

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 10 No. 6d

We are Westmount

June 28, 2016

Two cyclists hospitalized in falls within hours

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two women were transported to hospital by Urgences Santé June 16 in falls off their bicycles in unrelated accidents, Public Security officials report.

The first occurred outside 652 Victoria at 10:18 am when a 28-year-old resident of Côte St. Luc Rd. hit a bump in the road while travelling southbound. She was reported to have lost control and fallen over the bike. Officers blocked the street and provided medical assistance until the arrival of an ambulance.

She was not wearing a helmet and sus-

tained a big bump on the head as well as scrapes. Her bike was kept for safekeeping by a nearby resident.

At 2:07 pm, a 19-year-old cyclist fell on de Maisonneuve near Redfern. She was being treated by a city Public Works employee on arrival of patrollers, Public Security officials said.

Officers applied pressure to stop heavy bleeding from a deep laceration on the left arm. She was described as conscious and coherent. It was not reported whether or not she had been wearing a helmet. The Westmount resident was taken to the MUHC super-hospital.



Place Kensington's art class students and their teacher gathered at the June 9 vernissage at the seniors' home. They were, from left, back row: Elizabeth Berry, Sarah Stevenson, instructor Marcia Roszler, Peggy Jean Thomas and Sonia Saxe; front row: Eve Aspinnall, Jacqueline Desbaillets, Jane Hollander and Shirley Murdock. See p. 9.

Photo: Matt Faigan

Prince Albert 'splash pad' coming for 2017

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Anyone hoping for the proposed "splash pad" to be installed in Prince Albert Park this summer will now have to wait until next year, "but then it will be ready to go," Councillor Cynthia Lulham said last week.

The plan was approved by the city's Planning Advisory Committee June 21, she said, and technical difficulties had been worked out after they had delayed the project a year.

"It's not a matter of simply buying a splash pad and putting it down in the park," explained Elisa Gaetano, assistant Public Works director for engineering and infrastructure. Its installation requires

preparation of the terrain and a number of infrastructure items such as the supply of water and electricity.

Another hurdle has been the location, Lulham said. The original site within the park would have prevented making the skating rink for young kids. A way has been found by moving the splash pad further south and building the rink over a concrete path that will access the water feature.

If a call for tenders last week produces a conforming bid, it was expected to be considered at the August city council meeting so work could take place this fall. The street bordering the park has been under reconstruction for two summers.

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'Unmitigated failure or 'positive action'?

Council hears two sides of bike route trial

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The pros and cons of Westmount's trial commuter bike routes on Côte St. Antoine and Westmount Ave. played out in the council chamber June 6.

Opponents living on the Côte Rd. called the path "an unmitigated failure" that forced traffic into a single line of bumper-to-bumper rush-hour traffic and caused some cyclists to use the south sidewalk to ride down the hill eastbound against the one-way traffic.

Meanwhile, cycling advocates thanked the city for pushing ahead with the line painting last April and taking "positive action" in encouraging cycling. "Thank you very, very much," said Marilynn Gillies on behalf of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount.

"Usage of the new paths is currently low," she explained due to missing links on both streets between Claremont and

Girouard in NDG.

But once repaving work is carried out this summer on both and line painting is added, the continuous paths will make it safer for residents cycling through the community and provide an option to driving, she said.

Andrew Lindsay, of Côte St. Antoine, said he was amazed at a "lack of data" on the bike paths coming from council, but Councillor Philip Cutler stated that it was in the process of being collected by the administration. "I can't come to you with data I don't have access to."

After hearing all comments, Maureen Kiely of the Westmount Municipal Association said she was concerned that the studies of the routes at this time were not going to give the city "a clear picture" of their real impact given the current closure of Westmount Ave. portions for reconstruction work and the bumper-to-bumper traffic.

Council looks into pit bull regulation

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount city council began discussing breed-specific legislation governing pit-bull-type dogs and mixes at its general committee meeting June 21, Mayor Peter Trent told the *Independent*, the next day.

