WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 10 No. 8c

We are Westmount

August 23, 2016

Roslyn school grounds in 'rush mode' to be ready for returning students

By Laureen Sweeney

Day by day, the Roslyn school grounds are a changing landscape. They are changing from mounds of earth to being paved in time for the first day of school August 31, principal Nick Katalifos said last week.

New walkways to the entrances have been paved, areas around the school com-





pacted, and the aim is to have asphalt on the play areas and new fencing installed by that time, he said. The final step in the project – extensive landscaping and other aesthetics – can wait until after school resumes.

"I'm very excited because as much as it's been a challenge in timing," he said, "the end result will be wonderful." The workers have been putting in "long days."

The refurbishing project, undertaken at a declared construction cost of more than \$900,000, began at the end of June and has been going on at the same time as the city's reconstruction of Westmount Ave. (see story *continued on p. 13*

Women's rugby wins in semis



In the Westmount Rugby Club's senior women's team semi-final game August 20, after the ball was kicked into touch by Beaconsfield, Westmount is pictured winning the line-out and starting another offensive run. See story p. 4. Photo: Ralph Thompson

City needs more volunteers to run growing sports programs

By Laureen Sweeney

Sports and Recreation officials are "starting to feel nervous" over the decline in volunteers needed to help run the city's expanding sports programs, operations manager Andrew Maislin said last week. These include coaches as well as helpers at onetime events.

The drop in volunteer numbers cuts across all aspects of the department, he said, and comes at a time when more and more kids are signing up to play hockey and soccer, including inter-city play.

"As the saying goes: it takes a community to run a community program," Maislin said "and it's getting tough now."

He attributes the decrease in volunteers to people being busier these days and the department losing its important contact with parents following the introduction of online registration.

As well, he said, some of the programs such as *continued on p. 5*









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City leaves graffiti removal from bus shelters to STM

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The bus shelter removed from the southwest corner of Grosvenor and Sherbrooke because it encroached on private property was poorly maintained and in unsightly condition, property owner René Beaudry told the *Independent* last week.

Beaudry had been on vacation when contacted earlier about his request to have the shelter removed (see story August 17, p. 1).

"What I want is a bus shelter that looks good, is kept clean and well maintained," he said. The former one, he contends, was scratched and a magnet for graffiti.

The shelter was installed in front of the shop occupied by Flore at the corner of his building. City officials and the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) are currently discussing the issue of a replacement shelter. The model preferred by Beaudry is one he says the city does not want. The city is opposed to advertising that goes along with some models.

Bus shelters are generally maintained by the STM, according to Public Security director Greg McBain, whose department oversees the removal of graffiti by a city contractor. Only in cases of obscene graffiti, however, would the city ask the contractor to clean it from a bus shelter.

There is little that can be done about scratches on bus shelters, McBain said.

At least one user said she hoped the new shelter could be installed in time for winter.



A screenshot of Google Street View of Sherbrooke looking south at Grosvenor, showing where the bus shelter used to be. Source: Google Street View

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André Gervais, from left, at Public Security's anniversary

dinner November 20, 2010 at Victoria Hall, with retired

PSU director Richard McEnroe and then councillor and

Gervais practised law in the general cor-

porate and securities fields for more than

50 years. He was a past president of the

Canadian Bar Association and a chair of

the board of Concordia. He is survived by

his wife, Marie-Andrée, three children and

six grandchildren. A funeral took place

The Westmount Rugby Club's senior

women's team played its semi-final game

on the homefield August 20. A small

crowd gathered around the main playing

field in Westmount Park at noon. Expec-

tations were high for the team, undefeated

so far this season as it took on Beaconsfield

in the semi-final of the Women's Develop-

ment League of Rugby Quebec Federa-

half time but increased it 27 to 17 by the fi-

Westmount had a small lead, 8 to 5, by

Players are to play their final game August 27 in Quebec City against St. Lambert.

The team moves to first division next year

since it won the regular season, according

to Philippe Dubost, the club's VP and

men's captain. The club is celebrating its

140th year and is touted to be the oldest ac-

tive rugby club in North America. See photo

-RT

Women's rubgy

moves to finals

trailblazing concept.

August 19.

tion.

p. 1.

nal whistle.

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

At the 30th anniversary celebration of Westmount's Public Security Unit in 2010, founding councillor André Gervais was still advocating for increased powers for the municipal force.

"I'm ready to go back to Quebec City to get more powers for you," the lawyer and former commissioner of Public Safety told active and retired members of the force he had brought into being as a member of Mayor Donald MacCal-

lum's council in 1980. On August 14, Gervais died at the Moe Levin Centre of the Douglas Public Security commissioner Gary Ikeman. Institute. He was 84.

Gervais's death comes two weeks after the passing of Sidney Ashford, the man he chose to start up the new force (see story August 9, p. 9).

Gervais battled government and police red tape at a time when the force was a





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By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Westmount pool went into its postseason schedule for August 22 to 28 as many of the lifeguards have already resumed classes or taken on other seasonal commitments. Thereafter, a partial schedule will kick in with Labour Day Monday (September 5) set to provide the final swim.

"That's what we're expecting," Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe said last week. "We looked at ways to keep the pool open the weekend after Labour Day if the weather is warm, but most lifeguards are unavailable."

This had been done the new pool's first year (2014) but the weather was cool, he recalled. "Last year, we couldn't get enough lifeguards for even one shift."

The post-season schedule, whose details are posted on the city website, calls for the pool to open weekdays until August 26 from 12 noon to 8 pm. It will also be open this coming Saturday (August 27) from 9 am to 9:45 pm and on Sunday between 9 am to 6 pm.

