking Park Ave.

In addition to sculpting our war memorial and designing the decorative reliefs on our library, Hill also designed and sculpted decorative fireplaces in some Westmount homes.

Doreen Lindsay is president of the Westmount Historical Association.

Dinner music



A very intimate benefit concert for The Montreal Chamber Music Festival, Musica e Mangiare, was hosted at the Westmount residence of Rocio Lozano-Szwaronek and John Szwaronek on November 29. Denis Brott, the founder and artistic director of The Montreal Chamber Music Festival and three musicians performed for about 50 guests. From left: Marilyn Vanderstey, Michael Boer (president of the board of the Montreal Chamber Music Festival) and Tott Moens.

Selwyn starts to turn 100



From left: Steven Molson of Molson Breweries; Speirs medal recipient, 35-year SHS veteran and retired teacher Ellen Pinchuk and Old Boy William Daly mark the opening of Selwyn House's centennial anniversary on November 22.

Coffee + cops = good cause

If you like a good cup of joe (or two or three), head over to Calories (4414 St. Catherine St., 514.933.8186) on Thursday, December 13. The commander and officers from Westmount's own police Station 12 will be pouring steaming cups of coffee for a good cause from 10:30 am to 6 pm. Calories is donating 100 percent of the proceeds to the Quebec Society for Disabled Children. "The more people who get coffee, the more money will be given," said Community Officer Caroline Gauthier. She promised, "The police officers will make the best coffee in town that day." This is the third consecutive year that Station 12 is undertaking this philanthropic effort. Last year, they raised \$1,700.

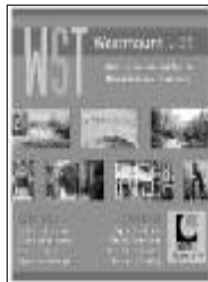
Community Chanukah celebration

Help celebrate Chanukah from 4:30 to 6:30 pm on Dec. 5. It all starts at 4:30 with the lighting of two candles at Westmount city hall, outside on the steps. In case of inclement weather the ceremony will take place in the council chamber. Participants will then proceed to Shaar Hashomayim's Metcalfe Room. There will be a display of menorahs so everyone is invited to bring their own with their name attached and if possible a history of the menorah. This display will be for the duration of the activity only. At 6 there will be an organized game show with Chanukah-related trivia questions. All food will be kosher (double wrapped in tin foil) and peanut free, and there will be dreidels and gelt for all.

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Injustice to the end?

Pound's new book ponders troubling questions

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY



Richard Pound

The latest book by Richard Pound was officially launched Monday at McGill University just in time for holiday reading.

In *Unlucky to the End: The Story of Janise Marie Gamble*, the McGill chancellor and retiring chairman of the World Anti-Doping Agency, explores legal issues that resulted in a young woman spending 13 years in prison for the murder of a Calgary police officer. Janise Marie Gamble died in a car accident shortly after her release on parole was won in the Supreme Court of

Canada by Westmount lawyer Colin Irving, who took up her cause when convinced that a miscarriage of justice had taken place.

A compelling story

After hearing about the circumstances, Pound decided the story was so compelling that he began delving into details of the robbery, murder and hostage-taking in 1976, as well as the evidence on which she was convicted and the status of rights at the time.

He said he had not paid a lot of attention to Gamble's case until learning that Irving had obtained her release on parole on a split decision of the Supreme Court, and "the downer of her getting killed."

Pound said, "I am still troubled by it. And we'll never know (the truth) because she's dead."

He details the abuse suffered by the young, seemingly

naïve Peterborough woman by her husband, and how she became involved in the crimes with him and other seasoned criminals.

At first glance, the topic appears to be an unusual one for the author, a corporate tax lawyer and senior partner at Stikeman Elliott who is usually associated with other issues such as education and sportsmanship.

It does, however, bear a strange similarity to the way some female athletes in their youth have been doped into believing high-performance drugs were the way for them to excel. Pound steps down as chair of the Anti-Doping Agency at year end.