"We feel we should do something," Trent said, citing a number of municipalities that have imposed breed-specific regulations or so-called bans including the Town of Mount Royal. These were sparked by several recent incidents involving pit bulls.

"Whatever we decide will probably be pre-empted by Quebec" through provincial regulation, he said.

A technical working group on the issue has been formed by the Union of Quebec Municipalities in advance of any decision by Quebec, he explained. The Ordre des médecins vétérinaires du Québec is included at this "roundtable."

In 2016, four pit-bulls or mixes have been registered in Westmount out of 896 dog licences issued to June 22, Public Security director Greg McBain said. One of the four lives in NDG but is believed to use local dog runs.



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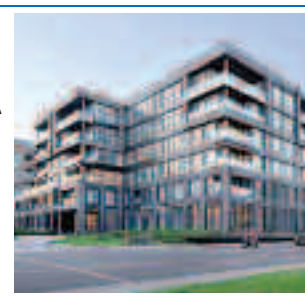
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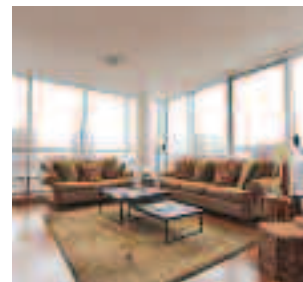
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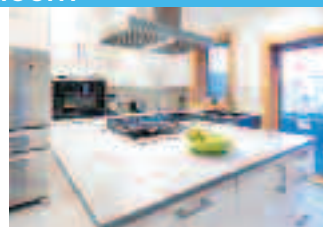
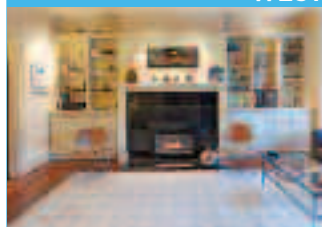
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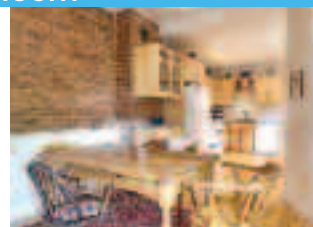
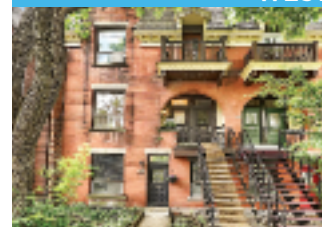
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Library shows solidarity with Orlando

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A rainbow flag, a symbol of the LGBT community, given prominence on a book shelf at Westmount Public Library two days after the June 12 Orlando nightclub shooting has proven to be very popular among those who use the library's services.

According to Julie-Anne Cardella, director of library and community events, an image of the flag posted on the library's Facebook page has received more hits than any other previous post.

As of June 22, said Cardella, the flag post had received 17,493 hits, compared to the previous peak, which was around 9,000 hits.

"We're taking a stand against brutality and homophobia," she said. "What happened in Orlando was something that we all felt very sad about. We thought we should take a stand and say how we felt at the library about what happened."

A bookshelf at the Westmount Public Library, June 23.



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 Trinity College School, Port Hope ON
 Upper Canada College, Toronto ON
 Vanier College

*Now that we are finally graduating, I'm quite happy.
 Not because I want to leave, but because I got the chance to be here.*
 William Rossy, Co-Valedictorian

Publisher's note

Canada Post issues? We will deliver (like last time)

Canada Post, which usually delivers our newspaper door to door, may experience labour disruptions – starting next issue – due to a lock-out or strike. As was the case during its 2011 strike and lock-out, we have contingency plans in place.

House and duplex residents

Residents of houses and duplexes without a “no junk mail” sticker on your door or house will receive their *Independent*, likely on one day (Thursday). We may use the services of a bulk flyer distributor, so if there is a labour issue, please open the plastic bag of flyers that you receive at home to see if the *Independent* is there. If you do have a “no junk mail” sticker, please contact me to add your name to a list that will be separately served. We will also post information on our website as things get closer.