The following week, starting August 29, it will be open at the same times on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (August 29 to 31) from 12 noon to 8 pm but will be closed on Thursday and Friday (September 1 and 2).

The pool is slated to re-open for the three days Labour Day weekend (September 3, 4 and 5) with Sunday and Monday operating on a Sunday schedule.

Noisy party, open house

A loud party on Murray Hill generated two calls to Public Security August 13, department officials report. Only one, however, concerned a noise complaint. On the first call from a neighbour at 12:14 am, patrollers asked the host to move some of the 40 guests inside and close the windows, which she did. But on the second call at 8:32 am, officers found the front door open and were told by the resident it must have been left open after the party.

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Paddle to the lagoon



Sixteen children gathered at the Westmount Public Library August 12 to watch the 1966 NFB film Paddle to the Sea, Bill Mason's adaption based on the book by Holling C. Holling of the same title. Under the tutelage of Amy Creighton, the youngsters then constructed small canoes, painted them and sent them off in the pond near the library, where the boats were floated down to the waterfall into the Westmount Park lagoon. Photo: Ralph Thompson

Volunteers cont'd. from p. 1

hockey and lacrosse are requiring greater commitment from their coaches such as out-of-town travel time. He equates it with having a fulltime job. "The coach is the first to arrive and the last to leave. It's more than just a couple of hours of playing time a week."

On the other hand, volunteers are also needed to help at events that do not require a regular commitment, such as servers for the sports banquets and helpers for the upcoming annual Cape Ann (Mass.) hockey tournament that Westmount is hosting in November as it did in the 2014-

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2015 season.

Westmount is not alone in experiencing a volunteer decline, he pointed out. Other municipalities are suffering the same problem.

A lack of volunteers means the office staff, such as the sports coordinators, have had to fill in, which is adding "a tremendous strain."

While parents tend to be backbone of the volunteer help, people who have previous experience as coaches and have expertise could be of particular assistance. All may reach Maislin at 514.989.5323 or amaislin@westmount.org.

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(If you don't like what we're doing , please feel free to write in too, for publication or not.)

David Price, publisher david.price@westmountindependent.com

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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

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Owned and published by: Sherbrooke-Valois Inc., 310 Victoria Ave., #105, Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9 Fax: 514.935.9241

Family, friends gather to remembering Betts at Westmount High



A memorial was held at Westmount High August 21 to pay homage to Raymond Akira Betts (1973-2016). Dozens of friends and relatives got together to remember Betts who was described as an original thinker who made his mark in many artistic ways, from Montreal to New York City to Switzerland. Close school friends Richard Abderrahmane, left, and Orion Curiel, right, surround Betts' mother Shigeko in front of a mural he painted 25 years ago in the school's gym. "Raymond Betts was a creative artist who touched the lives of so many people with his unique way of seeing the world," said Curiel. Photo: Ralph Thompson

Car backs into 5-year-old on scooter

A car was accidentally backed into a motorized scooter gassing up at the Esso service station at Sherbrooke and Grosvenor August 14, Public Security officials said. A woman driving the scooter jumped off as it fell over, but her five-year-old son did not and was reported to have had his leg pinned underneath.

Responding officers reported the knee was bruising and treated it with an ice pack until the arrival of Urgences Santé. The mother refused transport to the hospital for the boy, stating his father was on the way to take him to a doctor.

The driver of the car had finished gassing up and apparently did not see the scooter behind her as she went to leave. She was described as a Westmount resident. The victim lived downtown. -LS

St. Henri flood cuts power in Westmount

A large swath of lower Westmount from Victoria Hall to Atwater was left without power August 13 when a major water leak flooded the area at St. Antoine and Brewster streets in St. Henri, Public Security officials said. Hydro Quebec's nearby poste Maisonneuve, which supplies electricity to Hydro Westmount, was affected by the flood resulting in the outage.

As a result, the Montreal fire department "instructed Hydro Quebec to cut all power on lines in the immediate vicinity," said Hydro Westmount director Benoit Hurtubise.

Three 15 KV lines feeding Hydro Westmount from the poste Maisonneuve had their power cut between approximately 12 and 2 pm. As these lines are 15 KV circuits in Westmount, major businesses and large residential and commercial buildings were affected across the city.

Among them were 4175 St. Catherine and 1 Wood. -LS

Nearly ready?



Crews were spreading asphalt on the new raised intersection at Westmount Ave. and Roslyn, as seen looking south from Roslyn August 19. Photo: Laureen Sweeney

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off in early July and waited to post their June sales until they returned. Our report last month was that only four one- and two-family sales had taken place in June; now it appears that number has grown to 12 sales, and with another 10 in July, Westmount now has tallied more sales this year than in any year (through July) since 2008.

15% above evaluation

The June sales averaged \$1,559,000 and prices were 15 percent above their respective municipal evaluations, with three sales above the \$2-million mark and only one lower than \$1 million. In July, only one high-priced sale was reported compared with five below \$1 million, in fact all between \$800,000 and \$900,000, so the average moved way down. When adjustments are made, it seems the "typical" Westmount house is reaching new

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June, July sales: Reaching new heights



Local real estate agents might have taken

heights, though as usual we are wary in our enthusiasm until we see how the fall market fares.

Condo mark-up higher than previous quarter

Five condominium sales were reported in July, including two duplex-type sales in the \$700,000 range and three apartments between \$489,000 and \$652,000. The average mark-up was six percent, a significant boost compared to the two-percent mark-down in the previous quarter. Thus we can say that market is getting stronger, too, though still weaker than the singlefamily market.

