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Exploring the secrets of snow removal

Personnel key to Westmount effort

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

With more than three metres of snow already fallen this winter, the city of Westmount continues to receive high profile media coverage as a benchmark in snow removal.

So what's the secret?

"The main thing is our personnel," said Jacques Lahaie, Public Works director.

"We use very few contractors – only 20 percent of the personnel. Our own people have good knowledge of the city and are used to working together as a team and with Public Security."

Westmount also makes snow removal a budget priority, maintains an inventory of backup equipment to replace inevitable breakdowns, pays special attention to details and accepts a policy of weekend work.

Schedules and procedures have been perfected over time but remain essentially unchanged except for fine-tuning to meet changing needs, such as emergency casting of snow onto larger properties as occurred after back-to-back storms in December. As a mainstream practice, this was discontinued some 20 years ago.

Snow removal faces new challenges

What has changed, however, is increased traffic congestion, restrictions on snow dumping, and the pushing of snow onto roads and sidewalks, a method used by some private contractors.

This winter also brings new provincial labour regulations that limit the number of workers' hours to 70 hours a week followed by a mandatory 36-hour rest.

Nevertheless, depending on the timing of a storm and other variables, Westmount

can generally clear its streets within three to four days after a 30-cm snowstorm – a reason why traffic reporters routinely single out Westmount stretches of arterial routes as already cleaned. Smaller snowfalls take less time.

Storms can cost \$80,000 a day

A typical storm can cost the city between \$70,000 to \$80,000 a day including the regular labour costs of blue collar workers deployed to snow removal operations.

The city of Westmount has 53 kilometres of streets and 100 kilometres of sidewalks – many of them on steep inclines – and 10 kilometres of lanes. The cost of maintaining them in winter and disposing of snow has been budgeted at \$2.85 million, for 2008, based on an average weather and annual snowfalls of 2.2 metres (220 centimetres), and we are already over three metres.

Ready for the next storm

"We monitor weather networks and Environment Canada and are generally ready when snow or freezing rain hits," said superintendent John Monteiro, who has been continued on p. 2

Retail Watch: Lots of change in early '08

BY ANNIKA MELANSON

For the latest news on changes to the shopping and services scene, turn to p. 12.



City worker Todd Seguin salts the hill on Stanton St. during the snowstorm February 13.

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How snow removal works

continued from p. 1

involved in Westmount snow removal for 21 years.

Typically, four of the city's plow-equipped salt trucks take to the road when freezing rain or 1-2 centimetres of snow falls, he explained. They push snow to the side and spread salt coated with liquid calcium chloride, which provides faster melt times on black ice and in minus 20°C temperatures.

Seven sidewalk plows are also deployed to each of the seven snow-removal sectors into which the city is divided.

City proposes residents use blowers

Is it a lack of respect? Is it more competition between private contractors? Or a rush to do as many driveways as quickly as possible? These are some of the reasons that have been suggested for the quantities of snow that are being pushed out into Westmount's streets and sidewalks from private properties in what the city contends is an ongoing impediment to snow removal.

"It's everyone's responsibility to be sure the snow is properly placed on private property or existing windrows," said Westmount Public Works director Jacques Lahaie.

He suggests that residents might consider partial clearing of driveways or request that contractors use tractors equipped with blowers à la West Island. This method distributes snow from driveways – usually salt-free – over front and side lawns.

Securing dump times and trucks

During a storm, the first phone calls Monteiro makes are to the dumps "to make sure they can take us before I call in the trucks."

While the city's contract with brokers "guarantees" up to 32 trucks, he explained that only 25 to 28 were available during the exceptional back-to-back storms in December "when we really needed 40."

Dumping times and accessibility are increasingly difficult as the Quebec government continues to close sites for environmental reasons. "The further we have to go, the longer the trucks take," Lahaie said. Ironically, "that also adds to pollution."

Turcot dump yields better time

For the third winter, Westmount has been dumping directly into the Butler sewer shoots in Verdun, and latterly at Turcot Yard, when the site was made available. Both sites, however, can only accommodate Westmount between 7 am and 7 pm. That's because Montreal uses them overnight.

"In the past, we were able to work beyond 7 pm," Monteiro said.

One truckload to Butler is equivalent to one and a half at Turcot due to the fact that the Butler site, accessed down Atwater, takes longer to reach (seven traffic lights) and requires longer dumping waits. As well, it can't accept semi-trailer trucks that double the amount of snow hauled away at one time. As a result, Westmount has had to stop using these. Turcot is described as only three traffic lights away.

Weekend work pays

On weekends, with less traffic, one truck can cart away and dump 16 to 19 loads per day. "On a weekday," Lahaie said, "we're lucky to get 10."

Even with overtime pay, weekend work "pays for itself," he added. Saturdays cost time-and-a-half; Sundays, double time.

"We're also lucky to have backup equipment," he said. Snow blowers, in particular, are susceptible to frequent breakdown. "All it takes is for one hidden piece of cement or other debris to be sucked up from a snow bank." Three rental blowers are the city's first line of attack but its own three on standby also can be quickly pressed



Jacques Lahaie and John Monteiro explain snow removal procedures.

into service.

The city uses seven of its own sidewalk plows, keeping four in reserve. When four of its salt trucks are on the road, two are in waiting. Loaders, with a short turning radius have recently replaced less maneuverable graders. The city owns eight and rents five.

While the city hires out the clearing of 10 municipal parking lots, as well as lanes, its own crews open up the lanes beforehand.

Small details make the difference

Of the 40 Westmount blue collar workers involved in snow removal, 35 drive equipment or shovel steps, while five mechanics service the equipment at the municipal garage.

These constitute 80 percent of what is

considered to be the regular snow removal workforce, which also includes eight contractors – those who drive the rented blowers and loaders. The truckers are excluded from personnel totals.

"All our public steps are shovelled by hand," Lahaie said. "And we have a lot of steps in Westmount!" Among them are the long Aberdeen steps up to Sunnyside as well as the steps to Thornhill and upper Roslyn.

Every minute counts in efficient snow removal, he explained. Coffee breaks are taken at the work site rather than back at the Corporation Yard. Lunch is reduced from 45 to 30 minutes.

"It's the small details that make a difference. And it all comes down to good teamwork."

A glance at the typical work schedule for a 30-cm snowfall

Day of the storm

Plowing and salting/sanding of roads and sidewalks. Opening of bus stops and street corners

Day 1 after the storm

- Blowing and loading:
- Start of some 18 school zones
- North-south fire routes (Forden, Sydenham, Edgehill, Lexington and Shorncliffe; and Metcalfe
- Commercial areas (Victoria, and Sherbrooke both sides from Roslyn to Claremont; Greene Avenue, and St. Catherine east to Atwater)
- One side of arterials (Sherbrooke, St.

Catherine and The Boulevard) if possible – usually for eastbound traffic – to get people into work. Municipal parking lots

Day 2

- Blowing and loading
- Continued work on arterials and school zones
- At least one side of major north-south routes such as Claremont, Victoria, Grosvenor, Lansdowne, and Clarke

Days 3 and 4

- Blowing and loading
- Remainder of city



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St. Louis addresses WMA on communications vision

City asks for feedback

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Communications between the city and its citizens is a two-way street, director general Bruce St. Louis told a public meeting of the Westmount Municipal Association on February 5.

While the city uses a variety of means to inform citizens of programs and services, it also depends on residents to provide feedback, either through personal contact at the city hall, by phone or via the city's website at www.westmount.org.

"If we're not getting complaints, it probably means we're not getting feedback," he said at the meeting held at Westmount Public Library.

Don't stop calling

He also urged citizens not to stop calling city hall when they had repeated concerns. "Every call has its value," he explained.

Outlining Westmount's vision for enhancing communications, he explained ways in which the website would continue to be improved as an interactive information tool.

Great strides have been made in its de-

velopment, which enables citizens to ask questions and provide their feedback to various departments and services, he said.

Someday, residents would also be able to use it as a tool for an array of services such learning about the shut-down of electrical services in their block or being able to following the progress of snow removal by means of GPS in vehicles.

Tracing the growth of the city's communications division and the introduction of a Westmount look and identity, he introduced communications agent Andrew Ross and newly appointed communications coordinator Brigitte Stock (see story p. 7).

