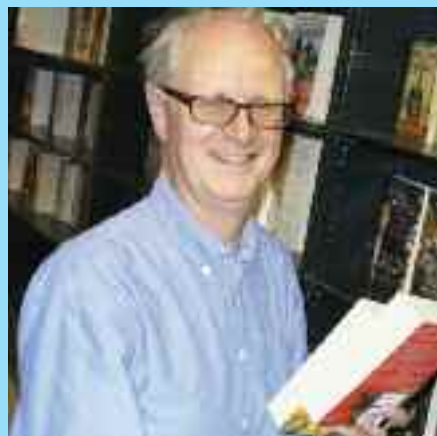


Don't Miss It

Meet the Candidates
at Victoria Hall
Thursday, Nov. 27

See Comin' Up on p. 13 for details.

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Election Interviews BY KRISTIN MCNEILL

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Westmounters leave giant eco-footprint

Despite the city of Westmount having been in the forefront of recycling and environmental initiatives for years, the average Westmounter consumes a lot more of the Earth's resources than the average Canadian, according to a preliminary calculation of Westmount's environmental footprint.

The results were revealed November 16 at the last of three city "visioning" workshops on sustainability at Victoria Hall.

With 40 people in attendance, city sustainability coordinator Joshua Wolfe quoted hot-off-the-press findings from a McGill University student research project that suggest that Westmount wears a significantly larger "shoe" than the rest of Canada.

According to the students' research, people in Westmount consume an estimated 8.58 hectares per person. This preliminary report indicates that the Westmount footprint is well above the Canadian average of 7.6 but less than the average in the US (9.4, according to Global Footprint Net-..... work).

continued on p. 6

Horsing around at Westmount Park



Charlie Horse, the mascot of the Calgary Grey Cup committee, entertained over 350 ecstatic students at Westmount Park School as part of week-long festivities celebrating the 96th Grey Cup football game. The committee is made up of over 60 members who paid their own way to Montreal to bring some western hospitality to celebrants. The school was entertained by clowns, a country band, western princesses, a native maiden and others. The committee also contributed a \$1,700 cheque to the school to buy computer equipment. The final score was Montreal Alouettes 14, Calgary Stampeders 22.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

Westmount's fire prevention office moving to LaSalle De Vries to Ahuntsic in staff shuffle

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Fire Prevention Chief Daniel De Vries has taken up new responsibilities in north-east Montreal after spending almost all of his 13-year career in Westmount.

His transfer is part of many changes in the island-wide fire department that will see the current divisional prevention office leave Westmount's Stanton St. station in January for LaSalle.

"I hope to be back in Westmount some

day," said De Vries, who has also been supervising fire prevention in NDG, Côte des Neiges and Outremont.

As part of Montreal's rotation of personnel, Sylvain Jalbert comes from Hochelaga-Maisonneuve to replace De Vries and head up the new office in LaSalle. In the meantime, however, he will work out of Verdun, while also supervising fire prevention in the Verdun and Southwest boroughs of..... Montreal.

continued on p. 6



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Winter is coming!



One more sign of colder weather to come: the seasonal poles that separate Westmount's de Maisonneuve bike path from the road have been removed. In addition, the section between Greene and Atwater has been opened to parking (See letter to the editor, p. 5).

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Arena/pool update

Provincial election has delayed funding application

BY MAYOR KARIN MARKS



In council's ongoing commitment to provide residents with timely information regarding the arena/pool renewal project, we are providing updates on the most recent news and developments regarding project planning initiatives.

- The boreholes and test pits have enabled Lemay and Associates to get a thorough understanding of the existing soil conditions. Conceptual design work is well underway and cost estimates are now being developed.
- The design team and the steering committee continue to work with Lemay and Associates on the development of a preliminary design proposal.

- The city has been in constant contact with provincial government officials, both in person and by phone, in order to support its application for government funding for the project. The current provincial election campaign has significantly slowed the review of grant applications.
- New background information, including interesting fact sheets on the current arena/pool facility and its use, as well as an in-depth history of organized sports in Westmount, will soon be made available on the city's website.
- The 2009 Sports Facility Membership Cards will go on sale on December 1 at the arena offices and at Victoria Hall.

For information on these or related issues, please refer to our website at www.westmount.org or contact Brigitte Stock at 514.989.5371.

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Evergreen ideas, Part II

Many who attended the Healthy City Project’s “Live Smart, Live Green” exhibition on October 25 wrote green suggestions on the Ideas Wall. For the first half of the community’s recommendations, please consult the November 11 issue of the *Independent* (p. 4) available online at www.westmountindependent.com.

- Here is the second half:
- 31. Drive a smaller car.
 - 32. Put compost into the gardens of Westmount Park.
 - 33. Make the use of 100-percent recyclable, biodegradable bags mandatory for dog leavings.
 - 34. Buy organic food.
 - 35. Buy a gas-friendly car.
 - 36. Get rid of toilet seat covers.
 - 37. Bring your own Tupperware/Rubbermaid container. Brown-bag your lunch.
 - 38. Ride a bike! Even in the rain.
 - 39. Have an Earth Hour once every month.
 - 40. Invest in a two-button toilet.
 - 41. Make stores keep excess packaging. Remove it and leave it with the cashier.
 - 42. Do not use Perlite in your garden. It never degrades.
 - 43. Demand that the McGill Superhospital be carbon-neutral.
 - 44. Reduce outside lighting on residences.
 - 45. Think of an induction hob for the kitchen. [It can generate] 40 percent savings on electricity.
 - 46. 3Rs: Regift this Christmas. Refuse

- gift wrap. Reuse everything.
- 47. Don’t waste food, eat it!
- 48. Don’t buy fancy lights.
- 49. Reuse greeting cards: cut off the picture side and use it as a gift tag.
- 50. On a shed, if there is no eavestrough, you can still capture enough rainwater with a bucket or two to water your indoor plants. They love it.
- 51. Have a mini-bus shuttle around Westmount to Greene Ave. and Victoria Ave. (even just one or two days per week).
- 52. Tram or “Electric Shuttle” on St. Catherine and close those streets to cars.
- 53. Bring your own plate, fork and cup to potluck suppers instead of using plastic.
- 54. Play less video games.
- 55. Walk everywhere: this is Westmount!
- 56. Baking soda mixed with water, as a paste, is an excellent degreaser. It is better than other options and is odorless.
- 57. Outlaw leaf blowers: pollution, noise, disturbance, dust, hearing loss.
- 58. Have garbage bins at all bus stops.
- 59. Have a lot of recycling possibilities to remind people and make it easy for them.
- 60. More carpooling.
- 61. Walk more than you drive.
- 62. Turn off lights when not in room.
- 63. Use Rubbermaids for lunch.
- 64. If you can see well in the dark, don’t turn on the lights in the first place.
- 65. Stop sidewalk cycling (except for

- children!)
- 66. Use white vinegar as a household cleaner for windows and floors.
- 67. Green roofs have many benefits. They last three times longer than regular

ones, reduce storm water, release oxygen in to the air, sequester ozone, create a habitat for bees, and reduce the cost of insulation by 10 to 15 percent.

Letters to the editor

ARENA PROJECT QUESTIONS

I wish to comment on the letter from J. D. Miller (“Westmount needs first-class facilities”) in the November 11 edition of the *Independent* (p. 8), in which he deplores, among other things, the tendency of special-interest groups to affect the outcome of city projects, specifically the efforts of Gary Ikeman to compel the city council to rethink its plans on arena renewal.

