

Court upholds city's discretionary powers

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Quebec Court of Appeal has recognized the discretionary powers of Westmount and other municipalities in approving building projects recommended by planning committees of architectural professionals and endorsed by city councils.

The unanimous ruling of three judges November 27 involved a case that has been before the courts for more than three years in which residents of 168 Edgehill Ave. claimed a neighbour's home extension at number 164 had destroyed some of the views and the enjoyment of their home.

It upheld an earlier Superior Court judgment that dismissed the request by

Louis Audet and Joycelyne Francoeur, his wife, to have the addition demolished and receive monetary compensation in their case against Richard Cytrynbaum and Westmount.

Audet: 'ordinary citizens' have no redress

"This confirms that we did apply our by-laws in a correct manner based on criteria," said the city's urban planning director Joanne Poirier.

The ruling stated the courts were not the correct venue for determining such aesthetic decisions, and it confirmed the "discretionary" leeway given to planning committees under Quebec's PIIA (Site Planning & Architectural Integration) program.

"We are extremely disappointed," Audet told the

continued on p. 3

Totem to be restored



City assistant community events coordinator Virginia Elliott inspects Westmount's 12-foot totem pole now residing in a stabilizing environment at the Corporation Yard, while awaiting restoration. A hydrometer lies to the right. See p. 12 for story.

Don't Miss It
Christmas-Hannukah concert
Saturday, December 13
See Comin' Up on p. 14 for details.

Superhospital update at WMA meeting

On track to provide new types of care

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The MUHC superhospital is on track to open in stages at the Glen Yards at the end of 2013 – on time and on budget – and with innovative ways of delivering health-care services.

That's largely due to its set-up as a private-public partnership (PPP), according to St. Clair Armitage, the PPP project director, who addressed the Westmount Municipal Association meeting December 2 at the Westmount Public Library.

One of the main advantages of the PPP structure is that – until the complex opens – "the public, the taxpayer, pays not a single dollar" to the consortium that will be chosen to build and operate it, he said. It is therefore in the best interests of the consortium and its investors to bring the project to fruition as quickly as possible.

But, he explained, "Our project is about patients, not buildings. We are already talking with the bidders about how things can be done differently for the patient."

This includes bringing medical pro-

cesses to the patient's bedside in the all-single room facility rather than wheeling patients to test and treatments areas. Such planning goes hand-in-hand with the design requirements.

An army of specialists and advisors in numerous areas is currently working with the two bidders to establish needs. This group will continue to oversee the quality of the work during its construction, he said. Ground breaking is slated for the end of 2009.

Working with them are *continued on p. 3*

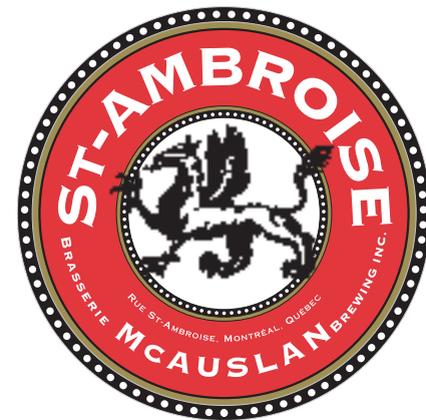
Our man in Ottawa

MP Marc Garneau reports back on federal Liberals' effort to form a coalition government
p. 5



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Cllr. Martin: Litigation avoidable if neighbours 'made aware'

continued from p. 1

Westmount Independent. "We have invested considerable funds in trying to get this thing straightened out."

Audet, who is the president and CEO of cable and communications company Cogeco, said he had not decided on future action in the matter.

He said he had been through "a tremendous number of roadblocks" before hiring specialists at his own expense to demonstrate that his neighbour's extension had exceeded the city's limits on site coverage. "We did the work the city should have done," he said, adding that this had led to the initial removal of some of the building.

Without protection from the courts, he said, "ordinary citizens" have no way of obtaining compensation or redress from building projects that are "too large and overbearing" and impede on their properties and views.

The court, he said, "lost an opportunity in building communities because clearly citizens are unhappy with the way a select group of specialists rubber-stamped by the council" makes decisions on such projects.

It is now incumbent on elected and administrative officials, he said, to change approval processes and the granting of permits so that neighbours can be informed of building plans before they are approved.

Cllr. Patrick Martin, who represents the district, said the ruling "should be a wake-up call. With the court reinforcing the city's discretionary powers, it's all the more reason for the council to act as protectors of the citizens who elected them.

"There's an unprecedented number of court cases involving construction permits," he explained, "and there are no winners in such cases. I believe a lot of them could be prevented if neighbours were made aware in advance of what is being contemplated. It's time to have a healthy debate on the protection of views and privacy. There is a reasonable expectation that your micro-neighbourhood will not change drastically."

Another case involving the alleged loss of views by a proposed addition of new storey to a heritage home at 27 Bellevue is currently in deliberation in Superior Court.

Superhospital in 2009

continued from p. 1

healthcare professionals and administrators at all levels and departments at the existing hospitals to ensure their needs, and those of patients, are met.

Armitage later answered a number of questions ranging from the liquidity of the bidding consortia to how doctors and nurses, steeped in traditional methods,

would adapt to new ways of providing patient care.



St. Clair Armitage with Dr. Maureen Kiely, who represents the WMA on a citizen committee concerning the Superhospital.

Christmas flower display opens

The city's annual display of poinsettia and other seasonal plants can now be seen in the conservatory. The plants have been added as the fall chrysanthemums were phased out.