St. Louis, who is retiring this year, cited the Agglomeration Council's website as "the epitome of poor communications." The first thing a visitor to the site sees "is a list of 2006 meetings."

Answers questions

Saying he was more interested to hear what those in attendance had to say, St. Louis answered a number of questions from the audience.

Among them were "the logic of snow clearing on one side of Côte St. Antoine before the other", the training of customer service receptionists at city hall and enforcement of city bylaws on recurring issues such as garbage being put out the night before collection day.

He was asked not to forget about other means of communicating with citizens who do not have internet access or, as one person stated, like himself who spends the day on the internet but had never visited the city website. "What are some of the reasons citizens should go to the site?"

The site provides "a whole host of information" such as library hours and recycling details, St. Louis replied.

The speaker was recognized for his accessibility, and was thanked by WMA president Henry Olders for his dedication.

The Study welcomes back class of '88



Study alumnae from the class of '88 came back in force for their 20th reunion on January 25—only to find many of their former teachers on hand too. From left: Standing, Mrs. Balfour, Mrs. Ewing, Liane Tabah, Daphne Maravei, Tanya Razek, Elise Johnston, Mr. Hamilton, Kathy Molnar, Katherine Price, Helen Theoharis, Mr. Macaulay, Ms. Edwards and Ms. Falco. Seated in chairs, Mme Jothy, Heather Brennan, Tanya Guyatt, Ms. Biggs, Mrs. Wright, Ms. Fry, Julie Arsenault, Samantha Hoare. On floor, Ali Mindel, Annabel Soutar, Erika Flores and Frau Sutherland.

Westmount Municipal Association unofficial minutes

At its open board meeting on February 5, the WMA board members and other attendees discussed the WMA's plans for the new year. There are no speakers scheduled for March or April as the group gets ready for its centennial annual general meeting in May. For the AGM itself, Paul Billette and Stan Grossman are still looking for a speaker.

Branding

On the branding front, the WMA had its first look at new logo possibilities. Designer and corresponding secretary Patricia Dumais, charged with logo creation, presented a fairly traditional logo featuring Westmount's city hall and a more modern version featuring the set-

ting sun visible on the Westmount crest. Neither was chosen, and the process continues. A new WMA pamphlet is also in the works.

WMA president Henry Olders continues to encourage the city to share information with residents, including posting city council agenda material on its website prior to meetings.



Bruce St. Louis answers questions from Stanley Baker at the WMA meeting. Near the podium is WMA president Henry Olders.

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Earthhour – Lights Out!

By Eve Aspinall
Member of the Healthy City Project

Last year in Sydney, Australia, in *one hour*, 2.2 million people and 2,100 businesses reduced the city’s consumption of energy by 10.2 percent simply by turning off non-essential lights and electrical appliances. This was equivalent to taking 48,000 cars off the road for one hour. It was a potent and impressive message about the necessity for action to reduce global warming. This unique symbolic action has inspired a global initiative organized by World Wildlife Fund International. James Leape, director general of WWF International said, “The public has become increasingly alarmed about climate change. They’re seeing it in their daily lives, faster than scientists predicted even a few years ago, and are increasingly impatient to see something done about it. People are ready to take action in their own lives and expect their governments to take action.”

Some of the cities that have signed on are Melbourne, Sydney, Manila, Tel Aviv, Copenhagen, Chicago, Toronto, and locally, Beaconsfield. The city of Montreal is giving it serious consideration as are many of the suburbs.

March 29, 8 pm

On March 29 from 8 pm until 9 pm, all non-essential lights and electrical appliances should be turned off to demonstrate

our commitment to reducing emissions by lowering energy consumption. This includes civic and office buildings. For safety reasons, street lights will remain on.

While this action is primarily symbolic, hopefully it will generate a greater sensitivity and awareness of the role individuals can play in helping to reduce greenhouse gases. If each of us can begin to look at ways we can reduce our own consumption of energy, this one hour is no longer just symbolic.

To increase energy efficiency in our own homes, one tangible action each of us can take is to replace our incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs, known as CFLs. Incandescent bulbs were banned in Australia last year, and Canada is slated to ban them by 2012.

CFLs use 66% less energy, produce the same amount of light, and last 10 times longer than the incandescent bulbs we commonly use today. Replacing at least one bulb can save \$30 on one’s electricity bill over the life of the bulb. While CFLs presently cost between \$1.90 and \$2.50 per bulb, the price is likely to come down as the market demand increases. In its Energy Wise Program, Hydro Quebec is offering a 50% rebate on the purchase price of CFLs of up to \$25. The main drawback to CFLs is their mercury content which makes proper disposal important. As they are considered hazardous waste, they should not go into household garbage. Home Depot will also accept used CFLs.

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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.

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Vacant on Victoria



These three shops are currently unoccupied at Victoria and Somerville. What happened to these businesses? Trink has moved in with Astri Prugger at 322 Victoria Ave. M2 maintains its phone number, but did not answer calls about whether it has a new location. Tui has closed. Three stores in the southern half of the same building (Pure, Pay D’Oz and Déjà Porté) remain open for business.

Letters to the editor

NEWSPAPER REFLECTS COMMUNITY

I wanted to write to you to say how much I admire and enjoy your newspaper, the *Westmount Independent*. As you know, I am a volunteer with Scouts Canada and became aware of your paper when you agreed to sponsor our November Scouting fundraising dinner and show for Africa.

The evening at the Shaar Hashomayim synagogue was a wonderful and joyous evening and we raised over \$9,000 to send to Africa in support of their Red Ribbon Badge program. Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers, leaders and parents all played parts in our show – led by our very talented Westmount Park Cubmaster and actor, Andrew Macdougall, as Lord Baden-Powell.

Our master of ceremonies, City Councillor George Bowser brought the scenes together smoothly and professionally. Another familiar face was City Councillor Tom Thompson, who as Colonel Baker Russell, the commanding officer of the British forces in Khandahar, Afghanistan in 1880, made a striking appearance in his red and gold uniform.

When we get the support of the press for such an event, it not only helps with public relations but makes the community aware of what is happening and why. Westmount has always been extremely supportive of these events and the people behind them and it is truly a city of which to be very proud.

To me, your newspaper reflects our city and as such we thank you.

MAGGIE SHADDICK
SCOUTS CANADA-QUEBEC COUNCIL

GREEN TAXES?

I thank you for Annika Melanson’s February 20 column (“Green weddings”) in the *Westmount Independent*. It was thoughtful, complete and informative.

We are convinced ecologists who have been without a car since 1972 – but on Argyle Ave., it is not difficult with the 24 and 66 buses.

On another note, we have hardly any garbage. Our worms in the basement devour the vegetables. Hopefully, the size of one’s garbage will soon count in evaluating one’s taxes!

Thank you again.

GENEVIEVE DELMAS-PATTERSON,
ARGYLE AVE.

LIGHT BULBS CAN BE BRIGHT IDEA

The *Westmount Independent* is a pleasure to read. It is wonderful to have our own paper that caters to the needs and interests of a diverse community.

In the January 16 issue, Aurelien Guilory’s Colourfully Yours column about the need for improved lighting made me think more about light bulbs.

During the holidays, Westmount was full of many wonderful LED lights. We should continue to embrace the good habits of using this new technology to conserve energy in 2008. Aurelien is on the right track – designers need to consider the cosmetic aspects of lighting and should take advantage of the evolution of fixtures that are becoming more energy efficient.

Many municipal-
ities in Ontario and continued on the next page

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

continued from previous page

Alberta have successfully embraced Project Porchlight. This initiative simply replaces a regular porch light with a CFL bulb, which provides soft light, lasts a long time and saves energy. The success of this program includes bringing neighbours together for a common good. To date, it has handed out over 1,000,000 bulbs.

It does, however, come with a commitment from the community to dispose of the used light bulbs responsibly. They cannot be placed in the regular garbage. They contain a small amount of mercury and therefore need to be placed in the hazardous waste collection or brought to a designated location like Home Depot, including the one at Lansdowne Ave. and St. Antoine.

Outdoor lights should be turned off when you go to bed or be timed to do it automatically. Motion-type lighting can help too.

Solar lighting technology is an interesting alternative for all non-essential outdoor uses. Use them to light up pathways or to show off facades.