He chastises those who opposed the covering of Westmount Park with fake grass as being negative, compared to postings on the Westmount website running three to one in favour. The problem with this comparison is that there were no postings on the website that could be viewed by the public. The mayor repeatedly refused to reveal any information about feedback to the city other than to intimate that nameless millions had informed her that they were in favour! Opposition to fake grass, on the other hand, was open, democratic and widespread.

Mr. Miller makes the point, and it is a valid one, that the quality of community services and facilities are directly related to quality of life. This is precisely the message that I believe Mr. Ikeman is trying to convey. Pretty well no-one disputes the fact that hockey players deserve good facilities and that the arena needs improvement.

However, the site for the arena happens to be right in the middle of a densely-populated residential area. Based on a very brief consultation and “wish-list,” a contract was awarded to a firm to come up with a structure that encompasses not only two NHL-size rinks, but space for ancillary services such as weight rooms, gyms, a teen centre, training rooms, a pro-shop, a pool, food services and elevators.

All these are very laudable but completely inappropriate in a limited setting and anyway much of this is already available at the Y, a five-minute walk away. Municipally-financed arenas and sports fields are one thing. Why should taxpayers be ex-

pected to foot the bill for leisure activities already provided, more efficiently, by the private sector? How did “arena renewal” morph into a mega sports complex?

The city has no-one to blame but itself if the project has run into criticism. By its intransigence it has permitted no other site but the current one to be considered. By all means let’s give hockey players good surfaces and facilities, but in the context of what is appropriate, affordable, necessary and respectful of the nature and scale of the neighbourhood.

The arena threatens to be a hugely expensive undertaking, in the order of \$25



West side of arena.

million, according to the city. Why not a \$15-million arena? How was the figure determined, since not a single page of a cost/benefit analysis or even projected usage figures have been provided, despite repeated requests to the Sports and Recreation department. This does not even take into account the increase in yearly operating budgets due to new personnel and services if all the anticipated frills are realized.

How is this project to be financed? The city has assumed that federal and provincial government funds will be available to cover a large percentage of the project’s cost. When asked what contingency plans had been prepared in the event that alternative funding had to be found, the mayor responded that as far as financing goes, the city is currently *looking at the development of a preliminary plan*. Shouldn’t that part have come first?

By all means let’s have good sports facilities but let them be appropriate and affordable. And please stop trying to sell us on the *continued on p. 5*

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Letters continued...

continued from p. 4

idea that there is a link between grandiose “legacy” projects and a cure for obesity and childhood diabetes.

MAVIS YOUNG, MELVILLE AVE.

KEEP ARENA INTIMATE

I am watching the debate go back and forth on the proposed arena facilities.

If J.D. Miller (“Westmount needs first-class facilities”, November 11, p. 8) lived across from the arena as I do, he would be aware of the parking chaos caused when there is only one hockey game going on. If there were two hockey games going on, there would be no room for all the cars and traffic, and the area would be mayhem. The city plans on allowing people to park in a lot on the other side of St. Catherine, so now we will have hockey players, big and small, trying to cross St. Catherine to get to the rink. The amount of land available in this area is just not sufficient, and if J. D. Miller would compare available land with the arenas he has been visiting, he would understand a little better.

In contrast with what is being said about not enough *hours* of ice time, I would like to point out that we already have two ice surfaces. So expanding the size of our second ice surface will not increase actual *ice time hours* available. The only thing it will do is allow the ice time to be taken up with hockey.

As a figure skater and Skate Canada coach, I have spent the better part of 40 years in arenas here and abroad. What we have in Westmount is unique and worth maintaining. It is an intimate setting where we have been able to teach thousands of kids to skate. Those kids have gone on to be active in hockey, ringette, speed skating or figure skating.

The second rink’s small size is the only reason the rink is not scheduled for hockey 10 hours out of every day, and instead is open many hours of the day to allow families and friends to skate together.

If you look at the proposed schedule of the new rink, there is already much less free skate time available, and one hour less

of skating instruction for kids per week!

I urge everyone to try to take a look at this schedule (to be fair, it is not a finalized schedule, but demonstrates the motivation) and see if there is more of *anything* except hockey.

I wholeheartedly agree that we want to keep people active, but hockey is not the only game in town.

It is in Westmount’s better interest to maintain its unique and family-oriented arena and sports program.

PENNY ARSENAULT, ST. CATHERINE ST.

MORE HOCKEY, MORE DEMAND

Re: “Hockey enrolment ‘explodes’” (*Independent*, November 18, p. 1)

No doubt the hockey enrolment exploded after the city offered *level B teams*.

This is the same as saying that obesity increased when people had access to free chocolate bars.

Please, let’s be very clear that if you offer more chocolate to a chocoholic, his consumption will “explode” too. There is really no limit to this.

GARY IKEMAN, ST. CATHERINE ST.

LOOKING OUT FOR ATWATER LIBRARY

Regarding your paragraph on the Westmount Public Library’s hours (p. 8, November 11):

Many citizens will remember that in the last municipal elections longer weekend hours was in my election program.

And speaking of libraries, I think we should help the Atwater Library and Computer Centre with some extra funds. It has served Montrealers for 180 years!

But it is short of funds as it gets only 10 percent from governments. They have to do all sorts of acrobatics to survive – making appeals for funds and employing volunteers.

Many Westmounters use the library and they have wonderful lunchtime lectures and talks every week.

GERALD GLASS
METCALFE AVE.



Winter parking or bike path?

BIKE PATH SHOULD BE ALL-SEASON

Open letter to Cllr. George Bowser
Commissioner of Public Works & Parks

I’m writing to you today in a state of some indignation. Yesterday I was cycling from my home on Claremont to my workplace at Dawson College when – just past Greene Ave. – I suddenly found my bike path route filled with parked cars. After finding my way to the sidewalk, and ultimately to my office, I called Westmount Public Security to ask what was going on. I was told that it had been decided to give preference to parked cars in these two blocks, as “not that many people cycled during the winter months.” The fact that there was nothing posted to indicate to cyclists that the route they’d been taking for months (and were – despite what the Public Security agent stated – still taking in GREAT numbers) was no longer available to them, or to indicate where they should detour to avoid being suddenly – as I was! – up against the flow of traffic, was something that he said he’d bring up with his superiors.

I can’t tell you how disappointed this makes me feel, how abandoned by my city. If the city of Montreal can finally commit to a year-round commuter bike link to downtown, why can Westmount not allow a permanent link for these two blocks? Is the parking so important a source of revenue? If so, by giving way to parking pressures in this way, what is that saying about the stance that Westmount is taking for our health, our environment and our sus-

tainable development?

As a nurse, I might also underline the safety aspects of this seasonal retrenchment, as any cyclist on the path will tell you that it’s only been in the last few months that it’s started to feel safer in that area. Often one’s dodging cars coming out of underground parking, or pedestrians on cell-phones strolling onto the path out of Alexis Nihon. By going back to business as usual, we’ll have to re-train the other users of the road all over again next spring. In addition, the continued existence of the street bicycle markings during Westmount’s declared “off-season” is bound to cause confusion and potential injuries and accidents.