Arena parking survey taken

Users of the arena were being asked over the weekend (December 6-7) to complete a survey of parking needs concerning the lot across St. Catherine St. behind

the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf. The city is considering the installation of pedestrian lights to facilitate the crossing of the busy street.

Rowing to victory



Rowing teams at Dawson College made their mark at the Head of the Fish regatta in Saratoga Springs, NY, at the end of October.

In some of the events, the Men's Open Novice 4+ boat placed first, the Men's Open Light Weight 4+ placed third and the Women's Open Novice 8+ came third. As well, the Men's Novice 8+ placed in the top

half of their races.

In other races, the Men's Collegiate 1x boat also recorded a third place time while the Men's Collegiate 2x came second.

"All performed beyond expectation," said Westmounter Gabrielle Murciano, an assistant coach. Over the winter, the team will be training and fundraising for next season.



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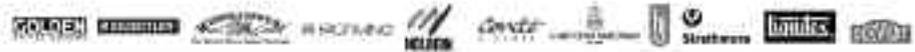
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Letters to the editor

WESTMOUNT SHOULD DO ITS PART FOR BIKE PATH

I'm grateful to the *Westmount Independent* for its generosity to citizens' let-



Cyclist manoeuvres around parked car on de Maisonneuve heading west on the bike path between Elm and Greene.

Photo: John Fretz

ters. Indeed, this newspaper forum is on my "favourites" list.

I share Ms. An Wyck's ("Bike Path Should be All-Season," November 25, p. 5) utter disappointment over the winter curtailing of the bike path between Atwater and Greene. I regularly find this route hazardous because of heavy traffic. Interrupting the bike path when cyclists are biking year-round is tantamount to creating an accident waiting to happen.

The outrage is doubly felt. Imagine – after years of petitioning – the city of Mon-

tréal finally constructs the de Maisonneuve bikeway and keeps it plowed in winter. The bike path's median strip extends a hundred feet west from Atwater. However, Westmount doesn't undertake its part of the project and line its portion of the bikeway with a protective median strip.

The rationale is that there are fewer bikes in winter. What sort of bean counting is this?

Our mayor hasn't yet adjusted to the bike path becoming a transportation route. Ironically, she recently penned an article encouraging Westmounters to be more amenable to change.

The mayor, prepared to throw millions of dollars at the pool arena complex, is ready to compromise cyclists' safety by not implementing a fully operational bike path. What does it take, a debilitating accident, a fatality?

JOHN FRETZ
LANSDOWNE AVE.

MORE SUPPORT FOR ALL-SEASON BIKE PATH

I must add my voice to that of Deborah van Wyck ("Bike Path Should be All-Season," November 25, p.5) who succinctly made the case for an all-season bike path. As one of many who have eschewed their

car as the only means of transport, I too, was jolted to discover cars parked in an area designated strictly for bicycle use.

People daily are experiencing the benefits to their health and the environment from riding their bikes in all seasons. One of the best ways to reduce our overly large carbon footprint is to reduce usage of one of the main carbon-producing culprits, the car.

Restore the bike path link between Greene and Atwater to bicycles and put some clout behind Joshua Wolfe's Sustainability Vision Statement due out in January.

BRONWYN MANTEL
BRUCE AVE.

TWO DOGS ARE GREAT

Each week when the *Westmount Independent* arrives, I find myself turning first to the Underdog page. As a dog owner, I am drawn to this column for both the story-line and its presentation.

In reference to "Two is Better than One" (November 25, p. 13), I can attest to the veracity of the column on the benefits of owning two dogs. As a dog lover who has had two dogs and recently lost one, my own experience mirrors the writer's suggestion that it is, in many ways, much easier to have two dogs who play together and exercise one another. To anyone who might be wavering, I suggest keeping these two dogs together for the company they provide one another and also the joy they give their owners.

As a family bereft by the recent disappearance of one of our dogs, we remain hopeful that we will find her and restore the joy that comes from having two, for our lives are much duller now.

I urge anyone who may be considering taking in these two brothers to take the opportunity and risk being "surprised by joy."

GRETCHEN BRABANDER
VICTORIA AVE.

STOP PUPPY MILLS

Thank you, thank you, thank you, *Westmount Independent*, for your Underdog and 9 Lives columns, for publishing information about SPCA issues and covering puppy mills raids.

I have felt helpless to assist the puppy mill dogs and knowing what these animals endure had saddened me for over a decade.

Please let's resolve these issues once and for all, and together we can put an end to this travesty.

KATE P. DAVEY
ST. HENRI

KUDOS FROM A NEIGHBOUR



The new home being built at 31 Willow (corner Claremont) should start to inspire others looking into geothermal heating and the many options.

Congratulations to them,
KIRK POLYMENAKOS
CLAREMONT AVE.

Moving Muscles, the book

Supporters of Westmounter Keith Martin's Moving Muscles project have published a book – *The Flying Five* –



about his cross-Canada bike ride to raise funds for muscular dystrophy research. Martin is one of the five cyclists – all of whom suffer from the disease – who form the "Flying Five" of the book's title. This summer, they biked from Victoria to St. John's in 84 days.

The \$20 book will be available locally at Sharyn Scott on Consignment (4925 Sherbrooke St., 514.484.6507) and by email at flyingfivepress@gmail.com. All proceeds will go to Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

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We are Westmount.

