

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

October 1, 2008

We are Westmount

Vol. 2 No. 10a

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To come: 5 issues in a row Indie succeeds at weekliness

BY DAVID PRICE, EDITOR & PUBLISHER

So far, so good. Our experiment with weekliness has been a success. It is no time for complacency around our office, but we have decided to extend the test until our November 5 edition (at least).

Thank you – advertisers, readers and supporters – for your help in getting us this far. I *continued on p. 6*

Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year to my clients, friends and family. Thank you for your loyalty and ongoing support.

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Hundreds appeal for new arena

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount city council was urged to “move forward” with the arena renewal project in a petition of 425 names collected in a grassroots movement and presented at the council meeting Monday last week.

Citing a growing demand for “two new ice surfaces and an updated swimming pool on the existing site,” it was deposited without additional comment by soccer and hockey coach Jim Stein, a Westmount father of four.

“This is truly a grassroots petition to put to paper what people’s feelings are,” he later explained.

It stemmed from the frustrations of many who had been hoping for new facilities since even before the first proposals were made in 1999. The petition had no political base or organizing group. More and more copies of the petition are circulating, however, as neighbours and arena users hear about it and decide to collect signatures, he said.

In fact, Sports & Recreation director Mike Deegan *continued on p. 13*

St. Louis' farewell



Westmount's retiring director general Bruce St. Louis (centre left), flanked by son Kyle and wife Eileen, with Mayor Karin Marks (right), at his last council meeting September 22. For story, see p. 7.

Montreal withholds agglom money

Spirit of Bill 22 dying?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A “terrible precedent” is being set by the city of Montreal in unilaterally withholding some \$800,000 for arterial road maintenance to Westmount from the agglomeration budget, Mayor Karin Marks said last week.

The move is seen as using agglomeration money as leverage in its own \$2.4 million claim against Westmount in an unrelated dispute over demerger accounting. As part of the same dispute, Westmount denies it owes the \$2.4 million and claims \$21.8 million from Montreal.

“This is perfect proof of why the agglomeration council should be a separate entity,” Marks told the city council meeting September 22. “We have a problem as

long as Montreal has control of the money.”

As a result of Montreal’s action, Westmount city council approved a resolution appealing to the Quebec minister of municipal affairs to intervene on its behalf. Withholding the transfer payment of \$798,900 “infringes on both the letter and spirit of the various laws and orders-in-council that established the Agglomeration Council,” the resolution states.

Shortfall possible

The money had been allocated to Westmount in the 2008 agglomeration budget. Without it, Westmount could be left with a revenue shortfall in the current budget.

“Every time they (Montreal) do something like *continued on p. 19*

Don't Miss It

**Public Security director Richard
Blondin addresses WMA**
Tuesday, October 7.

See Comin' Up on p. 17 for details.

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Hawaiian night at Westmount One



Jack Neal, Mike Donovan, Mary Dunlop, Louise Bernard, Geraldine Donovan, Olga Dunlop enjoying pre-dinner cocktails

By Peter Kerr

Westmount One, with its four suites in the comfortable Victorian library. The residents are also active in the community, with the St. Lawrence to the southeast and St. Joseph's Oratory and Mount Royal to the northwest; is proving to be popular with residents and the families. The building has been constructed and finished like a five star hotel. The Gelber family are successful real estate developers in both residential and commercial projects. Westmount One is the family's second up so retirement residence following their ever popular Place Kensington on Ste-Catherine Street in Westmount. They understand the elegance and service expectations of an up-scale clientele and their families. I periodically stop by Westmount One to deliver copies of The Montrealer, and there is usually some sort of activity taking place. A mini-concert at the grand piano in the elegant lobby, a sing-



Sara Margolese (circle 1) and Elsie Polonsky (circle 2) decked out in Hawaiian style. Always poised and elegant Jay Taylor (circle 3) was joined by 2 of her 5 daughters. Dear friends – Dorothy McGain and the irrepressible Mary Katz.

Butler-Kisber recognized for literacy work

Westmounter Lynn Butler-Kisber received a Canada Post Community Literacy Award at a ceremony on September 25 at the Prince Albert and Sherbrooke post office. She received a cash prize and a certificate of achievement in the "Educator" category. The award recognizes her commitment to literacy through education and her mentorship of adult literacy educators, as well as her work on 147 committees and helping to raise \$3 million in research funding.

Butler-Kisber said she was touched that it was a community award and by the intimate gathering of family, friends and colleagues who attended the presentation. "Grassroots literacy is where it all has to happen."

Earlier, as an elementary school teacher, she was "involved in literacy in the broad sense of reading and writing." Later, with a PhD in education and through her current roles, among

others, as associate professor in the department of Integrated Studies in Education at McGill University and as editor of a peer-reviewed educational journal, Butler-Kisber examines "how we communicate and how we understand different forms of communication."

She was one winner of four in Quebec and one of 16 across Canada.



Lynn Butler-Kisber (centre) receives a certificate of achievement September 25 for her work on literacy from Juanita Croft (manager, retail business) as Louis-Édouard Baptiste (team leader) looks on.



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ECS welcomes new teachers

David Grier

Teacher of science and technology to grades 7 and 8 students and physics to grade 11 students, David Grier is a new teacher at ECS and to the teaching profession itself. "I look forward to living and learning with the students at ECS." Previously a Westmount resident, Grier maintains friendships in the community and shares his Westmount favourites: "My favourite lunch time sandwich cafe is the Fougagerie on Sherbrooke St., and I enjoy jogging around Summit Circle." He will be co-chairing the Environment Club at ECS.

Michelle Kocsis

Under the tutelage of Michelle Kocsis, grade 5 students will study math, English language arts, and ethics and religious culture. A teacher since 1998, Kocsis was educated at McGill University, left for Ontario to teach and returned to Quebec over a year ago. "I am very excited to be back in Montreal and especially to be teaching at ECS." She will be involved in the junior school scrapbooking club. Besides working at ECS, she enjoys the food that Westmount has to offer. "I have discovered that Westmount has many rep-

utable eating establishments."

Laurence Mireault

As a new teacher for grade 6, 7, 8 and 10 students, Laurence Mireault will instruct French as a second language. This is her second year teaching, having spent her first at Laval Junior High School. She went to UQAM for her bachelor's degree.

Michelle Ricci

Michelle Ricci will be teaching science and math to grades 6 and 7. This is her first job teaching at a school. For the past eight years, she ran education programs through community centres and camps. She is involved in several extra-curricular activities at ECS including recreational softball, swimming and robotics. Her ties to Westmount? "I live in Westmount, and love the community so far!"

Michael Supino

Grade 11 students at ECS will have Michael Supino as their Mathematics 536 teacher this year. He has been teaching high school for the past 37 years and was the head of the mathematics department at Chambly County Academy in St. Lambert for the previous 10 years. He says he is hoping to organize a weekend cycling team for the school. *more to come...*



Back row, from left: Michelle Ricci, David Grier, Michael Supino; Front row: Michelle Kocsis, Laurence Mireault.

Boisvert to step down, Marianopolis searches for leader

After leading Marianopolis through more than a decade of significant change, director general Françoise Boisvert, CND will step down in June 2009, board of governors chairwoman Mary Liistro Hebert has announced. The search for a replacement begins next month.

"Sister Boisvert has selflessly and ex-

pertly guided the college through a crucial era in its storied 100-year history," Hebert said.

"The college as a whole is better positioned as it embarks on its second century, in no small part thanks to her hard work and dedication. She will leave Marianopolis a stronger place."

Rainbowl/Sunbowl



From left, front row: Odette Nadeau, Denis Proulx (Public Security), unidentified; back row: Louis Léger (Public Security), Mayor Karin Marks, councillors Nicole Forbes, Cynthia Lulham and Tom Thompson, and Jerry Dolar (Information Systems) on September 17.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

The final of the city staff's lawn bowling tournament was rained out on September 17 (although some ends were played). Sunny days returned on September 24, allowing the "Dee-Gees" to claim the Mayor's Trophy for the second year in a row.

The winning team comprised director

general Bruce St. Louis, executive assistant Roma Chaykowsky, communications agent Andrew Ross and executive assistant Marie José Aubertin. They edged out the Montreal police team of Michel Wilson, Pierre Liboiron, Steven Goldberg and Adalbert Pimentel.

The final score? 6-5.

New leader at Batshaw

Westmount resident Margaret Douek has been appointed executive director of Batshaw Youth and Family Centres.

She succeeds Michael Udy who retires from this position on October 10. Douek was previously assistant executive director for four years. She has worked in youth protection at the Centre Jeunesse de Laval, Jewish Family Services and Shawbridge Youth Centres.

Batshaw Centres provide services to

children and families in situations of sexual and physical abuse, neglect, behaviour problems and delinquency.