Adjacent-Westmount was busy too with eight one- and two-family dwellings to add

to the list, including two to the north, three to the east and three to the west of the city limits. By district, mark-ups range from about 10 to 20 percent; prices average about \$878,000 to the west, \$1,070,000 to the north, \$1,358,000 east of Westmount, including the Square Mile. The highest recent price, for a semi-detached newer home on Jean Girard Ave., was \$2,100,000.

As of mid-August there are only 111 active listings for Westmount houses, the lowest number in the last two years, with reduced numbers in all price brackets. Another 23 houses are now for rent, six of those asking \$10,000 or more. To date some 24 houses have been rented this year compared with only 19 at the same time last year.













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WESTMOUNT Breathtaking Georgian mansion with views. MLS 26499690



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JULY BUILDING PER

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the July 4 meeting of city council.

357 Olivier: to build a new basement access with a canopy above, replace windows and doors and do some minor landscaping in the rear;

453 Strathcona: to do a rear addition at the basement level, enclose a balcony at the second floor and enlarge a deck provided the base of the addition is in limestone;

4909 Sherbrooke: to install a temporary café-terrace;

726 Upper Lansdowne: to create a ground-level terrace in the back yard and install an outdoor fireplace;

136 Irvine: to build a new fence;

74 Bruce: to remove a small roof over a rear deck on the second floor;

612 Argyle: to replace the cladding on the rear sunroom.

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the July 18 meeting of city council.

4557 Sherbrooke: to install a sign for the apartment building;

333 Kensington: at a Category I house, to restore and replace windows and doors and build an extension in the rear with certain conditions;

48 Holton: to enlarge the building at the

rear, replace windows, and the front door and rebuild the front porch provided the divisions in the new door are identical to the existing door;

52 Bruce: to replace some windows and two doors;

4709 The Boulevard: to replace some windows and one doors;

613 Côte St. Antoine: to replace windows and doors and add an extension at the rear of the property up to 40 square meters;

372 Kensington: to enlarge a rear deck and patio, as well as install a new fence;

422 Roslyn: to replace a railing provided the railing detail at the corners of the deck are removed and only maintained on the stairs;

570 Claremont: to rebuild the rear deck;

476 Roslyn: to do some rear landscaping; **9 Côte St. Antoine:** to replace three doors;

70 Chesterfield: to replace some windows;

72 Columbia: to modify the rear deck, replace the railings and build a terrace at grade;

28 Arlington: to replace some windows and doors provided three designated ones have vertical divisions and are of the same architectural series for consistency and that two designated ones have two horizontal divisions to create a six-window unit;

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What's permitted

4126 St. Catherine: to modify the front facade, awning and install new doors;

528 Victoria: to create new openings in the side and rear facades, to install windows and a rear door as well as a platform;

532 Clarke: to replace windows and a door provided the door is all wood and respects the original divisions;

4353 Montrose: at a Category I house, to replace some windows and doors at the rear and enlarge openings; to do some rear landscaping;

4345 Westmount Ave.: to install a fence;

624 Carleton: to create a larger opening for a window;

3311 Cedar: to enclose some window openings, to install a new window and

enlarge a door opening;

22 Anwoth: to create a new opening for a window;

327 Prince Albert: at a Category I house, to install two new fences;

420 Côte St. Antoine: at a Category I house, to install new windows and doors and modify openings;

4925 Sherbrooke: to install two new signs;

24 Forden: to install a new fence;

3236 The Boulevard: to modify the rear façade by enlarging a window and door opening and installing a new window and door provided the proposed double-hung windows are wood-aluminum clad.

Comin' Up

Friday, August 26 to Sunday, August 28

Victoria Village Merchants' Association sidewalk sale.

Thursday, August 25

"How to save your seeds," 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. A lecture on **seed saving techniques** from Boyd Hamilton and Mary Strate. Free. Info: 514. 989.5299.

Friday, August 26

The Jungle Book is screened outdoors, 8

pm in Westmount Park. Free. Info: 514. 989.5229.

Thursday, September 1

The Atwater Library lunchtime series starts its new season with a talk by **Joe Schwarcz**, director of McGill University's office for science and society, on "Science and Celebrities," 12:30 pm at 1200 Atwater. Free.

Tuesday, September 6

City **council meeting**, 8 pm at city hall.



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HÔTEL DE VILLE

Bureaux municipaux fermés le 5 septembre

Les bureaux administratifs de Westmount seront fermés le lundi 5 septembre en raison de la Fête du travail. La séance mensuelle du conseil aura lieu le **mardi 6 septembre** à 20 h.

Services de la Ville : retour à l'horaire régulier À compter du 6 septembre, les bureaux administratifs de la Ville seront ouverts du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Défi Instagram

Familles à vos marques! Suivez la Bibliothèque sur Instagram @BiblioWestmount. Partagez une photo de votre endroit préféré pour lire dehors, dans la nature. Utilisez le mot-clic #BPWlecture2016. Info : 514-989-5229.

Ciné-club

Les mercredis 24 et 31 août, 14 h, Bibliothèque. Le 24 août : *Touch of Evil*, le 31 août, *45 Years*. Billets disponibles à la bibliothèque. Info : 514 989-5299.

Comment sauvegarder vos semences

Le jeudi 25 août, 9 h, Bibliothèque. Venez apprendre quelques techniques pour bien sauvegarder vos semences, avec Boyd Hamilton et Mary Strate. Info : 514 989-5299.