We have a great community and a wonderful paper. We need to share and work together to keep it this way.

Yours sincerely,

CYNTHIA GRAHAME
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I am a regular reader of your refreshing and very informative *Westmount Independent*.

We are private sellers and we would appreciate it very much to have our house included in The Inventory of houses on the market. Our house, located on Dorchester Blvd., is a townhouse (built 1840-1850) that was once owned by Mr. Atwater, Mr. Staynor as well as Mr. Greene.

Many thanks in advance.

Yours sincerely,

NADA BACKOVIC
DORCHESTER BLVD.

Civic Alert

What if Lachenaie sent its garbage to Westmount?

BY DON WEDGE



Some Westmounters don't even have to put their garbage out near the curb. Twice a week, the city's Public Works' contractors empty the bins or pick up the sacks, often from the backs of houses.

It disappears. More specifically, it disappears from sight, never to be seen in Westmount again.

Rather expensively, it is trucked to a landfill and dumped. Buried there, it will slowly rot, some of it – notably plastics – taking centuries.

Most of Westmount's garbage goes to the huge landfill operated by the American firm BFI in Lachenaie, a booming town force-merged into Terrebonne. It is relatively close by, being located just off the northeast tip of the island of Montreal. When Big Montreal takes over our garbage disposal next year, it will all be sent there.

Once welcomed

The Lachenaie landfill was a relatively small dump until the owners successfully persuaded the Quebec cabinet in 1995 to allow a substantial expansion. Local citizens and politicians welcomed this.

In 2003, the owners applied for another permit – this time, for a "landgrow", a mini-mountain, not a bigger hole in the ground. But the response had changed. Both citizens and councils of Lachenaie and neighboring Repentigny opposed it, even suing the province when it granted the promoters their wish.

Now BFI is asking again for a permit for another monster increase, which would perpetuate its operation for 17 more years at the present rate of business. Public hearings on the application are currently taking place.

When blue box recycling was new, we heard a lot of the three Rs – with reduction before reuse and recycle. The argument being: if you don't create waste in the first

place, there is no disposal problem.

Reduction forgotten

The issue has been dormant for years, however. Despite recycling and, in some places composting, garbage sent into Quebec's landfills between 1996 and 2006 grew by 26 percent – from 5.3 to 6.7 million tonnes. "Reduction" had fallen off society's map.

Garbage also increased in Westmount. In 2003, we were billed for 7,861 tonnes and this increased to 8,927 tonnes in the following two years. It dropped slightly in 2006 to 8,725 tonnes. This probably was not a real reduction: in the spring of that year the city began its green waste collection, which diverted it from garbage. "It was disappointing the reduction wasn't greater," admitted Marina Peter, Westmount's environment coordinator.

We are now going to hear about the first "R" again. The National Assembly is currently working on proposals for the next decade's waste policies with "reduction" as an objective. Canada's environment ministers have revived an Extended Producer Responsibility policy, which gives the original manufacturers the primary role in dealing with waste and not the municipalities.

The municipal world is pushing the theme on the government, as well as seeking subsidies for major processing facilities to avoid dumping. Big Mayor Gerald Tremblay, as one of the leaders of these moves, is holding out his hand in Quebec City's direction.

Meanwhile, opposition to the BFI permit request is increasing. Not only have the four neighbouring cities objected, but

so have property owners, environment groups, the union of workers at the nearby hospital, a Chamber of Commerce and many citizens.

There were some charming interventions at the public hearings. First on the list came the Université du troisième âge, an active local seniors' group. They are concerned with social and environmental aspects, which have worsened since 2003, they say.

The appeal that impressed me the most, though, was a plain, single, handwritten page to Environment Minister Line Beauchamp. It asked her to ensure the authors' right to a healthy environment, avoid negative health impacts, retain the value of their property and keep the quality of life for their children.

It was signed simply "Yvon Carrière et ma famille."

I'm sure many Westmount homeowners would have similar feelings if they thought their area was going to have a comparable development to last the next 17 years!

We have to ask if we have a right to send our garbage to a community that rather clearly does not want to have it.

Don Wedge's e-mail address
is calert@web.net.

Got Stuff?

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<div></div> <div>FINANCES</div> <div>Date d'échéance</div> <div>Taxes foncières municipales</div> <div>Le premier versement de vos taxes foncières municipales 2008 est exigible le lundi 3 mars. Veuillez noter que vous devez libeller votre chèque à l'ordre de la Ville de Westmount. Pour de plus amples renseignements sur les taxes foncières de la Ville de Westmount, veuillez consulter notre site Web. Info : 514 989-5234. 🍀</div> <div></div> <div>TRAVAUX PUBLICS</div> <div>Déneigement</div> <div>La Ville de Westmount a besoin de la collaboration de tous les automobilistes afin de s'assurer que le déneigement s'effectue rapidement et efficacement pendant tout l'hiver. À chaque fois que vous stationnez votre véhicule, n'oubliez pas de vérifier les panneaux orange. Les véhicules entravant le déneigement seront remorqués.</div> <div>Neige venant des entrées privées</div> <div>Ne jamais placer la neige venant des entrées privées dans les rues, ruelles et sur les trottoirs publics. Il est possible d'ajouter aux bancs de neige existants avant les opérations de déneigement, mais il faut toujours s'assurer que les trottoirs et la voie publique ne sont jamais obstrués. Autant les propriétaires que les entrepreneurs sont passibles d'amendes pour toute contravention. Info : 514 989-5311. 🍀</div> <div></div> <div>ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES</div> <div>La galerie du Victoria Hall</div> <div>La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les œuvres de Nina Cherney du 21 février au 15 mars. Info : 514 989-5226.</div> <div>Galerie : appel de propositions</div> <div>La galerie du Victoria Hall lance un appel de propositions pour sa programmation de la saison 2008-2009 (septembre 2008 à août 2009). Cet appel s'adresse aux artistes et artisans qui habitent à Westmount. Les propositions doivent être transmises au plus tard le lundi 31 mars. Pour de</div>		<div></div> <div>FINANCE</div> <div>Municipal Property Tax Installment Deadline</div> <div>The first installment of your 2008 municipal taxes is due on Monday, March 3. Please note that payments should be made to the City of Westmount. For more information on municipal property taxes, please consult our Web site. Info: 514 989-5234. 🍀</div> <div></div> <div>PUBLIC WORKS</div> <div>Snow Removal</div> <div>The City of Westmount depends on the cooperation of all drivers to ensure that snow is removed quickly and efficiently throughout the winter. Whenever you park, look up and check carefully for orange signs. Vehicles blocking snow removal operations will be towed.</div> <div>Snow from Private Driveways</div> <div>Snow from private driveways and walkways must never be placed on public sidewalks, lanes or streets. During snow loading, snow may be added to the existing snowbanks prior to removal, but this snow must never obstruct the public roadways or sidewalks. Fines may be levied on home owners and/or contractors who violate these regulations. Info: 514 989-5311. 🍀</div> <div></div> <div>COMMUNITY EVENTS</div> <div>The Gallery at Victoria Hall</div> <div>The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present the works of Nina Cherney. The exhibition will run from February 21 to March 15. Info: 514 989-5226</div> <div>Gallery Call for Submissions</div> <div>The Gallery at Victoria Hall announces a call for submissions for its 2008-2009 exhibition season (September 2008 to August 2009). Artists and artisans who are residents of Westmount are invited to apply. The deadline for submissions is Monday, March 31. For complete details, please consult our Web site. Info: 514 989-5226. 🍀</div>	
<div></div> <div>DATES À RETENIR</div> <div>À compter du 21 février</div> <div>Exposition : Œuvres de Nina Cheney La galerie du Victoria Hall</div> <div>Le 21 février – 19 h</div> <div>Association historique de Westmount Conférences printanières <i>La conservation des maisons westmountaises construites dans les années 1800</i> Bibliothèque</div> <div>Le 25 février - 20 h</div> <div>Séance générale du conseil Hôtel de ville</div> <div></div> <div>renseignements détaillés, veuillez consulter notre site Web. Info : 514 989-5226. 🍀</div> <div></div> <div>BIBLIOTHÈQUE</div> <div>Club d'échecs</div> <div>Aimez-vous jouer aux échecs ? La prochaine rencontre du club d'échecs aura lieu le vendredi 22 février à 14 h dans une ambiance amicale. Nous sommes toujours à la recherche de nouveaux joueurs. Info : 514 989-5386.</div> <div>Assemblée annuelle</div> <div>Amis de la Bibliothèque</div> <div>L'assemblée annuelle des Amis de la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount aura lieu le mercredi 27 février à 19 h dans la salle Westmount de la Bibliothèque. Au programme : lecture des états financiers de l'an dernier, élection des membres du nouveau conseil d'administration et planification de la prochaine année. Des rafraîchissements seront offerts et du temps sera prévu pour des échanges informels. Info : 514 989-5386.</div> <div>Conférences de 14 heures</div> <div><i>Fashion in the Napoleonic Era</i></div> <div>Joignez-vous à Pamela Grimaud pour une présentation multimédia sur la mode à l'époque de Napoléon - le mercredi 27 février à 14 h. Info : 514 989-5386. 🍀</div>		<div></div> <div>DATEBOOK</div> <div>Beginning February 21</div> <div>Exhibition: Works of Nina Cheney Gallery at Victoria Hall</div> <div>February 21 – 7 p.m.</div> <div>Westmount Historical Association Spring Lecture Series <i>Preservation of Westmount homes built in the 1800s</i> Library</div> <div>February 25 - 8 p.m.</div> <div>General Council Meeting City Hall</div> <div></div> <div></div> <div>LIBRARY</div> <div>Chess Club</div> <div>Do you enjoy playing chess? Our Chess Club will meet on Friday, February 22 at 2 p.m. Drop by for a friendly game as we look forward to meeting new players. Info: 514 989-5386.</div> <div>Friends of the Library</div> <div>Annual Meeting</div> <div>The annual meeting of the Friends of the Westmount Public Library will be held on Wednesday, February 27 at 7 p.m. in the Library's Westmount Room. We will hear reports of the last year, elect a new Executive Board and make plans for the coming year. Refreshments will be available and there will be time for informal conversation. Info: 514 989-5386.</div> <div>2 o'clock Series</div> <div><i>Fashion in the Napoleonic Era</i></div> <div>Join Pamela Grimaud on Wednesday, February 27 at 2 p.m. for a stunning multimedia presentation on men's and women's fashion during Napoleon's reign. Info: 514 989-5386. 🍀</div>	