THE WESTMOUNTERS

COMING UP

Historical Association presents talk on prominent Westmouter

The Westmount Historical Association presents Ruth Allan Rigby discussing "Alice Lighthall (1891-1991): A Beloved Westmouter." Her slide presentation on the life of one of Westmount's most prominent residents takes place at 7 pm on Thursday, December 13. The talk takes place Westmount Public Library and costs \$5 at the door. It is free for Historical Association members.

Free Alzheimer's seminars at temple

Temple Emanu-el Beth Shalom, 395 Elm Ave., in association with Alzheimer Groupe Inc., is inviting caregivers and other professionals to the second part of a

free two-part series on Alzheimer's. From 7:30 to 9:30 pm on Tuesday, December 11, Rita Pileggi will discuss "Keys to effective communication." Dr. Sydney Miller will discuss ways of coping with the stress of caregiving. A question and answer period will follow. Refreshments will be served. Pre-registration is required. Please call 514.485.7233.

Contactivity craft bazaar continues

Looking for that special holiday gift basket or hand-knit sweater? Then head over to the Contactivity Seniors Centre, at Westmount Park Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. The centre is selling crafts made by its artist members from 11 am to 2:30 pm Mondays and Wednesdays through December 12.

9 Lives: Giving Cats a Second Chance

BY LYZANNE

This handsome and cuddly little fellow is O'Reilly. He is about two years old. He is in excellent health, and has been neutered and vaccinated. He is quiet, sweet and very affectionate: a perfect pet for a young family.

This elegant young cat is Minx. He is an energetic one-year-old, who looks forward to play and affection. He is very healthy, and has been neutered and vaccinated. As you can see, he enjoys drinking from the faucet.

O'Reilly and Minx are being sheltered at the Baker Animal Hospital. They are quite healthy and sociable, which makes them more than ready for a place in caring families, in permanent homes. To find out more about adoption, please call Heather at the hospital at 514.739.1935 or e-mail me at nine.lives@westmountindependent.com.



ON THE SHELVES

Recommended by staff at the Westmount Public Library:

Magazines

"The Cloak of Imagining: my magical journey down the path of creativity" by Lily Lam in *The Canadian Quilter*, Winter, 2007, p. 24. The story of the creation of the library's storyteller's cloak by Westmouter Lily Lam.

Interview with David Grossman on the art of fiction in *The Paris Review*, Fall, 2007, p. 125.

DVDs

Ratatouille. A sumptuous and visual culinary feast for all.

Shrek the Third. Follow the hilarious antics of Shrek and Fiona as they battle Prince Charming for the throne of Far Far Away.

English Adult

Going Dutch by Katie Fforde

A recently divorced wife and a fiancée who got cold feed wind up sharing a barge on the Thames and decide to make the best of it: of course they've sworn off men.

The New Apartment: Smart Living in Small Spaces by Montse Borrás

French Adult

La traversée du continent by Michel Tremblay

In 1913, Rhéauna, eleven years old, must leave her Saskatchewan village where she was raised by her grandmother to go live with her mother in Montreal. She will make striking encounters on the

train trip across Canada and life shaping events will happen once she gets to Montreal. This is based on the author's mother's life.

Thomas Mann: une affaire de famille by Hildegard Möller

Were the women of Thomas Mann's family happy? Born rich and famous in an almost aristocratic family, they frequented the luminaries of their times. However, they never could entirely escape the shadow cast by Mann, a giant of literature.

Reference

Writer's Market 2008

Artist's and Graphic Designer's Market 2008

Larousse des plantes médicinales

Children's (for 4 to 8 year olds)

The Blue Hippopotamus by Phoebe Gilman

When a little hippo falls in love with the pharaoh's daughter, he hopes that a great magician can turn him into a human boy.

Because by Mikhail Baryshnikov, illustrated by Vladimir Radinsky

Whenever anyone asks Grandma why she does such crazy things, she just says, "Because." Grandma has a secret!

