



INSIDE
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Profile: (above) Joelle Aronson p. 14

Who owes who what? City claims \$21.8 million from Montreal

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Who owes who what in the demerger process has Westmount claiming \$21.8 million from Montreal, which sets its claim at a more modest \$2.4 million.

Mayor Karin Marks announced the Westmount claim, based on an amount from the Transition Committee's accounting firm, at the city council meeting August 27.

"Our position has been painstakingly reviewed by our legal counsel," she said, "and it is their contention that Westmount's claim is in full compliance with both the text and the spirit of the various pieces of demerger legislation and related

decrees enacted by the provincial government."

2006 financial statement presented

The \$21.8 million claim was recorded as a temporary surplus in Westmount's audited financial statement for the year ending December 31, 2006, its first year as a reconstituted city.

"This is not in accordance with established auditing principles, but it does not prohibit the auditor from signing off," explained Councillor Guy Charette, finance commission.

The 2006 financial statement was presented and approved at the council meeting showing the year ended with an oper-

Mourning Jim Wright



Westmount loses a pillar of the community.
See p. 5.

ating surplus of \$3.5 million.

This was subsequently reduced to \$646,000 after appropriations for tax contestations, sustainable development, actuarial deficit and other items.

The operating surplus results in part from higher than expected revenues from property transfer duties (welcome taxes), the sale of Fire Station No. 2 (\$800,000), court fines and net profit from the electric utility. *continued on page 2*

Queen thanks Westmount



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Want to read Mayor Marks' correspondence from Buckingham Palace? See p. 6.

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Kids' outdoor music class violates city bylaw

BY ANNIKA MELANSON

It hasn't been a walk in the park for Music in the Park.

An organized group activity for parents and toddlers, Music in the Park takes place during summer daytime hours in parks in Westmount, as well as Hampstead and the Town of Mount Royal. For about a half hour, Princess Fiona or Loony Lorne plays an acoustic guitar while about a dozen toddlers and their parents or other caretakers sing along.

Music in the Park
founder Andrea Rich *continued on page 2*



Music in the Park, shown above on Friday, August 17 at Devon Park, has brought to the foreground a city bylaw on noise.

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Devon Park neighbours complain about toddler music

continued from page 1

said she was surprised to discover that the musical group activity appears to be in violation of a Westmount bylaw concerning noise. And there have been complaints from a neighbour at Devon Park.

Bylaw 1136 states: "The act of making, causing, producing or permitting an excessive noise, as hereinabove defined, which disturbs the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment or comfort of any person, without the consent of acquiescence of such person, is hereby declared to be a nuisance and an infringement of this by-law." In section 1.18, one of the "hereinabove defined" includes a "sound reproduction device," which is defined as "a device intended primarily for the production or reproduction of sound, including, but not limited to, any musical instrument, radio receiver, television receiver, tape recorder, phonograph or sound amplifying system."

Rich, Mummieslist founder and a Westmount mother, said, "This activity in the park is a nice way to share in the community with children in the neighborhood."

Rich met with Mayor Karin Marks, who

suggested that the group use other, bigger parks, such as Murray Hill or Westmount Park, where residents would be unlikely to be disturbed.

Meanwhile, Music in the Park participants who live close to Devon Park would prefer to use the park nearest them.

Mayor Marks said she will examine the issue during the winter and suggested that classes be held at Victoria Hall for Westmount residents wishing to participate or that a guitar not be played. She also suggested that those unhappy with the bylaw apply for a change.

"Living in a community is about trying to find compromises that work for everyone," Marks said. "Our main goal is to look at a bylaw in all conditions."

The bylaw remains as is for now. Those in violation may be ticketed and fined.

Each year, Music in the Park donates a portion of the profits from its \$100 cost, Rich said. Last year, she donated proceeds to the Westmount Public Library to purchase new books. Rich said that this year she will donate proceeds to the Montreal Children's Hospital.

Westmount presents 2006 audited financial report

continued from page 1

While total revenues of \$38.2 million exceeded budget by almost \$4.5 million, this amount was offset by expenditures of \$34.8 against a budget of \$33.8 million. Close to \$1 million was saved from the snow removal budget but garbage, street care and debt serving costs were substantially higher.

The largest portion of Westmount's demerger claim against Montreal consists of \$16.2 million "that we contend Westmount property owners should not have been taxed during the merger process," Mayor Marks explained.

This relates to money Montreal "borrowed" in Westmount's name to fund the borough's capital works projects, increasing its debt without reducing the amount of taxes Westmount previously used for funding such projects on a pay-as-you-go basis.

This has increased Westmount's debt service financing to \$7 million in 2006, almost double the amount paid in 2000 just prior to the merger. The \$5.6 million remaining in the claim includes amounts Westmount was charged related to employer pension fund and CSST contributions and operational budget items.

If the impasse over demerger balances continues, Mayor Marks said, "Council has an obligation to defend the legitimate rights of its taxpayers."

Revenue continues to rise in 2007 forecast

It seems to be shaping up as a good year for Westmount, according to projected revenues.

Half way through the year, city officials are forecasting revenues from all sources at \$36.2 million. This exceeds budget figures of \$34.6.

The forecasts released at the city council meeting August 27, indicate larger increases in non-taxation sources of revenue as occurred in 2006. These include property transfer duties (welcome taxes), court fines and interest on short-term deposits.

Projected expenditures of \$34.6 million exceed budget by \$10,000.

43 tickets for leaf blowers

A crackdown on leaf blowers in August resulted in 12 tickets being issued, Public Security officials report. The year's total now stands at 43.

Use of the blowers is prohibited in Westmount except during the spring and fall clean-up periods.

Meet our new city clerk



Westmount's new city clerk and director and legal services, Mario Gerbeau (right, beside city Director General Bruce St. Louis), was appointed and welcomed at the August 27 meeting of council. A member of the Quebec Bar and a former city clerk of several municipalities, Gerbeau comes to Westmount from Outremont where he was the borough office director. He also served briefly as an assistant city clerk with the Montreal megacity. His appointment fills the vacancy left by the departure of Lucie Tousignant last year. Nancy Gagnon, assistant city clerk, and Alan Kulaga (left), assistant director general and HR director, were thanked for filling in during the interim.

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Patrol car sprayed during council

A recent surge of graffiti in the Greene Ave. area coincides with the end of the summer vacation period, Public Security officials point out.

Even the force has not been immune to the vandalism. One of its new hybrid patrol vehicles was spraypainted outside city hall during the city council meeting Au-

gust 27.

The black paint was removed the next day.

Somewhat ironically, perhaps, but during the same meeting, a local resident congratulated the city on its campaign to reduce graffiti, saying the city was looking much cleaner.

Have you recently moved? Check for fall fire safety

Now is the time to start preparing for a fire-safe fall and winter, advise Westmount fire officials.

People who moved into their new homes in Westmount over the summer should pay particular heed, said Fire Prevention Chief Daniel de Vries. "Don't rely on information from the previous resi-

dent. Have the chimneys inspected, and cleaned if required, before using."

Also, ensure that smoke detectors are installed on each floor in accordance with Westmount's fire protection bylaws. Test and, if need be, replace old batteries."

This is also a good time to have the furnace cleaned, the pipes checked and consider installing a carbon monoxide detector.

Need help? Register

All apartment dwellers should be sure they understand their building's fire alarm and evacuation procedures. Anyone requiring assistance in evacuation due to temporary or permanent disability may register with the Montreal Fire Department at 514.872.3775.



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Westmount's own lawn bowling club helped host the 2007 Laura Dewald Memorial Lawn Bowling Championships, August 20-25. More than 100 of Canada's top lawn bowlers took part. Westmount was one of three local lawn bowling clubs used for the national championships, with each team playing at least once at each venue. St. Lambert and Verdun were the other two. New Brunswick captured gold in the men's singles, with Manitoba garnering the same in women's. Men's pairs gold went to Saskatchewan and women's pairs gold to Manitoba. Ontario received gold in both men's and women's fours.

Cabbie's assault leads to arrest

Quick collaboration between Westmount public safety officers and police led to an arrest early Tuesday, August 28, in the assault of a taxi driver on Sherbrooke St. just east of Wood Ave.