Bibliothèque de semences

La fin de la saison de jardinage approche. Avez-vous songé à apporter à la Bibliothèque de semences une portion de vos semences récemment cultivées? Info : westmount.org ou 514 989-5299.

Film sous les étoiles

Le vendredi 26 août, 20 h, parc Westmount. *The Jungle Book* (1967, classique de Disney), pour toute la famille. Gratuit. Projection en anglais. Info : 989-5229.

Inscriptions aux activités d'automne

À compter du mercredi 31 août. Pour inscrire votre enfant, présentez-vous au comptoir des enfants avec sa carte de bibliothèque. Info : 514 989-5229.

Club de lecture d'été TD : fête de clôture

Le samedi 10 septembre, 14 h, Victoria Hall. À ne pas manquer : une présentation de la pièce *Le vent dans les saules* par la compagnie de marionettes *Rag* & *Bone Puppet Theatre*. Prix, collations et divertissements au menu! Soyez des nôtres. Inscription requise. Info : 989-5229.

Prochaine séance du conseil le mardi 6 septembre

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Fête de quartier du Village Victoria

Du vendredi 26 août au dimanche 28 août, district commercial Sherbrooke-Victoria. Ventetrottoir et fête de rue présentée par l'Association des marchands du Village Victoria.

SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Piscine du CLW : nouvel horaire

Un nouvel horaire est en vigueur **du 22 août** jusqu'à la fermeture de la piscine **le 5 septembre.** Consultez l'horaire à westmount.org.

TRAVAUX PUBLICS



Incroyables comestibles Westmount

Depuis 2011, Westmount fait partie du mouvement international *Incroyables comestibles*, qui encourage la cultivation de plantes comestibles dans les espaces publics. Apprenez comment identifier, récolter et préparer les plantes comestibles qui se trouvent dans les plates-bandes publiques au **westmount.org**.

85 nouveaux porte-vélos à Westmount

Les cyclistes de passage à Westmount ont désormais accès à 85 nouveaux supports à vélos, installés sur et à proximité des avenues Greene et Victoria et des rues Ste-Catherine et Sherbrooke.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Pour une rentrée scolaire en sécurité

Les agents de la Sécurité publique de Westmount seront présents dans les zones scolaires au cours des prochains jours. Nous rapellons aux conducteurs de véhicules de rouler lentement, de stationner en conformité avec les règlements et de nous informer de tout problème de sécurité observé. Info : 514 989-5222.

Couvre-feu en vigueur dans les parcs

La Sécurité publique appliquera le couvre-feu (minuit à 5 h) dans tous les parcs, avec des patrouilles supplémentaires au belvédère Summit et dans les parcs avoisinants pour contrer la consommation d'alcool ou de drogue et le bruit. Info : 514 989-5222.

CITY HALL

Municipal offices closed September 5

Westmount's administrative offices will be closed Monday, September 5 for the Labour Day holiday. The monthly Council meeting will take place **Tuesday, September 6** at 8 p.m.

Return to regular office schedule

Starting September 6, the City's administrative offices will be open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

LIBRARY

Instagram Challenge

Calling all Families! Follow the Library on Instagram: @BiblioWestmount. Post a picture of your favourite spot to read outdoors in nature. Use the hashtag #WPLreading2016. Info: 514-989-5229.

Film Club

Wednesdays, August 24 and 31, 2 p.m., Library. August 24: *Touch of Evil*, August 31: *45 Years*. Tickets available at the Library. Info: 514-989-5299.

How to Save Your Seeds

Thursday, August 25, 19 h, Library. A special lecture on seed saving techniques from our guest garden experts Boyd Hamilton and Mary Strate. Info: 514 989-5299.

Seed Lending Library

As the end of the growing season nears, have you considered donating some seeds from your garden to the Seed Lending Library? Find out more at westlib.org or 514 989-5299.

Movie under the stars

Friday, August 26, 8 p.m., Westmount Park. *The Jungle Book* (Disney classic, 1967). For everyone. Free. Info: 989-5229.

Registration for fall activities

Beginning Wednesday, August 31, 10 a.m. Please register in person at the Children's Desk with your child's Library card Info: 514-989-5229.

TD Summer Reading Club closing party

Saturday, September 10, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. Not to be missed - a performance of *The Wind in the Willows* by the Rag & Bone Puppet Theatre. Be there! Prizes, entertainment, food! Registration required. Info: 989-5229.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Victoria Village Street Festival

Friday, August 26 to Sunday, August 28, Victoria-Sherbrooke commercial district. Sidewalk sale and festival presented by the Merchants' Association.

Next Council Meeting Tuesday, September 6th

SPORTS AND RECREATION

WRC swimming pool: new schedule A new schedule for the pool is in effect August 22 until the end of the season **September 5.** Consult the schedule at westmount.org.

PUBLIC WORKS

Incredible Edible Westmount

Since 2011, Westmount has been part of the international *Incredible Edible* movement to increase the cultivation of edible plants in public spaces. Learn how to identify, harvest and prepare the edible plants in Westmount's public flower beds at **westmount.org**.



85 new bike posts in Westmount

Cyclists in Westmount now have access to 85 new parking posts installed mostly around the commercial districts of Victoria-Sherbrooke and Ste-Catherine-Greene, in addition to existing bicycle racks.

PUBLIC SECURITY



A safe return to school

Westmount's Public Safety offcers will carry out extra surveillance in all of the City's school zones in the coming days. We remind all drivers to drive slowly, park legally and report any safety issues. Info: 514 989-5222.