If the goal is to get more people to leave their cars behind and start to cycle, it requires that they feel safe doing so; having “here today, gone tomorrow” bicycle routes that are consequently often ignored by other moving vehicles will not make new converts.

I find this decision on the part of council quite retrograde, and completely counter to what the city is apparently working to attain in its sustainable development visioning work. And you’ll have to change the section of “Cycle Safe in Westmount” on the website where it says that: “Westmount has one bicycle path which crosses the city in the east-west direction along de Maisonneuve Blvd. including a section through Westmount Park,” to something that more closely reflects the confusing and dangerous status quo.

DEBORAH VAN WYCK, CLAREMONT AVE.

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De Vries transferred to Ahuntsic Place K knits for the needy

continued from p. 1

Was an important liaison

De Vries, with his understanding of Westmount, has served as an important link between the city and the Montreal Fire Department.

He not only began his career here in 1995 as a fire safety inspector, but was regarded as a “constant” throughout the forced merger of Westmount’s fire brigade into the Montreal service.

Well-versed in Westmount’s by-laws and philosophy of fire prevention, he has been the point person with whom city officials, citizens and community groups related.

The reason for the move of the fire prevention office to LaSalle, he said, is the lack of parking and office space now available at the Westmount station.

When the entire south region of the Montreal fire service established its operational headquarters at the Stanton St. facilities in February, arrangements had been made with Westmount concerning the parking of some vehicles at the Corporation Yard. (See *Westmount Independent*, March 5, 2008.)

But that has proven insufficient and

will worsen with the eventual hiring of new fire inspectors, De Vries said. There will not be enough office space either.

While De Vries was transferred to LaSalle in 2003 for a nine-month period, he returned to Westmount “at my first opportunity” – just as he plans to do again.



Fire Prevention Chief Daniel De Vries.

Westmount may consume more

continued from p. 1

An ecological footprint analysis assesses the impact a population has on the global environment by its consumption of food, energy, goods and services, and the waste it produces.

The study was the result of a partnership between geography instructors Karen Richardson and Janice Astbury; their employers, EEM Inc. and the McConnell Foundation; and Wolfe.

As a result, seven environmental management students were put to work gathering and synthesizing data that would have taken seven months’ time if done by any single professional, said Richardson. “They had a great learning experience working for a real client,” she says.

According to Richardson, it is Westmount’s wealth that allows its residents to consume more and so drive the city’s hectare count higher.

Notably, the students’ data conflicts with 2008 estimations made by the Center for Policy Alternatives in Ottawa, which calculated a lower per capita rate of consumption, at 7.7 hectares per person in Westmount (www.growinggap.ca/research).

Richardson feels that the difference

may be due to gross numbers that were used by the students for lack of more specific, measured data. In fact, she noted, “Trying to quantify an environmental footprint is still problematic across the board. There is no consistent data collection and no exact formula yet, worldwide, and there are a lot of variables that are difficult to measure. However,” she added, “it is safe to conclude from the students’ study that Westmount consumes more than the average in Canada and more than the average for a city our size.”

Canadians are already rated as the world’s fourth largest consumers, according to the World Wildlife Fund’s 2008 Living Planet Report. As a province, Quebec scores slightly better because of the use of hydroelectric power.

Besides presenting the finalized version of the Sustainability Vision Statement to city council in January, Wolfe will be working throughout the spring to consolidate the data from the study and the workshops into a proposed action plan with the help of more input from city staff, community groups and the public, to be presented in whole to council in September.

“It’s an ambitious deadline,” Wolfe admitted.

BY ERIN STROPES

A dedicated group of Westmount seniors is doing its part for those in need. The Kensington Knitters, occupants of the Place Kensington seniors’ residence, held their 8th annual fashion show on November 12 in conjunction with Dans la rue, a Montreal community organization that provides aid to street youths.

The Kensington Knitters meet weekly throughout the year, crafting blankets, scarves and toques to present to Dans la rue at this festive event. Place Kensington staff and residents acted as models for the blankets, with activities director Doreen Friedman providing a lively commentary. Piano accompaniment and an appreciative audience helped make the fashion show a great success.

The knitters welcome donations of wool and blankets throughout the year.

Father Emmett “Pops” Johns, the founder of Dans la rue, was on hand to personally accept the donations. He expressed great appreciation for the project, and pointed out that many of the most grateful recipients of the warm blankets were young mothers with small children.



Margaret McCaig models a handmade blanket.

Responding to this, Friedman observed “There are a lot of grandmas here, and they have a lot of love to give.”

A Greene event



Centre Greene held its annual “Treats and Treasures” bazaar and holiday craft sale on November 22. Westmount author Stuart Robertson (lower right) was among the artists, authors, and artisans with work on display. The bazaar also featured children’s activities, a hot lunch, and a raffle.

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Esprit du Sud marks one year



Didier Zorroche, the owner of Esprit du Sud (320A Victoria Ave., 514. 482.8191) celebrates the boutique's one-year anniversary this month. Zorroche stocks products from Provence, such as Fragonard perfumes, soaps and candles; Vrai body products (many made with sought-after Argan oil); Côte Bastide sleepwear and towels as well as Saoya jewelry, which is exclusive to his boutique in Canada.

Happy Birthday HappyTree!



Westmounter Hannah Warren, a HappyTree student, holds a birthday cake for Melanie Richards, owner and director of HappyTree Yoga Studio and Westmount resident.

HappyTree Yoga Studio (4010 St. Catherine St., Suite 200, 514.846.9642, www.happytreeyoga.com) celebrated its first anniversary on November 1 with a party attended by over 60 students and staff members. A pot luck dinner, with wine and birthday cake was followed by Kirtan, a call-and-response singing and drumming circle, led by musical guests "The Bhakti Connection". "HappyTree's first year has been a resounding success,"

said Melanie Richards, the owner and director of the studio. "The best part for me has been witnessing the transformation of the students as they develop new confidence, stronger bodies, calmer minds and true bonds of friendship. Our mission is to make yoga accessible to all and to create a community of healthy, happy and whole individuals. I'm proud to say that, so far, we have accomplished it."



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TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Ambassadeurs du compostage

Avez-vous des questions au sujet du programme « bac vert » de résidus alimentaires et de jardinage? L'équipe des ambassadeurs du compostage de la Ville, formée de résidents bénévoles qui ont de l'expérience en compostage, peuvent répondre à toutes vos questions concernant la nouvelle collecte des bacs verts. Les ambassadeurs sont disponibles en soirée et les fins de semaine. Info : 514 770-2088. 🌱



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

L'illumination du sapin de Noël

Venez en famille à la fête de l'illumination du sapin de Noël 2008 qui se tiendra à l'hôtel de ville le mardi 9 décembre à 18 h 30 pour y écouter des contes et des chants de Noël et couronner le tout d'une tasse de chocolat chaud. L'entrée est gratuite, cependant les dons de denrées non périssables au profit de la Collecte annuelle d'aliments de Westmount seraient grandement appréciés. Soyez généreux. Info : 514 989-5265.