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Westmounters steer club into a second century

Women's Canadian Club of Montreal marks 100 years of outstanding speakers, topics

The Unitarian Church at 5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd. was a bustling place despite dropping temperatures on Monday November 19, as the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal gathered to hear Louise Fréchette, former UN deputy secretary-general, speak. Her subject matter was "Meeting the challenges of our times: A role for Canada" and her audience was appreciative and enthralled.

The talk was part of the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal's 100th anniversary celebrations, which include a lecture series, luncheons and special events. Lectures are held at 12:30 pm on the third Monday of the month at the Unitarian Church. A question and answer period follows. Sandwiches and coffee are available to members starting at 11:15 am.

Lectures, luncheons and special events

The anniversary season will include eight monthly lectures, two luncheons and five special events that include visits and a walking tour.

The special events include museum tours to the Armand Bombardier Museum in Valcourt and the Crèche Museum at St. Joseph's Oratory, a visit to the Canadian Centre for Architecture, a guided tour of the 1895 Maison du Gouverneur and a walking tour of historic Boucherville. All events include a lunch nearby.

The Women's Canadian Club was founded on December 12, 1907. This year the day falls on a Wednesday and the club



Westmounters Carolyn Roper, seated at left, and president Andrée MacNamara Tait (centre) sit with vice president Marie-Josée Larue-Robinson. Standing from left: Heather Gibbons, Judy Outerbridge, Eileen Balfour and Sue Mahon.

will celebrate its anniversary at a holiday luncheon to be held at the St James Club. This year's guest speaker will be Professor Derek Drummond, McGill University School of Architecture.

On that day 100 years ago, the speaker was Lord Earl Grey, governor-general of Canada. Lady Drummond sat at the head table as president, along with founder Elsie Reford.

Reford felt that Canadian women gen-

erally knew not the "affairs immediate and direct of our own country" as did women in the United Kingdom and the United States. In a letter to Lord Grey she admired the men's Canadian clubs but noted that women were not admitted to their speeches at banquets or clubs. Her object then, was "to open our doors to all and everything that will serve to enlighten and give interest in something beyond the local gossip of the hour." In order to do

this she suggested forming a women's Canadian Club "exactly along the same lines as the men's Canadian Clubs."

One of 16 women's clubs across Canada, the Montreal chapter boasts yearly rosters of widely known speakers that have included topics on philanthropy, politics, medicine, education, science, arts and culture. The club welcomes new members. Its upcoming lectures are:

- January 21, Abe Kestenberg, assistant professor and Woodwind Area chair, Schulich School of Music, McGill University, "Can musicians survive?"
- February 18, Christine Meyers, emergency room physician, Royal Victoria and Children's hospitals, "How marketing influences health care"
- March 17, Sue Montgomery, *Montreal Gazette*, "Rwanda: Not just another scary place"
- May 4, Mark Wainberg, director of research, Jewish General Hospital, "AIDS in the world"
- May 26, Lise Casgrain, financial consultant, "The legacy of Mme Thérèse Casgrain."

For more information, please call club president and Westmouter Andrée MacNamara Tait at 514.481.3251.

Vernissages

Galerie de Bellefeuille. Bobbie Burgers: Paintings. Vernissage: December 6, 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Exhibit: December 6 to December 17; 1367 Greene Ave., 514.933.4406.

Han Art. Louis Boudreault "Destiny:" Mixed media. Exhibit continues to December 8; 4209 St. Catherine St., 514.876.9278.

Gallery at Victoria Hall. France-Québec Exchange "Patchwork:" Quilts. Exhibit continues to December 15; 4626 Sherbrooke St., 514.989.5226.

McClure Gallery – Visual Arts Centre. Louise deLorme: Mixed media. Exhibit continues to December 21; 350 Victoria Ave., 514.488.9558.

Galerie D'Este. Group exhibit: Paintings and sculpture. Exhibit continues to December 24; 1329 Greene Ave., 514.846.1515, info@galeriedeste.com.

Collins Lefebvre Stoneberger. Group exhibit: Recent work, small format. Exhibit continues through to January; 4928 Sherbrooke St., 514.481.2111.