Most frequently restocked drop sites: Lobby of 310 Victoria Ave.; Sherbrooke St. exit to Metro grocery store at Victoria Ave. and Sherbrooke St.

Drop notice: Snow conditions may delay us getting around to all of our drop sites on Tuesday of publication week. Whatever the snow conditions, we still aim to reach our "most reliable" drops (Metro on Victoria, Westmount Square and 310 Victoria lobby) on Tuesdays.

EDITOR & ADVERTISING SALES:
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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Reporting Back

Democracy at work

BY MARC GARNEAU,
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FOR WESTMOUNT-VILLE MARIE

I could not possibly have entered federal politics at a more interesting time. Having said that, members of parliament are expected to act on behalf of their constituents and Canadians may be asking themselves what is going on in our house of commons.

It began with the presentation of the Economic and Fiscal Statement by the minister of Finance on November 27.

Needed stimulus was absent

Apart from containing certain non-economic measures that angered all of the opposition parties, the document was also criticized for presenting questionable projections about the health of the economy over the next two years.

Salzberg at the Gallery

Westmounter and ceramic sculptor Claire Salzberg will be exhibiting at the Gallery at Victoria Hall until December 18.

Salzberg's ceramic pieces have been described as "full of narrative detail that nostalgically capture the feel of people and their neighborhoods."

The exhibition includes 18 (two and three dimensional) pieces. Many have a strong Montreal theme, including "St. Viateur Bagel Shop", "Lea & Perrins" and "Simcha's Fruit Market".

Salzberg originally taught art in New York City and Maine has been on the faculty of Vanier College for many years.

She has participated in many exhibitions over the years and was featured on the CBC TV program "On the Road Again" in 2004.

Most of all, it was criticized unanimously by all the opposition parties because it did not provide a sufficient number of immediate measures to stimulate the economy, something the government argued would take place when the budget was presented.

This led to the formation of a coalition between the Liberal and New Democratic parties, with the Bloc agreeing to support coalition confidence motions for an 18-month period.

This in turn led to a decision by the prime minister to avoid a vote of confidence that he feared his government would lose, first by delaying a scheduled opposition day and then by asking the governor general to prorogue parliament.

Both sides have argued about the underlying reasons for the coalition.

The opposition parties have argued that it was to put the focus squarely and urgently on job creation and other measures to stimulate the economy, instead of having to wait another two months.

The government, on the other hand, has claimed that it was nothing but an undemocratic lunge for power by three opportunistic opposition parties.

Normal working of parliament

The term "undemocratic" is regrettable because, like it or not, there is nothing undemocratic in a majority of duly elected members of parliament voting against the government, thus signaling non-confidence. That is how parliament works.

In closing, I have heard from many residents in the past two weeks and I would like to thank them for their opinions and suggestions about the party leaders, about the coalition and about the decision to prorogue parliament.

While I have received a lot of feedback, there is broad consensus that parliament's first priority should be to focus constructively on its most immediate priority, the Canadian economy.

Green your holiday

BY ANNIKA MELANSON

The holidays draw out the best in us. But they also bring what seems like an environmentalist's worst nightmare: tons of extra garbage and wasted food, millions of chopped-down trees, and megawatts of flashing lights. Turn over a new, green leaf with these alternatives to some of our traditions:

- Buy an organic turkey that has been treated humanely. Use a cooking pan instead of an aluminum tray for cooking.
- Organize a carpool to your holiday parties and reduce gas emissions.
- Turn off your Christmas lights at night or use a timer to switch them off after you go to bed.
- Instead of giving gift items, treat loved ones to an enjoyable experience: theatre or movie tickets, a membership to a gym, a series of yoga classes or a spa day.
- Take your own re-usable shopping bags with you when you shop and avoid adding to the landfills of plastic bags.
- Try flea markets, estate sales and vintage clothing shops for gifts. Your gift will be unique as well as recycled.
- Check out Coop la Maison Verte (5785 Sherbrooke St. W., 514.486.8000, www.cooplamaisonverte.com) for a great assortment of "green" and fair trade products: personal care products, clothing, coffee, etc.
- If you're having a party, avoid serving food and drinks on disposable plates and cups. Borrow extra supplies from neighbours.
- Choose greeting cards and wrapping paper which contain some recycled paper

content. Better yet, use recycled wrapping paper or newspaper to wrap presents. Save money and trees.

- Make your own gifts: a photo album, an artistic creation or something yummy from your kitchen: jams, chutneys and other homemade preserves.
- Create a wonderful holiday ambiance and dine by candlelight. You will save electricity.
- Buy the book, *Ecoholic: When You're Addicted to the Planet* by Adria Vasil to give as a gift and help spread the word about the importance becoming more green.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah and have a great, green holiday!



Advent & Christmas at St. Matthias' Anglican Church

Sunday December 14
Third Sunday of Advent
8:00am Holy Communion
10:30am Mattins with Holy Communion
5:00pm Lessons & Carols service

Sunday December 21
Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00am Holy Communion
10:30am Eucharist

Wednesday December 24
10:00pm Christmas Eve service

Thursday December 25
8:00am Holy Communion
10:30am Family Eucharist service*

*Choir & strings play Malcolm, Monteverdi, Buxtehude

St. Matthias' Anglican Church
131 Cote St. Antoine Rd.
(corner Metcalfe in Westmount)
Bus 24, 104, 138 to Sherbrooke & Metcalfe stop –
walk one block North
514-933-4295

Rector: The Reverend Kenneth Near
Music Director: John Wiens

Candid cameras to stem plant thefts

Camera surveillance at the Westmount greenhouse is expected to thwart a growing number of plant thefts, according to city horticulturist Claudette Savaria. "People have been helping themselves," she said.