Fête de la Hannoukah

La Ville de Westmount, le Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom et la Congrégation Shaar Hashomayim désirent inviter toute la communauté à une fête de la Hannoukah le dimanche 21 décembre. Joignez-vous à nous au Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom au 4100, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à partir de 15 h pour des activités, de la musique et un goûter traditionnel. Une cérémonie de l'illumination des chandelles de la Hannoukah suivra à l'hôtel de ville de Westmount à 16 h 30. Info : 514 989-5265. 🌱



SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Collecte annuelle d'aliments

Vous pouvez apporter votre soutien à la campagne annuelle de la Sécurité publique en donnant des denrées non périssables au profit des personnes dans le besoin. Des contenants prévus à cet effet sont disponibles dans tous les édifices municipaux, ainsi qu'au Centre Greene situé au 1090, avenue Greene. Info : 514 989-5309.

Les familles démunies qui désirent recevoir un panier de nourriture doivent s'inscrire auprès du

DATES À RETENIR

Jusqu'au 18 décembre

Exposition : Pierre Desjardins et Claire Salzberg
La galerie du Victoria Hall

Le 28 novembre – 19 h

Les vendredis du cinéma
Refugees of the Blue Planet
Bibliothèque

Le 9 décembre – 18 h 30

Illumination du sapin de Noël
Hôtel de ville

Le 15 décembre – 20 h

Séance du conseil
Hôtel de ville

Le 21 décembre

Fête de la Hannoukah
15 h - Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom
16 h 30 – Hôtel de ville

bureau d'admission des services sociaux du CLSC
Métro en composant le 514 934-0354, poste 348 ou 352. Les paniers seront distribués durant la semaine du 15 décembre. 🌱



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Les vendredis du cinéma

Venez visionner le film *Refugees of the Blue Planet* réalisé par Jean-Philippe Duval le vendredi 28 novembre à 19 h et participer à une discussion de groupe par la suite. Vous devez préalablement vous inscrire au comptoir de prêt de la Bibliothèque. Info : 514 989-5386. 🌱



SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Carte d'accès - installations sportives

Les cartes d'accès pour l'année 2009 seront en vente au bureau des Sports et loisirs à l'Aréna de Westmount, ainsi qu'au Victoria Hall, à compter du lundi 1^{er} décembre. Veuillez noter qu'une carte d'accès valide est requise pour les périodes de patinage libre et toute partie de hockey improvisée à l'Aréna. Info : 514 989-5353. 🌱



PUBLIC WORKS

Compost Ambassadors

Do you have questions about Westmount's kitchen and garden waste 'green bin' programme? Compost ambassadors can help. Made up of volunteer residents who have experience in composting, the City's team of compost ambassadors will answer any question you might have about the new green bin collection. Ambassadors are available evening and weekends to take your calls. Info: 514 770-2088. 🌱



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Christmas Tree Lighting Party

Bring the family to the 2008 Christmas Tree Lighting Party at Westmount City Hall, Tuesday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy Christmas stories and carols along with a refreshing cup of hot chocolate. The party is free, but donations of non-perishable food items for Westmount's annual Holiday Food Drive are welcome. Please give generously. Info: 514 989-5265.

Chanukah Party

The City of Westmount, Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom and Congregation Shaar Hashomayim invite the entire Westmount community to a celebration of Chanukah on Sunday, December 21 beginning at 3 pm at the Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 4100 Sherbrooke St. West. Join us there for traditional Chanukah activities, music and treats, followed by a candle-lighting at 4:30 pm at City Hall. Info: 514 989-5265. 🌱



PUBLIC SECURITY

Holiday Food Drive

Anyone wishing to contribute to Public Security's annual food drive may do so by depositing non-perishable food items at any Westmount municipal building or Centre Greene (1090 Greene Avenue). Info: 514 989-5309.

Needy Westmount families who would like to receive food baskets should contact the CLSC Metro Social Services Department at 514 934-0354, ext. 348 or 352. Baskets are distributed the week of December 15. 🌱

DATEBOOK

Until December 18

Exhibition: Pierre Desjardins and Claire Salzberg
The Gallery at Victoria Hall

November 28 - 7 p.m.

Film Fridays
Refugees of the Blue Planet
Library

December 9 – 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Tree Lighting
City Hall

December 15 – 8 p.m.

Council Meeting
City Hall

December 21

Chanukah Celebration
3 p.m. - Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom
4:30 p.m. – City Hall



LIBRARY

Film Friday

Join us as we meet on Friday, November 28 at 7 p.m. to watch the film *Refugees of the Blue Planet* directed by Jean-Philippe Duval and discuss it afterward. Please register for this event at the circulation desk. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌱



SPORTS AND RECREATION

Sports Facility Membership Cards

The Sports Facility Membership Cards for the 2009 calendar year will be available for sale at the Sports and Recreation offices at the Arena, as well as Victoria Hall, as of Monday, December 1. Please note that a valid Sports Facility Membership Card is required for all general skating and pick-up hockey at the Arena. Info: 514 989-5353. 🌱

Westmount, à votre portée. Pour toute question ou commentaire, veuillez nous contacter :
Westmount at your fingertips. Contact us with any comment or question:

www.westmount.org
assistance@westmount.org

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Jacques Chagnon

Incumbent Liberal tries for fifth (and seventh) terms

BY KRISTIN MCNEILL



Jacques Chagnon

Jacques Chagnon currently represents the riding of Westmount-St. Louis in the provincial legislature as a member of the Liberal Party of Quebec. He is also one of the legislature's vice-presidents and deputy speaker. Chagnon was elected in the Westmount-St. Louis riding in 1994 and subsequently re-elected in the proceeding three elections. Previous to that, he was elected twice in the old St. Louis riding, beginning in 1985.

WI: What is your connection to Westmount?

JC: I have quite a few friends in Westmount, but as you might know, I was elected in 1985 in downtown Montreal in St. Louis, and the riding merged with Westmount in 1994, so that's why I am here. I never lived in Westmount. I was born in St. Louis [downtown] ... I have some activities there because of my role as member of parliament.

WI: We read almost on a weekly basis about the shortage of GPs, the working conditions of nurses and the long waiting times for operations. Also, polls suggest Quebecers are very concerned about health care. Why the economy first, and not health care or the environment?

JC: It's shifting, even in the polls. The economy is taking more and more place. Just take a second to imagine what is happening in North America right now. Last month in the USA, they lost 1.2 million jobs in the manufacturing sector. We're expecting to have a backlash in Canada and especially in Quebec because 80 percent of our exports are [going to] Ontario and the USA. ... We have been quite lucky because of certain governmental decisions taken a year and a half ago concerning investment in the infrastructure of cities, roads, hospitals, schools, universities.

WI: In the 2003 election campaign, health care was the primary issue. How effective have the Quebec Liberals been in addressing some of the issues promised in that campaign?

JC: If you look at the level of illness, of cancer, no more Quebecers are being sent outside of Quebec to be treated, [as it was] before 2003. Many cancer [patients] were sent to the US. You don't see that anymore. Obviously the problem is still important – we are lacking nurses and GPs. Even if we [had] doubled the number of residents in medical schools in Quebec since 2003, they won't be working before 2010, even 2012. It takes between five to

ten years to [reorganize your residents] and [go from a student to a doctor]. It's the same thing with the nurses.

WI: How is this going to change?

JC: By doubling the number of students in medical school.

WI: And the nurses?

JC: The number of nurses has been decreased not only in terms of nurses working, but in nursing schools ... by encouraging them to continue their coursework at the college level and university level. Now we have proposed to give \$8,000 to the nurses who want to continue to work even if they could take their pension ... I am not saying there is no problem in the hospitals in Quebec. [But, for example] there are 50,000 more operations compared with 2003, and the waiting lists are down [for] knee, ankle and cataract operations.