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Mayor's Column

Managing change in Westmount

BY KARIN MARKS,
MAYOR OF WESTMOUNT

Every generation has seen change, but each one sees it happen more quickly and in greater amounts than the last. Having been a member of five city councils, this has surely been my experience. If one looks back at Westmount's 134-year history (not something I can do personally) our community has prided itself on stability, predictability, responsibility and quality – all values rooted in tradition – and tradition by its very nature ensures a certain consistency.

There has been stability over many decades in the demographic diversity, the number of residents in our population, in the built environment, the attitudes towards volunteerism and governance and, until lately, even in the surrounding neighbourhoods.

The community has always, however slowly, adapted to the changes and local innovations that generally have fine tuned our practices to improve the quality of our lives.

Whether down-zoning the size of buildings in the eighties, or developing character areas and renovation guidelines; eliminating toxic pesticides, or rebuilding and computerizing our library, or putting a moratorium on new restaurants in our commercial sectors – all were ways to

manage change.

Throughout it all, councils have worked together as a cohesive team along with residents to find consensus on these modifications to existing practices. And then there have been the changes that council, with the support of the community has worked hard to prevent or at least to mitigate the impact for Westmounters.

Mega changes

From the creation of mega police stations to that of the megacity, to the impact of the agglomeration or the Superhospital, to the potential airport train shuttle, we have fought to protect our unique way of life. Even acknowledging the benefits of creating new hospitals and increasing public transit, the concerns of local residents must be taken into account.

Most of these latter changes that equate massively bigger with better leave some skeptical and fearful of new developments and wanting to maintain the status quo. On a smaller scale, there are Westmounters who clearly wish to have larger homes and others who express the need for newer, bigger and better facilities.

These issues are not new. Radical change was occurring in Westmount even as far back as 1899 when a library and subsequently Victoria Hall were being built on park land. Then in the 1960s Westmount Square was built. While an ar-

chitectural gem, it completely changed a part of Westmount. Permission to build Manoir Westmount, a model seniors' residence, came perilously close to being refused when a referendum was held on the necessary zoning change in the 1970s. Attitudes and public values are mutable.

Change is inevitable but how do we assess what is necessary, acceptable, and appropriate for our current and future residents? How do we control and manage it? How do we best use the expertise and an architectural review process that has been so crucial to preserving the quality of our current environment?

For years, residents have had a voice on zoning changes before council voted on them. When we built the library, public opinion was sought and received. Many voices were heard on the project. With the arena project, we held an initial open consultation and have committed to a city-wide poll when preliminary plans and costs are known. We recently held an open meeting with residents in lower Westmount and the representatives of CP and the Agence Metropolitain de Transport to exchange ideas and concerns about the effects of increased public transit and the necessary changes to the infrastructure which would be essential to render it acceptable. The same will be done with the Ministry of Transport who will be rebuilding the Turcot Yards, impacting many in our community.

More input on demos

Some years ago we implemented a process to address demolition in Westmount. Under this new process, demolition requests and replacement building proposals for them were submitted to public scrutiny.

However, for proposals for new buildings or major additions unrelated to demolition, residents whose surroundings will be changed by construction are unaware of the changes until they have been made. Several councils have grappled with this issue and I have long believed that it would be in the public interest if there was an opportunity for open discussion about projects for any new houses or major additions before the permits were issued.

- In bringing this about, I see two caveats:
- (1) The permit process could become significantly longer, more cumbersome, more costly and potentially divisive, and
 - (2) The potential for political lobbying increases.

To date, our heritage has been well pro-

tected with the decisions being based primarily on architectural integrity. The question remains, how can we best assure that all of the implications of change are understood before granting permits? Any such process(es) would hopefully increase civic participation and responsibility. Such changes would require new legislation and a willingness of all to accept a longer and more rigorous permit process. Certainly this is a topic for public dialogue.

Throughout my years on city council, I have always been proud that the mayor, city councillors and Westmount public servants are very accessible – by phone, at city hall and now on our web site or by email. While we will continue to hold meetings with citizens and to distribute information as appropriate on all areas of change, your comments are not only welcome but important for us to manage change effectively. Change is inevitable. Citizen involvement is not, but it is a philosophy to which we continue to be deeply committed.

Parent assaulted protecting sidewalk for son

St. Leo's was the scene of an altercation on September 25.

It began when Clarke Ave. resident Cynthia Campbell – who has had previous problems and complaints about traffic, including an incident earlier this month – confronted a driver as he drove onto the sidewalk while executing a U-turn. Campbell explained that her autistic son was standing there and might not move when presented with a car. The driver told her to “get out of his face.”

As Campbell went inside her house for her cellphone-camera, the driver's companion dropped a boy off at St. Leo's.

When Campbell's husband tried to take a photograph of the car in question, the driver's companion knocked the cell phone out of his hand. The driver followed up with a threat to break Campbell's windows.

Campbell told the *Independent* that the police would not follow up on the incident without a name and the school would not identify the couple. The police could not be reached for comment. The school did not return a call for comment.

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EDITOR & PUBLISHER:

David Price 514.935.4537

EDITORIAL COORDINATOR:

Kristin McNeill 514.223.3578

indie@westmountindependent.com

CHIEF REPORTER:

Laureen Sweeney

laureen@westmountindependent.com

LAYOUT: Studio Melrose/Ted Sancton

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Civic Alert

TMR mayor envies Westmount's DG pick

BY DON WEDGE



"We would have loved to have him back!" That's what TMR Mayor Vera Danyluk told her Westmount colleague Karin Marks on hearing that Duncan Campbell had been chosen as Westmount's director general.

Campbell was TMR's DG for 14 years before joining the Montreal megacity following the forced mergers.

John Miller, a former Bell manager and doyen of the TMR council, was no less enthusiastic – and envious.

"He lives the position as a responsible, professional manager. Westmounters are

really lucky to get him."

Campbell is familiar to many of our staff from the frequent interactions between Westmount and TMR – among them the mutual aid fire services.

He was an engineer with CN and earned an MBA before making the career jump to municipal management.

Period of change – Sancton

"It was a period of change," recalled Don Sancton, who was editorial director of the *TMR Post* at the time. "Reg Dawson, mayor for 36 years, had retired to be replaced by Vera Danyluk. Then John Warren, the long-serving DG, also retired."

Campbell made the transition from railroad to municipal life. "He fitted the mould, recognized TMR's traditions and citizens welcomed him," Sancton added.

"Employees appreciated his approach. Everyone knew who was boss, but he was ever ready to listen and help them with any problems," said Danyluk.

"As well as managing the staff, he had a great vision of the future and saw his job as supporting council."

Councillor Miller, who was president of the Mount Royal Municipal Association when Campbell was appointed, echoed his mayor's views.

"He soon got to know the whole community. I'm not sure all DGs do that.

"Westmount's staff will certainly enjoy working with him. It would not surprise me if he knows everyone's name within a year or so," Miller predicted.

After Danyluk left to head the Montreal Urban Community executive committee in 1994, TMR's elected officials hit some troubled waters. Two separate incidents lasted for months.

Miller and Campbell were among the principals involved. "The DG handled himself so professionally throughout, despite all the stress," recalled the councillor, a demerger fighter who was re-elected when TMR resumed its city status.

With the forced merger imminent,

Campbell accepted what Miller called a "terrific promotion" and moved to the megacity. At first, he was responsible as an associate DG for bringing 11 cities and boroughs into the Montreal system – and vice versa.

Afterwards, he led the massive task of introducing standard computerized administrative systems across the megacity. More recently, he has been working on the Tremblay-Zampino commitment to cut the budget.

Few would call either of them fun jobs! Danyluk was not surprised he took the

Westmount position.

"I know he missed the local contact and hands-on approach of a smaller city and disliked being swallowed up in a giant bureaucracy.

"I think he and Bruce St. Louis have many similarities. Both are extremely loyal and have a love for their communities, so that they do not count the hours worked," said the TMR mayor.

"You people are extremely fortunate."

Citizen activist Don Wedge's e-mail address is alert@web.net.

Small cities attract

In his departure speech to Westmount council, Bruce St. Louis said the worst day of his 15 years as DG was December 31, 2001, when the merger became effective. The happiest was January 1, 2006, when Westmount was reconstituted.

From the cities who fought annexation, Duncan Campbell was the most senior member to go to the megacity. He has now left its successor, Big Montreal, for almost certainly a reduced salary, according to TMR councillor John Miller.

Outremont's city clerk, Mario Gerbeau, also joined the megacity at its creation. But when he realized that the big bureaucracy of Montreal was not for him, he successfully transferred back. However, Outremont-the-borough was not the same as the former city. When he transferred to Westmount in 2007, Gerbeau became a city clerk once again!

Completing the cycle, Marie-France Pacquet, Westmount's former city clerk, moved downtown as an assistant big city clerk. But it didn't work out for her either and she has returned to smaller government by filling the Outremont vacancy!