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Colourfully Yours:

Frugal? Yes. Grinches? No

BY AURELIEN GUILLORY
& GRETA VON SCHMEDLAPP

Well, well, my dears, we're back and we will help you devise an elegant, though frugal holiday season.

First, the atmosphere. Please, please, give all of the lighting in your home a very thorough scrutiny. As I, Greta von Schmedlapp, have observed before, some of the most chic Westmount homes have very low lighting.

"If it was good enough for my mother's home, it's good enough..." You know the rest, but this is no longer the rule!

Well, dear design fiends, please check all the bulbs in that chandelier. Are the bulbs all the same wattage?

Aurel's dicta: One should never see a naked bulb! Glare is the enemy of flattering lighting. Rooms that make everyone look glamorous and make all the elements of a lovely living room really *live* will reward you with good feelings (and grand compliments from your holiday guests).

Remember, clear bulbs bring out the sparkle in crystal and silver on the table, but they also reveal all the texture in your guests' faces - and that cracked plaster in the front hall mouldings. Parchment or pleated silk lampshades and frosted bulbs give a mellow, soft mood to a room.

Shopping suggestions

Aurel's secret lighting source is Arevco Lighting on our very own Greene Ave., near Sherbrooke, for every weird European bulb or some of those pale pink ones. They will also rewire that family heirloom lamp with a three-way socket and new plug to code. Please do keep all of the decorative Christmas baubles clustered in special places, not just sprinkled everywhere, to allow space for everyone's glasses and small snacks.

Recently, Aurel and I attended the second anniversary of that cute corner shop at the bottom of Mountain St. (number 248). It's called Ludovik, a different and amusing two floors of home décor and gifts. Don't tell everyone, but we find the prices very reasonable and the items unusual.

Now, to the *giving* part of the holidays: Wasn't it the philosopher Emerson who said "The only gift is a portion of thyself"? Now, dears, don't think that I'm advocating doing the Van Gogh thing with the ear! about such an unthoughtful present. Money may be tight this season, but surely your imagination is boundless. I, Greta von Schmedlapp, hereby promise, with you as my witness, that I will wrap up my mother's crystal earrings and give them to my best girlfriend, as she's been envying them for at least 20 years, and they suit her so well. Just think what a surprise! (And how great I'll feel.)

A super cook we know has given a pretty card to her partner's family as a certificate for a three- or four-course dinner at the time of their choice.

I must also mention the frugal and personal idea of pair of tea cups and saucers from your family's collection. After all, we all know the place at home where you have been saving those abandoned odd sets of porcelain or crystal - for whom? The pope's visit?

Life's short; let's share. Perhaps a subscription to your friend's favourite magazine, and maybe, if it's a cooking mag, you might get to taste some of the results. Special tins of tea, lasting for weeks, are great for after-holiday diets.

Your Greta will return after the winter solstice with many ideas for the new year...and lessons on that delicate subject: Designing for Downsizing!

Do let me hear your ideas from your home. Write to us at aurelien@colors-byaurelien.com. Hugs

New staff at Oral School for Deaf



Staff members at MOSD, from left, Casey Finn Lefsrud, Heather Reckling, Jinean Whitley-Cheng and Rebecca Loadenthal.

Several new staff members joined the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf (MOSD) this school year, according to the MOSD's director, Martha Perusse.

The school's mission is to "educate deaf/hearing-impaired individuals from infancy to young adulthood so that they may integrate into society. The focus of the program is to develop spoken language by listening and talking." It is located on the south side of St. Catherine across from the Westmount arena.

Paul Koutas

Now 19 years old, Koutas was diagnosed with a hearing loss at the age of 3 and began attending the MOSD's nursery classes. He was followed by the school's staff all through his school years. In June 2008, he graduated from the Job Opportunities Program at John Grant High School in Côte St. Luc, and now currently works in the preschool program at the MOSD as an attendant-in-training.

Rebecca Loadenthal

Loadenthal studied Early Childhood Education at Concordia and classical voice training in CEGEP and university. This is her second year teaching, and her first contract with the MOSD. Last year, she taught kindergarten in French at Dorval Elementary and was a resource teacher at Westmount Park Elementary. She teaches French to most MOSD classes and teaches math to kindergarten children and grades 3 and 4.

She also teaches phonics as a classroom teacher and assists with the grade 2 and 3 reading centre program. Her other ties to Westmount include her job as a florist at Westmount Florist on Victoria "to put myself through university," - and her

husband proposed to her by the pond in Westmount Park!

Jinean Whitley-Cheng

A speech-language pathologist, Whitley-Cheng works with students of all ages. She is a recent graduate of McGill University in this field and has had teaching experience in Asia, Africa, Europe and Central America.

Heather Reckling

Reckling's work in speech-language pathology with children in grades 1 and 6 focuses on listening, speech, language, literacy and self-advocacy, while supporting the child's curriculum. She recently completed a master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology at McGill University. Reckling has worked in Westmount before. Her first McGill placement was with Rainbow Preschool, where she observed children at play.

Casey Finn Lefsrud

Finn Lefsrud is an itinerant high school teacher for the MOSD. Itinerant teachers travel from school to school providing support to students with hearing loss who attend regular schools. They work on further development of listening, speech and language skills as well as vocabulary and concept development to support the curriculum.