Apartment and condominium dwellers

For apartment and condo residents, in the first week, we will target Westmount’s

largest buildings with a stack of newspapers for your lobby. Please alert your door-men and staff if you would like to receive newspapers. As things go on, every apartment building should get its own “drop” of papers. Please call me if you want the paper and are not getting it.

Drop sites, emailed newspapers and website

Existing drop sites (municipal buildings, Metro grocery store, Tabagie Westmount Square etc.), the emailed newspaper list and the website will be maintained as is, but with more newspapers in some cases. Please call me if you have any suggestions.

As usual, we will take a break in July. Our last issue is July 12. Our first issue back is August 9. Thank you for your help and patience at this time. We wish management and labour at Canada Post all the best.

David Price, Publisher
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WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER: David Price

EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

LETTERS & COMMENTS:

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. E-mail any letter or comments to indie@westmountindependent.com.

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OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY:

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANK YOU, FELLERATHS, FOR MAKING VIC VILLAGE

The Independent May 10 (p. 21) paid tribute to Folklore I and its long-time owners, Gail and Gerard Fellerath.

Westmounters should extend that tribute and consider what Folklore I has meant to the creation of Victoria village as a recognized, vibrant area. There was always commerce around Sherbrooke and Victoria, but 40 years ago there was little sense of community.

There were banks and some nice stores but almost no buzz. People did not identify what we now call Victoria village as an area in which strolling and shopping was especially pleasurable, where one can encounter friends on the street, people-watch from cafés and browse through creative shops, discovering unique, unexpected treasures.

Gail and Gerard helped to change that by bringing liveliness and fun into the neighborhood. Residents of Westmount as well as small business owners, they were prime movers in forming the Westmount Merchants’ Association, promoting a sense of community and cooperation among merchants that spread into the larger community, giving Victoria village an identity and drawing in shoppers from many other areas.

The Felleraths brought people together to sponsor music, sidewalk sales, activities for kids, art and pride in our city, making Victoria village feel like the “heart” of Westmount.

Gail and Gerard have delighted in the colourful output of international folk art. Their store windows displayed colourful handicrafts that cleverly and playfully changed with the seasons, showcasing different cultural idioms.

How special has it been for Westmount to have a store that brought creative folk arts and crafts, and an ever changing array of cheerful, affordable gifts, clothes and decorative items from all over the world into our neighbourhood? Folklore I has

been, in a special way, an “anchor store” for Victoria village.

The main draw, however, has always been Gail and Gerard themselves. Such warm, wonderful people, friendly to their customers, devoted to this locality, and connoisseurs of cultural diversity and crafts, they have enriched our neighbourhood with their presence.

Their store, Folklore I, is irreplaceable and while we are very sad to see them retire, Westmount should celebrate and sustain the village feeling and community spirit that they have inspired.

LAUREL BOSSEN, ANN ELSDON
AND LINDA TRACEY, YORK ST.

COULD WESTMOUNT’S MOTTO EVER BE ‘NOISELESS’?

Now that summer is here and the droning of the compressor at the Westmount recreation centre is drowned out only by the 1,500 cars that pass our house on Lansdowne daily, this manhole cover in Westmount Park (see photo below) must be the only certifiably quiet object around.

Right under “city-of-Westmount,” it says “noiseless.”

Perhaps this could be the city’s motto if it ever solves all the sound problems that have plagued the area for years and have recently been compounded by noise from the new rink and hospital.

JUDY YELON, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.



Photo courtesy of J. Yelon

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Workers rescue baby ducks in manhole



Several ducklings can be seen swimming in the water of a manhole.

Photos courtesy of Hermi Mahlke.

One worker volunteers to be held by his feet to go headfirst down into the manhole.

The mother duck is seen here with her three less wayward ducklings. She stayed nearby as her other four were brought to land.

A duck rescue operation took place on Belvedere Rd. June 11.

Men working at a construction site nearby “dropped their tools and machines in order to save four little ducks,” according to a resident living on Trafalgar Heights, who witnessed the rescue. The

mother duck and the other three ducklings waited under a bush.