Public Security Sgt. Bob White was patrolling just after 1 am when he spotted a

cabbie staggering around outside a taxi and two men running east. He took a description of the suspects, called for an ambulance and returned to help the victim.

Police arrested one suspect east of Atwater in the area of Lincoln in Montreal.



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Distribution note

Westmounters have been asking us about where to find the *Westmount Independent*. Firstly, let me say on behalf of the whole team how pleased we are that people are seeking out our publication. We will continue to work hard to deserve your support.

Here’s the distribution story:

CANADA POST. We distribute over 10,000 copies by Canada Post. Overall, Canada Post does an excellent job and one that we feel is superior to the principal alternative method for house-to-house delivery. No method, however, is perfect.

The vast majority of copies should be delivered on the Wednesday and Thursday of the publication week (unless there is a Monday holiday, in which case, Thursday and Friday).

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Most of the drop-off points are only supplied once (on the Tuesday or Wednesday of publication week), so for reliability we recommend the following two sites (stocked by 1 pm on the Tuesday – or Wednesday, if Monday is a holiday – of publication week and restocked regularly):

Most frequently restocked drop sites:

- (1) Lobby of 310 Victoria Ave.
 - (2) Sherbrooke St. exit to Metro grocery store at Victoria Ave. and Sherbrooke St.
- Thanks again for your interest and encouragement.

DAVID PRICE, EDITOR

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Examining the competition



er \$10 in the schoolyard


We’re all in favour of freedom of expression – and it can sure lead to some ironic results.

Consider the August 15 edition of *montréal express*, the newspaper inserted into the *Westmount Examiner* by their common parent, mega-printer Transcontinental Inc. The cover story, about pre- and young teens engaging in sex practices for money or acceptance *Pipe à 10\$ dans le cours d’école* (with an English translation on p. 7) quotes psychoanalyst Linda Théroux as saying “[Children] see incredible things everywhere and think that’s how sex is supposed to be. There are no limits.”

It turns out one of the places to see incredible things is in the pages of *montréal express*: p. 23 of the same issue has a full-colour, full-page ad for Vidéo & Boutique SeXXX Plus. Among the more tame DVD titles advertised? *Barely Legal* and *Dreamteens 5*.



A room with a view – and a baby



Lidia Piper Graham, aged eight months, crawls around on the floor of the chalet on Mount Royal. All four of her grandparents are Westmounters: Susanne and Kerry McSweeney of Mt. Stephen Ave. and Joan and Geoff Graham of Olivier Ave. Parents Kendra McSweeney and Ben Graham are former Westmounters.

Letter to the editor

HAPPY WESTMOUNT READER

It is so refreshing to have a Westmount newspaper that not only tells the news within our community as it is happening but contains such well written articles (kudos to Laureen Sweeney in particular).

I enjoy every issue of the paper and read it cover to cover, ads included. There is a pleasant balance of ads and articles. I particularly like the tributes to well-deserving people who we have all known for their unselfish contribution to the community.

Kudos also go to Carola Price for her informative article on wines.

The best of luck in future issues, from a Happy Westmount Reader.

MARY GUAY

Explosion claims life of former councillor James Wright

A tower in the community

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount has lost one of its more respected and caring citizens. Community leader and former city councillor James Wright perished September 1 in an explosion at his country home in Entrelacs in the Laurentians. He was 64.

The blast, reported as accidental in nature, also claimed the life of Meriem Maza, a visitor from Algeria who had lived with the Wrights at their Kensington Ave.



At the city's Quarter Century Club banquet in 1995, Jim Wright is flanked by fellow councillors at the time, Gail Johnson (left) and Karin Marks.

home while studying here as a scholar with the Sauvé Foundation where Wright was the director. His wife Nancy, daughter of the late former mayor Peter McEntyre, is recovering in hospital from serious injuries.

Both Jim and Nancy Wright have devoted their lives to community service in countless causes that touched many lives. Flags are to fly at half-mast on Westmount city hall the day of the funeral. Arrangements were not yet known at press time. He leaves three grown children: David, of Vancouver, and Kathleen and Melanie, who live in Ontario.

Wright is being remembered as a good listener who had a soft spot for those in need, and an active volunteer who took a special interest in youth, education and politics. "He was a proud Westmouter and loved being a part of the community,"

said Mayor Karin Marks, who served with Wright on city council during his two four-year terms from 1991 to 1999. "He attended everything; you didn't have to ask. He was a team player, willing to work at grassroots, not looking for the glory."

Wore many hats

Over the year, he wore many hats – often at the same time. Among them, he was president of the Westmount Municipal Association, a trustee of Westmount Public Library, chairman of the library committee and a member of the library's renewal project. He chaired the Community Services Committee, was cubmaster of St. Matthias' Church and an ardent supporter of the McEntyre Writing Competition. He headed the board at Weston School, and was honorary consul for Finland. He also worked tirelessly for McGill where he had been president of the alumni society and was governor emeritus.

While projecting a serious demeanour, he loved joking around, often poking fun at the "shorties" in his midst. Though his busy schedule left little time for hobbies, Wright cherished weekends with his wife and children at their country home. He also served as president of the Wexford Foundation to preserve the natural habitat of the lake and its islands.

He listed his biggest peeves as not having enough hours in the day and his golf swing. Describing himself as easy going, he once said, "I put up with everything."

A McGill graduate, Wright was born in Vancouver, November 5, 1942. He joined the legal firm of Martineau Walker immediately after graduation from law school at Laval in 1969. Specializing in real estate financing, he remained with the firm until 1999 when he left to devote his time to charitable pursuits.

He became executive director of EPOC, an organization that offered second chances to people, before assuming the position of director of the Sauvé Scholars Foundation.

Westmount to maintain water works in-house

While recent infrastructure scares have been making news around the world, Westmount is working away at upgrading the water works network and reducing the likelihood of problems.

Councillor Patrick Martin announced at the city council meeting August 27 that the city was taking steps to create in-house waterworks positions, initiate training and purchase related equipment.

Aggressive approach

This is an effort to move forward the city's aggressive approach to maintaining and renewing the ageing water system itself.

Westmount took over responsibility for

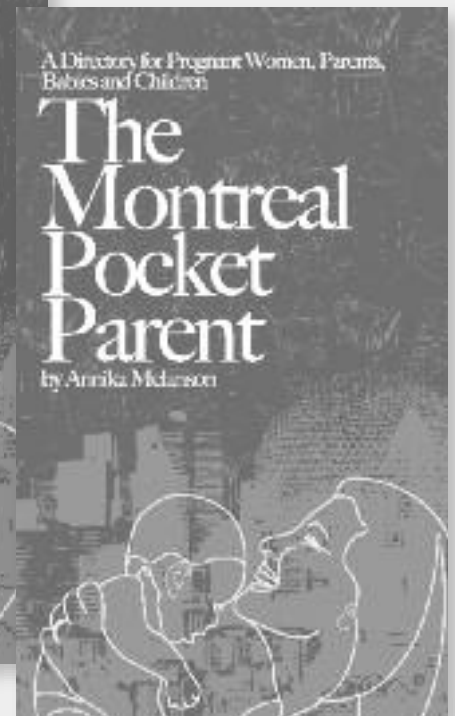
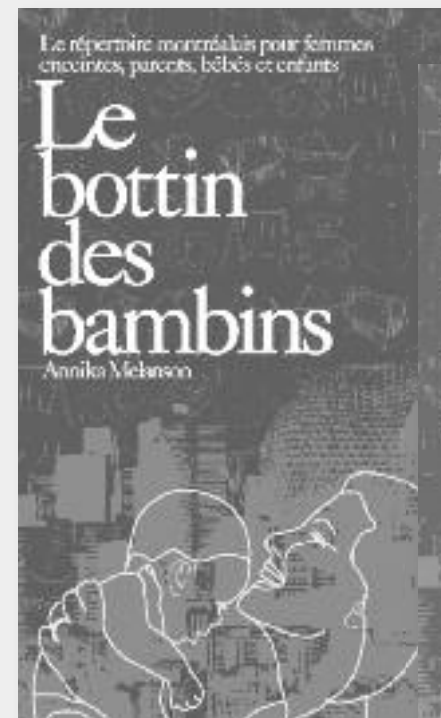
its water system from Montreal Water Works last year as part of the demerger.