Finn Lefsrud also conducts classes for education students at McGill on teaching students with special needs. Finn Lefsrud received her undergraduate and master's degree from Rutgers' University in New Jersey with a specialization in special education. She has taught middle school in New Hampshire and Texas schools. Her jobs have always been as a special educator. She moved to Montreal in June 2007.



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ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

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. 🌿



SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Carte d'accès - installations sportives

Les cartes d'accès pour l'année 2009 sont maintenant en vente au bureau des Sports et loisirs à l'Aréna de Westmount, ainsi qu'au Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5353. 🌿



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Conférences de 14 heures

A Child's Christmas in Wales

Joignez-vous à Barrie Baldero pour une lecture de ce conte classique de Dylan Thomas, le mercredi 10 décembre à 14 h. Info : 514 989-5386. 🌿

Club de lecture française

Joignez-vous au club de lecture française le mercredi 10 décembre de 18 h 30 à 21 h pour discuter les œuvres de Henning Mankell. Info : 514 989-5386. 🌿

Club d'échecs et de Scrabble

Aimez-vous jouer aux échecs et/ou au Scrabble? La prochaine rencontre du club aura lieu le vendredi 12 décembre à 14 h. Nous sommes toujours à la recherche de nouveaux joueurs. Info : 514 989-5386. 🌿

Cercle de lecture

Aucune liste de lecture imposée et aucune date limite, seulement une discussion au sujet des livres que vous avez lus ! Notre prochaine rencontre aura lieu le mardi 16 décembre à 10 h 15. *En anglais seulement.* Info : 514 989-5386. 🌿

DATES À RETENIR

Jusqu'au 18 décembre

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

À compter du 10 décembre

Floralies des fêtes
Conservatoire et serres

Le 12 décembre de 10 h à midi

Rencontre avec l'artiste – Claire Salzberg
La galerie du Victoria Hall

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

Club de lecture anglaise

Joignez-vous au club de lecture anglaise le mardi 16 décembre de 19 h à 21 h pour discuter du livre *The Birth House* d'Ami McKay. Info : 514 989-5386. 🌿



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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. Les dons en argent sont également acceptés de même que les jouets neufs dans leur emballage d'origine. Soyez généreux. Info : 514 989-5468. 🌿

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



COMMUNITY EVENTS

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 p.m. 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 p.m. at City Hall. Info: 514 989-5265. 🌿



SPORTS AND RECREATION

Sports Facility Membership Cards

The Sports Facility Membership Cards for the 2009 calendar year are now available for sale at the Sports and Recreation offices at the Arena, as well as Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5353. 🌿



LIBRARY

2 O'Clock Series

A Child's Christmas in Wales

Barrie Baldero will perform this classic tale by Dylan Thomas on Wednesday, December 10 at 2 p.m. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌿

French Book Club

Join the French Book Club from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10 as they discuss books written by Henning Mankell. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌿

Chess and Scrabble Club

Do you enjoy playing chess and/or Scrabble? Our games club will meet on Friday, December 12 at 2 p.m. Drop by for a friendly game as we look forward to meeting new players. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌿

Readers to Readers Book Club

Join our morning book club with a twist. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 16 at 10:15 a.m. to talk about great books recently read. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌿

DATEBOOK

Until December 18

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

Beginning December 10

Holiday Flower Show
Conservatory and Greenhouses

December 12 - 10 a.m. to noon

Meet the Artist: Claire Salzberg
The Gallery at Victoria 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

English Book Club

Join the English Book Club from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16 as they discuss *The Birth House* by Ami McKay. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌿



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 at Centre Greene (1090 Greene Avenue). Cash donations and new toys in original packaging are also welcome. Any help will be greatly appreciated. Info: 514 989-5468. 🌿

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

TRENDSETTER

NICOLE MAJOR

Nicole Major is a Westmounter who has worked in fashion, the travel industry and real estate. She was a real estate agent for 37 years before retiring two years ago and remembers when a house in Westmount could be purchased for \$35,000. The same house today "would probably go for about \$800,000 in the same condition," said Major.

Whether she is having lunch at Nick's or socializing at a dinner party, Major is always the picture of elegance.

WI: How would you describe your style?

NM: [Laughs.] My style is practical and classic with some "oomph." I don't wear Prada and all of that...

WI: Do you have a favourite label?

NM: Yves Saint Laurent and Valentino, because they have elegance. It was such a treat to see the recent YSL exhibition at the Museum [of Fine Arts]. I also used to really like Sonia Rykiel. In fact, I still have my first Sonia Rykiel sweater that I bought in Paris many years ago.

WI: Do you have a fashion icon?

NM: French actress Michèle Morgan.

WI: What is your favourite item in your closet?

NM: I love my Anne Fontaine blouses. I also have lots of fun sweaters, shawls and scarves.

WI: What is your favourite accessory?

NM: Silver jewelry. In fact, my daughter Nathalie works for Gas Bijoux in France. She has given me lots of fun stuff.

WI: What inspires your current look?

NM: I enjoy reading *Bazaar* and other fashion magazines, and get ideas. Then I do my own thing with it. I don't copy Chanel or Prada or Oscar de la Renta. I look at things, and I like to wear what I feel good in. I take bits that fit my lifestyle



today and give it my own look. I like the way that the French and Italians buy clothes. They have small closets, so they don't buy many things. But they always look beautiful, well groomed and have sex appeal.