St. Margaret's launches cookbook fundraiser

The Women's Group at St. Margaret's Day Centre launched its first heritage cookbook, *Lest We Forget: A Treasury of International Recipes Handed Down from Grandmothers around the World*, on Monday, December 3 at the Day Centre at 50 Hillside.

The launch coincided with the start of St. Margaret's annual bazaar that runs to December 7.

Compiler/editor

Tott Moens conceived the idea for the cookbook in the spring just after assuming the po-

sition of volunteer chair. The longtime Westmouter quickly realized the wealth of accumulated knowledge the 20-plus participants share, especially in family recipes that have been handed down from generation to generation.

An experienced cook, she thought the idea of compiling some of those recipes and publishing them in a fundraiser cookbook would be a fun project for the women whose median age is 85 years.

The project will raise money for much-needed audio assistance equipment.

More than 110 recipes

The spiral-bound cookbook includes over 110 favourite and often heritage recipes submitted by the Day Centre's par-

ticipants and staff. The Rotary Club of Westmount and the Scotia Bank on Greene Ave. sponsored the publishing.

It will be for sale at the Day Centre until Dec. 7 for \$15. After that order by phoning Liz at the Day Centre at 514.932.3630, x 3047.



Longtime Westmouter Tott Moens conceived the idea for the cookbook. She then compiled and edited it.

100 years later and Scouting continues to make social impact Fundraiser helps African Scouts



Event organizer Maggie Shaddick with Rick Hart, former Beaver and Cub leader.



Adam Baden-Clay, great grandson of Scouting founder Robert Baden-Powell, and his wife, Nicole, attended from Halifax.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Organizers are expecting proceeds to reach close to \$10,000 from a fundraising dinner held November 24 by the Quebec Council of Scouts Canada in Westmount.

The event was organized by Westmount Scouters to help fund the red ribbon badge which creates HIV/AIDS awareness among African Scouts.

"Donations are continuing to come in," said committee chair Maggie Shaddick this week. "The generosity of so many people has been very gratifying."

The occasion, which took place at Shaar

Hashomayim Synagogue, attracted a number of former leaders, friends and supporters from Ontario and Atlantic Canada.



Attending from Ottawa was RCMP Commissioner William Elliott

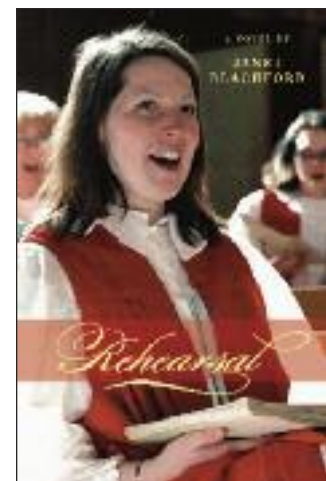
"Scouting is on the upswing as people realize how meaningful it is in today's society," said Adam Baden-Clay, of Halifax, great grandson of Scouting's founder, Robert Baden-Powell.

"It's even more relevant in today's society for providing an exciting and adventurous program, and for teaching leadership skills. More than ever, young people need to be empowered with the tools to meet the challenges of a changing society."

A highlight of the evening was a play written by Shaddick detailing the history of Scouting that has attracted half a billion members around the world. Westmount councillor and entertainer George Bowser emceed the play in which numerous Westmounters participated including Councillor Tom Thompson.

Janet Blachford's Rehearsal is available at Nicholas Hoare and Amazon.com

Rehearsal is about choral singing and focuses on some fictional female choir members at the The Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul in downtown Montreal. Behind the red robes and music are many hidden realities: love, compassion, fulfillment, tragedy, resignation.



THE WESTMOUNT TOWNSHIPPER

Foundation is almost halfway to campaign goal

In its fourth decade serving intellectually challenged people in the Eastern Townships, the Cowansville-based Butters Foundation is in the midst of its fourth major fundraising campaign.

"We're at over \$1.1 million," said executive director Ron Creary. The group embarks on a major campaign every 10 years. This one began July 6, aims for \$3 million and is slated to wrap up at the end of March. It aims to fund three projects.