The move to doing it in-house next year is expected to save \$200,000 a year, Martin said.

"It's a tough job we're taking on ourselves," he said. He noted, however, "We can do just as good a job as them (the contractors) with what we learned from them."

The recent collapse of an old brick sewer under Mountain Ave. demonstrates the attention that is required. It was replaced by 150 feet of pipe, Martin said.

The city is expecting a report shortly on the state of the water network, he said, "so we can provide a 30-year upgrade plan."



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Memorial to Westmount teen Story garden unveiled

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A seldom-used pebbled courtyard at Westmount Public Library has been transformed over the summer into a Story Garden designed to enhance the magic of storytelling.

Nestled between the children’s section, the Westmount Room and the conservatory, the area provides a beckoning oasis for children and adults alike to sit beneath the shade of a crabapple tree, listen to a storyteller and travel where their imaginations may take them.

A single large rock provides a seat for the storyteller placed before a slightly curved stone wall that provides a seat or back rest, all scaled to the size of the small enclosure.

Amphitheatre design

“The strength of the design lies in its simplicity,” said landscape architect Peter Jacobs. “It implies a kind of amphitheatre.”

A Université de Montréal professor and Westmount resident, Jacobs volunteered his expertise to create the concept.

“This was really a forgotten space that now can be used for many purposes,” said library director Ann Moffat, who spearheaded the project.

Memorial to young writer

The garden idea, she said, stemmed from an anonymous \$1,000 donation to the library in memory of a Westmount student who suffered a fatal heart attack two years ago, only days before she was to be among the winners in Westmount’s annual McEntyre Creative Writing Competition.

Haddasah Lee, a Grade 9 student at Westmount High School, enjoyed writing, Moffat explained. She and her family were frequent library users.

“We wondered what we could do that would be a fitting memorial to her,” Moffat explained.

Summit Park is a sometime campsite

A Westmount dog walker keeps coming across campers on Summit Park. The most recent incident occurred in July. The campers – complete with tent and campfire – refused to come out of their tent but soon cleared out.

fat explained.

As plans for the garden evolved, it began to take shape the summer under the guidance of city horticulturist Claudette Savaria – and under the watchful eye of The Owl, the statue of the library’s mascot, perched on the higher ground above.

The symbol was adopted after a small owl made its home in the open rafters of the library during its renovation 10 years ago. It was later relocated to the Morgan Arboretum.

Completed in time for the visit of the Communities in Bloom judges August 13, the Story Garden was one of the city’s new features on their tour.

Requires regular maintenance

Its success, Jacobs said, will depend on being “properly maintained” by cleaning, grass cutting and caring for the plants as required.



Ann Moffat and Peter Jacobs in the Story Garden.

Queen says thank you to Westmount

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Queen Elizabeth II’s silver jug continues to overflow with maple syrup. And her thanks keep pouring in to Westmount year after year.

Once again, Westmount’s annual shipment of Quebec maple syrup to Her Majesty has elicited thanks from Buckingham Palace to the mayor.

“The Queen has asked me to send her thanks to you and all the citizens of Westmount for



this very kind gift,” writes Air Vice-Marshal David Walker, master of the household, in a letter to Mayor Karin Marks dated July 12.

“As before, the bottles have been sent to the Royal Kitchens and they will be enjoyed by the Royal Family and their guests during the coming year.”

For almost half a century, Westmount has sent the syrup – bottled and specially labelled – to Queen Elizabeth.

The custom dates from her brief visit to Westmount city hall June 25, 1959 with Prince Philip at which time the mayor (J. C. Cushing) presented them with a silver syrup jug, promising to keep it filled with syrup “in perpetuity.”

The jug was emblazoned with Westmount’s coat-of-arms, the fleur-de-lis and the maple leaf.

Originally, the city sent 10 gallons to the palace every year but that amount has since been reduced to some 2.5 gallons in 24 bottles.

“I think it’s one of those won-

derful traditions we have in Westmount that give us such a special sense of community,” Mayor Karin Marks said.

The labels on the bottle, English on one side and French on the other, bear the city crest and the words: “A continuing supply for the Queen’s Maple Syrup Jug from the City of Westmount.”

Additional bottles of the syrup are kept on hand at city hall as souvenirs or special gifts. The queen’s visit in 1959, during the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway, was the first time that a reigning monarch had visited the city.



Mayor J. C. Cushing presents the silver jug to Queen Elizabeth in 1959. Photo courtesy of WHA archives.



Westmount's Arts Scene

His heart will go on: Westmouter stars in Céline play

Westmouter John Hastings plays the psychiatrist in *Saving Céline*, the new comic thriller on stage through September 15.

A recent graduate of Concordia University's Theatre Major program, Hastings is also a stand-up comic and improv artist, as well as the regional director and show runner for the Montreal Regional Tournament of the Canadian Improv Games, a national theatre tournament for high school students.

David Pelligrini directs *C'est Cheese*

Productions' darkly comic thriller about an obsessive Céline Dion impersonator and namesake who uncovers a sinister conspiracy. Drag artiste Mado Lamotte is making her English-stage debut.

The show, a multimedia production featuring video and film, is the first in Montreal for writer Mark Watty, a Walt Disney Theatrical Productions consultant and for-



Westmouter John Hastings plays the psychiatrist in a new dark thriller about Quebec's sometimes disliked diva.

mer music theatre director for The Covent Garden Festival, under the patronage of the late Diana, Princess of Wales.

The show takes place at Mainline Theatre, 3997 St. Laurent Blvd., 8 pm Wednesdays to Saturdays. Tickets cost \$20. On Wednesdays and Thursdays they are \$10 for students. The box office is at 514.848.9696 and at www.cshow.ca.

Intro to Judaism open to all

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom's popular 10-week introduction to Judaism class begins its fall series at 5:45 pm Tuesday September 18.

Open to the whole Westmount community, the class is offered by Rabbis Leigh Lerner and Elina Bykova. They teach Hebrew reading and explain the Jewish holidays, life cycle events and traditional history.

The class is required for those converting to Judaism and intermarrying under the temple's auspices. People who simply want to learn to read Hebrew may attend the first 15 minutes of each session.

There is a small fee for books and materials.

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom is located at 395 Elm Ave. For more information, please call 514.937.3575.

Wearing Westmount combines elegance, fundraising

An elegant multigenerational crowd filled the fourth-floor reception area of Centre Mont-Royal (2200 Mansfield) in support of the 17th annual Hadassah-

zation that helps women and children in Israel.

Westmouter and television personality Orla Johannes hosted the evening, which included a dance performance choreographed by Dale King and a fashion show featuring clothes from Westmount retailers Bella, Bloom Maternity, Boutique Emma, Collange, Georges Rech, James, LMNOP, Lululemon, M2, Mimi & Coco, Rivet Laundry and Trink.

Raffle prizes included a painting by

Westmount artist Eve Shpritzer and his and her sunglasses from Greene Ave. merchant Harry Toulch.

Executive Director Jill Shpritzer-Ray said that co-presidents Judith Lifshitz, Marsha Ptack and Rhonda Schwartz were "so pleased with the attendance and with the generosity of the sponsors."

"This year's goal was to raise \$100,000. We are very close to that goal," Shpritzer-Ray said.

Large 1920s vintage dining room set. Queen size brass bed head and foot boards. Large elliptical machine, like new. Call for details. Westmount (514) 481-7921.



Two fashionable Westmount ladies at the 17th annual Haddasah-WIZO Wearing Westmount fashion show fundraiser on August 20: (left to right) Orla Johannes, CTV's Entertainment Spotlight co-host, and Veronica Redgrave, *Yu* magazine columnist.

WIZO gala dinner and fashion show on Monday August 20 at 6 pm.