Curfew in effect in the parks

Public Security will enforce the midnight-to-5 a.m. curfew in all City parks, with extra patrols at Summit Lookout and surrounding parks for alcohol or drug consumption and noise issues. Info: 514 989-5222







Trees spared in major overhaul on all sides of school

cont'd. from p. 1

June 7, p. 1).

The project is the first major change in many years as the school grows in size to

an estimated enrolment of 665 now expected, Katalifos said. It is the second largest elementary school in the English Montreal School Board.

Early in the process, plans to extend the parking area along the Roslyn Ave. side



School ground along Grosvenor, August 12.

side had to have an entrance re-located when it turned out that not enough space had been left between two large trees, Westmount's Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier said. The city's arborists raised concerns that the roots might be

damaged, she said.

Residents living across the street expressed concerns the trees might be taken down but the change in plans prevents that, she said.



On August 19, the walkway to the upper Roslyn Ave. door and playground was already paved, but the walkway to the lower entrance (not pictured) was not.



Pug makes its way to WRC

An adventurous pug who escaped out a back door on Stayner knew just where to go if it wanted to be found. The small dog was discovered at the Westmount recreation centre at 9 am August 9, Public Security officials said. Wearing a name tag along with a valid licence, it was returned safe and sound to its owner. The next time "Rudy" gets wanderlust, however, a ticket will be issued, the owner was told.

Most dogs found 'tagged'

Public safety officers carrying out ongoing random checks at Westmount dog runs reported finding most dogs sporting valid 2016 tags, Public Security officials said. Between August 4 and 8, at the Westmount Park run, for example, two of 24 were recorded as non-conforming to the regulation. Those who weren't were given 10 business days to obtain a licence. One was an NDG resident, who was told she needed a Westmount licence to use the city's runs.

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Furlotte-Turp wins 4 silvers



Westmounter Lowik Furlotte-Turp, 17, won four silver medals at les Jeux du Québec 2016 in July. The special Olympic swimming competition took place at Montreal's Olympic Park Sports Centre. He was also the flag bearer for Lac St. Louis region. Furlotte-Turp lives with autism.

LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

Of Special Interest

Street Smarts program? Seeking a business/professional person, retired or not, who has energy & ambition to become part of this exciting new project and to help launch it. For more information call S. York, 514-331-2748 anytime! Location will be Decarie Blvd. area.

Come sing with us!

For a Celtic Christmas: Choeur Anima Musica, a mixed choir of adults in NDG, Kensington Pres-

byterian Church on Tuesday evenings. You are welcome to come and try out; some experience in choral singing and sight reading is preferred, additional training offered. Info: www.animamusica.org or 438-384-9217.

Apartment for rent

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Computer Help Wanted

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Beer Review: The Connoisseur and the Philistine Venue: Brasserie Harricana

Beer review of Brasserie Harricana, April 7, 2016

95 Jean Talon West in MileEx – where Mile End meets Park Extension.

David Price, The Philistine; Beer drinker. Ideal beer: stronger-than-average lager, even it's commercial Canadian beer.

Favourite beer: Harp or Sapporo (research is still under way).

Greg Dunning, The Connoisseur; Beer drinker, brewer, and hunter.

Ideal beer: one that is manufactured by people who care more about the beer than the money.

Favourite beer: Too many to mention.

THE CONNOISSEUR

Brasserie Harricana didn't open for business in December 2014, but actually relocated from Amos, Quebec after a fire laid waste to most of its original establishment. At first glance, I feel that I am in a French bistro. Waiters wearing waist aprons scurry around taking orders. There are 25 identical and polished brass taps sticking out of the wall behind the bar. The tile floor and modern monotone surfaces suggest spotlessness, organization, efficiency. This is not a pub, nor a bistro; it is a beer lab.

THE PHILISTINE: Blonde Ale (5.2%, blonde ale, brewed by Harricana)

I started with a Blonde Ale. I have found blonde ales to be the best bet for a lager man caught in an ale environment and this one was indeed close to a lager, but not as close as the blonde ale at Brutopia (Crescent St.), which I am starting to quite enjoy. There was *that ale taste*, which is somewhere between mild nuttiness and mild spiciness. I know it is desired by connoisseurs (and likely the Connoisseur), but I prefer the cool, crisp, subtle taste of a lager.

THE CONNOISSEUR: Cask Blonde Ale (5.2%, blonde by Harricana)

Three weeks before our arrival, Mathieu, the brewer, transferred some of the ale that my colleague chose from its home in a stainless keg to a wooden cask and added organic Centennial hops, where they have imparted their aggressive pine aroma and citrus taste. Adding hops to a conditioning tank after boiling is called dry-hopping and these two steps (I bet you didn't count the transfer to the wooden cask) add complexity to a basic beer. I found this beer too hoppy. Not nearly enough malt sweetness to balance the hop explosion. To the Philistine, hearing too hoppy is the aural equivalent of being hit in the head by an STM bus mirror. The experiment to hold the ABV (sweetness) constant and increase the IBU (bitterness) to higher and higher levels has failed in my view. The result is a beer-flavoured hop drink, not a hopflavoured beer.

THE PHILISTINE: Pilz (4.8%, Pilsner/Polotmavé by MaBrasserie, Rue Holt, Montreal, Rosemont)

The Pilz, a Pilsner, was dark! I am the Philistine, so I have never done this before,



Photo courtesy Willem Westenberg Harricana)

but I actually asked our waitress skeptically: "Is that the Pilsner?" I honestly thought she had made a mistake. Greg chimed in from the other side of the table, "That's a dark lager!" It did not taste like a Pilsner or even a lager to me. It was more like a creamy pale ale, but, for a lager lover in a world of ales, very drinkable.