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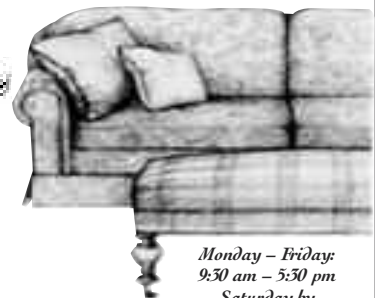
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Independent carries on 40-year tradition of community journalism

BY DON SANCTON

By any measure, 1968 was a tumultuous year, featuring wars, riots, assassinations, hippies, Trudeaumania and adventures in outer space.

It was also an eventful year for the Sancton family – parents John and Mary, sons Andy, Ted and Don – and a meaningful one for local journalism in Westmount. This October marks the 40th anniversary of the start of Westmount-based community journalism. That spirit is being carried on by the *Westmount Independent*.

It was in October 1968 that my father, John Sancton, took over ownership of *The Westmount Examiner*, established its first offices in Westmount and made it a force that helped shaped the Westmount that we know today.

The highlight of that summer was to be another family vacation to the annual convention of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association. John Sancton had been publisher of *The Westmount Examiner* since 1957 when he became president of Monitor Publishing, owner, publishers and printers of Westmount's paper, *The Monitor* in NDG, the *St. Laurent News* and



John Sancton shows visiting Scouts an early phototypesetting computer (circa 1981). Photo: Laureen Sweeney

the *Verdun Guardian*.

Examiner founded for Park Ex

My father was running Monitor Publishing for the new owners who had purchased the business from its founder, Hugh E. McCormick, a former goalie for the Montreal Maroons. He had started *The*

Examiner in 1929 to serve the “north end” and Park Extension, before moving it in 1935 to become *The Westmount Examiner*.

Community papers had become less important to the company. *The Verdun Guardian* was closed, and *The Monitor* and *St. Laurent News* sold to an employee, Westmounter Lou Miller. Only *The West-*

mount Examiner remained. My father enjoyed telling the story about one week when they almost forgot to put the paper out. He was, however, at heart a journalist and he didn't want to spend the rest of his career running what had become primarily a printing company.

Which brings us back to the summer of 1968 and our trip out west.

One morning we were in Yellowstone Park. Before we left the campground, my father stopped at a phone booth to “call the office.” He talked for a long time. He didn't say anything then, but that phone call had determined not just his future career but also those of me and my brother Ted – and shaped the future of community journalism in Westmount.

My father had agreed to resign as president of Monitor Publishing and take over ownership of *The Westmount Examiner*. He would revert to his journalism roots and try to make a go of what he saw as a paper – and a community – with huge potential.


Clinton connection

We were soon back at home where further tumult greeted us. Our oldest brother, Andy, announced he was engaged to be

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.....
continued from p. 1

hate repeating myself, but anything you can do to encourage advertisers (especially real estate agents and the City of Westmount) to choose Westmount's only locally owned newspaper is very much appreciated.



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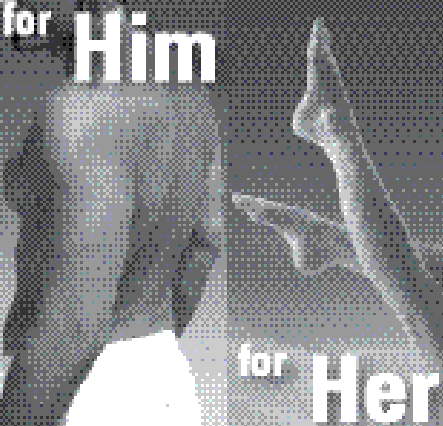
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The first Westmount office of a Westmount newspaper, 4630 St. Catherine St., which opened its doors 40 years ago, in October 1968. It was later the office of Brian Gallery, mayor of Westmount and publisher of Canadian Sailings.

married before he packed up for Oxford University on a Rhodes scholarship. (Another Rhodes scholar packing up for Oxford that fall was Bill Clinton of Arkansas.)

One evening when we were all at home, our father announced his change of job and also requested our permission that the company he would start to publish *The Examiner* be called “J. W. Sancton and Sons.” We accepted, little knowing that for Ted and I what we had agreed to would profoundly shape our lives and careers.

By early September, my father had found the ideal office for *The Examiner*, its first within Westmount. It was at 4630 St. Catherine St., an old townhouse at the corner of Blenheim Place, across from the Royal Montreal Regiment Armoury.

First real Examiner

He produced what was his first “real” issue from the new office on October 3, 1968. It had just 12 pages, but a lot of promise. He’d written pretty well every word himself, along with selling some ads and doing the layout. He was 48 years old, but was doing what he liked best, making newspapers.

Two weeks later, on October 17, the front-page story was a first – a report on

the September real estate transfers. The top listed price for the month was \$83,000 for 4380 Montrose Ave., while the lowest price was \$23,000 for 10 Springfield Ave.

The listing of real estate sales was controversial at the time, however, and my father took a lot of flak for daring to publish such “personal” (though public) information.

But what he was showing was that people live in, and are most affected by what happens in, their local community. He knew that community journalism, to be effective and relevant, could not be done at a distance or by remote control. You had to be there. And 40 years ago he brought locally based journalism to Westmount.

The rest, as they say, is history – 40 years worth of community journalism as carried on today by the *Westmount Independent*.

Postscript

The Examiner offices moved in 1977 from St. Catherine St. to larger premises on Hillside Ave. where they remained until 1995. J.W. Sancton & Sons sold *The Westmount Examiner* to Cogeco in 1989. It is now owned by Transcontinental Inc.

John Sancton retired after the family sold the papers and died December 28, 2004 at age 84.

Mary Sancton, now 91, lives in Manoir Westmount. See profile p. 18.

Don Sancton worked at *The Examiner* as editor and publisher until 1992. He is now a senior vice-president in Montreal with the communications and public affairs agency Hill & Knowlton.

Ted Sancton also joined the family enterprise full-time in the early 1970s and directed the typesetting and production end of the business through the transition to computerized layout. He operates Studio Melrose on Victoria Ave. and, among other clients, does the layout for the *Westmount Independent*.

Older brother **Andy Sancton** has for many years been a professor of political science at the University of Western Ontario. He is the author of *Merger Mania – the Assault on Local Government*, a critique of Montreal’s forced municipal mergers.

Bill Clinton spent 1968-69 at Oxford without earning a degree, but managed to go on to other things...

Send-off for St. Louis ‘overwhelming’

from photo on p. 1

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Not often at a loss for words, all Bruce St. Louis could say for a moment after all the accolades was, “This is truly overwhelming.”

And so it seemed as well for many of the well-wishers and staff members who crowded into the council chamber September 22 at his last city council meeting as Westmount’s director general.

“I always felt I had a friend at Westmount,” said Judy Philpott, one of many residents who turned out for the retirement send-off and described ways in which St. Louis had made their lives easier in his 33-year career, 15 of them in the top administrative position.

Among them, Betty O’Connell recalled how he had not only attended the funeral of her 107-year-old aunt but had facilitated parking.

And Stanley Baker noted how St. Louis had dug out old photos for the recent 50th anniversary of the apartment complex at 4300 de Maisonneuve – and also turned up in person at the celebration.

Former mayor Peter Trent presented St. Louis with special lyrics he had composed to the song “St. Louis Blues” and sung at the staff’s roast-and-toast retirement party

at Victoria Hall on September 20.

Ex-councillor Nicolas Matossian also spoke of the support St. Louis had provided to the council during his three terms several years ago.

Current council veteran John de Castell said there “couldn’t be a tougher act to follow” than St. Louis while Tom Thompson noted St. Louis had “seen it all” and was “the heart and soul of Westmount.” To Cynthia Lulham he was the model for a director general.

While members of the St. Louis family were also in attendance along with his wife, Eileen, and son, Kyle, it was a cousin, Robert Gooding, who said the family was going to be so happy to have him back again.

‘Loved’ his job

“I loved my job from Day 1,” St. Louis said. “I haven’t regretted a day – maybe tonight if anything.” What he tried to accomplish was working with citizens in the same way he would like to be helped.

Thanking council for its support, especially during the forced merger years with Montreal, he said January 1, 2006, when Westmount demerged was the best day of his life while there was never a worse one than December 31, 2001 on the eve of the city becoming a Montreal borough.

He had provided “enormous support” during the difficult merger years, Mayor Karin Marks pointed out. It had created a bond between them akin to veterans returning from war.

Not only had he served Westmount, she

added, but he had played a leadership role across the island of Montreal and especially in the recent Bill 22 negotiations on behalf of all demerged cities. And she thanked him for his stability and “quiet wisdom.”

Letters to the editor

THANKS FOR INDIE

Thank you for your newspaper. It gives me news about my neighbourhood and that is the purpose of a community paper. I enjoy it because it is full of information. The other newspapers don’t do that. They are a bit scattered.