WI: What do you do for leisure?

JC: I fish.

WI: I'd like to ask you about the current provincial animal welfare laws. In a recent television newscast, Premier Jean Charest simply said the puppy mill problem would be monitored. This seems like a weak response given Quebecers' increased concern, petitions, news coverage as well as MNA Pierre Paradis' petition deposited in the National Assembly last December. What are your impressions of the current laws and how they are enforced, and what would you say to your constituents moving forward?

JC: It's an important question. The way we treat our animals demonstrates how civilized we are. I have been concerned about this puppy mill question for years now. I remember that in 2005, we adopted ANIMA. I've been told they made 1,200 [prosecutions] since 2005, since the adoption of this law. But [even so], there is still a problem. I myself deposed a petition concerning puppy mills in May 2008. My own beliefs in this question are that we should we look at the possibility of having the department of Public Security be in-

volved ... instead of the [department of] Agriculture. ...

WI: Should the SQ be able to enforce it?

JC: If the Public Security department becomes the authority on it, then obviously the SQ will be working on that [issue].

WI: You've been the MNA for Westmount-St. Louis since 1994. What are your plans or ambitions for Westmount in particular?

JC: I think both places [Westmount and St. Louis] should be happy about the eventual implementation of the university teaching hospitals. That's my main project for the years [ahead].

WI: What else?

JC: I think it's enough: \$4 billion with two hospitals! The other question concerns the development of universities, McGill and Concordia. When you are in downtown Montreal, you are obviously working very closely with the institutions, from Dawson College to Collège du Vieux Montréal, from McGill, Concordia to UQAM, and there are 16 hospitals in that riding – it gives you an idea of what goes on here.

WI: One of the mega hospitals will be near Westmount, which will have an impact on traffic flow and parking, right?

JC: You should take care of another question at the same time: the removal of the Turcot interchange will be important in terms of traffic [decongestion] and open up a new way to go to the Glen Yards hospital, so people won't pass through Westmount.

WI: What is the update on the English MUHC?

JC: The MUHC is on target, and I am expecting the opening in 2012.

WI: There has been criticism that this election is unwanted and rumblings of people spoiling their ballots.

JC: There are many countries who would like to have elections. When I hear "we don't like elections," I have a problem

with that, to be frank.

WI: Why does Mr. Charest need to call an election to determine the governing party when he already has the mandate to govern the province right now?

JC: We have a minority government for the first time in 130 years in Quebec. When you are going to be in the economic turmoil that we are expecting, you better have a majority government. That was Mr. Charest's principal motivation when he called the election.

WI: Some have argued that the PQ has done much better in designing environmental policies and feel they did a better job at addressing environmental issues when in power.

JC: If I remember [correctly], the first creation of an environment department was done by the Liberals in 1974, and the first minister of the environment in Quebec was Victor Goldbloom. And you would surprise me if you told me he was a Péquiste. [Are you aware of] the concept of "protected areas"? We are thinking that ... we should protect eight percent of the land ... and we had 2 percent five years ago, and now we're at 7.6 percent.

WI: How do you rate the Liberal Party against the Parti Québécois in this regard?

JC: All governments have invested [money] in the question of [cleaning up waste going into rivers] in Quebec. We are pretty lucky in Quebec, in fact. We invested, 40 to 50 years ago, in hydro electricity development that created a better place for Quebec in the universal standards of CO2 rejection. We are probably one of the most green [places], not only in Canada, but North America because of the fact we are producing hydro electricity.

WI: Is the province in deficit?

JC: We are not in a deficit. We have \$1.7 billion in surplus this year, added to that \$413 million from the federal government, that generates almost \$2.2 billion [which] will permit us to pass the fiscal year 2009-2010 without any deficit, again. I can't speak for the future. Right now, it's easy to see two things: first the level of Quebec's deficit with the GNP is going down. It's around 34 to 35 percent of GNP right now. *Un fond de génération*, a generational fund, will be funded by the Quebec government with the sale of electricity by a level \$400 or \$500 million per year and is administered by the Caisse de Dépôt. In 2025, we are expecting to have something like \$25 billion to serve as money to pay off part of the accumulated deficit.

Patrick Daoust

Green candidate: It's not just about green

By Kristin McNeill

In the December 8 provincial election, Patrick Daoust is on the ballot as the Green Party of Quebec candidate for the Westmount-St. Louis riding. He placed second during the last provincial election in 2007.

President of a small private Montreal-based biotechnology company that he and a partner set up in April 2008, he has put a hold on business development and contract negotiations to concentrate on his campaign.

Daoust has a background in molecular biology and did his undergraduate degree at the University of Sherbrooke and his master's degree at the University of Montreal. He has been an active member of the Green Party since 2004. He grew up with an English-speaking mother and French-speaking father. The *Independent* met with him to discuss his views on the issues facing the electorate this election.

WI: What is your connection to Westmount?

PD: To be honest I came upon Westmount by pure chance. During the last election, we were sitting around the table saying, "Who is going to be the candidate where?" ... A friend of mine was already a candidate in my riding. They said "Patrick, you are bilingual, you speak well in English" and because I work in business, I said "Okay, I can take Westmount." ... I hadn't thought about it much at the time, but Westmount-St. Louis is a very green riding naturally, the way people tend to recycle more, and Westmount has a lot more environmentally-conscious policies than other municipalities.

WI: You are aware of the community's division over the question of artificial turf in Westmount Park because you say you



Patrick Daoust

attended a town hall meeting last spring. What do you think?

PD: What hit me was how people cared deeply about what went on in their municipality. That's what gives Westmount its strength – a deep civic involvement in the community. There were really well-built arguments for and against putting in [artificial turf]. In the end, I was against artificial turf ... because of this massive in-pouring of traffic to the area, and I don't think people really realize how much that affects a residential area ... The amount of traffic that comes into an area will determine the number of accidents and injuries, in advance. It's an urban design question – when a residential area is not conceived for that, it becomes a public

health problem. There's a local pollution problem [the idling cars, the local traffic, the need for snow removal, localized carbon monoxide] which is more of a public health question than an environmental one.

WI: This is a big topic, but briefly how does your environment platform differ from your main contender in this riding, the provincial Liberals?

PD: That's where it comes to the fundamental philosophy of the party. For example, now the Liberals are saying "the economy first." The way the Green Party goes about approaching any and all questions has to do with systems dynamics and the way you integrate everything into sustainable development. ... For the Liberals, the environment is one issue among others. We think that things need to be integrated in a balanced way within our society and our economy ...

WI: What do you do for fun?

PD: What do I do for fun? I dance tango! Montreal is a really big place for tango.

WI: There are two viewpoints when it comes to the Greens – one that the absence of elected officials is disappointing, both federally and provincially, even after years of working at it. The other that says despite lack of seats, the number of Green candidates and supporters are growing. What do you think will win over more votes for the Greens? Are the Greens relevant at any level?

PD: In terms of winning over votes, one of the big problems is the current injustice of our electoral system. That is something I have been into longer than I have been involved in partisan politics. ... Many people who would like to vote Green don't, for strategic reasons. They say "I'd like to vote for you, but I don't want so-and-so elected." It's almost engrained in the way people vote – this strategic voting. It's a problem and it's deeply unfair to the electorate, because do you vote for what you really believe in or do you vote to keep out what you most fear?