Over 300 ladies (and a few gents, including Lazar Lapidus, an active member of the organization, celebrating his 90th birthday) from ages 20 to 100 were in attendance to support the charitable organi-

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| Address | Valuation | Price | Sellers | Buyers | Date |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|--|------|
| 4700 St. Catherine #504 | \$866,300 | \$825,000 | Rachel Lebel | Nancy Nadler | 6/29 |
| 611 Belmont | \$1,206,000 | \$1,239,000 | Vincent Butkiewicz | Scott Morey and Sonia Martin | 7/19 |
| 658 Belmont | \$786,500 | \$1,260,000 | Jeffrey Kirstein | Caroline Price and Julian Elliott | 7/26 |
| 668 Belmont | \$1,140,600 | \$1,150,000 | Mark Greenberg and Shelley Fisher | Nicholas Shindler and Stephanie Senay | 7/31 |
| 109 Blenheim | \$345,800 | \$600,000 | Wilder Penfield and Kristine Blok-Andersen | Chantal Bowen | 7/12 |
| 1 Burton | \$452,200 | \$490,000 | Marguerite Boucher | Edward Palmer and Isabelle Thoré | 7/20 |
| 522 Clarke | \$757,800 | \$725,000 | Patrick B., John B., Martha A. Moore and Cynthia B. Moore Trust | Dan Chiche and Nathalie Guez | 7/20 |
| 32 Devon | \$1,418,100 | \$1,395,000 | Mark Lubota | Martha U. Khoury | 7/26 |
| 11 Douglas | \$849,100 | \$920,000 | Judith Menard and Emmanuel Alvaro | Brian G. Bertram and Yolanta Niklewicz | 7/16 |
| 337 Elm | \$603,400 | \$603,400 | Shafiraman Weiss | Olivier Martin | 7/17 |
| 457 Elm | \$897,800 | \$1,050,000 | Kaplan Family Trust | Artashes Toumanov | 7/17 |
| 544 Landsdowne | \$500,000 | \$845,000 | John Taylor | Martin Grant and Carolyn Thomson | 7/30 |
| 535-537 Prince Albert | \$487,400 | \$675,000 | Borislav Indjic Trust, Bosiljka Rakic and Elizabeth Downing | Martin Roy and Emily Watt | 7/13 |
| 330-332 Olivier | \$751,500 | \$980,000 | Linda Duraes | Melanie and David Au | 7/26 |
| 337 Roslyn | \$648,600 | \$775,000 | John Richardson and Edith Zorychta | Christophe Bouchaud and Beth Tuer | 7/16 |
| 4828 St. Catherine | \$409,500 | \$520,000 | J. Scott Russell and Ian J. Brownlie | Diedre F. Falkner-Bower | 7/17 |
| 72 Summit Crescent | \$1,682,500 | \$1,630,000 | Anne Goldstein | Barry A. Cohen and Randi Milstein | 7/12 |
| 661 Victoria | \$686,400 | \$700,000 | Martin Latterich and Debby Yu | Shogufa Kawish and Shafi R. Weiss | 7/20 |
| 672 Belmont | \$899,400 | \$1,125,000 | Philippe Trudeau and Isabele Roberge | Caroline Lafleur | 8/2 |
| 381 Claremont | \$552,700 | \$550,000 | Herman Spies | William Reffca | 8/1 |
| 111 Côte St. Antoine | \$679,500 | \$400,000 | Martin Rouleau | Steven Balit | 8/1 |
| 442-444 Grosvenor | \$431,100 | \$300,000 | Edward Jablonski | Ivi Anastasiadis | 8/3 |
| 561 Grosvenor | \$579,900 | \$699,900 | Norman Lord and Susan McIlroy | 4435036 Canada Inc. | 8/1 |
| 314B Kensington | \$695,800 | \$635,000 | Jaswant Bains | Alain Manville | 8/1 |
| 68 Summit Circle | \$1,109,200 | \$1,475,000 | Jeanette Lesperance | 6814361 Canada Inc. | 8/1 |

Dolphins swimming in victory

Westmount's Dolphins swim team was hailed by city council August 27 for its championship achievement over 22 pools in the Association of Lakeshore Pools. Team coordinator Ross Fraser thanked the city for all its support, including hosting the division championship, and traced the phenomenal growth and achievements the team has made since its low-key inception more than 10 years ago.

Following are the winners of team awards presented at the end of season dinner August 22:

Under 8 years: (most improved) Chase Sinclair, Alexandra Pudja and Aela Janvier; (most dedicated) Julia Landsberger and James Sugden; (sportsmanship) Bryan Landsberger;

9 and 10 years: (most improved) Xanthi Dionisopoulos and Melissa Anber; (most dedicated) Sebastien Tourillon, Paris Sinclair and Duncan Lovell; (sportsmanship) George Perlman;

11 and 12 years: (most improved) Daniela Solis; (most dedicated) Gabriel Boulet; (sportsmanship) Sara Ordoncelli;

13 and over: (most improved) Sarah Ibrahim; (most dedicated) Yu Shen Gu; (sportsmanship) Valentina Pieters.

The Nancy Nelson Parent Volunteer Award: Kathryn Rosenstein, Robin Simons and Natalie Audet;
The Leah and Zach Glassman Award,

new this year for a senior swimmer who has shown great leadership and continued dedication to the team: Gabrielle Reda and Jordan Fraser.



Among the Dolphins attending the council meeting were, from left: (back row) Ross Fraser, Jordy and Kevin Fraser, Sky Wittman, head coach Zach Glassman and committee members Nancy Nelson and Oliver Sugden. In front are Paris and Chase Sinclair with James and Nicholas Sugden.

Federal Liberals could still have nomination battle

Westmounters have started to become curious about who will replace Lucienne Robillard as the federal Liberal candidate for the Westmount-Ville Marie riding.

Robillard has announced that she will not run in the next federal election. She was first elected as MP for St. Henri-Westmount (as the riding was then constituted) in 1995. Westmount has been a Liberal riding since 1962, under various riding configurations, so whoever secures the nomination is the odd-on favourite to win the seat.

Liberal chief Stéphane Dion is still reserving the right to nominate the Westmount-Ville Marie candidate, although this does not preclude him from choosing to allow a nomination contest, explained Stéphane Deschênes, the party's regional director in Quebec. This route was adopted in Papineau, where Justin Trudeau won an opened contest. Other remaining reserved ridings in Quebec include Brossard, LaSalle and Jeanne-Leber.

"At last count a few months ago, at least seven or nine" candidates had sent the nomination committee their CVs, Deschênes said.



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Westmount Beautifully renovated stone townhouse near Westmount Park. Finished basement is complete with playroom, bedroom and bath. 2-car parking in rear off lane. Enjoy quiet back deck, patio, central air. Friendly neighbourhood!. **Asking \$799,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/571643



Westmount Duplex in lower Westmount, walking distance to Greene Ave. Both units have 3 bdrs w/finished bsmts, independent parking, and each has some outdoor area and balconies. Upper unit has been upgraded. **Asking \$720,000**



Westmount Victoria Village beauty! Lrg 3- bedroom + den w/fp. Woodwork, architectural treasures. Exposed brick and decorative fireplace in living room. Planned kitchen, pantry, adj. mudroom. Deck, garage. **Asking \$695,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/571575



Westmount First time on the market in thirty years! Impeccable, compact, low maintenance 3 bedroom, 50's townhouse with int. garage, finished basement. Across the street from Westmount playing fields. Perfect downsizer. **Asking \$509,000**



Westmount adj. Wonderful, well-maintained and updated detached duplex with bachelor is situated on tree-lined street. Offers 2 exterior parking spaces, and 2 revenues. Occupancy in the upper for the new owner. **Asking \$699,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/128



NDG Three-bedroom condo on the 2nd floor in handsome stone front 6-unit building. Well managed. Close to Monkland Village, Villa Maria metro, buses, tennis courts. Approx. 1,500 sf. Master bedroom ensuite. **Asking \$325,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/296



Lachine Canal 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 \$310,000**



Downtown Quiet, hassle-free living across from Mount Royal. Perfect one bedroom pied à terre in a prestigious and elegant building. Parking, doorman and security. **Asking \$232,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/571544

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The Westmount Gardener

How to avoid having a sad tomato

BY STUART ROBERTSON

Westmount gardeners love tomatoes, whether the plants are tucked in among the flowers of their city backyard or growing in a country vegetable garden. This season they seem to have been growing in leaps and bounds and the fruits are ripening on the vine at last.

If you want to make sure that you get the most out of your tomato plants during what's left of this year's growing season, here are a couple of tips.