WI: Who is your favourite artist?

NM: Gustav Klimt, all the impressionists, Chagall. I also love the classics like El Greco.

WI: What do you always carry in your purse, no matter what?

NM: My keys.

WI: What are you reading now?

NM: Ken Follett's newest book, *World without End*. I love historical novels and biographies. I love the little story behind the big story...in French we call it *la petite histoire*. I read *The Economist*, which is great. It's totally objective. On holiday, I like to read something crazy and wonderful like *The Divorce*. It's an escape...it takes your mind off things.

WI: What is your favourite city and why?

NM: My *continued on p.14*

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20 years ago today



Marilynn Vanderstaay (right) with Josée St. Pierre, manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia on Greene.

Westmount journalist and wholeness coach Marilyn Vanderstaay recently celebrated 20 years of life since being diagnosed with life-threatening cancer. The November 20 event - well attended by Vanderstaay's Rotary Club of Westmount colleagues and other well-wishers - took

place at the Atwater Club (formerly the MBSC). She took the occasion to talk about her new website www.insidethehealingjourney.com and her upcoming book, both of which chronicle her battle with cancer and share her secrets for success.

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ON THE SHELVES

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

Browsing the magazines

“The O-list: the 30 people who will rule Obama’s Washington” by Noam Scheier in *The New Republic*, November 19, 2008, p. 14.

“Mandela’s smile: notes on South Africa’s failed revolution” by Breyton Breyenbach in *Harper’s Magazine*, December 2008, p. 39.

“Ondes de choc: le téléphone cellulaire peut-il provoquer la formation d’une tumeur? Peut-être que oui; peut-être que non...Alors, si ça sonne, on répond?” by Noémi Mercier in *Québec Science*, November 2008, p. 18.

Two films for cold nights

The Counterfeiters – winner of the Academy Award in 2008 for Best Foreign Language Film – tells the true story of Salomon Sorowitsch, a swindler who made a name for himself as Berlin’s “King of the Counterfeiters.” However, his life of women and easy money was cut short when he was arrested and placed in a Nazi concentration camp.

Paris je t’aime assembles celebrated directors the Coen Brothers, Gus Van Sant, Gurinder Chadha, Wes Craven, Walter Salles, Alexander Payne and Olivier Assayas portray Paris in a way never before imagined.

Hooray for translators!

Take a look at the translation from French into English category of the Governor-General’s Literary awards – a great way to be introduced to some francophone Canadian authors you have not read before. Three titles in the Library collection

are: *The Postman’s Round* by Denis Thériault (translated by Liedewy Hawk), *Nikolski* by Nicolas Dickner (translated by Laxer Lederhendler) and *Orfeo* by Hans-Jurgen Greif (translated by Fred A. Reed).

Award-winning books

Syngué Sabour: La pierre de patience by Atiq Rahimi (Prix Goncourt). In Persian mythology, the “Stone of patience” is a magic rock that one can address to liberate oneself from all the burdens of life. A woman, whose husband is dying of combat wounds, talks to the Stone and spills her hate of her condition as a Muslim woman in a war-torn country. Atiq Rahimi is an Afghan-born writer now living in France.

Là où les tigres sont chez eux by Jean-Marie Blas de Roblès (Prix Medicis). In a remote part of Brazil, a German press correspondent is sent a biography of a 17th century Jesuit, who was a polymath. He decides to find out more about the life of the mysterious Athanase Kirchner.

For kids of all ages

Hockey in Canada series by Don Cruickshank. The six books in this series each cover a different Canadian hockey team in the professional league. Interesting facts about the history of each team are provided as well as insight into hockey positions and the rules of the game.

De tout pour les passionnés de hockey 2 by Eric Zweig. If you are a hockey fan, this book is for you. Fun facts, stories, statistics and portraits of hockey players are covered in this recent edition.

Impressive additions to reference

Consumer Health Complete. Full text content for more than 1,000 health-related magazines covering mainstream medicine as well as complementary, holistic and integrated medicine. (Home access available from the library website www.westlib.org)

Grove Art Online (Oxford Art) covers all aspects of the visual arts from prehistory to the present day, from art and architecture to ceramics and photography. (Home access available from the library website www.westlib.org).

Wine: What’s In Store...

New World labels at SAQ



BY CAROLA PRICE

Did I not just write my December article a few months ago? Where does the time go? I guess it is all a blur through my wine glasses.

I do have some wonderful goodies for you this season however. I have had a great time this year, tasting and note-taking in order for you all to impress your friends and colleagues this holiday season.

Whether you are going out or staying in this year, your lovely SAQ has really ramped up the New World labels and should give you great value for your (ever decreasing) dollar. Wine is a greatly appreciated gift that is used every time!

Enjoy the holidays and remember moderation is always in good taste.

Chenin Blanc, Robertson Winery, South Africa. SAQ#: 10754228. \$9.85

This is not the most complex white that I’ve ever encountered, but then for 10 bucks, what do you expect? It is nice, simple and fruity – perfect for turkey or as a starter with oysters or fish canapés. Hints of lemon and green apple with some acidity that finishes very clean represents a great value wine for me.

SAQ available at press time: Victoria, Atwater Market, Across from Atwater Market, Pepsi Forum, Westmount Square.