WI: We understand why proportional representation would benefit the Green Party. Why should Quebecers want it, as it's unlikely in the short term that the Greens will have a substantial representation in the National Assembly? Is what you're proposing self-serving to the Green Party?

PD: Absolutely not. It's not really about the Green Party – it's about the people who choose to vote for any party that does not

win sufficient representation – it has to do with freedom of the electorate ...

WI: This riding has traditionally supported the Liberals. With global warming and other environmental concerns, I wonder if there is nowhere but up for the Green Party of Quebec in Westmount? Are you hopeful?

PD: I am. I think our support will increase over time. Some people think that you once you vote Green, you continue to vote Green – once they're hooked, they're hooked. Like a good drug [laughs]. I'm not sure if that's true. ...

WI: Where do you stand on the partition of Quebec into Canadian and Quebec portions in the event of separation?

PA: I personally don't think Quebec should be partitioned. I think that would just be further division and divisiveness. I would just like to make clear, on the question of sovereignty, the Green Party has not taken either a "for" or "against" stance. I personally believe this is the best approach to take, and I will tell you why. If I were to be elected as the member for Westmount-St. Louis, I am not here to sell people their cultural identity. That is something that is deeply personal, and you can't through politics sell people their culture. If people tell me they want to remain in Canada, I will bring this back to the National Assembly, and properly express it and defend their interests. One sad thing in the history of Quebec politics, since I was born, is that parties divide up the entire political spectrum – if you're sovereignist or federalist – and all other questions are put [by] the wayside. A tactic of the main political parties, the Parti Québécois and the Liberal Party was always to have fear-mongering, where they sort of feed off each other ... Mr. Chagnon, for example, is there to say "I am a strong federalist." Most people in Westmount are federalist and therefore they will support him. ...

WI: What issues or problems in particular to the Westmount-St Louis riding are you proposing to address and how?

PD: The Green Party of Quebec wants to invest more massively in public transit. Because of where Westmount is, that's important. People in Westmount should be wary about the way the Liberals want to build more bridges – there's the bridge to the 25 [construction started]. I protested against it. People don't realize that the more you do this, the more you are going to create inner city traffic ... the more Westmount will be congested with traffic.

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Underdog: Two is better than one

BY FERN BRESLAW

Bruce and Fuji are two brothers who we wrote about in June. After they were dumped and their family disappeared, it seemed especially cruel to separate them. So we asked people to adopt them together.

Unfortunately the idea of adopting two dogs at once seems to scare people half to death so here is a list of pros in favour of

choosing the two-for-one special.

Firstly, most of us work and are gone most of the day. This leads to feelings of guilt about being an absent parent. Two dogs keep one another company while you are gone.

Secondly, dog walking can be both a blessing and a curse. The dog park with two dogs is God's gift to the lazy person. Walk there. Stand about while they tire each other out. Walk home.

Lastly, it's highly entertaining: a quasi-Discovery channel in the comfort of your home, only without the exotic edge.

Bruce and Fuji are trained, calm and deserve a shot at the good life. Hopefully someone reading this will give these two boys a shot. Find out more about Bruce and Fuji call Sophie at 514.523.5052.



Bruce and Fuji

Photo: Jaime Leblanc



Atwater Library at 180 180 years of talk

BY SUSAN MCGUIRE

Given the 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.

Literary and Debating groups existed on a sporadic basis within the Mechanics' Institute almost from its inception.

A variety of weighty topics were discussed in the years 1880-82, and among the titles was: "Is the action of the American publishers respecting copyright likely to advance literature?"

The subject had been fomenting for years. Charles Dickens was in Montreal in 1842 immediately following a trip to the US, during which he had become angry about the US practice of paying no royalties on books originally published in Britain.

Dickens wrote home, "Is it not a horrible thing that scoundrel booksellers should grow rich here from publishing books, the authors of which do not reap one farthing from their issue by scores of thousands; and that every vile blackguard and detestable newspaper, so filthy and bestial that no honest man would admit one into his house for a scullery doormat, should be able to publish these same writings...?"

Years later, at MIM's Literary and Debating Society in late 1880, Anthony Loftus argued for the US disregard for British copyright, saying "Apart from the moral bearing of the matter, any action which has the effect of disseminating literature must advance it." Gilbert Wanless, for the negative, contended that the flood of literature introduced by the Americans, and filched from English authors, had the effect of stifling new literature and therefore of retarding it. The debate was decided in

the affirmative.

Empire or independence?

Another subject for debate was "Would imperial federation for Canada be preferable to independence?" announced in a Montreal newspaper as "Is Canada Ripe for Independence?"

On February 4, 1880, Messrs de Sola, Crankshaw, McGibbon and Shortis argued on the affirmative; Messrs Loftus, Morgan, Perrault & Downie on the negative. The meeting decided on the merits of the argument in the negative and on the question proper in the affirmative.

Secretary of the group was Maxwell Goldstein, who was a founder of Montreal's Reform Temple Emanu-El, now at Sherbrooke and Elm. Another member, 22-year-old Clarence de Sola, was the third son of Rev Abraham de Sola, noted professor at McGill College who had lectured at the Mechanics' Institute in the 1850s. In 1890, Clarence de Sola planned and oversaw construction of the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue on Stanley St., and later became successful in business. His substantial residence, completed in 1913, still exists at 1380 Pine Ave.

Signed up members in 1880 were: M. S. Berry, Canada Guarantee Co.; Anthony Loftus, P. Office; James Crankshaw, 103 St. François Xavier; John McCallum, 68 Bleury; Gilbert Wanless, 43 Notre Dame; H. Y. Bulmer, 735 Dorchester; Maxwell Goldstein, P. O. Box 933; Jonathan Findlay, 49 Metcalfe; C. J. de Sola, McGill College; W. S. Walker, St. James St.; Chas. Stevens, 38 Hippolyte St.; D. J. M. Darling, 98 St. Chas Borromé; A. Stuart, 143 Bleury; G. Tuck; J. Anthony McShane, 238 Guy St.; J. B. Henderson, 41 Mayer St.; J. T. Dutig, 28 Aylmer St.; E. J. Stipple, c/o Messrs Greenshields & Bartsted; Henry Lanpard, 28 Cadieux.

You are invited to attend Centre Greene's Annual General Meeting Thursday, December 11th at 7 p.m.

Centre Greene is a not-for-profit community centre with a strong commitment to its community and dedicated to providing quality social, cultural and recreational services to its neighbours, as well as to the community at large. Please join us on December 11th. The Annual General meeting is an opportunity for us to review the centre's annual financial statements and reports, discuss important community projects and celebrate our centre!

(514) 931-6202
1090 Greene Avenue, Westmount Qc

Comin' Up...

Tuesday, Nov. 25: Marianopolis College (4873 Westmount Ave., corner Claremont) sponsors free workshop on green roofs from 12:45 to 2 pm. Event takes place in D-120, open to public.

Wednesday, Nov. 26: Centre Greene is offering a **seniors' luncheon** at 12:15 pm. Includes a three-course, home-cooked meal. \$5. 514.931.6202.

Thursday, Nov. 27: Meet the Candidates (for the provincial election) at 7:30 pm at Victoria Hall (4626 Sherbrooke St.) ● **ART NOW** at the Westmount Library at 7 pm. Speakers include artist Bruce Roberts, and photographer Alison Sorbie. For information, contact Heather at 514.989.9091. No charge. All are welcome.