A consistent amount of moisture

Make sure that the soil never gets too dry. If it does dry out and you rush to pour on a lot of water, the fruit may respond by growing too quickly and it may split its skin.

If you haven't already, spread at least an inch of mulch or a dark plastic sheet over the soil around your tomato plants. This helps to keep a consistent amount of moisture in the soil at all times.

Add the indicated amount of a water-soluble organic flowering plant fertilizer to the water in a watering can and soak around the base of all your tomato plants. They are heavy feeders and will appreciate a late-season feeding.

Starting at the bottom of the plant,

check for suckers, which are thin young stems growing from where leaves join the main stem. One or two of these stems may have tomato fruit or flowers on them but most will be quite small and will not. Cut off the ones that do not have any small green fruit or any flowers. Cut them off right where they start growing, next to the main stem. This may seem harsh, but they are sapping the energy of the main plant and will not be productive at this stage.

Now comes the hardest part of all.

Go over your tomato plants and cut the growing tips off all the main stems. At this point in the season, the plants aren't going to have time to set new fruit and ripen it before the frost stops everything. So be content with what flowers and fruit you already have on the plant, and help all of them to ripen as soon as possible.

Speed up the ripening process

Cutting all the growing tips off will stop any further growth, and will speed the ripening process of what you already have.

At the first sign of a spell of cold weather, make sure your tomato plants are protected overnight with sheets of cloth or plastic. This will trap the heat of the soil, and keep the plants alive for longer to ripen more fruit.



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

Magazines

Scientific American, September 2007, special issue on diet and the food supply
Consumer Reports, September 2007, Stop ID Thieves: 19 ways to protect yourself

Playaways – MP3

John Connolly. *The Book of Lost Things*. This novel traces the life of young David, whose dying mother tells him that stories are alive. The boy is lured into a dark fairy tale world by his dead mother's voice.
Jeannette Walls. *The Glass Castle*. An extraordinary memoir in which the author recalls her nomadic and chaotic life with surprising affection – even though she would not want to relive it.

English Adult

Nancy Horan. *Loving Frank*. A novel about Mamah Cheney, her life with Frank Lloyd Wright when he built his retreat Taliesin and her own personal growth as she dared

to live her own life.
John Symon. *Exploring Montreal with Bikes*.

French Adult

Andrea Camilleri *La patience de l'araignée*. Police inspector Montalbano has to catch a miscreant.
Marie Jolicoeur, François Sauvé. *Mieux comprendre la psychothérapie*. In 27 questions and answers, the authors demystify psychotherapy.

Children's, ages nine to 12

Howard Whitehouse. *Strictest School*. Fourteen-year-old Emmaline Cayley is determined to escape from St. Grimelda's School for Young Ladies. Along the way Emmeline will encounter flying monsters, astounding inventions, eccentric characters and nasty sandwiches.
Blue Balliett. *Le Code Vermeer*. A junior version of *The Da Vinci Code*.

Reference

Jean Watin-Augouard *Histoires de marques*. The Crusades reference library.

Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before

Reading up on our library

BY DOREEN LINDSAY

Question: On what date did the Westmount Public Library open? For answer, see page 12.



The Westmount Public Library today. Despite its consistent design, the building originally stopped immediately south (left) of the tower.

Findlay walking tours step out Sept. 30

Westmount will mark the 2007 Montreal Architectural Heritage Campaign with walking tours September 30 to public buildings and residences designed by renowned architect Robert Findlay.

The Westmount Historical Association, in conjunction with the Montreal Architectural Heritage Campaign, is organizing the tours, as well as exhibitions and displays at Victoria Hall and Westmount Public Library.

The Findlay tours – two in English and two in French – will follow two different routes taking about two hours each.

The tour designated to visit public buildings starts from Westmount Public Library. The English tour leaves at 1 pm and the French one at 1:30 pm.

The tour visiting residences leaves from the pavilion in King George (Murray) Park. The English tour departs at 1 pm and the French one at 1:30 pm.

All buildings are in mid-Westmount and were designed by Westmounter Findlay (1859-1951), assisted in later years by his son, Frank.



Renowned architect and Westmounter Robert Findlay (1859-1951)

Nail down your renovations

Wondering how to present an acceptable renovation application to Westmount? What's in keeping with your street? Or how to add on to your home?

An upcoming series of informal talks at city hall may just help you nail down your plans.

"These presentations will be true *causeries* – conversational in nature, not lectures," said Councillor Cynthia Lulham in announcing the third year of the popular program.

Researching your home

The bilingual Tuesday evening series leads off October 23 with David Hanna, UQAM urban geography professor, on "Researching your house."

John MacLeod, Université de Montréal's School of Landscape Architecture director, follows on November 6, explaining the Westmount streetscape.

At the final session, November 20, architect Anna Mainella, of Lemay Michaud architects, will discuss adding on to a house in a way that respects both house and neighbourhood.

Each event takes place in the council chamber from 7 to 9:30 pm at a cost of \$5. To register, call city hall at 514.989.5200.



Westmount vous informe...

Westmount Page



Vol. 1/7

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HEURES D'AFFAIRES

Retour à l'horaire régulier

L'horaire régulier d'ouverture des édifices municipaux de Westmount reprend à compter du mardi 4 septembre. Les heures de bureau sont du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30. Consultez la liste complète des heures d'ouverture de chacune des installations municipales sur notre site Web. 🌻



SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Un retour à l'école en toute sécurité - faites-en une priorité.

Dans le cadre de la rentrée scolaire, les officiers de la Sécurité publique et du Service de police assureront une visibilité accrue afin de protéger les enfants aux traverses de piétons et dans les zones d'embarquement désignées. Le personnel chargé de l'application des règlements portera une attention spéciale aux parents qui mettent la sécurité de leurs enfants en jeu lorsqu'ils les déposent ou les reprennent. Les règlements de circulation et de stationnement seront appliqués à la lettre, ne prenez donc aucune chance. Faites de la sécurité une priorité pour le retour à l'école. 🌻



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Opération patrimoine architectural du 20 septembre au 6 octobre

La Ville de Westmount et l'Association historique de Westmount ont le plaisir d'annoncer plusieurs activités visant à célébrer les œuvres de l'architecte Robert Findlay. Consultez notre site Web pour de plus amples détails sur notre programmation. 🌻



SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Entraîneurs recherchés !

Westmount est à la recherche d'entraîneurs pour les équipes de hockey mixtes de niveau Termite de sa ligue maison. Les personnes souhaitant travailler bénévolement doivent s'attendre à consacrer environ 2 heures par semaine, de septembre à mars. Aucune expérience n'est requise, mais les entraîneurs doivent savoir patiner. Une séance de formation sera offerte avant le début de la saison. Info : 514 989-5391. 🌻

DATES À RETENIR

En cours

Inscriptions aux activités de loisirs pour les résidents et les non-résidents
Aréna

Du 12 septembre au 6 octobre

Exposition

Margit Boronkay et Ron Jamieson

La galerie du Victoria Hall

Le 17 septembre - 20 h

Séance générale du conseil

Hôtel de ville

Inscriptions aux activités automne/hiver 2007-2008

La période d'inscription pour les activités de sports et de loisirs est maintenant terminée au Victoria Hall. Par contre, il est encore possible de vous inscrire en vous présentant à l'Aréna de Westmount entre 8 h 30 et 16 h 30. Info : 514 989-5353. 🌻



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Conférences à 14 heures - Collected Stories

Venez assister à une lecture de la pièce de théâtre *Collected Stories* de Donald Margulies, présentée par *The Golden Stagers*, le mercredi 19 septembre à 13 h. Les billets sont gratuits et disponibles au comptoir de prêt. Premiers arrivés, premier servis. Info : 514 989-5386. 🌻



AMÉNAGEMENT URBAIN

Plan d'urbanisme proposé

Élaboré conformément à la législation provinciale, le projet de Plan d'urbanisme de la Ville de Westmount a été adopté par le Conseil lors de la séance du 27 août. Les résidents peuvent consulter ce document proposé à l'hôtel de ville, ou le télécharger de notre site Web. Une assemblée publique de consultation sera tenue à l'hôtel de ville le 24 septembre à 19 h pour recevoir les commentaires des résidents concernés. Info: 514 989-5219. 🌻