THE CONNOISSEUR: Hermite (4.3%, Session Ale by Harricana)

Another over-hopped, unbalanced ale. This is the "anti-session" beer. Marie, our server, graciously removed away the undrinkable and fed it to the sink.

Back to the virtual assault on the Philistine. Advertising a dark lager as a Pilz is not flaunting convention but driving from the passenger seat. Lager can range from as dark as motor oil like in a German schwarzbier and Guinness Black Lager, or as light as a Budweiser, the original one from Bohemia or the beer-flavoured water from Missouri. But a Pilz, Pils or Pilsner, named depending on its country of origin, is a subset of lager and is always very pale. Fortunately, we didn't need the automated external defibrillator to revive the Philistine after his calamity, this time. THE PHILISTINE: Wee Heavy (8%,

Scotch ale by Gainsbourg, Hull, QC) Next was the Scotch ale, which is usually the best bet for me in the dark beer category. It had a strong caramel taste and was fine overall, but a bit light in body for a

THE CONNOISSEUR: Tête de Pioche (6.4%, IPA by Le Prospecteur)

Scotch ale.

Let's switch to a guest beer; an ale from Le Prospecteur in Val D'Or. I'm playing safe with a genuine British IPA, hopped with Fuggles and Goldings hops. This is a

> pure session IPA, with thirstslaking bitterness.

THE PHILISTINE: Tête de Pioche (6.4%, IPA by Le Prospecteur)

In order to have something to write about, I asked Marie for the "least skunky" IPA on the menu and she brought me a Tête de Pioche. It was indeed what I call a "half-skunk" IPA (versus the "full-skunks" that the real hop-heads crave), but I regret to report that I am not developing a taste for the high hop content of the IPAs. THE CONNOISSEUR:

Sour Porter Blend (6.5%, ale aged in a tequila barrel by Harricana)

The next selection is a clin-

ical trial in the new world of what I call "Nouvelle Beer Construction." For centuries, vintners and distillers have been blending and cask conditioning wines and spirits. Accomplished Belgian brewers are essentially the only ones who have borrowed these techniques to produce their famous sour ales. However, since Al Gore (or was it Trump?), invented the internet, le- *continued on p. 18*









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TRENDSETTERS

LILIAN HOWICK

By Veronica Redgrave

I see many Westmount ladies dressed differently. In the day, leotard-style spandex pants (black is still a local fave) and tops are everywhere, from the Y and the library to 5 Saisons, as well as noted in SUVs dropping off knapsack-clad kiddies at school – if not double-parked on Greene. As I meander between the Eastern Townships and local sidewalks, I often see this vivacious red-head in great jeans, work-out clothes (usually a marvellous Matisse-blue top) and also looking soignée at soirées. Meet Lilian Howick.

STYLE

How would you describe your personal style?

My personal style is casual chic. I like to mix and match pieces I have, and add something new: a scarf, a necklace or a hat. I find that accessories can totally transform an outfit, particularly if I add an amazing piece like a statement necklace.

What is your favourite way of dressing?

I love comfortable clothes that are elegant. Like a long t-shirt dress worn with ballerina shoes. They have to be comfy shoes since I like to walk a lot!

On weekends, what do you like to wear?

I love to wear stretchy jeans with a fun sweater or jacket. But if I am on my way to or from the gym, I will keep on my workout clothes, as these days, athletic wear is designed to be worn just about anywhere. The Lolë outfits are great!

Do you have favourite art or artists?

I like Canadian art especially John Little, who really captured the local colour of Montreal. I also admire the beautiful still life paintings by Jori Smith.

Blood Drive Action Sport Physio

invites you to a blood drive that will take place at the

Forum de Montréal (2313 St, Catherine St. West)

Thursday, August 25th 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Every 80 seconds, someone in Québec needs blood.

Living

If you could choose where to live, money being no object, where would it be?

I would love to live in Tuscany in the centre of those beautiful landscapes close to Florence, Pisa, Lucca and Sienna. Great wine and great food.

What is your favourite flower? Do you have flowers in your home? Do you like to garden?

I love white orchids and often have them in my home. I also enjoy doing flower boxes in the country with Surfinia trailing petunias mixed in with hanging geraniums. Each year I grow a variety of herbs: basil, parsley, thyme, mint.

Who would you invite to a dinner party if you could have anyone in the world, and from any era?

Deepak Chopra, Paul McCartney and Roger Federer.

Who are your favourite designers?

Michael Kors. I love the casual ease of his designs. Marc Aurel, for his great simple dresses. And Cambio pants. They fit like a glove.

What do you think of today's fashions?

I love the freedom of today's fashion. There are no rules. You can wear anything you like at any time.

Suitcase scooped up in recycling collection

A resident who left a suitcase on the sidewalk on Argyle August 10 found it was mistakenly picked up by the recycling truck, Public Security officials said. A contractor who saw the suitcase being taken, chased down the truck but the driver said that for safety reasons he couldn't look through it at the time. Officers, who had been called at 1:44 pm for assistance in retrieving the item, contacted Public Works whose personnel arranged for the truck to be searched after its rounds.



Lilian Howick, photographed in her home on Côte St. Antoine the morning of August 11.