New communications coordinator has passion for political science

Combining her two interests

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Brigitte Stock's new position as communications coordinator for the city of Westmount offers the local resident the "best of both worlds" – the opportunity to work in a governmental environment and continue in her chosen profession.

"My passion lies in both the political science arena and communications," she explains, while underlining that her role is "not political."

Both interests also go hand-in-hand with her love of people, entertaining and sharing ideas, she says.

Stock began her new job on February 4 on a three-year contract, hired into the new role to help the city advance its communications strategies, including a number of new information options and tools to help citizens access city departments through the website at www.westmount.org.

20 years in PR

Stock, who comes from a 20-year career in public relations, has worked at a variety of agencies including Hill & Knowlton and National Public Relations where she was vice-president, corporate communications.

Stamp club hosts Bobrow

The Philatelic Club of Montreal will host Phillip Bobrow speaking about "Revenues and Mystery Stamps" on Tuesday, February 26 at 7:30 pm. The event takes place at the Westmount Public Library.

Settlement reached for janitorial services

An out-of-court settlement was approved by Westmount city council at a special meeting Feb. 13 in connection with a dispute regarding a contract for the maintenance of city buildings.

The city's director general and city clerk were authorized to sign an agreement in a Superior Court file in the matter of Conciergerie provinciale inc. vs. the City of Westmount in an amount of \$69,000 plus taxes, for a total of \$74,433.75.

The three-year contract in an annual amount of some \$300,000 applied to the years 2003 to 2006, explained city clerk Mario Gerbeau.

A resident of Abbott Ave. for the last 15 years, Stock grew up on Marlowe Ave. in NDG. She enjoyed playing in Westmount parks. "I liked reading, nature and re-energizing by being by myself. Maybe that's why I'm so interested in communications – because I can be reflective and pensive when alone but come out of that mould when I do my work."

Describing herself as generally even-tempered, she says: "I'm Irish and French, so I'm capable of expressing my emotions."

After attending Villa Maria high school and Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf, Stock obtained her bachelor's degree at UQAM as well her master's, in 1987, with the aim of going into external affairs. But after a *stage* at the Canadian embassy in Paris helping with a trade show, she began looking around for an outlet that would move her into the business world.

Maintains European contacts

She was accepted from many applicants into a one-year postgraduate communications program at the Sorbonne's Paris IV (CELSA). Stock then worked in Paris developing a network of PR contacts that she still holds up as a model of excellence for the exchange of information with colleagues in Europe.

"I love the excitement they generate," she says. "As a North American woman, however, I have a more proactive and energetic approach than women there."

She is involved in furthering women's advancement in the workplace and was

recognized by the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario as one of 650 "Women in the Lead" in Canada.

Applied by accident

Stock applied for her position in Westmount quite by accident.

As the mother of three children – Indiana, 24, Liam, 14 and Louis, 13 – she hit upon the posting while surfing the city website for information on sporting activities. "My life has been so entwined with the community through my children that I thought: Let's apply!"

In this respect, she was one of the first members of the city's Community Events Advisory Committee (CEAC) when "we spearheaded the Winter Carnival Cruise party."

She has also been associated with various activities in which her children are involved, including Liam's competitive swimming programs: the Westmount Dolphins and the YMCA's Barracudas. Her children have attended Roslyn and St. Léon schools as well as Westmount High and Collège de Montréal.

Giving back

Stock says she holds a deep appreciation of Westmount's image of "excellence and achievement" resulting from hard work, and its history of volunteerism in Westmount and the larger community. "Part of our heritage is giving back in an understated fashion."

As the community evolves, the atmos-



Brigitte Stock soon after her arrival to work at Westmount city hall.

phere is becoming more complex in terms of informing citizens, she says. "My goal is to serve them the best we can, respect their feedback and keep an open line of communication."

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Valentin-ivity



More than 100 people attended lunch at the Contactivity Centre (4695 de Maisonneuve) on February 14 to celebrate with anyone having a birthday in February. The lunch was also a Valentine's Day celebration. After lunch, dancing took over and door prizes, donated by Westmount Sports and Recreation and the Westmount greenhouse, were given out.

The Inventory: Houses on the market in Westmount

The Inventory is content provided by the Westmount Independent for the benefit of the reader. All information is garnered from public sources. Real estate agents, on the other hand, have access to closed networks that allow them to see more information, including the addresses of all listings. The Inventory endeavours to list all of the real estate of the type specified (e.g. houses) that is for sale in Westmount at press time. If you are a real estate agent or private seller whose property has been overlooked, please write to us at indie@westmountindependent.com and we will work to include your properties in future editions.

\$439,000 104 Abbott Ave.*
\$469,000 4866 St. Catherine West St. *
\$559,000 4840 St. Catherine St.
\$565,000 address unavailable*
\$569,000 140-142 Irvine Ave.
\$589,000 421 Claremont Ave
\$595,000 71 Columbia Ave.
\$620,000 address unavailable *
\$639,000 12 Chesterfield Ave. **



3262 Cedar Ave. is the most expensive new listing at \$3.2 million.

\$649,000 address unavailable
\$669,000 address unavailable*
\$669,000 75 Holton Ave.
\$675,000 8 Burton*
\$685,000 address unavailable
\$689,900 address unavailable*
\$695,000 1116 Greene Ave.
\$695,000 306 Roslyn Ave.
\$729,000 4361 Montrose Ave.
\$739,000 550 Lansdowne Ave. *
\$789,000 382-382A Metcalfe Ave.
\$795,000 69 Somerville Ave.
\$815,000 337 Metcalfe Ave.
\$819,000 600 Cote St. Antoine*
\$825,000 4742 The Boulevard*
\$869,000 600 Grosvenor Ave. *
\$873,000 380 Lansdowne Ave.
\$889,000 518 Victoria Ave.*
\$895,000 312 Lansdowne Ave.
\$899,000 427 Mount Pleasant Ave.
\$935,000 330 Victoria Ave.*
\$939,000 4293 de Maisonneuve Blvd.
\$945,000 657 Lansdowne Ave.
\$950,000 598 Victoria Ave.