OFFICE HOURS

Return to Regular Office Hours

Regular office hours resumed September 4 in all Westmount municipal buildings. Administrative offices are now open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For a complete list for all municipal installations, please consult our Web site. 🌻



PUBLIC SECURITY

Make Back-to-School Safety Your Priority

With local schools reopening their doors, Public Security and police personnel are increasing their visibility to ensure the safety of children at crosswalks and in drop-off zones. Enforcement personnel are also paying very special attention to parents who drop off (and pick up) their children at school in a manner that puts them at risk. Traffic and parking regulations will be strictly enforced, so don't take the chance. Make back-to-school safety a priority for you and your children. 🌻



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Architectural Heritage Campaign September 20 to October 6

Westmount, in collaboration with the Westmount Historical Association, is pleased to announce several activities celebrating the legacy of renowned architect Robert Findlay. More details on this year's programming are available on the City's Web site. 🌻



SPORTS & RECREATION

Coaches Wanted

Westmount is looking for coaches for Termite level co-ed hockey teams in the City's House League. Those interested in volunteering should be prepared to devote approximately 2 hours per week from September to March. No experience is necessary, though coaches will need to know how to skate. A training session will be offered before the start of the season. Info: 514 989-5391. 🌻

DATEBOOK

Ongoing

Residents and non-resident registration for Sports and Recreation activities
Aréna

September 12 to October 6

Gallery Exhibition

Margit Boronkay and Ron Jamieson

Gallery at Victoria Hall

September 17 - 8 p.m.

General Council Meeting

City Hall

2007-08 Fall/Winter Registration

Registration at Victoria Hall for sports and recreation activities is now complete. If you would still like to register, please visit the Westmount Arena Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Info: 514 989-5353. 🌻



LIBRARY

2 O'Clock Series - Collected Stories

Join us on Wednesday, September 19 at 1 p.m. for a staged reading of Donald Margulies' play, *Collected Stories*, by *The Golden Stagers*. Tickets are free and available at the circulation desk on a first come, first served basis. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌻



URBAN PLANNING

Draft Planning Programme

Developed in conformity with provincial legislation, the draft Westmount Planning Programme was adopted by Council on August 27 and is now available for consultation. Residents can consult the draft document at City Hall, or download the complete version from our Web site. A public consultation meeting at City Hall is scheduled for September 24 at 7 p.m. to hear feedback from concerned residents. Info: 514 989-5219. 🌻

THE WESTMOUNT TOWNSHIPPER

NEWS

Former Westmount mayor and current Townships resident triumphs at international cribbage

Former mayor Brian Gallery, former Canadian senator Michel Cogger and CBC financial anchorman Fred Langan beat three American players to become the North American Champions of Cribbage. Gallery and Langan are former Westmounters, the latter having lived here until his move to Toronto in 1976. All three are now based in Knowlton.

The match took place in Newport, Vermont and was decided 2-1 in the Canadians' favour on August 18.

The event came about when the three noticed that the trophy that they had been playing each other for each year was called the "Annual International Cribbage Championship." To make the title true this year, they challenged three Americans from Newport.

Gallery said he intends to increase the size and scope of the tournament. He also plans to charge next year's players an entry fee, with proceeds supporting an international charity.

COMING UP

Events

Townshippers' Day, September 23, Bishop's University (Yes, Sunday)
Richmond Fair, September 13-16
Brome Lake Duck festival, September 23-24, September 30-October 1.

Outdoor art and tours? Must be fall in the Townships

Autumn in the Townships means foliage and art – and this fall is no exception. Waterloo-based sculptor Don Davidson's work is gracing Sutton's new outdoor exhibition space through October 3.

Le Jardin de Sculpture opened in late August on Maple St. It is one of only a few places to exhibit outdoor sculpture in the Townships. This first-time retrospective of Davidson's work is free and open to the public 2 to 5 pm Thursdays to Sundays.

Like origami made of steel

Davidson typically works with a plate of steel in a geometric shape. It is like origami because none of the material with which he works is removed nor is anything added. His skill is a result of a long career which started more than 50 years ago in advertising at Henry Morgan and Co. in Montreal.

For more information, please call 450.538.3227.

Glen Art tour

Also on tap this fall in the Townships is the GlenArt tour, featuring 11 local artisans in the Glen Valley of West Bolton, September 22, 23, 29 and 30. These two weekends coincide with Duck Festival in Knowlton, a 10-minute drive, as well as the region's spectacular fall foliage colours.

The studio tour will feature Shelley-Lynn Page, a stained glass artist from British Columbia, who now calls "The Glen" home. Some of her more renowned works include a 4-by-15-foot window in the Burquitlam Lions Care Center that is made from 4,000 pieces of glass. She was also commissioned to create the front window in St. Edouard's summer church in the village of Knowlton.

Also featured is the work of Carolyn Smart of Tinkham-Smart, an established artisan since 1980, who specializes in handcrafted lamps and shades. Imagine an illuminated fireman's hat, snowshoes or an antique sewing machine.

The Westmount Independent is now available at Flanagan's (39 Victoria) in Knowlton.

Rental issues force resident to move

Ruth Bourgeois had every reason to stay in Westmount: longtime friends, a history with Westmount, a rent-stabilized apartment near many of the shops she frequented.

But it was, she said, because of that apartment that she left Westmount in June and bought a condo in Ottawa.

Bourgeois said that, despite repeated hearings at the Rental Board, her landlords, Larry and Norman Katz, ignored her complaints during the 17 years she lived in No. 105 at 10 Rosemount Ave.

Landlords say most tenants are happy

Larry Katz said he and his brother have been in the rental business for "30 years, maybe more." He said, "Our building is practically always full and most of the tenants are very happy. Mrs. Bourgeois is a special lady and I prefer not to comment."

Bourgeois said her complaints and her landlords' inattentiveness began shortly after she moved to the two-bedroom in 1989. They included, she said, unheeded

requests to help after three floods left mould in her apartment.

"The back door banged for 17 years and I asked them to fix it repeatedly and they didn't. I was awakened (by it) every night," she said. "When I moved in I said, 'Something's wrong with the windows,' and the janitor said, 'Don't worry, we'll fix them,' but nothing was done for 17 years."

Difficult for elderly to find new housing

Bourgeois said she decided to move because, she said, Westmount is a difficult place for an elderly person to find suitable housing.

"I looked at many apartments in Westmount and none of them seemed better run. They look good on the outside but half the time the elevators don't work. I think the problem is widespread."

"I didn't want to leave" Westmount, Bourgeois said, "but I felt at this point in my life it was time to get out. Had they been decent to me, I wouldn't have left. All my friends are there."

History quiz: All about our library

Question from page 10: On what date did the Westmount Public Library open?

Answer: June 20, 1899.

There are many questions I could have presented about our library. They include: What was the incentive to build a municipal library? Why was it built in Westmount Park? What was the cost to Westmounters? Who was the architect? Who was the first librarian?

Thank Queen Victoria

Here are the answers:

We have to thank Queen Victoria for our library. It was in the fervor of desiring to commemorate her Diamond Jubilee of 1897 that the large number of residents of British origin residing in Westmount decided that build something lasting.

They chose a corner of the 16 acres they had just acquired to develop into parkland. Now called Westmount Park, it was then temporarily referred to as Victoria Jubilee Park. This corner property bordered on the new Sherbrooke St., which had a streetcar line providing transportation.

The total cost of \$17,000 included the building, furniture and 2,000 books. The town council, always very frugal, was able to use \$11,000 that became available when the Coates Gas Company defaulted on a contract. They also followed the architect's design, very carefully eliminating anything they considered unnecessary.

The Westmount town council chose a Westmount resident as the architect. Robert Findlay had established himself as a Montreal architect and designed his own house on Lansdowne Ave. north of Sherbrooke St. Findlay created a work of art.

His poetic interpretation of form, line, colour and texture was designed by an architect who understood his craft very well. We have him to thank for the inviting arched entrance from the park, the warm red brick as a complementary colour to the green trees and grass surrounding it and a tower. As befitting a library, he incorporated words into the architecture. The leaded clear glass windows have the names of writers, poets, philosophers and scientists in them. He invited the Montreal sculptor George Hill to create reliefs on both sides of the entrance.