A Jedi night in Griffintown



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond Veronica Redgrave

It was a soufflé of a soirée. Light, colourful – and delicious! The McGill Head & Neck Cancer Fundraiser (MHNC) not only had a wide red carpet but a touch of Hollywood.

On May 11, guests were greeted by *Star Wars*' Storm Raiders and a Jedi knight complete with blue lasers – the better to light up the night. The characters were a



Andy Nulman, centre, and friends.

nod to *Rogue One*, the upcoming Star Wars film, soon to be screened at Cinémas Guzzo.

Speaking of Guzzo, **Maria** and **Vince Guzzo** were honoured at the eve, as always both looking Milano chic. Maria was a stand-out in white – *bellisima*!

On the second floor, food stations of lamb chops, sushi and pastas were enjoyed

by all. The show began at 8 pm and was themed after "The Voice," the NBC vocal competition.

Volunteer singers were Lovely Andalay, Myer Bick, Marc Kimmel, Cristina Monticciolo, Sam Olson and Corina Vincelli. Contestants were judged by Donna Saker (The Beat 92.5), Sandie Rindalo (CTV News) and Andy Nulman (CEO, Play the Future, the visionary entrepreneur's newest venture).

Guests sat in rows and rows (over 500 people) of transparent "ghost chairs" to admire the amazing show.

Noted in the low lighting (wonderfully flattering) were Westmounters Therese Brownstein, Linda and Dr. Terry Smith,

Dr. Yolene Lacroix and Benoît Paradis and Barry Garber. Clad in a Damien Hirst-style butterfly patterned shirt, the peripatetic Garber was just back from Buenos Aires as his firm is touring Cirque de Soleil's *Kooza* in Latin America. (Any room in your suitcase, Barry?) Also seen amidst the sartorially stylish – a mix of a minimalist aesthetic and bold patterned colours – were Sandra Schreter, Janis Brownstein, Sylvie and Allan Vosco, Sondra and Martin Schwartz, Barbara and Dr. Melvin Schloss, Annie Cohen and MC Sonia Benezra.

Dr. **Saul Frenkiel**, who is both chair and chief of the McGill department of otolaryngology, head and neck surgery,

at the MUHC was advisor to the evening, working with event chair Dr. Jon Young and committee co-chairs doctors Richard Payne and Karen Kost.

Paul Chacra's inimitable sounds made the night noteworthy. **Carole Goldberg**, executive director MHN, noted that the evening raised half a million dollars.



Maria and Vince Guzzo.



Sandy Schreter, left, and Therese Brownstein.



Benoît Paradis and Jolene Lacroix.

Please send information about your fall social events to redgrave@videotron.ca.

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From left: Dr. Saul Frenkiel, and Linda and Terry Smith.



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Beer review cont'd. from p. 15

gions of beer drinkers have learned that there is more to life than Ex or Bud and today's fledgling brewers have responded to that demand. Right now as you read, you are in the midst of a craft beer revolution, especially in the US, producing limited edition beers, which push the limits of the above techniques, as only our brewer Mathieu can explain: "To make the Sour Porter Blend, I first made a standard English porter, then I blended it with some fresh porter, which prompted a secondary fermentation. After another month in stainless, I transferred it to a wooden cask that formerly contained tequila; a third fermentation ensued. After two months, I added guava from Central America. Live yeast on the fruit skin combined with the natural sugars in the guava spurred a fourth fermentation and another layer of sweetness."

This six-month beer construction project was complex and certainly unique. Sometimes these limited releases are spectacular experiences (Stone Brewing's 24 Carrot Golden Ale springs to mind – recently enjoyed after hockey at Pizzeria Pummaro); Sour Porter Blend was not. Do I sound like one of those snobby wine critics?

THE PHILISTINE: Vin d'orge (10.5%, English Barley Wine by Harricana)



Next I had a taster of vin d'orge, which I characterized as entering the alcohol (or spirits) zone. It smelled like Scotch. I am not a whiskey drinker, but I have noticed that Irish whiskey is milder than Scotch. This "beer" was a notch or two milder than that. I would prefer this to full-on Scotch, but it is just not what I think of when I say or think "beer."

THE CONNOISSEUR: Porter Maya (4.9%, English Porter by Harricana), Vin d'orge (10.5%, English Barley Wine by Harricana)

This is a nice smooth after-dinner ale with a subdued chipotle pepper bite. Again, an experimental beer, but this time, it is a pleasure because it is not messed up in a complex battle of flavours. It has a nice roasted chocolate taste on the way in and a little bit of heat on the way down. This would be a great pairing with any Mexican main course. This is on the low ABV scale for a porter, but I don't miss the alcohol at all. Best beer of the night for me. I wanted another one but I wanted to try the Philistine's last selection.

I totally agree with his take on Vin d'orge and would only add that this is a more affordable way to enjoy the after-dinner portion of your meal, plus it's a half-pint, neet!

THE PHILISTINE: QV 2016 (9.9%, maple beer by Brasseurs Illimités, St-Eustache, QC)

Last was the QV. I found it to be very thick, not very carbonated and not very beery. But I am not usually one to want "additions" (maple syrup, in this case) in my beer. But don't listen to me. I'm the Philistine...

THE CONNOISSEUR: Keeping pace with the Philistine, I wanted to try QV 2016 on tap for the first time. I have the bottled version of this ale every spring because I love maple syrup. This is such a great dessert beer, super smooth and not fake sugary sweet but real maple sweet. Too flat on tap, but do try the bottled version because it is spectacular.