\$959,000 612 Grosvenor Ave.*
\$989,000 596 Lansdowne Ave.
\$999,000 4450 de Maisonneuve Blvd.*
\$1,075,000 address unavailable
\$1,095,000 4308 Montrose Ave.*
\$1,100,000 address unavailable
\$1,130,000 305-307 Elm Ave.
\$1,149,000 709 Grosvenor Ave.
\$1,150,000 84 Belvedere Rd.*
\$1,155,000 628 Victoria Ave.
\$1,195,000 4345 Westmount Ave.*
\$1,195,000 4258 Dorchester Blvd.
\$1,195,000 792 Upper Lansdowne Ave.
\$1,198,000 602 Lansdowne Ave.*
\$1,249,000 667 Belmont Ave.
\$1,279,000 address unavailable*
\$1,285,000 address unknown
\$1,295,000 address unavailable
\$1,295,000 address unavailable
\$1,299,000 address unavailable
\$1,299,000 address unavailable
\$1,299,000 782 Upper Belmont Ave.
\$1,335,000 576 Cote St. Antoine*
\$1,379,000 address unavailable
\$1,395,000 address unavailable
\$1,399,000 address unavailable
\$1,430,000 492 Elm Ave*
\$1,450,000 4400 Montrose Ave.
\$1,485,000 310 Côte St Antoine Rd.
\$1,495,000 address unavailable
\$1,550,000 659 Murray Hill Ave.
\$1,575,000 address unavailable
\$1,595,000 322 Elm Ave.
\$1,690,000 175 Cote St. Antoine*
\$1,749,000 address unavailable*
\$1,750,000 address unavailable*
\$1,785,000 4287 Sherbrooke St. West
\$1,799,000 311 Kensington Ave.
\$1,825,000 3605 The Boulevard*
\$1,825,000 352-354 Elm Ave.
\$1,869,000 740 Upper Lansdowne Ave.
\$1,995,000 110 Upper Bellevue Ave.
\$1,995,000 Clarke Ave.
\$1,999,000 30 Surrey Gdns
\$2,150,000 487 Mount Pleasant Ave.*



576 Côte St. Antoine Rd. is a new listing. The asking price is \$1,335,000.



104 Abbott Ave., the least expensive house for sale, is also newly listed.

\$2,195,000 address unavailable*
\$2,200,000 or \$7,000/monthly address unavailable *
\$2,250,000 3755 The Boulevard
\$2,349,000 or \$15,000/monthly 65 Belvedere Rd.
\$2,400,000 3255 Cedar Ave*
\$2,400,000 address unavailable*
\$2,448,000 address unavailable
\$2,599,000 address unavailable
\$2,675,000 3745 The Boulevard
\$2,699,000 118 Upper Bellevue Ave.
\$2,950,000 3757 The Boulevard
\$2,988,000 70 Belvedere Pl.
\$2,990,000 address unavailable*
\$2,995,000 address unavailable
\$3,195,000 address unavailable
\$3,195,000 38 Belvedere Rd.
\$3,200,000 3262 Cedar Ave.*
\$3,250,000 630 Clarke Ave.
\$3,550,000 address unavailable
\$3,650,000 address unavailable
\$4,495,000 address unavailable
\$4,985,000 address unavailable
\$5,900,000 3803 The Boulevard

Since January 30 edition:
* New listing (could have been listed previously).
** New price.



518 Victoria Ave. is a new listing. The asking price is \$889,000.

EMILIO SANCHEZ



Exhibition opening April 3. Preview in progress.
Paintings drawings watercolours lithographs
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Westmount Stunning and distinguished detached home on Murray Hill. Outstanding detailed wood work, unique built-in half-moon tables in entrance and sunroom. Elegant LVR-DR, 4+1 BDR and 3+1 BTR, rich hardwood (oak) floors throughout. Beautifully landscaped garden, garage. Make an offer! **Asking \$1,550,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1368728



Westmount. Victoria Village. Lrg 3-bedroom+den, stunning woodwork, architectural treasures. Exposed brick and fireplace in living room. Kitchen has a pantry and adjacent mudroom. Deck, garage. **Asking \$655,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1298227



Notre Dame de Grâce (NDG) Adjacent to Monkland village and Sherbrooke shopping. Spacious 4 bedrooms cottage with one of a kind ground floor den, large eat in kitchen. Large pool size garden and parking. **Asking \$469,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1407475



Westmount Heritage s/d house in A1 location – the flat – steps from Westmount Park, and every amenity. Ten-foot ceilings with ornate moldings, skylight, a lot of windows, renewed. 4+1 bedrooms and 4+1 bathrooms, large eat-in kitchen. Ext. parking for 3 cars. Ideal for large family. **Asking \$999,000**

Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1410550



Westmount Set in an elegant row of charming Victorian townhouses (1898), steps from Greene. Four bedrooms, 1 bath, 1 powder room. 11-ft ceilings, new oak floors. Fin. basement, prize-winning private fenced garden, parking. **Asking \$620,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1399557



Le Sud Ouest Great loft with wall to wall windows with city views. 11-ft ceilings, originals beams, brick wall. Huge windows on this corner unit, over looking the canal, bike path, walk to Old Mtl, downtown. Garage, gym locker. **Asking \$299,000**

Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1407510



Westmount Beautiful duplex in lower Westmount, steps to Greene Ave. In both units 3 bedrooms, finished basements, independent parking, outdoor area and balconies. Upper unit has been upgraded. Stone walls, wood floor. **Asking \$685,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1342727



Westmount. Cozy English style cottage renovated with taste, on quiet cul de sac. 3+1 bedroom + 2 bathrooms. Wood floor, fire-place. Extended kitchen w/dinette, mud entry from garden and parking for one car. Playroom, bdr + bath in basement. **Asking \$595,000**

Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1395608



Notre Dame de Grâce (NDG) Bright and clean upper co-op on quiet residential street. Close to Sherbrooke st. shopping and bus. Approx. 1,100 sf, with 3 closed rooms. Eat-in kitchen, laundry in the unit. Wide entrance hall with coat closet. **Asking \$229,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1367058

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Selling real estate in Westmount and Montreal for over 35 years. The spring market is right around the corner... we'll help you get started!



LAURENTIANS

Spring Break in The Laurentians

Spring break in The Laurentians is a wonderful time to get out and enjoy outdoor activities in the charm of Laurentide villages. Whether you are a weekend resident ready for something different from your usual routine or a day-tripper, read on for suggestions of fun winter activities over the next two weeks.

Festi-Neige in St. Agathe des Monts

This brand new winter festival offers a variety of free family activities on weekends from 9 am to 5 pm until March 8. On March 1, the Chevaliers de Colomb social club is offering *tire sur neige* (taffy on snow) free of charge from 11 am to 2 pm at Place Lagny (2 St. Louis St.). Enjoy outdoor skating any day of the week on a one-kilometre rink in the shape of a figure eight. Access is free, and rental skates are available by two-hour blocks: \$3 for children, \$4 for adults. For more information call 819.326.3731 or visit www.sainte-agathe.org.

Mont Tremblant

Mont Tremblant Village is offering a whole week of activities and entertainment during spring break. From navigating through a snow maze, dog sledding, cross-country skiing, sliding, skating on Lac Miroir or simply hitting the slopes, there is lots to see and do. Go on a dog sledding adventure, where you can participate in harnessing the huskies and drive your own team of dogs behind a guide. Snowshoe excursions are also available and a great way to get some exercise in the great outdoors. For those who like to get the adrenaline pumping, check out ice climbing, where certified guides teach you basic techniques at the foot of the slopes at the Tremblant resort. For more information



and rates, call 819.681.4848 or visit www.tremblantactivities.com.

If your agenda calls for more low-key fun, the Mont Tremblant Resort Association has organized a multitude of free activities, including volleyball, sliding and admiring ice sculptures. For children, the Snow School operates daily. For kids ages one to six, there is a daycare service available at the hill. For more information, call 1.88.TREMBLANT or visit www.tremblant.ca. If your kids are partial to cross-country skiing, a new day camp will be held from March 3 to March 5, where kids can explore more than 68 kilometers of natural trails. The camp costs \$80 for the three days and children must bring a packed lunch and a snack. For more information, call 819.425.5588 or visit www.skidefondmont-tremblant.com.