First librarian brings Alice from Wonderland to children's room

Mary Solace Saxe was the first librarian, from 1901 to 1931. She insisted that a children's room be added. It opened in 1911 with a fireplace having coloured tiles of the characters from *Alice in Wonderland*. This space is now the Westmount Reading Room where you can see these original tiles over the fireplace.

An exemplary preservation was undertaken in 1995 by Fournier Gersovitz Moss & Associates, Architects.

TOWNSHIPS TREASURES



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City council sounds alarm bells on back-to-school safety

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

As hundreds of students head back to Westmount's many schools, driver negligence is being targeted by city officials, public safety officers and police.

Parking and traffic around the new Marianopolis campus is also being closely monitored.

"We've noticed, and are concerned by, the number of people sending kids to school by car, and the inexplicable number of infractions by motorists and pedestrians especially around school areas," said Councillor John de Castell at the city council meeting August 27.

Patrols were reporting cars making U-turns and parking on the sidewalk as well as parents leading kids across the street mid-block.

Motorists asked to slow down

As a result, he said, police and Public Security are being extra-vigilant. "We're asking motorists to please slow down and be extra-careful around schools."

As well, he said, the city has just put out an idling engine flyer that is available for distribution as is currently being done by St. George's.

Two officers have been posted at St. George's Elementary each morning because of a potentially hazardous situation posed by construction work on Aberdeen. A drop-off lane has also been created on the north side of The Boulevard to try to improve safety at this time, said Public Security Sgt. Dave Sedgwick.

Two officers also have been assigned to the streets either side of Akiva School (Metcalf and Kensington) where attendance is up this year. This is another area of traffic congestion.

PSOs are also monitoring traffic and parking around the new Marianopolis campus, Sedgwick said, "but it's better



St. George's Elementary is bustling with activity, including construction vehicles redoing the adjacent portion of Aberdeen, two officers posted to help with safety and plenty of kids and parents.

than we expected and making less of an impact than we thought."

Interestingly, he added, many students are walking up the hill from Sherbrooke St., "developing their own traffic patterns."

Francie Montgomery, who walks her dog in the area of the college, told the city council meeting she had noticed cars parked all the way up Grosvenor Ave.

Councillor Tom Thompson said the situation was being closely monitored and if parking extends further west than expected, the city will designate more streets for one-hour parking. Residents with parking stickers are exempt from the time restrictions.

Contractor may be charged for blackout

Some 16 homes in the area of Summit Circle lost power for the day Aug. 27 when a private contractor hit a hidden cable while digging outside a private home. In explaining the blackout at the city council meeting Aug. 27, Councillor Patrick Martin said that if the contractor was found to have been working out of line, he would have to pay for the repair.

This was a good example, he said, of how important is it for the proper work permits to be obtained.

THE WESTMOUNTERS

NEWS

Lending a hand in Mexico

Westmounter Claudia Bierman addressed the Westmount Rotary club on August 22 about the group Canadian Friends of VAMOS!. is dedicated to empowering and helping the poor in and around the Mexican city of Cuernavaca.

Bierman and her husband, Rotarian Bill Graham, spend five months a year there. Since her family began visiting Cuernavaca in the early 1960s, the city has grown from 40,000 inhabitants to 1.5 million. Many of the residents are displaced farm workers from the outlying areas.

One VAMOS! project operates five community centres that help children over 10 stay in school. The centres employ four teachers and give children access to 24 laptops, Bierman said.

Another project, Casa Romero, helps artisans from nearby San Agustin Oapan market and improve the quality of their products. For more information, visit www.vamos.org.mx or www.casaronero.org, or call 514.486.5119.

COMING UP

The Contactivity Seniors Centre at Westmount Park United Church (4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd., 514.932.2326) will hold its registration for fall courses on Thursday, September 20 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Courses include bridge, tai chi and stretching, dancing, meditation, choir, and informational sessions. People wanting to register earlier may do so by drop-ping by before the official registration date.

Join a chorus

Do you sing in the shower? Then get your diva self over to the Greater Montreal

Chorus' membership drive, taking place 7:30 to 10 on Monday nights Sept. 10, 17 and 24 at the Mountinside United Church, corner of Lansdowne and The Boulevard. For more information please go to www.greatermontrealchorus.ca or call 514.489.3514.

Toastmasters end summer schedule

The Westmount Toastmasters Club will be back to their usual weekly schedule starting Tuesday, September 11. The group meet every Tuesday at Victoria Hall from 7 to 9 pm. Non-members are welcome.

Toastmasters is a club devoted to teaching and improving communication and leadership skills. For more information go to www.westmount-toastmasters.org.

Benefit for the General

The Westmount branch of the Auxiliary of the Montreal General Hospital invites people to Mode à midi, a luncheon, auction and fashion show benefiting the hospital. It takes place Thursday, September 27 at Tudor Hall on the fifth floor of Ogilvy's. Happy hour is from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, followed by lunch and the fashion show. Tickets cost \$55. For tickets and information please call Lois Hutchison at 514.489.0975. Reservations must be made by September 21.

Unitarian Church offers information

The Unitarian Church of Montreal (5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd. 514.485.9933-) is sponsoring "Aging and changing," 9:30 am to 3 pm Sat., Sept. 29. Admission is free and community members are encouraged to drop in any time. Workshops will focus on topics such as: wills, care mandates and power of attorney, reverse mortgages, funeral pre-planning, organ donation and preparing for emergencies. A light lunch will be served, (\$3).



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Westmount Profile: Joelle Aronson

‘With Love’ combines all her interests

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Joelle Aronson’s new jewelry line made its debut privately only a few weeks ago with bracelets of sterling silver, semi-precious stones and wood.

But it met with so much interest that it is now being introduced at Envers, the fashion design boutique at Sherbrooke and Claremont.

And for Aronson, a stylish young Westmounter, the demand has mushroomed into a cottage industry that combines her passion for high-end jewelry with her MBA training and a whole lot of drive.

“It’s absolutely thrilling,” she says. “Everything I’ve done my entire life has led to this and propels me forward.”

One of a kind

Each bracelet is unique and branded “With Love,” in the spirit in which it is made, said Aronson.

“We thought that was an appropriate name, because it encapsulates what it’s all

about.”

The “we” includes her husband and most ardent supporter, Ryan Aronson, an addiction therapist at Pavillion Foster, a centre for alcohol, drug and problem gambling rehabilitation, who maintains a practice at the QE Medical Centre.

Launched her cottage industry

Aronson makes good use of her toddler’s afternoon naps and evenings, when her husband is on duty, to launch what amounts to a cottage industry.

She showcased her first 50 creations at a launch party this summer and was astonished at how quickly the demand escalated.

“It just snowballed,” she says. “So I decided to take advantage of the momentum.”

Priced from \$50 to \$200, the bracelets use such stones as onyx, amethyst, hematite, quartz, turquoise and aventurine. Now that Aronson is in full production mode, she is busy placing orders



Joelle and Ryan Aronson, the heart and soul of a new high-end jewelry business.

DAVID BURDENY



Burning Sky, Japan 2005 (detail)

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with wholesalers for specific types of beads.

Aronson, who grew up on Metcalfe Ave. always enjoyed make-up, jewelry and dancing – ballet and jazz, though she’s now into Latin American.

Dancing is a must

“For me, dancing is a necessity. I must be dancing. I think the dancing and jewelry are all related. They’re both very creative.”

Aronson travelled extensively with her parents, making a point of bringing home new jewelry, silver in particular.

“It has a gypsy feel to it,” she says, jangling the multi-layers of bracelets she wears. “You can hear me coming. I’m very noisy!”

Schooled at St. George’s, Aronson (then Sholzberg) entered the creative arts program at Dawson College while studying make-up artistry.

After graduation, she worked as a professional make-up artist for fashion and TV shows and a cosmetics company, and continues to practise privately for weddings and other special events.

Holds MBA from Sir Wilfrid Laurier

Aronson subsequently enrolled at McGill, switching to Concordia to pursue an undergraduate degree in psychology and going on to Sir Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo to complete her MBA in 2003.