One worker, held by his feet, delved headfirst into the manhole by his co-workers, managed to pluck four ducklings out of the water. They “were wet and shivering and immediately went to their mother sit-

ting in the bush,” she recounted.

She felt that the courage shown by the volunteer rescuer showed “compassion and respect for animals at its best.”

See other duck rescue stories: May 21, 2013, p. 1 and May 28, 2013, p. 1.

New boards elected during local AGMs

The Westmount Historical Association (WHA) held its annual general meeting May 19 in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library. It was attended by 17 members, and the new board was elected by acclamation, according to Caroline Breslaw, former vice president, who takes the presidency after 13 years from Doreen Lindsay, whose new role is past president.

Jane Martin is vice president, while remaining as archivist.

Continuing directors are Pina Santillo as treasurer, Anne Barkman as webmaster and membership, Louise Carpentier as secretary. Members-at-large are Lorne Huston, who is joined by Cynthia Grahame newly-elected.

general meeting May 18 were Alexander Carruthers, Megan Durnford and Liz McCallum, according to Paul Marriot, who returns as president.

Others returning are Maureen Kiely,

past president; Allan Koblansky, vice president; Patricia Dumais, corresponding secretary; Mavis Young, treasurer; and Marilyn Gillies, Nigel Goddard and Markus Martin.



The newly elected board of the Westmount Historical Association (WHA), were June 1 after the board meeting, from left: Caroline Breslaw, Pina Santillo, Anne Barkman, Cynthia Grahame, Louise Carpentier, Jane Martin and Lorne Huston.

Photo courtesy of WHA

Westmount Municipal Association

New board members elected at the Westmount Municipal Association's annual

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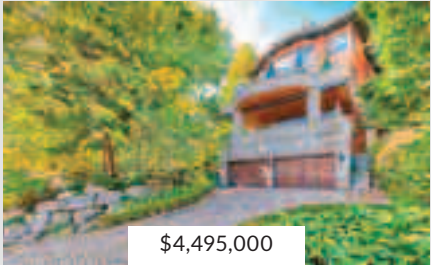


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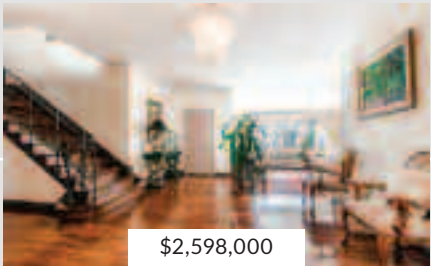
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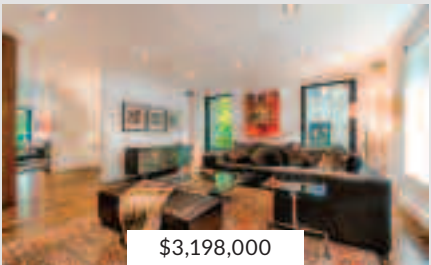
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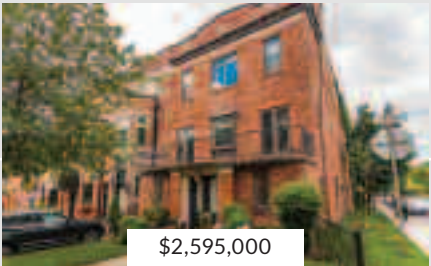
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Stunning stone detached in Upper Westmount.

St. George's school mourns loss of Gilbert Plaw

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The St. George's School community recently mourned the loss of a beloved former senior staff member, who was active at the school for 27 years and who was also a Westmounter.

On April 1, St. George's head of school Sharon Klein informed the school community of the passing of Gilbert Plaw, who was a teacher, department head and director of St. George's high school between 1973 and 2000.

"He has dedicated much of his life's work to our school and, as a result, touched so many of you directly and helped make St. George's the amazing place it is today," she wrote in a letter that was circulated at the school and on-line.