VIVIAN AGAIA, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

SCOOT OVER, SCOOTERS

I do not agree that scooters are a less pollution-creating form of transportation, as written in your September 23 edition (“Scooting around”, p. 13).

Their engines are less efficient and unburned fuel is worse than carbon dioxide. The ratio of the energy used to manufacture them in relation to the number of kilometers they roll in their lifetimes is also very bad. Additionally, they are dangerous to use and cannot be used on

bikepaths.

Electric bikes, on the other hand, are more promising: the gearless motorized hub is excellent, and the less expensive geared models are good for those who do not plan to log many kilometers. The older lead-acid batteries were too heavy and delicate to maintain, but the more modern varieties (NiMH or rechargeable lithium) are better choices. Their price is expected to fall as production capacity ramps up for electric car production.

Regenerative breaking is a nice concept but not applicable to bikes since the batteries do not like this kind of short recharge cycle, and the super-capacitors required are still too expensive.

So if you look at buying an electrical bike, focus on a good motorized wheel, and have an acceptable battery that will be updated in two or three years.

PHILIPPE NORMAND, HILLSIDE AVE.

Westmounters in LOVE



From left: LOVE board member Josee Santoni with Westmounters Marcia Wetherup Bronfman and LOVE board member Brian Bronfman.

Anti-violence organization Leave Out ViolencE (LOVE) benefitted from the Rock, Paper, LOVE fashion show on September 23. The event was held at the Opus

Hotel's Koko restaurant. Westmounters were in attendance as LOVE board members and guests. The event was organized by Parasol, a committee comprised of



From left, LOVE co-founders Stanley Chase and Westmounter Brenda Proulx.

Westmount business owners Astri Prugger and Tracy Gartner, and Eugenia Leavitt, Lea Stillinger, Claudia Gravel and Selene Calef.



Westmounter Katrina McGaughey models part of the evening collection.

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<div></div> <div>Westmount vous informe... Westmount vous informe...</div> <div>Westmount Page</div>		<div>www.westmount.org info : 514 989-5200</div> <div></div> <div>Vol. 2/18 Publié par Westmount • Published by Westmount</div>	
<div></div> <div>TRAVAUX PUBLICS Collecte des résidus domestiques dangereux</div> <div>La prochaine collecte des résidus domestiques dangereux à Westmount se tiendra le samedi 18 octobre. Disposez en toute sécurité de vos restes de peinture et de solvants, des piles usagées, des pesticides et autres en les déposant dans le stationnement de la Bibliothèque de Westmount entre 9 h et 17 h. Une collecte de vêtements usagés et de vieux équipements électroniques sera également effectuée à cette occasion. Info : 514 989-5390. 🌿</div> <div></div> <div>SPORTS ET LOISIRS Ouverture des patinoires</div> <div>Patineurs : prenez note que les patinoires de l'Aréna de Westmount sont en opération pour la saison 2008-09. L'horaire complet de patinage libre est disponible sur notre site Web. La carte d'accès – installations sportives est requise. Le port du casque protecteur est fortement recommandé. 🌿</div> <div></div> <div>ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES L'Opération patrimoine architectural Visite guidée du Collège Marianopolis</div> <div>Participez à une visite guidée du collège Marianopolis, bâtiment primé de l'architecte J. Omer Marchand, le dimanche 5 octobre. Le collège est situé au 4873, avenue Westmount. Entrée libre et aucune réservation requise. Premier arrivé, premier servi. Info : 514 989-5226. Visites en anglais : 14 h et 15 h Visites en français : 14 h 30 et 15 h 30</div> <div>Exposition à la Bibliothèque</div> <div>Rétrospective de l'oeuvre de J. Omer Marchand présentant photos et croquis architecturaux. L'exposition se tiendra jusqu'au 12 octobre. Entrée libre.</div> <div>Art Westmount 2008</div> <div>Les samedi 18 octobre et dimanche 19 octobre</div> <div>Art Westmount propose une visite à pied de studios et d'expositions présentées dans notre communauté. Participez à cette occasion exceptionnelle pour les</div>		<div>DATES À RETENIR</div> <div>Jusqu'au 11 octobre</div> <div>Exposition : John Hill La galerie du Victoria Hall</div> <div>le 7 octobre - 19 h</div> <div>Réunion de l'Association municipale de Westmount <i>Rôle de la sécurité publique</i> Bibliothèque</div> <div>le 14 octobre – 19 h</div> <div>Société d'horticulture de Westmount <i>Jardins communautaires en compagnie de Daniel Reid</i> Bibliothèque</div> <div>le 16 octobre – 19 h</div> <div>Atelier sur l'énoncé de vision pour un Westmount durable Victoria Hall</div> <div>les 18 et 19 octobre</div> <div>Art Westmount 2008 Partout à Westmount</div> <div>le 21 octobre - 19 h</div> <div>Un patrimoine à conserver <i>Portes et fenêtres</i> Hôtel de ville</div> <div>le 27 octobre – 20 h</div> <div>Séance du conseil Hôtel de ville</div> <div></div> <div>artistes de partager avec le public leur art et leur vision dans le cadre d'une activité décontractée. Info : 514 989-5265.</div> <div>Exposition à la galerie</div> <div>La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les œuvres de John Hill jusqu'au 11 octobre. Info : 514 989-5226.</div> <div>Atelier sur l'énoncé de vision pour un Westmount durable</div> <div>Le deuxième atelier sur l'énoncé de vision pour le développement durable de la Ville aura lieu le jeudi 16 octobre à 19 h au Victoria Hall. Info : developpementdurable.westmount.org. 🌿</div>	
<div></div> <div>PUBLIC WORKS Household Hazardous Waste Collection</div> <div>Saturday, October 18 is Household Hazardous Waste Collection day in Westmount. Safely dispose of your leftover paints, solvents, used batteries, pesticides, old and broken computer equipment, etc. in the parking lot of Westmount Library between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Used clothing and electronic items will be collected the same day. Info: 514 989-5390. 🌿</div> <div></div> <div>SPORTS & RECREATION Skating Rinks Now Open</div> <div>Skaters take note! The rinks at the Westmount Arena are now open to the public for the 2008-09 season. The complete general skating schedule is available on our Web site. A valid Facility Membership Card is required, and helmets are strongly recommended. Info: 514 989-5353. 🌿</div> <div></div> <div>COMMUNITY EVENTS Architectural Heritage Campaign Guided Tour of Marianopolis College</div> <div>As part of the Architectural Heritage event, take part in a guided tour of architect J. Omer Marchand's award-winning Marianopolis College located at 4873 Westmount Avenue on Sunday, October 5. Admission is free and no reservations are required. Spaces are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Info: 514 989-5226. English tours: 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. French tours: 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.</div> <div>Exhibit at Westmount Library</div> <div>Open until October 12, enjoy a free exhibit featuring photos and architectural sketches of Marchand's remarkable design.</div> <div>Art Westmount 2008</div> <div>Saturday, October 18 & Sunday, October 19</div> <div>Art Westmount is a walking tour of open studios and exhibitions throughout the community. Take part in this rare opportunity for artists to share their art and insights with the public through a relaxed and truly enjoyable weekend event. Info: 514 989-5265.</div>		<div>DATEBOOK</div> <div>Until October 11</div> <div>Exhibition: John Hill The Gallery at Victoria Hall</div> <div>October 7 - 7 p.m.</div> <div>Westmount Municipal Association <i>The Role of Public Security</i> Library</div> <div>October 14 – 7 p.m.</div> <div>Westmount Horticultural Society <i>Community Gardens with Daniel Reid</i> Library</div> <div>October 16 – 7 p.m.</div> <div>Visioning Workshop on a Sustainable Westmount Victoria Hall</div> <div>October 18 and 19</div> <div>Art Westmount 2008 Throughout Westmount</div> <div>October 21 - 7 p.m.</div> <div>A Heritage to Build on <i>Windows and Doors</i> City Hall</div> <div>October 27 – 8 p.m.</div> <div>Council Meeting City Hall</div> <div></div> <div>The Gallery at Victoria Hall</div> <div>The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present the works of John Hill until October 11. Info : 514 989-5226.</div> <div>Visioning Workshop on a Sustainable Westmount</div> <div>The second visioning workshop on a sustainable Westmount will take place at Victoria Hall on Thursday, October 16 at 7 p.m. Info: sustainabledevelopment.westmount.org. 🌿</div>	

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Possible land for development. Great opportunity in hot location. The sale of the category 2 house also incl. an add. 9.1 ft. parcel of land on the south & west side (1483 sq.ft.) that is held in undivided co-ownership (50%-50%) with the adj. neighbor to the north. This lot has a servitude of passage. The 2 lots total 3000 sq.ft approx. **Asking \$645,000**

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**GRAND BLVD.**

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**DU CANAL ST.**

Loft studio, in the Corticelli, close to Downtown & Old Montreal, next to canal and bicycle path. Perfect pied à terre – wood floors, big windows, renovated bath, large kitchen overlooking interior garden, open living/dining/bedroom area and Murphy bed. Easy parking. **Asking \$219,000**

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Olympian comes home to Study



Andréanne Morin with Study students

Olympian, Westmounter and Study alumna Andréanne Morin (class of '98) visited her alma mater to share her experiences at the Beijing Olympics. It was Morin's second Olympics as a member of Canada's women's eight rowing team.