Sunday, Nov. 30: Author Jeannette Walls (*The Glass Castle*) is keynote speaker at the 3rd Annual Israel Cancer Research Fund/Pink Lady Fund "Women of Action" brunch at the **Shaar Hashomayim synagogue** at 11:30 am. Tickets: \$150 (includes brunch). Reserve: 514.481.2723. ● Annual Sisterhood/ Brotherhood rummage sale at **Temple Emanu-El -Beth Sholom** from 9 am to 1 pm. Treasures, clothing, books, household goods, costume jewelry. Donations of goods accepted Oct. 22 to Nov. 27. Proceeds benefit Temple community projects. Info: Heather at 450.672.9788 or Cheryl at 514.486.7162.

Tuesday, Dec. 2: Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) meeting takes place at the Westmount Public Library from 7 to 9 pm. Guest speaker St.Clair Armitage, MUHC, on "Public Private Partnership: a means to an end." 514.846.8464.

Thursday, Dec. 4: Director General **Sylvia Martin-Laforge** speaks about the Quebec Community Groups Network, an organization dedicated to enhancing the vitality of English-speaking communities throughout Quebec. Takes place at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre (1200 Atwater) at 12:30 pm. Free. 514.935.7344.

Saturday, Dec. 6: The **Westmount Youth Orchestra's** 10th anniversary gala sponsors a holiday-themed benefit concert at Pollack Hall at the McGill Conservatory (555 Sherbrooke St. W.) at 7:30 pm. Features recording artists Connie Kaldor and Hart Rouge who will perform with the young musicians of the orchestra. \$25 (youth and under 18 years) and \$50 (adults and seniors). For info and tickets: 514.395.9425. Tickets are also on sale at Victoria Hall from 9 am to 12 pm on Saturdays. Cash or cheques only. ● The **Orpheus Singers'** annual Christmas concert at 8 pm at St. Matthias' Church (131 Côte St. Antoine). Adults: \$18 (\$20 at the door). Seniors and students: \$10 (\$12 at the door). 514.846.8464. www.orpheusmontreal.org.

● St. Matthias Church is having a fundraiser, "Carols, Tales and Tea", a sing-along of carols, storytelling for adults, and afternoon tea from 2 to 4 pm. Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased in advance. Info: 514.933.4295.

Sunday, Dec. 7: An old jewelry sale organized by two Westmount teens, Lara Berliner and Victoria Schouela, to raise money for Free the Children takes place at Westmount Park Church (corner Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve) between 1:30 and 5 pm. To donate jewelry, call Lara 514.932.6488.

Shopping for groceries made easy

What could be more convenient than ordering your groceries over the phone?

This service is especially good for someone who is feeling under the weather or for senior citizens who might have difficulty getting out once the slippery weather is upon us. The following local grocery stores provide telephone and delivery service:

5 Seasons, 514.931.0249.

Phone service is available every day except Sunday. Orders must be placed before 3 pm. The minimum order is \$35. There is a \$5 delivery fee. Delivery is free for seniors.

IGA Alexis Nihon, 514.933.0995.

Phone service is available from Monday to Friday. Orders must be placed before 10 am. There is a \$6 delivery fee plus a \$3 service fee. For seniors, the delivery fee is \$2.

Metro Fletcher, 514.488.4083.

Phone service is available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Orders must be placed before 11 am. The minimum order is \$35. There is a \$5 delivery fee plus a \$3 service fee. Delivery is free for seniors.

National, 514.484.3541.

Phone service is available from Monday to Friday. Orders must be placed before 11 am. The minimum order is \$25. There is a \$5 delivery fee.

PA, 1420 Fort St., 514.932.0922.

Phone service is available every day, from 7:30 am to 9 pm. If the order is above \$50, the delivery fee is \$1. For orders under \$50, the delivery fee is \$3.

Pet Expert: Fight puppy mills at Xmas

BY LYZANNE

Our question is to Rebecca Aldworth of Humane Society International/Canada:

PE: Rebecca, you had your first annual Puppy Mill Action Week last week. What can Westmounters do to help after the information week?

Rebecca Aldworth, HSI/Canada: With the holiday season fast approaching, many people are beginning their annual search for perfect presents. Sadly, too many people are choosing to buy puppies to give to family members or friends – turning the holidays into one of the most profitable times for puppy mills across our country. That is why Humane Society International/Canada held its first annual Puppy Mill Action Week last week, from November 16 to 22.

You can take seven easy steps to help stop the cruelty:

First, you can encourage your local pet store to become a “Puppy Friendly Pet Store”. Store owners who sign and return a pledge form available on www.hsi-canada.ca/stopppupmills will be listed on the HSI/Canada website and receive promotional materials. The pledge declares that the store will discontinue selling puppies by the end of 2008 or that the store

will make official a current policy of not selling puppies.

Second, you can sign our online pledge form at www.hscanada.ca/stopppuppy mills, promising not to shop at pet stores where puppies are sold.

Third, you can write to your member of parliament and member of the provincial legislature to demand stronger laws to stop puppy mills.

Fourth, we are encouraging the public to write newspaper editors, exposing the connection between puppy mills and pet stores. Sample letters are available on www.hscanada.ca/stopppupmills.

Fifth, you can listen to and share the new version of “How Much is that Doggie in the Window” sung by Patti Page – available on www.hscanada.ca/stopppupmills. She recorded the original nearly 60 years ago when puppy mills weren’t the massive problem they are today. Now, over the same familiar melody, new lyrics sing the praise of shelters instead of puppy mills.

Sixth, please donate generously to the HSI/Canada Stop Puppy Mills campaign. In partnership with the Canadian SPCA, HSI/Canada recently rescued more than 300 dogs from two puppy mills in Quebec. But an estimated 2,000 such facilities



Among the new arrivals at the Library singled out by staff are:

Magazine articles on getting ready for winter

“Should you get the flu shot?” by Claudia Cornwall in *Best Health*, October, 2008, p. 82.

“Cut energy costs, keep the comfort: pellet stoves, denim insulation, and 8 more ways to save” by Joseph D’Agnese in *This Old House*, October 2008, p. 86.

“Planifiez vos vacances d’hiver; notre coup de coeur: Riviera Maya” by Marie-Christine Dumas in *Mieux-être*, novembre 2008, p. 22.

Thinking about our planet

Flight of the Hummingbird: A Parable for the Environment by Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas. This slim book beautifully illustrated by the Haida artist (and manga writer) will inspire you to act. The hummingbird is a frequent character in stories of indigenous peoples of the Americas.

Planetwalker: 22 Years of Walking 17 Years Of Silence by John Francis. After the young author helped clean up oil-soaked birds and beaches, he vowed to do more – which led him into “22 years of walking and 17

years of silence,” but he also gained a PhD and now heads his own environmental education organization.

Two novels which delve into family secrets

Le cœur glacé by Almunedra Grandes. From the Spanish Civil War to our days, a dramatic epic opposing two families linked by hidden secrets and sinister complications.

Élégie pour un américain by Siri Hustvedt. A New York psychiatrist goes through his recently deceased father’s papers. He finds a letter dating from World War II that hints to the departed’s involvement in a mysterious death.

In time for the theatre season

Dictionnaire des artistes du théâtre québécois.