Fumé Blanc, Hogue Cellars, Washington State. SAQ#: 274829. \$14.95

I love the way this wine stays in the mouth. Because I adore oysters in season this is another fabulous match for shellfish and fish of any kind really. Fumé means it’s seen oak, so remember to match it with bigger or more intense flavours. Look for some cedar, gooseberry and floral notes with just a hint of lime.

SAQ available at press time: Victoria, across from Atwater Market.

Tempranillo/Garnacha, Marques de Caçeres, Spain. SAQ#: 10263242. \$14.05

Now most people think of rosé in the summer, but for those who don’t want to have a heavy meal and a heavy wine then this has just enough body and loads of flavour in the mouth to do the trick. It starts with hints of strawberry, vanilla, pepper and flowers – and has great body overall.

SAQ available at press time: Victoria, across from Atwater Market, Pepsi Forum

Malbec, Altos las Hormigas Reserva, Argentina. SAQ#: 10692485. \$26.80

The flavours of Malbec scream for beef

so enjoy this with prime rib or filet mignon. The reserva has a little more oomph in the mouth than the Malbec, but look for chocolate, plum, blackberry, lead and baking spice in both. The reserva has more dryness in the mouth and a longer finish.

SAQ available at press time: Victoria, across from the Atwater Market.

Grenache/ Syrah/ Mouvedre/ Cinsault, Cigare Volant, Bonny Doon Vineyard, California. SAQ#: 10253386. \$40.00

This is a really good wine with a really great story. The best part of this is that it has gone down \$10! A Rhone blend wine in true California style; big and bold with loads of fruit in the finish. This dry red blends well with all meats, preferably red and lots of grilled things. In flavour, look for black pepper, red cherry, Twizzler and vanilla.

SAQ available at press time: Victoria, across from Atwater Market, Westmount Square.

Carola Price
is a sommelier and principal in
IVV Montreal and IVV Catering.



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BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following building permits for exterior alterations were approved by city council its meetings November 12 and 24:

330 Victoria: to modify front landscaping, repair the façade and provide a new basement entrance;

4746 The Boulevard: to repair the solarium;

3443 St. Antoine: to replace the front door;

149 Côte St. Antoine: to replace windows and a door;

544 Claremont: to replace windows and two rear doors;

60 Somerville: to modify rear façade to include an upstairs extension supported by columns;

30 Stanton: to replace the windows of apartments 703 and 706;

630 Victoria: to replace three windows and a balcony door;

17 Willow: to modify a side window opening;

468 Wood: to replace windows;

340 Wood: to landscape front yard;

4281 de Maisonneuve: to repair rear balcony and railings; to install a side fence parallel to the road; to block the openings of four illegal windows on the side common wall;

627 Belmont: to replace four front windows and one on the side;

399 Clarke: to replace windows and doors at #4A;

4280 Dorchester: to rebuild front stairs and build a new rear deck;

28 Sunnyside: to build a rear extension;

3705 The Boulevard: to modify the coach house replacing front windows, and to landscape to include relocation of front stairs;

36 Summit Circle: to build an underground technical room in the front yard behind the building line;

4039 Tupper: to install six telecommunications antennas on the rooftop penthouse structure;

597 Argyle: to build a side addition and modify part of the rear extension;

4101 Sherbrooke: to renovate an existing third floor rear addition;

369 Metcalfe: to install a fence along the northwest side property line;

572 Roslyn: to replace the fence along the southwest rear property line;

476 Mount Pleasant: to replace rear yard fence;

570 Claremont: to replace garage door.

Westmount's adult hockey standings

Executive A	GP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PTS
M.D. (Yellow)	8	4	0	4	12
C.E.O. (Grey)	8	3	2	3	9
P.H.D. (Blue)	8	2	4	2	6
C.A. (Green)	8	2	5	1	5

Executive B	GP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PTS
M.B.A. (White)	8	5	2	1	11
BROKERS (Blue)	8	4	3	1	9
LAW (Black)	8	3	5	0	6
ENGINEERS (Red)	8	3	5	0	6

Senior A	GP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PTS
KINGS	15	12	2	1	25
BLUES	15	6	8	1	13
RED WINGS	15	6	9	0	12
BRUINS	15	4	9	2	10

Senior B	GP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PTS
PREDATORS	13	9	2	2	20
CANADIENS	11	8	2	1	17
NORDIQUES	12	6	4	2	14
FLYERS	11	5	4	2	12
HAWKS	12	4	4	4	12
SHARKS	12	5	7	0	10
SENATORS	12	4	6	2	10
DEVILS	11	4	6	1	9
FATHERS	12	1	5	6	8
OILERS	12	2	8	2	6

Best info as of Dec. 5

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West Coast experts shed light on possible origins Totem's mysteries unfolding

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Mysteries surrounding the origins of the totem pole that Westmount inherited from a summit estate many years ago are slowly unravelling following research efforts by the city as part of the artifact's restoration.

Information from West Coast specialists indicated the totem most likely was carved by young native students of residential schools on Vancouver Island for the tourist trade, said archeologist Virginia Elliott, Westmount's assistant community events coordinator. They would have been reproducing a 19th-century design from the Tlingit people of Alaska.

"Because it comes from native people, knowing its origins is vital," she said. In keeping with tradition, a totem would have a ceremonial resurrection if damaged or knocked over in storm.

It is hoped eventually to display the totem pole at the Westmount Public Library. The city is currently exploring various options regarding its restoration.

Role was to disintegrate

Ironically, she adds, "In its role, the totem is supposed to disintegrate and return to Mother Earth." Totem poles are unique to the Pacific northwest coast, carved and painted to commemorate important events, contain funerary remains or as special monuments.