"Gilbert Plaw was such a multi-faceted, spirited and unique individual," former head James Officer said in a message posted on a memorial page dedicated to Plaw on the St. George's website.

"I remember well our first meeting in his office where we sat beside one another

on the friendly side of his Mussolini-sized desk and spoke about our inspirations in life and the aspirations we had as educators," he continued.

"Our bond became immediate and forever. I will always be grateful that it was Gilbert Plaw, 'Mr. St. George's', who was there to greet and receive me, some 24 years ago.

"I have lost a dear friend and a lifelong mentor – he will be truly missed by us all."

Also on the memorial page, playwright Oren Safdie, a St. George's alumnus, said of Plaw, "He went well beyond the duties of a regular teacher. He was a mentor – someone you could go to for life advice, and someone who advised me through some of my most important decisions in life."

Plaw's family has requested that donations in his memory go to the St. George's Gilbert Plaw Fund.

Students and staff were invited to share their memories of him on the school website (stgeorges.qc.ca), as well as on the St. George's Facebook page.



The late Gilbert Plaw.

Photo courtesy of St. George's

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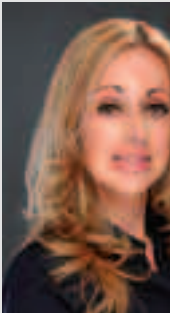


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Library a Bloomsday site



While many celebrated Bloomsday around the world June 16, the Westmount Public Library was the site of its own public readings. Several Westmount residents were involved as organizers and readers, according to Judith Schurman, an organizer. Bloomsday celebrates Thursday, June 16, 1904, which is the day depicted in James Joyce's novel Ulysses. Joyce fans listened to readings from 11 am to 3 pm. "It was a wonderful celebration of the great book Ulysses and the creativity of our local actors and media personalities bringing the work to life with their dramatic interpretations," she said. From left, Westmounters Ellen Rubin, and of Dramatis Personae, Ann Elbourne and Karin Sauder, are seen reading "Oxen of the Sun."

Photo courtesy of J. Schurman

Residents' art on display at Place Kensington

Residents and guests gathered at Place Kensington for its annual water colour art class vernissage June 9.

The exhibition featured a collection of artwork created by the seniors' home residents during a wine-and-cheese service.

The paintings were available for pur-

chase, with a portion of the proceeds being donated to The Batshaw Youth and Family Centres.

The course, which is held each year for Place Kensington residents, is led by art instructor Marcia Roszler.

– MF

See photo, p. 1

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STM building on de Mais. one of 7 to be redone

By ISAAC OLSON

The small brick-faced building located at 4163 de Maisonneuve Blvd. (just east of Greene Ave.), is one of seven auxiliary buildings being renovated by the Société de transport de Montréal (STM).

The service buildings are located throughout the Metro system, according to information found on the STM's website. Situated between two Metro stations, there are 102 such buildings in the STM's Metro network. They house a variety of mechan-

ical equipment needed for Metro operations such as ventilation, power supply and pumps to extract runoff water. The buildings are not accessible to the public.

The renovations, funded by the ministry of Transport, will be on the buildings' structural, mechanical and electrical components, states the website, which notes these renovations will extend the service life of both the buildings and equipment by 25 years.

According to a sign in front of the building, the structure is getting new concrete, the electric system is being renovated and mechanical components will be replaced. The sign states the work will continue through to August.

"The auxiliary structures that are slated for renovations in the short term have been in use ever since the Metro line sec-

tions they serve went into operation, so they have reached the end of their service life," states the website.

The city of Westmount's Public Works department issued a permit to the STM for the temporary occupation of public space, meaning the street and sidewalk where equipment or machinery might be placed.

Tom Flies, assistant director of Westmount's Urban Planning, said the work permit is mostly in reference to the rebuilding of a retaining wall and moving some ventilation equipment farther away from residents. There is some underground work being done, he said, such as changing some doors, but that is not the same permit.

Amélie Régis, STM spokesperson, said a notice was distributed to the neighbourhood before the work began.