Morin and her team finished a heart-breaking fourth place in Beijing, "I loved

my experience even though we came within .7 of a second of a bronze medal."

When a student asked whether she will be competing again in 2012, Morin replied, "It crosses my mind almost every-day, but I am putting it aside for a bit as I pursue my new goal, success in law school [at the University of Montreal]."

Indoor pool also put on the table

.....
continued from p. 1

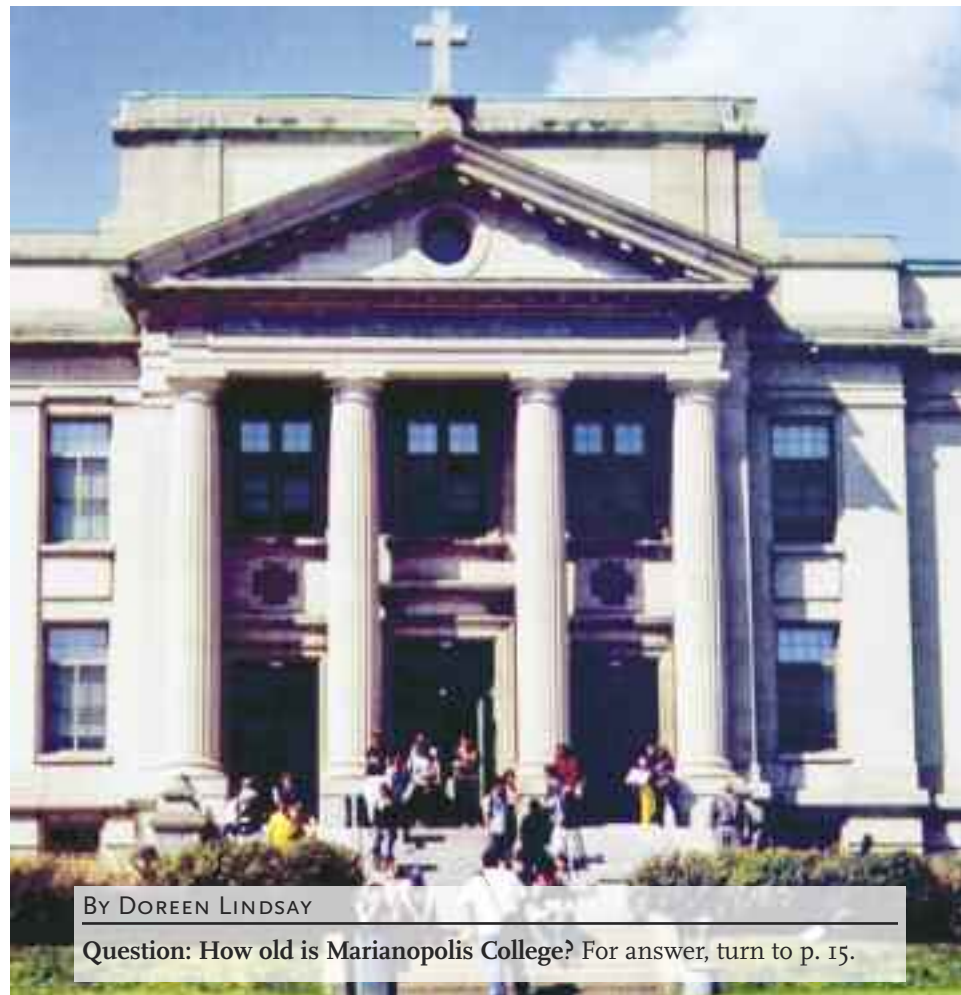
said he had not heard about it until many people at program registration began asking where they could sign. The long registration lineup was, in itself, indicative of the growing demand for the department's programs, which are limited by the lack of facilities, Stein added. "We just want the council to know the degree of the demand. It's not just for servicing the kids, who could use it more often, but also for the

older population who want to stay active."

Where can people sign up? Stein couldn't say. Since it's a grassroots movement, those who want to make their feelings known can always start their own petition.

Also on the subject of demand, Maureen Kiely asked the council to consider an indoor pool as well. Mayor Karin Marks said it had been mentioned to the architectural consortium conducting feasibility studies, but that it might have to be considered separately at a later date.

Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before Marianopolis College



BY DOREEN LINDSAY

Question: How old is Marianopolis College? For answer, turn to p. 15.

Colourfully Yours: Stay tuned

BY AURELIEN GUILLORY
& GRETA VON SCHMEDLAPP



Well, my dears, just a short message to all of my design fiends and friends. I am leaving today for further research into the beautiful Pima cotton bed linens in Lima.

Aurelien and your dear Greta von Schmedlapp will have a special tour of the famous textile museum there. We North Americans really don't realize the ancient history of weaving that South America and Peru have. Much inspiration for my Coleccion Aurelio!

A polite word of advice to all of you who are planning to "freshen" their abodes before the winter festivities... ALWAYS MAKE A FLOOR PLAN! YOU WILL SAVE TIME AND MONEY!

I can tell you horror tales that Aurelien has seen including sectional sofas that are too big to fit the wall, etc. More details later, and recipes for Pisco Sours.

Greta will be back on October 1, and will have some goodies for our Canadian Thanksgiving! *Hasta pronto!*

Do send me your questions and special places you have found (and want to share with us!)

We are at: aurelien@colorsbyaurelien.com.

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October at the Galleries

Collins Lefebvre Stoneberger: Steven James Brown, Katyuska Doleatto and D. Bradley Muir, photography. Exhibit continues to October 8. France Jodoin, paintings. Vernissage: October 16 at 5 pm. Exhibit continues to November 15. 4928 Sherbrooke St. 514.481.2111

Gallery at Victoria Hall: John Hill, photographs. Exhibit continues until October 11. Live Smart, Live Green exhibit, mixed media. Vernissage: October 22 at 6 pm. Exhibit: October 21 to 25. Jane Desjardins and Claire Salzburg painting Vernissage: October 29. Exhibit: October 30 to November 22. 4626 Sherbrooke St.

Galerie de Bellefeuille: Norman Laliberté, paintings. Exhibit continues to October 6. Joshua Jensen-Nagle, mixed media. Vernissage: October 9 at 6 pm. Exhibit continues October 20. Jacques Payette, paintings. Vernissage: October 22 at 6 pm. Exhibit continues November 3. 1367 Greene Ave. 514.933.4406

Galerie D'Este: Ariane Dubois, paintings. Exhibit continues to October 12. Zhang He, paintings. Vernissage: October 16 at 5:00. Exhibit continues to November 2. 1329 Greene Ave., 514.846.1515

Galerie Sandra Goldie: Susan Valyi, sculpture and Shireen Kamran, paintings.

Exhibit continues to October 3. Sandra Goldie, paintings. Westmount open studio: October 18 to 19. Simon Andrew, paintings. Vernissage: October 28 at 5:30. Exhibit continues to November 7. 4898 deMaisonnewe W. suite 100. 514.670.8327

La Galerie sur Greene: Peter Aitkens, new paintings. 1368 Greene, 514.938.3863

Han Art: Leopold Plotek, paintings. Vernissage: October 16 at 6 pm. Exhibit continues to November 16. 4209 St. Catherine St. 514.876.9278

McClure Gallery – Visual Arts Centre: Brigitte Radecki paintings. Exhibit continues to October 4. Gabor Szilasi "Famille", photography. Vernissage: October 9 at 6 pm. Exhibit continues to November 1. 350 Victoria Ave. 514.488.9558

Parisian Laundry: Valérie Blass and David Humphrey, sculpture and paintings. Vernissage: October 16. Exhibit continues to December 6. 3550 St. Antoine St. 514.989.1056

West End Gallery: Nory Steiger, paintings. Exhibit continues to October 7. Lynda Schneider Granatstein, paintings. Exhibit upcoming. 1358 Greene Ave. 514.933.4314.

9 Lives: SPCA has your cat

BY LYZANNE

I wish I could adopt all of the 9 Lives cats myself. I know that Westmount is a wonderful community for pets since I speak to so many of you, my neighbours, on a daily basis about our pets and this column.



Since we are all back at work and at school after the summer holidays and we are settling in for the fall, it would be a great time to give a cat a home. Please go to the SPCA and take a peek at the wonderful cats and kittens waiting for you. There are so many different types of long-haired and shorthaired, kittens and grown-ups, that you are certain to find a friend for life. The SPCA is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West and their telephone number is 514.735.2711. You can also take a look at their website www.spcamontreal.com before dropping by.