St. Sauveur

In the heart of St. Sauveur village, completely furnished condo including flat screen television, gas fireplace, 2 bedrooms, in-ground pool. MLS# 1377175. Price is negotiable.

Johanne Leduc

Affiliated real estate agent - Groupe Sutton Laurentides

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Mtl: 514.990.0370 jleduc@sutton.com



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Mille Isles: New, spacious, beautifully crafted home with 8 private acres along Bonniebrook River while conveniently close to town. Sunny, open concept, fireplace, ceramic and wide pine floors. Completely renovated basement with sep entry. Few minutes to St. Jerome & Morin Heights. MLS 1402111 – \$239,000

Jean Leroux

Affiliated real estate agent
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Stupendous lakefront, eco-friendly Scandinavian-style chalet in Val-David. This magnificent residence is one of five round-log chalets in the picturesque Domaine des Merveilles (160 acres). Full southern exposure, wooded land, privacy, superior quality. Near the village. Exceptional site! MLS 1386460 – \$599,000

Maryann Zulueta

Affiliated real estate agent
Groupe Sutton Laurentides

Off: 450.227.2611 Cell: 450.660.1686

mzulueta@sutton.com



Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before Who designed Braemar?

By DOREEN LINDSAY

Question: Who designed this 161-year-old house called Braemar?

(brae=on the side of a hill; mar=beauty and harmony) For answer, see p. 13.



Marianopolis Groundhog Day auction



Marianopolis College psychology professor Leonard Shenker and alumna Louise Alepin meet over the silent auction table at the Alumni Association's seventh annual Groundhog Day fundraiser on January 31. The event's proceeds will go toward the purchase of a large screen television for the student lounge.

Photo courtesy of Marianopolis College.



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Westmount – 487 Argyle Ave.
Delightful townhouse loaded with charm + a gardener's garden!
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ANOTHER JUST LISTED!



Westmount – 36 Anwoth Ave.
Handsome Percy Nobbs detached cottage. Park like views at rear!
\$1,595,000

ANOTHER JUST LISTED!



Westmount – 84 Belvedere Rd.
Want it all? Won't compromise? I've got your house!
\$1,150,000

ANOTHER LISTED & SOLD BY BRIAN!



Westmount – 31 Thornhill Ave.
Everyone loves Thornhill! Here's your chance to own a piece of it.
\$769,000

ANOTHER JUST LISTED & SOLD! (cond.)



Westmount – 602 Lansdowne Ave.
Fall in love at first sight! EVERYTHING's nice! You'll see...
\$1,198,000

ANOTHER LISTED & SOLD BY BRIAN!



Westmount – 445 Elm Ave.
Fabulous 1895 brownstone. Meticulously restored & renovated.
\$1,150,000

ANOTHER SOLD!



Westmount – 4355 Westmount Ave.
Totally renovated and extended! Amazing location.
\$2,250,000

ANOTHER SOLD!



Westmount – 725 Upper Roslyn Ave.
Impressive! Beautifully renovated 1926 detached cottage
\$1,495,000

NEW PRICE!



Westmount – 4287 Sherbrooke St.W
The jewel of Sherbrooke St. Extraordinarily beautiful!
\$1,785,000



Westmount – 175 Cote St. Antoine
Gloriously sun filled 4+den det. home. Exceptionally lovely garden!
\$1,690,000



Westmount – 110 Upper Bellevue Ave.
Imagine waking up to this! Enormous potential.
\$1,995,000



Westmount – 4400 Montrose Ave.
Gorgeous renovations! Incredibly bright. Best location.
\$1,450,000

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Retail Watch BY ANNIKA MELANSON

Westmounter launches eco baby couture line in London

Westmounter-turned-Londoner Stephanie Lawson Teryazos has launched a new line of innovative and organic baby clothing: Bambino Bamboo (www.bambino-bamboo.com). “What first struck me when I heard about bamboo was how perfect it would be for babies and toddlers, not only because of comfort but also because skin is so sensitive at that age and bamboo is



Stephanie Lawson Teryazos with her son.

CLASSIFIED

FREE Clairvoyance, Spirit Communication, Mediumship & Messages. Sunday, February 24, 7:30 p.m. Days Hotel, 1005 Guy Street. ALL INVITED. Bring a friend. Info: (514) 937-8359.

FOR SALE Pair of 39 inch, painted pine, single twin beds, circa 1900. Asking price: \$600. Contact Margaret 514.937.8149.

BABYSITTER WANTED for 10 year old. Occasional evenings/sleepovers. Lower Westmount. Possibility join family for summer in Laurentians. 514 497 9015.

PSYCHIC AND SPIRIT TEA Thursday, February 28, 6:00 pm-9:00 p.m. Mediums, Psychics and more. Refreshments. 1974 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West. (514) 937-8359.

anti-bacterial and organic,” said Lawson Teryazos.

The new website offers parents the opportunity to purchase stylish and eco-friendly baby and toddler clothes made from bamboo, an innovative fabric which is sustainable and extremely soft. Not only are the clothes environmentally-friendly and organic but they’re made by factory workers over the age of 18 and who are fairly treated. Bamboo is a miracle fabric for allergy-prone people or those with sensitive skin as it is grown without the use of pesticides. It’s even UV-resistant. “It’s amazing how many uses there are for bamboo. You can eat bamboo shoots, it’s used in flooring, to make musical instruments, surf boards and in fabric. I’ve even seen it incorporated into skin creams. It is completely versatile and eco-friendly,” said Lawson Teryazos.

Westmount-owned pharmaceutical company goes au naturel

Westmounter Shawn Fares suffered from chronic intestinal pain until a friend suggested that he try a natural remedy developed by a doctor of naturopathic medicine, Dr. Saska D. Cipoletti, BSc, ND. Cipoletti, who has spent 15 years as a project manager with the United Nations, has had the opportunity to observe and study the natural medicines of shamans and healers of indigenous peoples around the world.

This experience, combined with studies in biology, chemistry, biochemistry and microbiology and the study of the ancient medical sciences of India, China and Russia, complement her extensive knowledge of ethno-botany and plant medicine.

Fares, the owner of a pharmaceutical company, was skeptical about natural remedies, but figured that he “had nothing to lose.” He got in touch with Cipoletti, and began taking her mineral drink daily: an all-natural ionic suspension of up to sixty trace organic minerals derived from



Shawn Fares with wife Nada.

100% plant material. Fares explained that our bodies naturally produce some vitamins from their daily diet, but minerals cannot be made in the body and must come from food supplies. When minerals are in short supply, the body suffers.

Within 10 days of taking Cipoletti’s natural mineral tonic, Fares felt “cured.” He was no longer in pain, had an abundance of energy and was able to sleep well at night. According to Fares, others have reported increased energy and a sense of well-being as well as an almost instant relief from leg cramps.

Fares was so impressed with Cipoletti’s tonic that he decided to transform his pharmaceutical company, Acenta, into a company that manufactures and distributes natural remedies, including ARES, the all-natural mineral tonic developed Cipoletti. It is currently available on the Acenta website: www.acenta.ca or by contacting Shawn or Nada Fares: 514.789.0879.

Leading edge technology at new Westmount Dental Care location

Calming and luxurious are not two words that I normally associate with a visit to the dentist, but that changed after a tour of Dr. Douglas Hamilton’s new dental practice in 1 Westmount Square (suite 420, 514.937.1858), which opened mid-January. Dr. Hamilton has been practicing dentistry in Westmount for 25 years, the last 20 on Victoria Ave. and Sherbrooke St.

The reception area seems more like a living room than a waiting room: *The Planet Earth* series is playing on a flat screen television, the decor is both modern and comfortable, interesting magazines adorn a coffee table and an espresso machine is standing by, ready to whip up a 30-second cup of java. Dr. Hamilton wanted to make his office a place where people “can relax and enjoy a calm, spa experience. We want them to feel welcomed and listened to.”