This building, located at 4163 de Maisonneuve Blvd., is owned and operated by the STM. It is being renovated this summer.



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WANT celebrates 5 years



WANT Apothecary celebrated a five-year anniversary June 2. Large white orchids were part of the décor as Dexter Peart welcomed guests with his wife Maria Varvarikos. Peart is co-owner with his twin brother Bryon. From left: assistant manager Liane Gagné and manager Elke Schorer.

Photo: Veronica Redgrave

Noisy air conditioner confirmed

A noise complaint about a neighbouring air conditioner June 14 turned out to be justified, according to Public Security reports. Readings had been taken of the global and background sound levels as well as that of the unit as heard from a patio terrace on de Maisonneuve, the source of the complaint. The unit was located at a commercial building on St. Catherine near Clarke. Sound measurements were turned over to the Urban Planning department.

Recycling truck starts too early

Complaints of a recycling truck collecting too early in the area of Dorchester and Greene were confirmed June 15, Public Security officials said. An officer had been posted at 4200 Dorchester to check out the complaint, and at 6:30 am the truck showed up. The company was informed not to start before 7 am.

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Josephine: Justifiably jumpy

Dog barks while owner at work

A barking dog could be heard through an open window at a house on Grosvenor, south of Sherbrooke, June 16, Public Security officials said. When no one was found at home at 11:30 pm, officers managed to contact the dog's owner at work who said she was working until 12:30 am and would get home as quickly as possible. She was given a verbal warning.

True to her breed and despite her seniorish age, Josephine still has lots of get-up-and-go, so a home with a fenced-in yard would be nice but isn't a requirement as long as she gets good long walks.

Her initial adopters had to work on her housetraining, but she's nearly a pro now. And even given her previous issue with that one particular feline, we're told that Josephine could likely handle a home with a dog-savvy, confident cat.

If this little terrier tugs at your heart strings, contact the Frontier Animal Society by phone 819.876.7747 or email frontieranimalsociety@gmail.com

Follow up on Rosie

Rosie ("Rooting for Rosie," May 3, p. 19) was adopted by a "big-hearted" family living in St. Lazare, according to a family friend. She contacted the *Independent* to share the story of how one friend sent the family a link to Sophie's Adoptions Face-Book page on Rosie, while another friend sent the family the Underdog column on the same dog, which helped "seal the deal" on the family falling in love with the young Bernese mountain dog – and ultimately adopting her.



no happy reunion with their pooch, this same couple finally adopted Josephine.

But this storybook ending sadly soured when Josephine, who was apparently good pals with one of the couple's cats, decided their other cat was a fifth wheel and began treating it as such. Fearing for the feline's safety, her new family, albeit with a very heavy heart, returned Josephine to the shelter, where she remained a nervous wreck until bonding with one of her caretakers whom she now follows around like a shadow.

There's no denying that she's a very loyal and affectionate little companion, to the point of mild possessiveness, meaning a home with young kids wouldn't be a great match. Josephine, in fact, generally does her best to avoid small fry when they're around!



Rosie in her new home. Photo courtesy of D. Vlouhos

The Underdog Club

JANE DAVEY



Like Fred ("For the love of Fred," April 5, p. 23), 8-year-old Jack Russell Josephine is a Frontier Animal Society charge with a heart-melting hard luck story who's particularly unsuited for shelter life.

She was rescued as a stray last fall and when word got out, a couple that had lost their own Jack Russell raced over to the shelter with high hopes, but Josephine wasn't their dog. After a few more weeks of

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26th Annual Echoes of a Proud Nation Pow Wow. July 9th & 10th – 9:00 am onward. Just south of Montreal, Kahnawake Mohawk Territory, Routes 132 & 138 (off the Mercier Bridge). Adults: \$8; 60+: \$4; 5 & under: FREE. Tel.: (450) 632-8667. www.kahnawake-pow-wow.com.