I would look forward to hearing from you about your pet, by writing to me at this column. Photographs would be nice also!

Artwork by Laura S. Cohendet

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Atwater Library at 180

François-Antoine Larocque, furtrader and businessman

BY SUSAN MCGUIRE

With the approaching 180th anniversary of the Westmount-based Atwater Library and Computer Centre, the Independent is pleased to present a series of articles about ALCC people and events from its start in 1828 as the Montreal Mechanics' Institution.

François-Antoine Larocque was elected first vice-president of the Mechanics' Institution in 1830. He was born in 1784, son of a fur-trading and commercial family in L'Assomption. Following his father's early death in 1792, and his mother's remarriage to a young Scotsman and Loyalist from New York named Hugh Munro, he was sent to school in the US.

At age 17, he joined the XY Company and later the North-West Company, and his explorations and furtrading were mainly in Missouri, Montana and Wyoming. He wrote two respected journals, the *Missouri Journal* and the *Yellowstone Journal*.

Upon his retirement in 1815, he joined other leading furtraders in the Beaver Club, where he became secretary. Like others making the transition from fur trading, he became a commission merchant, and invested in steamboats and railways.

Along with Louis-Joseph Papineau and Horatio Gates, F.-A. Larocque was on the board of directors of the British & Canadian School during the 1820s. A secular, free or low-fee school for English and



François-Antoine Larocque.

French working class boys and girls, some of school's philosophy was carried forward into adult education at the Mechanics' Institution.

He was a captain in the *Chasseurs canadiens* during the War of 1812, and was imprisoned by the Americans in Cincinnati for six months. He became chief warden of Notre Dame Church and secretary of its building committee. He was a director of the Bank of Montreal, a harbour commissioner, and vice-president of the Montreal Savings Bank. He was an 1822 charter member of the Montreal Committee for Trade (forerunner of the Board of Trade), a governor of the Montreal General Hospital, a director of both Bank of Montreal and Champlain & St. Lawrence Railway, and a trustee of the Lachine Turnpike Road.

Nevertheless, he was arrested for a time during the 1837-38 Rebellion. He retired in 1841, and spent his last years in seclusion, from 1855 to 1869, at Hôtel-Dieu in St. Hyacinthe.

His son François-Alfred-Chartier Larocque, active in Montreal real estate and in businesses including City & District Savings Bank, was a member of the Mechanics' Institute in the 1840s, and for a time – with his father-in-law Olivier Berthelet – was landlord of the Mechanics' Institute.



François-Alfred-Chartier Larocque.

History quiz: Marianopolis College

Question from p. 13: How old is Marianopolis College?

Answer: 100 this year.

Marianopolis CEGEP reopened its doors to 1,800 students for the new school year on August 31. Its large light yellow brick building on the hill above Westmount Ave. at Claremount was designed in 1925 by Montreal architect J. Omar Marchand as the Institut Pédagogique for the sisters of the Congrégation de Notre Dame. At the time, it won an architectural award from the French government.

Marianopolis developed from the initiative shown by the sisters of the Congrégation de Notre Dame when they saw the need to provide higher learning for women in Quebec. They began to teach in their Mother House on Sherbrooke St. at the corner of Atwater, which had been designed by Marchand in 1908. The first degrees were conferred through Laval University.

Much later, degree granting was transferred to the University of Montreal. In 1926 the school was named Marguerite Bourgeoys College in honour of the

Retail Watch

BY ANNKA MELANSON

Westmounter dips into the chocolate business

BY ANNKA MELANSON

Chocolate-lover Nada Fares was unable to find the kind of chocolate she craved, so she decided to open her own chocolate house, Le Maître Chocolatier (1612 Sherbrooke St., 514.544.9475, www.lemaitre-chocolatier.com), which occurred on September 13. Unsatisfied with the use of pure ingredients in the chocolates on today's market, she decided to learn the art of chocolate-making and to return to the classics, such as caramel, praline and *noisette*.

Fares took courses from a *maître chocolatier* in Montreal as well as in France. She makes all of her chocolates by hand on the premises of her shop using exclusively Michel Cluizel chocolate as her main ingredient. In fact, Fares is the only person in Canada to work with Michel Cluizel chocolate, which is known to use only the best, raw ingredients. Made from pure cocoa butter, using very little sugar and absolutely no preservatives, Fares' chocolates are the essence of pure cocoa.

The boutique's concept is to present each chocolate as a *chocolat-bijou*: a showpiece under its own glass dome. It makes selecting each delicious morsel even more enjoyable. "The feedback has been excel-



Nada Fares

lent since we opened," said Fares, "people return the next day and tell me that the chocolates are sublime."

In November, the second floor will begin housing an English tea room, where tea, coffee, scones and cucumber sandwiches will be served.

founder of the Congrégation de Notre Dame.

Marianopolis ("City of Mary" in Greek) became its name in 1943 when the school moved to the corner of Guy and Dorchester. After a fire, the school relocated to Peel St. where it introduced its music program, which continues to be popular today. The school subsequently moved to Atwater and then Westmount Ave.

In 1967, when Quebec established its CEGEP system it adapted its programming, began to accept male students and became a CEGEP by 1969. Marianopolis is one of only six English-language CEGEPs and is considered one of the top pre-university colleges in Quebec.

There is a wide selection of academic programs available to students: Sciences, Social Science & Commerce, Creative Arts, Literature and Languages, Liberal Arts and Music as well as various certificate programs which students may apply for once they are admitted: Commerce, Social Science, International Science, Law and Social Justice and Third World Studies.

An open house will take place on November 9. For details visit www.marianopolis.edu.

nopolis.edu.

The Westmount Historical Association is offering a talk about the origins and early stages of the development of Marianopolis when it was at the Sherbrooke St. Mother House on October 16 at 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library, Joyce Roberts, CND will be the speaker.

Doreen Lindsay is president of the Westmount Historical Association.

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Where do you live?

- ☐ Above The Boulevard (incl. north side)
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- ☐ Below Sherbrooke St. (incl. south side)
- ☐ Don't live, but work, in Westmount
- ☐ Neither work nor live in Wesmount

Do you live in:

- ☐ a house ☐ a duplex
- ☐ a multi-unit building?

Do you own your home? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you own a second home? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Which of the following newspapers do you receive at home?

- ☐ *Actualités Westmount*
- ☐ *The Suburban*
- ☐ *Westmount Examiner*
- ☐ *Westmount Independent*
- ☐ *Westmount Times*

Which of the following newspapers do see around town?

- ☐ *Actualités Westmount*
- ☐ *The Suburban*
- ☐ *Westmount Examiner*
- ☐ *Westmount Independent*
- ☐ *Westmount Times*

How many readers are you responding for?

___ men ___ women ___ total
___ anglophones ___ francophones ___ allophone ___ total
ages _____

What is your favourite Westmount newspaper?

How much time do you spend with an average issue of the *Westmount Independent*?

Please rate the following features and columns (1 to 5, 5 is highest)

- ___ 9 Lives by Lyzanne
- ___ Arts Scene by Heather Black
- ___ At Second Glance by Heather Black
- ___ Bridge for Bright Brains by George Retek
- ___ Building permits
- ___ City council & affairs coverage by Laureen Sweeney
- ___ Civic Alert by Don Wedge
- ___ Colourfully Yours by Aurelien Guillory
- ___ Comin' Up
- ___ On the Shelves
- ___ Profiles by Laureen Sweeney
- ___ Retail & Trend Watch by Annika Melanson
- ___ Underdog by Fern Breslaw
- ___ Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before by Doreen Lindsay
- ___ What's Cooking in Westmount by Anthea Dawson
- ___ What's in Store by Carola Price
- REAL ESTATE
- ___ The Inventory (condos)
- ___ The Inventory (houses)
- ___ Bought & Sold (house transfers)
- ___ On the Market

What do you like most about the *Westmount Independent*?

What do you like least about the *Westmount Independent*?

What should we do differently?

Other comments?

Thank you.

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Please return to 310 Victoria, #105, Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9
indie@westmountindependent.com
Fax: 514.935.9241

Bought & Sold: Real estate transferred since June 17, 2008 *cont'd from p. 10*

Please see paper copy for list of real estate transfers.

Comin' Up...

Wednesday, Oct. 1: The Montreal Chapter of the Council of Canadians presents Jane Needles, Quebec Drama Federation, and Patrick Goddard, Main Line Theatre and the Fringe Festival who will speak on arts funding cuts at 7 pm at the Atwater Library (Auditorium on the second floor). Free. Info: 514.935.1608.