After her marriage and a brief stint in Waterloo, she and her husband returned to the Montreal area in 2005, and lived in Dollard des Ormeaux. But she longed to return to her Westmount neighbourhood, where the couple recently bought a home.

It’s here that Aronson creates each of her bracelets, underlining her philosophy that “everything is possible.”

Busily planning a second bracelet showcase party September 25, Aronson says, “I’m really so excited and proud because it’s rare that people get to pursue their passion.”

Each of Aronson’s bracelets comes with a small silver tag stamped “With Love,” signifying, she says that “I’m passing on each bracelet with so much heart and soul.”

Joelle may be reached at 514.690.7924 or joellearonson@videotron.ca.

Trend Watch

Fabulous Fall fashions galore

BY ANNIKA MELANSON



Falling for the new autumn fashions? What's not to like? Wide-legged trousers, longer hemlines, high-heeled ankle boots, berets, patterned tights and metallic purses... it's a treat to dress hip.

Head over to Boutique Emma (1350 Greene Ave., 514.935.8389) for the latest in Missoni, Diane Von Furstenberg, Moschino, Pink Tartan and Wolford, to name a few of the high-end lines available. Barbara Bui (the French line is exclusive to Boutique Emma in Montreal) metallic purses will be arriving soon and are in the \$1,000 range. The designer chic high-waisted wide-legged Barbara Bui trousers are \$600 and fall beautifully.

Scarpa (4901 Sherbrooke St., 514.484.0440) carries the High Fashion Handbags line, which is affordable and emulates the latest high-end designs. Fabulous pewter and silver metallic clutches start at \$80 and large metallic handbags are \$175 and up.

Flawless complexion for fall

Want to keep that sun-kissed, bronzed complexion glowing through the autumn season? Or are you looking to cover up blemishes or dark circles? ERA Face is a new water-based, spray-on foundation that makes applying your base coat idiot-proof. After all, nobody likes looking like they are wearing a make-up mask. There are 10 shades to choose from to make your skin appear flawless. An aerosol canister is \$65. Exclusively available at Annie Young Cosmetics (6775 Decarie Blvd., 514.739.8880, www.annieyoung.com).

Diva denim

James (4910 Sherbrooke St., 514.369.0700) and Bleu Marine (1383 Greene Ave., 514.935.9825) are still carrying Vita bracelets, made popular by celebs like Jessica Simpson and Lindsay Lohan. Metallic croc is the way to go with these bracelets this fall. Prices begin at \$75.

James will be carrying the sought-after jeans line Rich & Skinny, in both the wide and skinny leg. The denim must-haves cost \$325 and are lined in crocodile or leopard print. Me-ow!

Leggings are still very much *à propos* this season. Sox Box (1357 Greene Ave., 514.931.4980) always stocks an array of leggings as well as patterned and textured socks and tights (Argyle is in again and

stripes are all the rage). American Apparel (4945 Sherbrooke St., 514.369.2295, www.americanapparel.net) has adorable three-quarter length leggings with three buttons down the outside for \$32. The chocolate brown ones are calling my name.

Headbands are still hot and available in a multitude of styles and colours at Sox Box (see above for address and phone number). A new twist to an old stand-by: elasticized leather and fabric metallic stretchy headbands. Keep your locks under control with these fun, new and functional hair accessories.

Paint your paws at Mod's

All ladies love to have their paws painted. It makes us feel polished. Mod's Nails is the new salon inside the Mod's Hair Salon. Hieu "Jenny" Pham and Kelly Tran, formerly of Ty nails, have opened their own salon and business is booming. I recently treated myself and enjoyed a fast and affordable mani and pedi last week (\$40 for both). The salon is spic 'n' span and there is no harsh chemical smell, typical of so many nail salons. The polish brands used include Chanel, Estée Lauder and Dior...and they are not watered down. Yay!

Every girl needs these tricks in her bag

All dressed up in your sexy evening wear only to have problems with bra straps showing or your cleavage a little too visible? Head over to Sox Box (see above for address and phone number) for some indispensable tools that every glamour girl should keep in her toiletry case:

- Matchsticks: bits of double-sided tape that adhere to skin and fabric to keep garments in place, without ruining your sexy look. There are 50 pieces of tape per package for \$15.
- Hollywood Clear Bra Straps: these see-through bra straps are good for when you absolutely need to wear a bra with something strapless or revealing and a strapless bra won't do. A pair costs \$16.
- Bra Buddy: a paperclip-like device that converts a regular bra to a racer back. Look mum, no bra straps! Three in a box for \$18.
- Low Beams: their logo is "Headlights are for cars." Need I say more? Five pairs for \$13.
- Hollywood Tag Tamers: these are great if you want to avoid the itch of garment tags but want to leave them on to keep cleaning instructions (some dry-cleaners refuse to clean clothes that don't have washing instructions). Just stick the comfy adhesive



Christophe Astruc, Kelly Tran, Hieu "Jenny" Pham and Stephane Laveur of Mod's Hair and Nail Salon

tag covers over the garment tag. A box of 24 costs \$18.

Lash out

For a special evening out, why not get flirty with eyelash extensions? Many Westmount beauty salons now apply them. It takes an hour and lashes last about a month. Touch-ups may be necessary. Prices are \$70 and up, depending on the salon. This service is available at Esthétique Angela (4134 St. Catherine St., 514.931.3388), Mindy Shear (1 Westmount Square, 514.932.0002), Illusions Haute Coiffure (4908 Sherbrooke St., 514.489.4389), Spa de Westmount (1 Westmount Square, 514.933.9966) and Fanny of Westmount (4891 Sherbrooke St., 514.482.5824). More lashes to bat can't be a bad thing.

Stash the goods

If your fashion jewelry and baubles look like a tangled jungle, then Trink (344A Victoria Ave., 514.223.7688, trinkjewelry.com) to the rescue. The boutique now carries wooden jewelry wardrobes, built to hold necklaces, bracelets, rings and earrings, making it easy to find your favorite *bijou* in a hurry as you dash out to a cocktail party. The small armoires come in light, medium and dark wood finish and retail for \$225.

Of shearling and salad

The UGG store is still in the works at the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Prince Albert. The third North American UGG store's opening has been pushed back to October 1. We can't wait to bury our feet into cozy shearling this winter.

If you are a Greens & Co. (4927 Sherbrooke St., 514.227.1640) salad addict like me (there are worse things to be addicted to), you will be pleased to know that the

salad haven will now be open on Saturdays from noon to 4 pm.

Going incognito

If you like the chic, mysterious look, the latest large-framed Tom Ford sunglasses are available at Harry Toulch (1327 Greene Ave., 514.937.0446) and will soon be available at Alain Assedo (4933 Sherbrooke St., 514.484.1259). They start at about \$400. I have my eagle eye on the Falconer model that folds up. So handy.

Time to sign up for Scouting programs

Boys and girls aged 5 to 26 who have not yet registered for the new Scouting season may do so now.

The following programs are available through two groups: Westmount Park and 2nd Westmount (which meets exclusively at Mountainside Church). More information may be obtained at 514.937.5527 or www.scoutswestmount.ca and westmountscouts@yahoo.ca.

Meetings take place as follows:

- Beavers:** (5 to 7 years)
 • Thursdays at Westmount Park Church
 • Wednesdays at Mountainside Church.
Cubs: (8-10 years)
 • Thursdays at Westmount Park School
 • Wednesdays at Mountainside
Scouts: (11-14)
 • Thursdays at Mountainside
Venturers (14-17)
 • Thursdays at Mountainside
Rovers (18-26)
 • Thursdays at Mountainside.

Parent volunteers are an essential component of Scouting. Parents are encouraged to sign up to help as leaders and to organize special events and activities.



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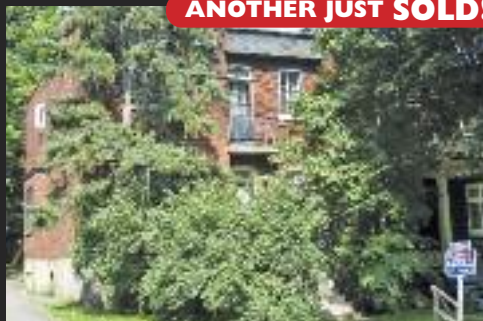


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