Recent information has revealed that features of the Westmount pole resemble those of the Kicksetti Memorial totem from Wrangell, Alaska, Elliott said. This pole was erected in the late 19th century in a small community in memory of Chief Kahl-teen. It became a popular model for young carvers.

Westmount's 12-foot totem was a star feature in the Campbell garden at 21 Edgell Hill Rd. It was reportedly brought back from BC by a member of family who had been travelling there in the 1920s. (See *Westmount Independent*, August 1, 2007.)

After presiding over the lot in Westmount Park, it was taken into the greenhouse to prevent further deterioration. Regulating humidity there proved too challenging, however. It has subsequently been moved to the Corporation Yard to gradually stabilize its environment prior to restoration.

The Westmount Horticultural Advisory Committee has generated some \$7,000 from the yearly perennial plant sales and other events, including garden tours, for its restoration.

Estimates peg the cost at about \$20,000. Before that can be undertaken, the city is trying to establish its value, a process that has become challenging in itself for a historical and irreplaceable artifact, she pointed out. "Finding knowledgeable people in this area is difficult."



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The reviews are in!

THE HEART OF THE FARM

A History of Barns and Fences in the Eastern Townships of Quebec



Text by Louise Abbott
Photographs by Louise Abbott and Niels Jensen

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from “Local treasures”
by John Kalbfleisch in
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section (November 29,
2008)

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of Townships’s history
that you are likely to find.”

The Townships Outlet
(October 16, 2008)

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Victoria Vanier, *Stanstead Journal* (November 19, 2008)

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9 Lives: Roxanne

BY LYZANNE

Meet Roxanne! She is a beautiful short-hair calico of about 1 year old. She was



Roxanne

homeless outside and followed Elizabeth across a busy intersection and a schoolyard, down three blocks to her home and begged for food and water.

She adores being cuddled and has fun playing, which would definitely make her a wonderful addition to a Westmount family who will give her lots of love in return.

Roxanne will follow you all over the house. She will also keep you warm at night if you let her share your pillow! Call Elizabeth at 514.637.3105 for more information on her or write to her at liz.fred@sympatico.ca.

Your neighbour, Lyzanne

Artwork by Laura S. Cohendet



Trendsetter...

continued from p. 8

favourite city to live in today is Montreal. It is a very easy city to live in. The only thing I do not like about Montreal is that the winter is too long! I love New York and Paris, but it's very stressful to live in those cities unless the circumstances are right.

Comin' Up...

Tuesday, Dec. 9: Christmas Tree Lighting Party at city hall at 6:30 pm. Christmas stories, carols and hot chocolate. Party is free, but donations of non-perishable food items for Westmount's Annual Holiday Food Drive are welcome. 514.989.5265.

Wednesday, Dec. 10: Barrie Baldero will perform *A Child's Christmas in Wales* at 2 pm at the Westmount Public Library. To register, call 514.989.5386.

Thursday, Dec. 11: Centre Greene's Annual General Meeting at 7 pm. Open to all. 514.931.6202 or www.centregreene.org. ● Former Westmounter Jordanna Fraiberg reads from her newly published young adult novel *In Your Room* at **Babar en ville** (1235A Greene Ave.) at 4 pm. Signing and refreshments. 514.931.0606.

Friday, December 12: Meet ceramic artist **Claire Salzberg** for coffee in the Gallery at Victoria Hall from 10 am to noon. Exhibition ends December 18. Info: 514.989.5226.

Saturday, Dec. 13: A Christmas-Hannukah Concert at the Westmount Baptist Church (corner Roslyn and Sherbrooke) at 4 pm featuring **The McGill Suzuki Group** (with children aged 3 years and up) under the direction of Dr. Alfred Garson. Free event,

The adrenaline is always pumping.

WI: What is your favourite treat?

NM: A special treat is going out for a very nice, unpretentious dinner: good food, good wine and interesting and fun people. Being with very good friends, talking and exchanging is a pleasure.

followed by refreshments.

Monday, Dec. 15: Council meeting in Council Chamber at city hall at 8 pm. ● Christmas gifts and crafts at mini-bazaar from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm hosted by **Contactivity Centre** (4695 de Maisonneuve, corner Lansdowne.) 514.932.2326. ● Study School students will go door-to-door caroling from 6 to 8 pm to raise money for a good cause. All donations will be used for food baskets given by the school to St. Gabriel's Parish. Students in grades 5 to 11, teachers and parents, will be on the streets of Westmount with their ever popular annual holiday caroling fund raising activity. 514.935.9352.

Thursday, December 18: Centenary of Roslyn School (play) by Dramatis Personae at the Westmount Public Library from 7 to 9 pm. Admission is free for members, \$5 otherwise.

Sunday, Dec. 21: Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom hosts the annual community-wide Hannukah party from 3 to 4 pm in the community hall, followed by the First Candle Lighting at Westmount city hall at 4:30 pm. Enjoy Latkes, donuts, refreshments, Chanukah music, dreidel games and chocolate coins. Bring your family Menorah to display. 514-937-3575.

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En cette période des Fêtes, je pense tout particulièrement à ceux qui ont contribué à mon succès. Je vous remercie d'avoir été là et de m'avoir fait confiance. Joyeuses Fêtes et Bonne Année!

This holiday season, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all my clients and colleagues who contributed to my success in 2008. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

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