Through the ultra-modern glass doors, I was given a tour of the entire office, which includes several examination chairs, a private room, a sterilization centre, a laboratory and Dr. Hamilton’s office. What struck me immediately is how clean everything is.

There is no need for staff to touch taps or soap dispensers; everything is either motion-censored and doors and taps are opened with foot controls. “This is to avoid cross-contamination,” he explained. Hamilton also explained that his equipment is all digital and leading edge, from laser therapy cleaning to digital X-rays (which



Dr. Douglas Hamilton at his new Westmount Square office.

eliminate 75 percent of x-ray exposure).

This dentist is clearly passionate not only about oral health but overall health as well. His philosophy is to take a comprehensive approach “to help people maintain their health and keep their teeth,” said Dr. Hamilton. “Modern dentistry is about getting you to optimal health and keeping you there.”

Sought-after make-up artist Jisele opens studio in Westmount Square

With 15 years of experience as a make-up artist under her belt and a year in operation at her make-up studio on Decarie Blvd. (6900 Decarie), an overwhelming demand has brought Jisele Gabriel to Westmount (1 Westmount Square, Coiffure St. Laurent, 514.928.9596). “I see beauty in everyone, but people need to know how to use make-up,” said Gabriel, whose many services include make-up application (\$65), lessons (one hour and a half, \$75), spring cleaning of your cosmetics case as well as free consultations for brides. According to Gabriel, once one masters the proper application of make-up, their routine should take no more *continued on the next page*



Jisele Gabriel talks to a client at her new Westmount Square studio.

than 10 minutes each day.

When asked what one of the most important things about cosmetics is, Gabriel responded “Eyebrows is a must. They change the shape of the face and provide an instant lift.” I must admit, after Jisele had finished with my unruly brows, I felt and looked much better. Gabriel explained that “packing on make-up is *passé*.” She uses her own mineral-based line of products to reflect light, as opposed to layering foundation. Looking ahead to spring and summer, “the look is fresh and natural. Pastels are ‘in’ as are nude lips and new reds.” What’s next for Jisele? A “little birdie” told me that an Emmy Award-winning make-up artist has approached her to open a make-up school in Montreal. Stay tuned.

Westmount mother and daughter team up at *Quelque chose*

Westmounters Annie White and her daughter Sophie Bourassa have taken over well-known lighting, custom lamp shade and antique shop *Quelque chose* (5133 Sherbrooke St., 514.486.3155). White worked for the original owners, Yvonne Friedman and Margie Glassman (aka the “Shady ladies” because of their lamp and lampshade business) for five years.

Following Friedman’s death three years

ago, White bought the store, which has bordered Westmount for 35 years. White’s focus is bringing old lamps back to life. She pairs them with fabulous lampshades and gives them a total makeover, whether with a leopard lampshade or a traditional one. Dangling from the store’s ceiling is an assortment of original crystal and floral chandeliers. White’s daughter Sophie has joined her mother to bring a modern edge to the boutique, with mango wood vases ready to be made into lamps, as well as eclectic giftware. Bourassa has also been the backbone of the store’s total renovation.



Annie White at *Quelque chose*.

I had difficulty leaving without buying anything and ended up selecting a silver-plated wine coaster for \$15, which makes a perfect hostess gift at a dinner party.

Moss Pink closes

I was disappointed to hear that Moss Pink (1368 Greene Ave.) closed its doors on February 16. Another tidbit for fans of the Holt Renfrew kids’ clothing section: it’s also closed.

Recruiting starts for new DG

The search is on for a Westmount director general to replace the retiring Bruce St. Louis. City council at a special meeting Feb. 13 appointed a committee of four to assess bids from executive search firms interested in recruiting for the DG position.

Those named to the committee along with St. Louis were Westmount City Clerk Mario Gerbeau and Sports & Recreation Director Michael Deegan as well as Town of Mount Royal Director General Ava Couch.

History quiz: Who designed Braemar?

BY DOREEN LINDSAY

Continued from p. 10

Answer: Local historians have always thought that this unique house with its two-storey high wooden gallery around four sides was designed by architect William Footner. He is the same architect who is credited with designing *Marché Bonsecours* in Old Montreal. The more research I do into the origins of this house, the more curious I am to learn the truth.

It has been suggested by Guy Pinard, the dynamic author of “*Montréal: Son histoire, son architecture*” that perhaps Braemar and its twin to the west were designed by George Browne, a colleague of Footner, who specialized in designing residences in the Regency style. Yes, Braemar originally had a twin house built to the west where The Study school now stands. This twin house was named Clairvue.

William Footner, an architect and John Eadie, an actuary with the Savings Bank, bought the property in 1846 from Asa Goodenough, the manager of the Exchange Coffee House. The two houses were built in 1847 in the Regency style, which was then very popular in Quebec and Ontario. From 1810 through 1860, cottages were built in rural areas. Westmount was, of course, in the country in 1847.

9 Lives: Rabbits!

BY LYZANNE

Yes, these little fellows are rabbits!

This is how it happened: there was a request from the SPCA to their volunteers for linens and newspapers for use at the shelter, so I called everyone I knew, gathered as much as I could. I went over with newspapers for the cat litter boxes, as well as towels and blankets for all the animals. While I was there, I asked if we could help with their cat adoptions. That’s when I found out that there is an even more urgent need at the SPCA: finding homes for rabbits. So, let’s give them a chance at adoption and a life in a family environment!



Introducing the family

Let me introduce Baloo, Timbit, Chipit, Jello, Binky and Frosty. Their mother Flore was abandoned at the shelter with six other rabbits, including her male partner as well as five offspring of all different ages, which led them to conclude that poor Flore was used for breeding purposes. And as they suspected, she was once again pregnant. On December 18, Flore gave birth to six gorgeous baby rabbits who are now all ready for their forever homes.

The Exotic Animal Department would be thrilled to find Flore and her family fabulous homes which will give them a second chance at life.

If you are interested in adopting a rabbit, hamster, guinea pig, rat, ferret, bird or other small pet, please contact Stephanie Embriaco (our dedicated exotic animal team leader) at spcarabbits@hotmail.com, call 514.735.2711 or visit the Montreal SPCA.

Artwork by Laura S. Cohendet.

The name Braemar was not attributed to the house until 1866 when Thomas Panton bought it. “Mar” means beauty and harmony. “Brae” refers to the upper slopes of a hillside.

If you would like to know more about this beautiful one hundred and 161-year-old house hidden behind three other much more recently built ones on the Boulevard, you are welcome to come to my talk on Thursday, February 21 at the Westmount Public Library at 7 pm. This will be the first of four talks organized by the Westmount Historical Association on the preservation of our older homes.

Doreen Lindsay is the president of the Westmount Historical Society

ON THE SHELVES

Recommended by staff at Westmount Public Library:

Magazines

“Quebec at 400: How Four Centuries of Triumph and Tragedy Shaped the Cradle of French North America”, *The Beaver* (Special Issue), Feb/March 2008

“How Safe is Your Bottled Water?” *Reader’s Digest Large Print*, February 2008, p. 88

“Société générale: La course folle d’un trader de fonds”, *Le Figaro*, fév 2, 2008, p. 20.

Books on CD

World without End by Ken Follett. In the town of Kingsbridge, a Gothic cathedral and the priory are at the center of a web of love and hate, greed and pride, ambition and revenge.

Playing for Pizza by John Grisham. Grisham swerves from his usual style and takes us down a new path in this “come back kid” story.

For teenagers

Re-Gifters by Mike Carey, art by Sonny Liew and Marc Hempel. Jen Dik Seong or “Dixie” is on the verge of winning a championship in the martial art of hapkido until she falls for fellow hapkido fan Adam.

Enfants des rues by Chang Ta-Ch’un. A student from Taiwan runs away from home and is implicated in small-time crime. Though it portrays a society polluted by corruption, the often humorous adventures of the protagonist give this book a light touch.

English Adult

Before Green Gables by Budge Wilson. A prequel to *Anne of Green Gables* that explains how it was that the Anne who arrived in P.E.I. was spirited and forward-looking.

Cuba: Art and history from 1868 to today edited by Nathalie Bondil. The exhibition catalogue from the extensive show of Cuban art now at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

French Adult

La théorie des cordes by José Carlos Somoza. Madrid, 2015. A physics professor finds that participants to a mysterious experiment on time travel done ten years earlier are being assassinated one after the other...and that his turn is coming.