Thursday, Oct. 2: Film screening of "The Great Granny Revolution" at 7:30 pm at Centre Greene, followed by Q&A with filmmaker and Wakefield Granny Brenda Rooney. Tickets: \$10. Info: 514.931.6202, cgspecialerevents@gmail.com. ● St. Leo's (330 Clarke Ave.) Super Bazar (clothes, books, discs) from 1 to 6 pm. ● First Thursday Gallery Walk of the Greene Avenue art galleries. Meet at the corner of Greene and de Maisonneuve (Galerie D'Este) at 5:00 pm. All are welcome. Info: Heather Black 514.989.9091.

Sunday, Oct. 5: "The Recent History of the Jews in Quebec since 1945, through the eyes of Marcel Adams" at 10:30 am at Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom. Cost: \$5 includes breakfast and lecture. Open to all. Info: 514.937.3575.

Tuesday, Oct. 7: The Westmount Municipal Association presents guest speaker

Richard Blondin, the director of Westmount Public Security, at 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library.

Tuesday, Oct. 14: Beginning of Fall Leaf Collection. For instructions, consult the Environment link on the city website www.westmount.org

Wednesday, Oct. 15: David Solway discusses his book *Big Lie: On Terror, Anti-Semitism and Identity* at Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom at 10 a.m. All welcome. Cost: \$8. Info: 514.937.3575.

Saturday, Oct. 18: Safely dispose of leftover paints, solvents, used batteries, pesticides, used clothing and electronics, etc. at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection in the parking lot of Westmount Library between 9 am and 5 pm.

Saturday, Oct. 18 and Sunday Oct. 19: Art Westmount weekend, throughout Westmount, including Victoria Hall and the Gallery at Victoria Hall.

Weekly: Come to a meeting of the Westmount Toastmasters club and find out how to overcome your fear of public speaking or hone your communication and leadership skills. Tuesdays at Victoria Hall at 6:50 pm sharp.



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Profile: Mary Sancton

Forging her own career

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Matriarch of the Sancton publishing family, Mary Sancton forged her own career as a social worker at a time when working mothers were not exactly “in style,” as she likes to say.

But it ran in the family. Mary’s aunt founded and ran a private school and her mother, also a teacher, later opened a Pre-K, both in England. “I would definitely say they set an example for me,” she says.

So on coming to Canada as a war bride in 1946, having already worked as a safety inspector at factories in wartime London, she was well prepared for anything she would encounter here – except what awaited her: the prospect of staying at home and cooking while her husband, John, worked as city editor at *The Gazette*.

Now retired more than 25 years, and never shy of expressing an opinion, she recalls how her work evolved quite separately from that of her late husband.

When John purchased *The Westmount Examiner* 40 years ago this month after publishing it for many years before, “it

didn’t change anything,” she says. “It didn’t really affect me.”

At the time, Mary had just enrolled at McGill at age 50 to earn her master’s degree in social work as her own Canadian centennial project. Continuing to work, she obtained it in 1972, saying: “It was fun to be at the centre of attraction in this way again as I accepted congratulations in my own right, not for my children’s feats.”

But the pursuit of education and personal development was a strong force in the family and one in which she had raised her three sons, Andrew, Ted and Don.

Born in Blackheath

Born in 1917 in Blackheath, outside London, Mary Bain was an only child. Her parents had lived in Montreal in the 1910s where her father, Archibald – a teacher and linguist – headed the French department at Montreal High.

“They made many friends here and probably would have stayed were it not for World War I,” she says. “My father was too old to be conscripted but returned to join the war effort in the censoring of mail be-



Mary Sancton, a proud grandmother of six, all pursuing higher education, a family priority.

cause of his fluency in languages.”

Mary attended her aunt’s school in Blackheath until age 12 when her father accepted a position at Winchester College. “I certainly met a lot of the college boys whom we had for tea every Sunday. They were so polite in those days, standing up every time I entered or left the room! My father never allowed the playing of cards on Sunday so we played brain games, which was quite mortifying for me against all those bright young boys.”

Earning a BSc at the University of St. Andrew in Scotland in 1938, Mary moved to London with her recently widowed mother and took a diploma in social work at the University of London. She spent the World War II years in human resources for the northwest district of London.

“Men had been called up for military service so more women than usual were assigned as factory inspectors. When we worked at night, it was in pairs going from factory to factory ensuring that safety, sanitation and age regulations were respected.

WW II munitions

“We had hundreds on our route including big ammunition factories. One manager said to me: ‘Miss, you should be married and having children.’ I thought that was quite inappropriate.”

But Mary’s time would come. One day, through her parents’ contacts in Montreal, an RCAF officer on leave turned up at her mother’s home. He was reported to have said: “If I’d known Mrs. Bain had a daughter, I’d have come sooner.” By the time the war was winding down, “Mrs. Bain’s daughter” had married John Sancton.

Once he returned to his pre-war work at *The Gazette* and found an apartment above a dress shop in Snowdon, Mary arrived by ship with other war brides in

March 1946. “It suddenly dawned on me: ‘Is this what I have to do, get up and serve three meals a day for the rest of my life?’”

But she soon found work at the Family Welfare Association until the birth of her first son.

After her husband purchased *The Stanstead Journal*, he taught her how to operate the linotype machine as a backup. “It wasn’t my line at all,” she says. But it quite impressed a *Time* magazine reporter who photographed her in action.

After stints in Fredericton and England, the family returned to Montreal. “I really wanted to move to the West Island. But John said if I wanted to go to ‘the country’ then let’s really move to the country.” As a result, they built a house in Ormstown where Mary eventually returned to work for the social services network in Valleyfield. It was a large territory needing an English-speaking social worker.

She and John maintained a small apartment in Westmount and, in 1972 she joined the Children’s Service Centre in Weredale Park where she retired 10 years later. “It was the last year of mandatory retirement at age 65,” she explains. “I wanted to go on working, even as a volunteer. But the union wouldn’t have accepted it.”

An avid gardener, she turned to community interests becoming president of the new Seniors of Westmount Action Group (SWAG). Eventually she and John moved into Manoir Westmount, whose controversial building he had spearheaded as president of the Rotary Club.

Fighting for social causes he believed in was a trait he shared with his wife who, in retrospect, says the decision she made so many years ago to build a new life with him in this country proved to be the right one. “I’m forever grateful for having come to Canada.”

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Mayor: Montreal ‘maintains negative atmosphere’

continued from p. 1

this they maintain the negative atmosphere we were trying to improve with Bill 22,” Marks later told the *Independent*. “It’s not constructive.”

Côte St. Luc, she said, is also involved in a similar situation.

It is an example of the way Montreal could “play hardball or bully us,” she said.

Potential in other areas

The Westmount resolution is to be sent to the 14 other demerged municipalities, from whom Marks did not expect any difficulty obtaining support.

Montreal’s current action has far-reaching potential in similar circumstances involving other agglomeration responsibilities and transfer payments, she ex-

plained. These include composting, fire services, sewage treatment and water supply. “This is why this is a terrible precedent.”

Westmount has already received its 2007 agglomeration transfer payments for arterial roads such as Sherbrooke St. and The Boulevard.

Starting in 2009, however, the demerged cities will assume complete re-

sponsibility for arterials in their respective territories as part of the new Bill 22 agreement, which redefines certain responsibilities.

In return, they will no longer contribute to shared costs for arterial roads in other jurisdictions, which is expected to translate into substantial savings.



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City wants our wildlife to stay wild, good luck!

BY MAY CUTLER

I have just received a pamphlet from Westmount telling us to take a hands-off approach to our wildlife.

I once tried.

I live in an apartment now, but for the 26 years that I lived on The Boulevard, wildlife took a hands-on approach to us.

In 1961, shortly after we moved in, I opened the kitchen door to check a noise. A furry creature with white mascaraed eyes stared at me calmly as it munched at a pizza box. I called my four boys to come see. They were delighted.

A folding gate on our fire escape protected our garbage cans from raccoons, but not squirrels. I once thought squirrels were dumb, that God made them perky and cute to make up for it. Why would they bury food and, instead of digging it up, eat every anemone bulb I had planted?

Before we built a wooden coffer to keep our garbage safe as gold, we put tight lids on the pails, too tight for tiny paws. One afternoon I saw two squirrels at work, one seated on the handle on each side, pushing the top off upwards. Since they couldn't see each other, how had they communicated in the cooperative work?

One for a zoologist to ponder.

Bats

Some Westmount wildlife actually succeeded in getting into our house. If you've ever been wakened in the middle of the night by a bat swooping around your face, you know it's as scary as the breath of death.

My husband turned on the light to dial Westmount Public Security, then quickly turned it off. My husband, his dressing gown over his head, stumbled down in the dark to answer the door.

The first thing Public Security did was to turn ON all the lights. They found the bat immobilized on a wall. An easy catch with their net.

"Don't you know," they asked, with controlled tolerance, "that bats are immobilized by light? It's in the dark they fly around."

Now we know.