Getting Ready for graduate school – resources in Reference

Eric Owens’ *Best 174 Law Schools*, 2009 edition.

Nedda Gilbert *Best 296 Business Schools*, 2009 edition.

Donald Asher’s *Graduate admissions essays: write your way into the graduate school of your choice*.

still exist in this province.

Seventh, we are asking people to make a follow-up visit to their local pet store, or visit more stores in their community to ask them to sign on to be a “Puppy Friendly Pet Store.”



Notaries

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Westmount Profile: Nicholas Hoare

Rooted in heritage and design

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For one who has made a 35-year career in selling niche books to libraries and the general public, Nicholas Hoare says his real interest lies in the wealth of information that books give him in the pursuit of his passion for architectural and gardening design.

A horticulturist by training and a book-seller by heredity and happenstance, Hoare's hobby is restoring heritage homes that can hold his collection of 18,000 books – and designing their gardens.

"The books are the source of this inspiration," he says. "They're the buttress that keeps all this together. We tend to read them and the selling is almost incidental."

A passionate debater, his fascination with heritage stems from the environment in which he grew up. The stately garden of the boys' school he attended in Buckinghamshire is now part of England's National Trust. And his family home, a 450-year-old manor house in Suffolk, had "three gardens, six staircases, 13 fireplaces and God-knows how many ghosts."

Restoring houses he explains, "is my driving force. I try to find something with potential – the lame duck that I can bring back to a lady of grace."

His current project is a 350-acre property purchased two years ago in Annapolis Royal, near Digby, Nova Scotia – "only a three-hour trip," he says with a smile. "It's clearly a retirement project."

Works weekends

But at age 65, Hoare is far from retiring. In fact, he says, he spends most non-summer weekends working at his office, amid racks and racks of books in transit at the company warehouse on Madison Ave.

It's here that his spouse, Margot Stevenson, and a staff of 15 process orders and coordinate distribution to customers. Margot used to manage the Greene Ave. store, one of three retail outlets. The others are located in Toronto and Ottawa. Hoare personally designed their interiors.

And while one could say that Hoare is to the manner born, so was he also raised in a publishing family where many members continue to work in related fields.

Born in Edinburgh in 1943, Nicholas spent his early childhood in Montreal. It was here that his father had been demobilized by the British Navy at the end of the war as the commander of *HMS Victorious*, one of the destroyers that helped sink the Bismarck. Deciding to settle here, his fa-

ther purchased and ran Burton's bookstore in the Dominion Square Building.

Nicholas was 9 when his parents sold the store to W. H. Smith and returned to England. His mother (now in her 90s) and late father were linguists who translated books for publication in England and were very influential in his life.

Pursuing his own dream, Hoare went on to study at the Royal Horticultural Society. Specializing in the cross pollination of bulbs took him to Holland for two years until he was invited to work for the Burpee seed company in Philadelphia.

But stopping in Montreal en route, Hoare began working at Ogilvy's bookstore while "spinning my wheels" awaiting his US immigration papers. A quick visit to Burpee's, however, convinced him the offer "was not the panacea I wanted."

After some soul searching, an opportunity began to unfold. There was a lack of British books in Quebec's library market.

First customer: city of Westmount

Norah Bryant, longtime chief of the Westmount Public Library, persuaded him this was a hole waiting to be filled, he says. "She gave me the spark that defined the future, and became my first customer."

He also went after the market outside Quebec, straight to provincial buying authorities. "I went right into the lion's den," he says. "And this market has become our stock and trade."

In business since 1971, Hoare now supplies provincial libraries and individuals in eastern and central Canada with predominantly British books as well as others he describes as "eclectic." The stores' music collections also have a core clientele. "We're selling things other don't."

Hoare also supports other business initiatives including a computer company, transportation firm and Yoga studio. "I love start-ups," he says. "I have a particular affection for young people even though, as a perfectionist, I may drive people mad."

Hoare has two adult children – Samantha, in England, and Timothy, in Nova Scotia – and four grandchildren. His 11-year-old daughter, Bryony, who attends ECS, is named after Bryonia, a flowering shrub native to Wales.

The most challenging of the Westmount homes he has restored was the original Rodier house at 332 Metcalfe, which he purchased after a major fire. It provided the space he needed for his books and his art collection of Canadian painters featuring the Group of Seven.



Nicholas Hoare as guest speaker at the Westmount Horticultural Society on November 11.

"You have to live in a house to absorb its features before attempting the restoration. Move in and camp, and get the flavour of the beast."

This is how he is now proceeding with the Annapolis estate and its apple orchards, pheasants, deer and micro-climate

for growing exotic plants. Built by the chairman of Alcoa, the home's floors are supported by steel girders – perfect for the weight of Hoare's books.

And like so many of them, he adds, the house is a rare find for a man who appreciates all that his new home represents.



Open house, Sun. Nov. 30, 2-4 pm Hampstead, 346 Dufferin

Love to entertain? This beautiful "sun drenched" detached, will "wow" you with its open concept main floor, magnificent "state of the art" kitchen featuring 11 ft. granite island, top of the line stainless appliances, newer roof, 2 car garage, garden. 7500 sq. ft. lot! Move right in! Asking \$938,000. MLS# 8054647.

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Steps from the #1 English private girls school in Montreal, Miss Edgar's & Miss Cramp's. Here is the perfect house for you. Fabulous ground fl. with 3 fps, den, enormous kit. & sunroom. 5 bedrooms, master ensuite, huge skylight flooding the house with light. Views from every level. Front garage + big garden and deck.
Asking \$1,200,000

LE SUD OUEST



DU CANAL ST.
Loft at a great price/value in the area. Walk to downtown, Old Montreal, Griffintown, Atwater Market, bikers paradise – Views, tremendous light from corner unit. Contemporary design – exposed beams, brick, open kitchen. Garage, spring occupancy.
Asking \$295,000

WESTMOUNT-ADJ.



SHERBROOKE W. ST.
Le Barat – 10th flr Large and bright 3 bdrm, 2 bthrm condo. N/W corner unit with panoramic views on Westmount & Mt Royal. L-shaped livingroom & diningroom, opening onto 12x5 balcony. Doorman, hot tub, 2 garages. Fees include heat, electricity, a/c, hot water. Steps from Metro Atwater.
Asking \$459,000

VILLE-MARIE



REDPATH ST.
Golden Square Mile located above Sherbrooke and the Musee des Beaux Arts, lovely three (3) bedroom condo with balcony, bright and spacious – Downtown living, steps to bistros, shops, universities and hospitals. Asking below municipal evaluation. Motivated vendor.
Asking \$375,000

OLD HAMPSTEAD



HEATH RD.
This picture perfect det. house is a young family's dream. W/ its stone and wood façade it boasts every modern convenience and is timelessly reno. w/ refined taste. Easily acc. to every mode of transp. 28 ft. master bdrm/sitting room w ensuite granite bthrm., a/c, two car tandem garage, 2 more bthrms, a huge vestiare, a ground flr pwdrm, a fini. basement and a lovely garden.
Asking: \$759,000. Hurry!

LE SUD OUEST



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 \$209,000

WESTMOUNT



STE CATHERINE W. ST.
Westmount Park Towers, close to Victoria village and Westmount Park. This 2 bedroom/2 bath, elegantly furnished condo has a fireplace, solarium, river and mountain views and a garage. Condo fees include a pool, exercise room & 24 hour doorman.
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