Photographies modernes et contemporaines: la collection Neuflize Vie. An anthology of photographs from the 20th and 21st centuries, from a prestigious European collection. The works of 217 artists, as well as short biographies are presented in this beautiful book.

Reference

The Wellness Encyclopedia of Food and Nutrition: How to buy, store, and prepare every variety of fresh food.

Preparing Your Income Tax Returns 2008 Edition for 2007 Returns. All your income tax questions answered and explained in easy to understand language.

Renovation Feature

Westmouter flips her mud room



Before



After

After moving from a smaller house, Westmouter Karen Anderson decided to optimize her mud room. She spent a “ridiculous amount of time researching closet companies” before selecting Simplespace.

Anderson designed the space specifically to meet her large family’s needs. Alan Eugeni, owner of Simplespace, came up with suggestions, such as building units for storage and a custom walk-in closet.

Once all the designs had been agreed upon, Simplespace installed everything in one day.

“We use the mud room every day and for sure it makes getting out the door easier since everyone has their own space, with baskets to hold the smaller stuff, places for boots, as well as sports equipment and lots of hooks to handle different outdoor wear. This is truly the most prac-

St. Margaret’s cookbook already making sales



Members of the Women’s Group and staff members at St. Margaret’s Day Centre celebrate the official launch of their cookbook *Lest We Forget: A Treasury of International Recipes Handed Down from Grandmothers around the World*. The cookbook represents the cuisine from at least 10 countries. At the launch, the group announced they had already raised \$450 to buy individual auditive aids. From top row, left to right: Mildred Williams, Suzanne Dinnall, Elaine Henessy, Barbara Primak, Tott Moens, Marilyn Vanderstaay, Elizabeth Mourelatos, Chi Yen Lim. Middle row, left to right: Vittoria Zunini, Esmie Tyrell. Bottom row, left to right: Zetti McLeod, Agathe Inez and Sade Hausner.

tical area of the house; it’s at the back entrance, so we go through it when we come in and all of our ‘stuff’ stays there,” said Anderson. She also had benches made by a cabinet maker, to make putting on shoes and boots easier. The cost was about mid-

range compared to other options, she said. “We looked at do-it-yourself options too, but knew that the project would likely take a year of weekends to handle, and way too much frustration. This was definitely money well invested. No regrets at all!”



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Westmount Profile: Amy Felske

Bringing fantasy to life

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

On first reflection, there seems to be little association between doll making and entomology, the study of insects.

But when those dolls are the mystical trolls, dragons and other fairytale characters who inhabit the forests of Scandinavian mythology, a link emerges between Amy Felske's profession and her creation over the last five years of more than 200 of these "little people".

"I would have to say there is a connection," admits Felske, an entomologist, botanist and teacher, who used to work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "I love nature."

She also has a special eye for detail. "Insects are just fascinating," she says, "so tiny yet so complicated."

And it's this attention to detail that translates into her bejeweled trolls, so lavishly embellished with beading, wispy wings, miniature earrings and hidden touches.

Her outlet for creativity

While Felske's work has evolved into much more than a hobby, she is reluctant to describe her creations as a business or career. "They're an outlet for my creativity," she explains. "They really have no purpose other than to bring pleasure to other people and to myself," she explains. "I don't have to keep them all."

As a result, most are already living in many friends' homes, institutions and boutiques as gifts, donations or commissions.

Nevertheless, Felske personifies and names each one as it comes to life after the

basic body is machine sewn and packed tightly with stuffing. She uses chopsticks or bamboo skewers for the tiny fingers.

"At some point during the embellishment process they develop a personality," she explains. "So that's where the fun begins along with hunting for decorative materials." "Priscilla," a small mauve dragon, has intriguingly large eyes and stands on her hind legs displaying a belly festooned with beads (see photo p. 1).

New troll commissioned by the library

"The Keeper of the Books" troll wears a ring of keys from her belt and clutches a small leather and gold book. Commissioned by Westmount Public Library for its adult circulation desk, she has a quizzical look on her face and has an owl – the library's mascot – perched on her wrist. The owl was needle-felted by a friend of Felske's. The troll, like so many, is adorned with multiple piercings, earrings and rings.

Westmounters who viewed some of Felske's work during an exhibit at the library last year will appreciate the many hours and attention to detail that she sews into each figure.

Many also had occasion to enjoy an appropriate collection of the trolls and dragons last July at a midnight launch party for the latest Harry Potter book at Babar en Ville on Greene Ave.

A native New York Long Islander, Felske grew up enjoying drawing, ceramics and jewelry making which she continued through university with silversmithing and the cutting and casting of brass.

Fascinated by nature, she obtained her



Amy Felske displays some of her treasured trolls, dragons, mermaids, winged and other creatures.

degree in entomology and plant disease at Cornell University in 1981. She then worked in plant quarantine at New York's JFK Airport. When the daily commute proved too challenging, she decided to pursue a master's degree in education at Long Island University.

This led to teaching high school biology; then entomology and botany at Farmingdale University (Long Island) until the birth of her first child in 1987. Felske now has three daughters: Hannah, Rebecca and Julia.

Meanwhile, she had married tax lawyer Richard Felske and with him moved to Budapest, Hungary, in 1991 on a three-year mandate. It changed her life.

"Budapest had just come out of Communism. There were no dolls for my daughters to play with. So I began making cloth dolls – something for them to hold."

But it wasn't until five years ago, after the family had moved to Westmount in 1998, that she resumed the work in earnest at their home on Wood Ave.

It was also a better fit with her lifestyle and work space than other artistic interests such as quilting and stained glass.

Soon, Felske's troll-making began sprouting a side shoot: hunting for unusual fabrics and textures, beads, miniature ornaments and specialized materials for hair as soft as down or as tightly curled as steel wool.

She particularly enjoys hunting for fabrics during weekends and vacations at the Felske cottage in Irasburg, Vermont.

She also belongs to a fibre co-op in Montgomery, Vermont called the Mountain Fibre Folk. This is a group that raises fibre animals such as Tibetan goats, angora rabbits, sheep, llama and alpaca.

Felske's passion has already led to many new friends and other fibre artists.

As for the future, she says, "I know I'll continue doing this, and to take classes and give them online." Also, she adds, there's a doll-making cruise out of Texas that, perhaps one day, may just have the Felske name on the ship's roster.

BUILDING PROJECTS: WHAT'S PERMITTED

The following 14 work permits were approved by city council at a special meeting Feb. 13.

A harbinger of spring, Councillor Nicole Forbes pointed out that three of the permits concerned landscaping.

680 Victoria: to landscape two front yards along The Boulevard and Victoria (site of former fire station no. 2);

536 Grosvenor: landscaping;

326 Wood: to replace some windows;

543 Roslyn: to replace some windows and doors;

1356 Greene: to install an awning/sign;

530 Mount Pleasant: to build an extension;

24 Forden: modifications to an opening;

1225 Greene: to install a sign reading "L'Essentiel Santé";

341 Redfern: landscaping;

4350 St. Catherine: to install some windows at Westmount High;

328 Victoria: to install a sign reading "Avenue des Arts";

4865 Sherbrooke: renovation to storefront;

4300 de Maisonneuve: to replace some windows and guard rails;

11 Renfrew: to install some windows and carry out brick work.

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THE BOULEVARD: First time on the market in over 40 years! Wonderful 3-storey, 6 bdrm family home with 2-car garage and views. Fabulous woodwork and detailing throughout make this truly a classic "Westmount" home. A renovator's delight! **Asking \$895,000**



LANSDOWNE: Wonderfully bright & completely renovated 3 bdrm corner townhouse with private garden, 2-car garage, 2 wall mounted a/c units, beautiful mouldings & detailing throughout, large finished basement, 2 fireplaces++ Simply move right in to a lovely home on the flat and enjoy Westmount! A pleasure to show! **Asking \$895,000**



4977-79 GROSVENOR: Renovated Lambert duplex w/occupancy in remodeled upper! With its fireplaces, skylights, sun-drenched balconies, lovely garden, bachelor w/sep. entrance & 3-car garage, this duplex is priced to sell below evaluation! Hurry!! **Asking \$699,000**



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