Three goals to be met

"One of them is to build and do applied research in a diagnostic and behavioural research centre," Creary said. "This is a treatment centre for disabled, autistic people with severe behavioural problems. This is the last frontier – these are the people who get moved around from one institution to the next." The group wants to create a multi-disciplinary facility (comprised of mental health and social rehabilitation support) in St. Hyacinthe. The foundation would also like to buy and run a working, four-season farm to which 20 adults would be bused every day for work.

"Out here in the Eastern Townships, there's plenty of farmland but few of our clients get to be on a farm," Creary said. The campaign's third goal is to create five self-help parent groups.

To contribute or for more information, contact 450.263.4123 or buttersfoundation@jolyriendeau.com.

Trail's closed

Glen Mountain, the beloved small ski resort in Knowlton, remains closed for the fourth consecutive season. The Glen has been sold and resold in that period. Despite much activity at the hill right now, there are no plans to open it to the public this season. As ever with the Glen, rumours about specific specifics abound.

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Eastern Townships Living by Lois Hardacker

Chartered Real Estate Agent

Real Estate Agents' Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse,
The sign had been placed in the lawn with such care,
In the hope that buyers soon would be there.

The Agents on caravan all had been fed,
While visions of commissions danced in their heads,
But the first buyer who saw the house on a map,
Had between what he had and the list price a gap.

When out on the lawn, there arose such a clatter
'Twas buyer #2, who called herself the Mad Hatter!
She had made a great offer with savvy and flash,
Tore open her briefcase and threw out the cash

We thought the appraiser might value too low,
We're just Real Estate Agents – what do we know?
When, what to our wondering eyes should appear,
But an acceptable offer and a lender with no fear.

With a Building Inspector so thorough and quick
We knew for a moment, we wouldn't be sick.
Some home inspections all sound the same,
We whistled and shouted and called them by name;

"SEASON'S GREETINGS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!"

With thanks to Nancy Schubb



Adam Lally*



Marilyn Lally*



Michael Lally*

The highest compliment our clients give us is the referral of their family, their friends, and their business associates.

514 934-1818

*Affiliated Real Estate Agents

ROYAL LePAGE
HERITAGE
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'Now ROOFER! Now, GARDENER! Now PAINTER
a mixing,
New carpets, new plaster, new hardwood we're fixing
To the top of the stairs! To the top of the wall!
More estimates, more bids, now more contractors call!"

And then, in a twinkling we heard such good news
And fretting and worrying, this we could use.
As we lifted our cell phones and dialed, we found,
The mortgage docs are here, with nary a sound.

Her eyes how they twinkled! Her dimples how merry!
Notarial instructions with her she carried.
Closing costs didn't seem too low,
But we reminded the buyer, sometimes we don't know.
The certified cheque held tight in her teeth,
Our buyer was calm with her nerves underneath.

She spoke not a word, but went straight to her home,
We gave her the house keys no more to roam.
As we compose this real estate Christmas prose,
Alas, this is not how each sale does close.
But before you buy or sell, do give us a whistle,
As Real Estate Agents, we'll keep you out of the thistles
Please give us a chance and feel free to call,

ECS at the Manoir



From left: Alice Lemay, Winnifred Dalglish, Erika Legault.

Mary Sue Gibson's grade 4 class visited the seniors at Manoir Westmount on November 20. The Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramp's students go to the Manoir approximately once a month for crafts, or to dress up for Halloween, or to sing. At this

recent visit, crafts were on the agenda with one or two children learning from (and teaching) each senior. "It is an important part of our curriculum and very rewarding for both seniors and children," Gibson said.

Centre Greene



Anna-Sofia Johansson, Centre Greene executive director, makes strawberry shortcake for 60 on Wednesday, November 28. With funding from the Drummond Family Foundation and lots of hard work from its volunteers, Centre Greene serves lunch to 25 guests twice a month from the end of September to the end of May. Those who can't get there on their own, get a lift from board member and Westmounter Jackie Neville. Everybody goes home with a meal's worth of leftovers. For more information, see centregreene.org or call 514.931.6202.

TOWNSHIP TREASURES



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