Lady and the skunk

We didn't need this self-invited animal life. We had a live-in pet of choice. Lady, our yellow lab, was so tugged and hugged, if she'd been a plush toy she'd have been in shreds.

Was that why she got so territorial about our back yard? I shouted at her when I saw what she was cornering. Useless. Incidentally, the recommended tomato juice bath to remove skunk perfume doesn't work as perfectly as claimed.

Westmount has more dogs than there are breeds, so it should not surprise that it once had a wild one. He was huge and black, a sex predator no one had ever collared.

My husband and I thought we'd let Lady have pups. The vet advised we wait until she got a little older, so at the first sign of puberty, we were careful to keep her on a tight leash.

Outside, this big black dog appeared as if mapped in by satellite. We called the Westmount dog catcher. He came. He knew the dog well, he said, "But I can't catch him. He's too smart." (No wonder Westmount discontinued the service. What's a dog catcher for, if not to catch dogs that can't be caught?)

I warned my son Mickey to be very careful NOT to let Lady out. When, in the time it takes for such matters, Lady gave birth to four black puppies, I gave him hell.

"I told you not to let Lady out."

He protested, "But I didn't let Lady out."

"Don't lie. You must have!" I said.

"I didn't," he insisted, then sheepishly added, "I let the black dog in."

One of the puppies we gave to a friend in Massachusetts. He lived to be 19 and was well known as the smartest dog about town.

Lesson to be learned: never underestimate the curiosity of children or animals.

May Cutler is a former mayor of Westmont.

David - check Cutler signoff

OVERMATTER

At Second Glance

Canada 2008: a question of leadership

BY HEATHER BLACK



"Leader! Not a leader!"

Are you influenced by these words? That's what Prime Minister Stephen Harper is counting on. Like it or not, *ad hominem* fallacies – where an idea is rejected or advanced not on merit, but on the originator's character – are effective.

But, according to Yvonne Raley writing in *Scientific American Mind*, "Putting the focus on the arguer or person being discussed can distract us from issues that matter." South of the border, a candidate's misinformation is posted at factcheck.org, but here citizens are on their own.

What's the rhetoric?

Harper tells us he represents strong leadership, but is that world leadership? Following the 2007 G8 meeting, singer-activist Bono accused Harper of "blocking progress" in the fight against global poverty. When asked, 48 percent of Canadians agreed with Bono. Only 28 percent believed Harper that the allegations were "completely false" (Angus Reid, June 15, 2007).

Does strong leadership, include consensus-building? 55 percent agree with the statement "Stephen Harper may be a strong leader, but he's not the kind of leader that I'm comfortable with" (Ipsos, Sept 20). When Conservative Party legislators sent out flyers in advance of an election call, only 27 percent of those polled considered the mailouts acceptable, while 49 percent said that, as campaign material, they were inadmissible.

Harper insists that Canadians are leaning centre right. The truth is 41 percent of Canadians believe that "no current federal political party truly represents conservatism in Canada". (Angus Reid, May 30, 2007). Furthermore, 50 percent say that "electing Stephen Harper and the Conservatives to a majority government would be like electing US President George Bush as our prime minister" (Ipsos, September 18).

Ad hominem fallacies, clearly, underestimate the intelligence of Canadians.

What's the record?

Recently Dr. Paul Hébert, editor of the *CMAJ*, criticized Harper's policy of government deregulation for the listeriosis outbreak: "The Harper government has reversed much of the progress that previous governments made on governing for public health." According to Hébert, the government also tried to convince American regulators to lower US standards to accept Canadian products.

On questions of global warming at the 2008 G8 meeting, Harper argued that "there is no point in the G8 acting if other big emitters don't" (*Toronto Star*). When G8 countries – emitters of 62 percent of the world's greenhouse gases – are reducing their emissions to 20 percent of 1990 levels, the Conservative plan calls for a reduction of 20 percent from 2006 levels or no decrease from 1990.

And when it comes to the economy, Harper refers to a "Liberal tax and spend" government. In fact, from 1997 on – with Paul Martin and Ralph Goodale as finance ministers – Canada had a total of \$77.4 billion in budget surpluses including \$13.2 billion when the Conservatives took office. In the years 1961 to 1997, there were only two budget surpluses, while this year's projected budget of \$1 billion is doubtful.

And *ad hominem* attacks cannot conceal a lack of progressive legislation and leadership?

A local hero?

But such character attacks also misrepresents our parliamentary system. Unlike the presidential system, Canadians vote not for the leader, but for a local hero who will advance our interests at home and abroad. Think of Tommy Douglas, Lester B. Pearson or Pierre Elliot Trudeau.

When we send our best representative to Ottawa, we ensure representation for Westmount and we establish Canada's next generation of leaders. So go vote. But get the facts!

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

LifeSpeak teaches workplace balance

By ANNIKA MELANSON

Westmounters Angela Lehrer and Anna Mittag, along with colleague Tanya Narang, run the Montreal office of LifeSpeak (www.lifespeak.ca), an organization dedicated to bringing in Canadian parenting, eldercare, health and well-being experts to their clients' workplaces.

Given the demanding requirements of today's corporate environment, the Parents At Work, Generations At Work, and Vitality At Work programs provide employees with valuable information, tips and strategies to improve their work-life balance by addressing the "life" part of the equation. Topics include balancing work, parenting and play; raising responsible children; creating conversations that matter; debunking the myths behind popular diet plans and planning and caring for aging parents.

Retention and burnout

Lehrer, Mittag and Narang are professional women and mothers of young children. After having children, they were

ready to get back in the work force, but wanted to have the flexibility to balance work and family. LifeSpeak was something that "spoke" to them and allowed them to do this. Between them, they recruit and screen speakers and organize all the events. "The two hot topics these days at work are the retention of employees and burnout," said Lehrer. "If, through dynamic speakers, we can help an employee to make their life easier, it will make a huge difference to that person," said Mittag.

LifeSpeak was created in Toronto four and a half years ago by two lawyers. The Montreal chapter was launched in 2006.

"We pride ourselves in the quality of our speakers, who are known in their fields," said Lehrer.



From left: Angela Lehrer, Tanya Narang and Anna Mittag run the Montreal chapter of LifeSpeak.

Magazines

"Book of nature", *Lapham's Quarterly*, Summer 2008. Selection of new and past literature on the theme of nature including William Blake, Novalis, John Milton, Johann von Goethe and Al Gore.

"The new nature writing issue", *Granta*, Summer 2008. Special issue on new nature writing including authors: Philip Marsen, Seamus Heaney, Paul Farley, plus a graphic story by David Heatley.

"La politique de la division selon Harper" by Alec Castonguay in *L'Actualité*, 1er Octobre, 2008, p. 28.

"Le Québec, à l'avant-garde de la lutte contre la pauvreté au Canada" by Marie-Renée Roy, Guy Fréchet et Frédéric Savard in *Policy Options Politiques*, Sept. 2008, p. 57.

English Adult

The Retreat by David Bergen who follows *The Time in Between* with a haunting novel about the clash of generations and cultures. Set during the summer of the Ojibway occupation of Anicinabe Park in Kenora 1973, this is a finely nuanced, deeply felt novel that tells the story of the complicated love between a white girl and a native boy and of a family on the verge of splintering forever.

A Fair Country: Telling Truths about Canada by John Ralston Saul. In his vision of Canada, Saul urges us to think about three founding myths in order to rethink Canada's future.

Adult French

Ce que le jour doit à la nuit by Yasmina Khadra. A work of fiction about colonial Algeria set on the eve of independence and told through the lives of a few indi-

viduals, from childhood through maturity. The main character is Younes, a child raised in poverty in the city of Oran.

Les espions: réalités et fantasmes by Constantin Melnik, a highly ranked officer in the French intelligence services, who after the fall of communism in Russia, struck up friendships with some of the top Soviet spies. He offers here a chronicle of espionage in the 20th century, enriched by portrayals of colourful individuals and their daring adventures.

Children's Fiction for 9-year-olds and up

The Princess and the Peabodys by Betty G. Birney. When a medieval princess appears out of a rusty box bought at a yard sale, 14-year-old tomboy Casey Peabody and her family are stuck with her royal snobbiness until the young wizard who had trapped her there figures out the spell to send her home.

La Prophétie d'Ophélia by Elaine Arseneault. One morning, Ophélia, a beautiful gypsy, uncovers a bizarre prophecy while reading her tea leaves. This is the first volume of the *L'or des Gitans* series by Montreal author Elaine Arseneault.

Reference

Dictionnaire de l'Afrique: histoire, civilisation, actualité by Bernard Nantet.

International Literary Market Place 2009

DVDs

Cranford. The small town gossip, secrets, and romance of Elizabeth Gaskell's popular series of novels comes to the small screen in this BBC drama.

Sunflower (in Mandarin with English or French subtitles). A moving story of an urban family living in Beijing, and the battle of wills between father and son to do what's right or what the heart wants.