THE PHILISTINE

The décor of Harricana is not very

Fall Prevention Course (also known as the "Stand Up" program). It's free (!) but you need to commit to two sessions weekly (Monday mornings + Thursday afternoons). Course runs for 12 weeks. Starts mid-September. Just a very few places left. Designed by Public Health Dept of Montreal.

Inter-Generational Choir ("The Interlink Choir") Come and sing your heart out with fellow seniors and grade VI kids, led by hilarious choirmaster Ian Lebofsky. No previous experience, musical abilities or even singing talent needed. You will feel great. Endorsed by the Canadian Mental Health Association. (We're not kidding, it really is).

60+ Walking Group ("The Walkie-Talkies") gets together twice weekly for exercise and a good time. Enquire also about our community lunches, our many other courses including Bridge at 3 levels, French Conversation, Tango, Line Dancing, Tai Chi and several exercise classes. We also have interest groups and plenty of volunteering opportunities too.

Give us a call at 514-932-2326. We're right in your neighbourhood at

4695 de Maisonneuve West, corner of Lansdowne. A non-profit community centre for independent seniors and retirees 60+.

on-profit community centre for independent seniors and retirees 60 "We're powered by seniors!"



Investors pedal again for the





warm, in my view. It reminds me of a hotel restaurant or high-end airport lounge. For the second time in this column, though, I can comment favourably on innovative bathroom design. To mitigate the effects of (or maybe even encourage?) graffiti, Harricana has put up wallpaper with thought and dialogue bubbles like cartoon characters use. Patrons write in their wise and not-so-wise thoughts for others to see. Memorable concept, even if I can't remember any of the *bon mots*.

The service was uniformly friendly, excellent and knowledgeable. I continue to be amazed that there are numerous wait staff in Montreal who are highly informed

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Children's

For the third year in a row, Investors Group Westmount took part in the Pedal for Kids fundraising event for the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation. On June 17 at Phillips Square, 30 participants rode the firm's "Mighty Bike." "The cause is now part of our vision and commitment to the community for the Westmount region, and rain or shine, we will continue to support it each year," said Investors Group regional director for Westmount Carlo Arlia, who rides each year with the staff. It was the 25th anniversary of Pedal for Kids, which coincided with Investors Group's 90th anniversary, according to the organization's business development and training supervisor Blanca Villalta.

Photo courtesy of B. Villalta

and keen about beer. With equal aplomb, they can banter with Greg or help me out with all my narrow-palate problems.

THE CONNOISSEUR

Harricana is an experimental beer lab/restaurant. It has been reviewed for its food offerings where you can choose from a monk fish burger, duck confit croquettes, kale salad, or beer-can roasted chicken, to name a few. You've got to give brewer Mathieu credit for his audacity but having a few more well-made classics on tap would be appreciated.



Police Report Female suspect sought in convenience store assault

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The following news story is based on information from police reports provided by a Station 12 constable in an interview with the reporter.

On August 5 around 11 pm, a St. Catherine St. convenience store clerk who refused to serve a client was assaulted with a blunt object when the angry customer returned a short time later seeking vengeance.

After throwing the object at the store attendant, things got worse, according to a Montreal police official.

"On the way out, she made threats that she would do damage to the store," said Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière, who described the suspect as a 50-year-old woman.

The attendant sustained minor injuries, and Laperrière said there was no property damage. The object used in the assault was later turned over to the police by the attendant. Investigators are examining images captured by an in-store video surveillance camera for evidence. "Following further investigation, hopefully we will be able to identify the suspect," Laperrière added.

Bike thefts

August is shaping up to be a month when police at Station 12 received reports of stolen bicycles more often than usual.

On August 4, sometime between 4:30 and 8 pm, a hybrid bike, which had been locked on Wood Ave. near the entrance to the Metro, was stolen. In a complaint to the police, the owner said he'd used a combination lock to secure it to a post.

On August 8, a Mount Stephen Ave. resident, who had just returned home after a month's absence, reported to the police the theft of an 18-speed bike that had been locked outside his residence.

A quick car break-in

Between 10:30 and 11 am on August 9, a Chevrolet Trax SUV that was parked for no more than a half-hour near the summit on Devon Ave. near Surrey Gardens was broken into, and a purse inside was stolen.

"Two windows were broken," said Laperrière, adding that the suspects managed to steal a purse that had been left on the passenger seat in the open.

The owner of the purse was later able to recover it, minus a wallet that was inside, in Summit Woods. Although the wallet didn't contain any money or transaction cards, the police report said the owner lost several pieces of identification.

Laperrière cautioned that it's never safe to leave valuables plainly exposed inside a vehicle. "Even if you're leaving for five or 10 minutes, it takes only 30 seconds for someone to break into your car," he said. "In this case, the perpetrator took a chance, hoping to find something of more value."

Canada Revenue Agency fraud

Although the annual income tax filing time is over for most people, Station 12 staff are warning that tax scam artists are still hard at work looking for vulnerable people. Sometimes contacting potential victims over the telephone, or through email, they misrepresent themselves as being agents of the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

On the internet, scammers will try to send email recipients to phony CRA websites, where personal information is gathered or where phony tax payments are demanded by credit card or electronic transfer. In some cases, the scammers will threaten to issue an arrest warrant unless the sum is paid immediately.

According to a press release issued by the Montreal police, potential victims might also receive a call from someone claiming to have a tax refund for them, but personal information must be provided in order to receive it.

If in doubt about a caller claiming to be with the CRA, the police suggest contacting the government agency directly at 1.800.959.7383. They also recommend reporting suspicious calls to 911 or by making a criminal activity report at Station 12 at 21 Stanton St.



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