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The Study's centennial gala a polished affair



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Study celebrated its 100th anniversary May 6 with a black tie gala – and what a gala it was. Le Windsor, with its chandeliered rooms, was the perfect site for this

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polished soirée, themed in school colours of navy and gold. Gorgeous floral arrangements by Westmount's Flore were white touched with chartreuse – that wonderful colour so identified after its namesake, the French liqueur created by monks in 1737, but I digress.

Volunteers from the school's grade 11 class were clad in navy. Each girl got to keep her stylish multi-zippered dress, purchased at Dynamite.

The silent auction tables offered art from the students, all listed as "priceless."

Proud parents and grandparents arrived as did sisters and brothers (one blowing bubble gum!) and enjoyed Bon Appétit hors d'oeuvres.

Head of school **Nancy Sweer**, there with her husband **Sid**, welcomed the sold-out crowd and proudly unveiled the results to date of the Study's "Dare-to-Dream Campaign for the Second Century." Joining her in the announcement of the \$6,150,000 raised were local res **Jean-Guy Desjardins**, chair and CEO Fiera Capital, **Randy Kelly**, CEO, Formula Growth Ltd. and **Scott Jones**, president Nova Steel.

Gala co-chairs were Westmounter **Erika Ludick-Flores** working with **Vicki Ajmo** and **Isabelle Court**. The glam of the night was complete with *Mad Men*-style cocktail glasses of apple martinis and other flavourful concoctions.

Westmounters noted included **Michaela** and **Michael Penner**, board chair Hydro-Quebec; **Rachel** and **Kevin Gilmore**, COO, Canadiens; **Josée** and **Michel Kaine**, **Helgi Soutar**, **Lucy** and **Andrew Sofin**, **Grace Yang** and **Michel Brutti**, Study alumna **Arabella Decker** and **WAFU Inc.** business partner and husband **Gil Michel-Garcia**, **Yael** and **Adrian Maas**, **Heidi** and **Peter Higgins** and **Diane** and **Barry Stewart**.

Seen enjoying DJ ZO were Westmount residents and Study alumnae **Samantha Hayes**, *continued on p. 15*



From left: Erika Flores-Ludwick, Vicki Ajmo and Isabelle Court.

Photo courtesy of The Study



From left: Scott and Sophie Jones, and Claire and Peter Kruyt.

Photo courtesy of The Study

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From left: Joelle and Bruce Kent, and Antonia Zannis.

Social Notes cont'd. from p. 14

Sarah Ivory, Brenda Barlett and Emily Ritchie.

The Study's director of communications Susan Orr-Mongeau was noted (with daughter Natalie Mongeau), and deputy head of school Antonia Zannis.

Study past parents included Joelle and Bruce Kent, Bruce Kent Group, RBC Dominion Securities; Claire and Peter Kruyt, VP, Power Corp.; Paula Bonta and Chris Manfredi, Provost McGill University and

Study board member; and Caroline and Charlie Nicols.

Other proud parents noted in the sold-out room were former local residents Claire and Stuart Webster, and Maria and Vince Guzzo.

The program bore greetings from Westmount mayor Peter Trent and Jacques Chagnon, who represents the electoral district of Westmount-St. Louis. The evening ran well past the midnight hour, and many fashionistas wisely discarded stilettos, the better to dance away the night!

Too late to deliver to ECS

Workers unloading a truck delivering material for ECS June 14 were informed it was too late at 11:31 pm, Public Security officials said. They were given a short delay to pick up their equipment. The material was being delivered for an event at the school the following day.

Tee-ing off in backyard

Two youths practising golf June 15 in the backyard of a house on Westmount Ave. near Clarke were warned against trespassing on private property as well as the consequences of a golf ball breaking a window. Public Security officials said they had received a call at 9:25 pm for the incident. Officers verified the youths' claim to having obtained permission from the property owner, who was away.

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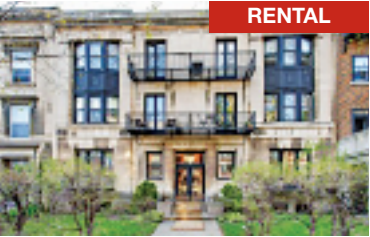
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