



50-52 Columbia Ave.

**Real estate transfers –
new every month,
like the market! p.8**

**New feature:
New listings: p. 8**



20 Arlington Ave.



Profile: Bill Smith p. 14

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

March 5, 2008 *We are Westmount* Vol. 2 No. 3a

City gets first \$902,000 from federal gas tax \$3 million for water work

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount will receive \$3 million from the federal infrastructure gas tax fund for renewal of its water and sewer systems, Mayor Karin Marks announced at the February 25 meeting of city council.

The first installment of \$902,000 has just been received in a series of equal payments that will be made on a regular basis until the end of 2009.

“Although some of it has already been spent,” she said, “it’s nice to see it come back for infrastructure work we had to do.”

Eliminates long-term financing

The money will eliminate the need for long-term financing of those water and wastewater capital works projects offset by the grant over a three-year period 2007

through 2009, director general Bruce St. Louis told *Westmount Independent*.

While the \$3 million will lower the city’s projected debt, he explained, the grant’s value is really far greater when the cost of financing is taken into consideration. Westmount received the maximum amount for which it was eligible.

The new federal budget tabled the day after the council meeting, called for continuing the fund as a permanent means of assisting municipalities across Canada in investing in infrastructure repair.



A sign of spring: St. Patrick’s Day is coming up! To find out how to participate in Westmount’s float in the parade of Sunday, March 16, turn to p. 15.

New clinic extends access



Nathalie Sama, Dr. Mark Roper, Nancy Caouette, Anne Thomas and Cynthia Poirier at the opening of the new family medicine group at the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex. For more on the new clinic, turn to p. 6.

Exploring the secrets of the fire station **Stanton becomes busy new hub**

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

From the street, nothing seems to have changed at Westmount’s fire station. The same two trucks bought years ago by the Westmount Fire Brigade can still be seen behind the same huge doors.

But inside, out of view, a recent flurry of activity has taken place to adapt the extensive administrative area into headquarters for the Montreal Fire Department’s south region – one of the two sections into which the island-wide fire service is divided.

From this hub, the entire operations and prevention arms of the region began directing their activities February 25 as the

result of a major reorganization in which new senior chiefs, with support staff and cars, took up “residence” at the Protective Services Building on Stanton St.

“With so many retirements coming up, the new organization will facilitate the transfer of knowledge and experience to future officers,” said local Fire Prevention Chief Daniel De Vries.

Assistant director takes charge

As a result, the south region will be run by assistant fire department director Daniel Godin, two senior administrative chiefs – Sylvain Grimard and François Dubord – a senior fire prevention chief and four

continued on p. 3

Tallest crane in Canada?

What was reported to be the tallest crane in Canada blocked de Maisonneuve Blvd. Friday, February 29 between Atwater and Wood in order to hoist heavy mechanical equipment atop Alexis Nihon Plaza for replacement work.

The crane was so large, it required assembly by a second one, explained Councillor George Bowser in announcing the pending street closure at the city council meeting February 25.



Camp Caravan
(part 2) p. 10

77 percent know both official languages

English spoken most often

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

English is spoken most often at home by 68 percent of Westmount residents, though only 54 percent claim it as a mother tongue, according to 2006 census figures being rolled out by Statistics Canada.

French, on the other hand, is used by 19.4 percent, although 21.3 percent listed it as their mother tongue. While 1.5 percent speak both English and French at home, fully 77 percent of Westmounters claim to have knowledge of both official languages.

The new figures peg the population at 20,474, up from 19,727 recorded in the previous 2001 census.

Meanwhile, the Quebec government, which also tabulates the population of all cities, sets Westmount's population for 2008 at 20,865, the highest in the last 10 years (see table).

While the figures are traditionally at variance, both measurements push the population back over the 20,000 benchmark used by Quebec for determining the number of council seats set by a municipality. Westmount has been seesawing

back and forth over this point for several years.

In keeping with the Canadian trend, the Westmount population as a whole is aging: 84.8 percent are over age 15 in the census compared with 84.3 five years earlier. The median age is now 45.1 compared with 44.6.

In another national trend, more Westmounters, 3,135, are now living alone. Another 665 are lone parents. As well, there are 2,300 couples with children, and 2,255 couples without children. Another 995 are listed as "other types" such as those in institutions.

A roller coaster decade

The following table shows how much Westmount's population has dipped back and forth over the 20,000 required for electing eight city councillors.

Year	Pop.	Year	Pop.
1999	20,420	2004	19,973
2000	20,153	2005	20,555
2001	19,222	2006	20,003
2002	20,253	2007	19,701
2003	20,154	2008	20,865

The Study hosts second Grandparents Day



Sarah Ivory Stewart ('78), her daughter, Caroline (grade 3), and her mother, Joan Ivory ('51).

A reception was held at The Study on Feb. 28 to celebrate its second Grandparents Day and the involvement that grandparents have in the girls' lives. Many "Study Girls" are the daughters and granddaughters of alumnae, such as Joan Ivory, a long standing trustee of The Study Foundation, her daughter Sarah Ivory Stewart

and Caroline Stewart. When asked if she was proud to be there, Caroline replied "I always wanted to go to The Study, like my mum." Adriana Flores, whose four daughters attended The Study and whose granddaughter Mikaela Ludwick is a current student gave a heartfelt speech, welcoming everyone to her "second home."

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Fire station re-organization

continued from p. 1

senior operation chiefs on shift.

This includes the staffing, supplying, planning, and management of training and equipment for 45 fire prevention personnel and some 1,100 firefighters at 35 stations clustered as before into six divisions.

The local station will continue to serve as the administrative centre for Division 17 and as Westmount's firehall, No. 76 in the island service.

As a result, a total of 57 members of the fire department now work out of the station including the four shifts of eight firefighters.

The south region comprises demerged cities and Montreal boroughs including: Lachine and LaSalle to the west, along with Hampstead, Côte St. Luc, Montreal West, NDG/CDN, Westmount, Outremont, Sud-Ouest, Verdun, Ville Marie, the Plateau, Rosemont and Hochelaga/Maisonneuve to the east.

The heavily congested, action-filled area includes highrise apartments, office towers, the Bell Centre, Metro stations and underground network. It also hosts most major events including the fireworks festival, nightclubs and is home to La Ronde.

Where everything takes place

"It's where everything takes place," De Vries explains.

Local day-to-day firefighting routine remains unchanged and distinct from the south region headquarters as do fire prevention services – De Vries and his team

of six – who continues to serve the entire division of Westmount, and the Montreal boroughs of NDG/CDN and Outremont.

To soften the impact on parking in the area generated by an influx of personnel, Westmount has made its Corporation Yard available, De Vries said, an example of the cooperation the department enjoys with city hall.

The selection of Westmount as the hub of the south region was not a given, he explains. But good service from the city was an important factor. The spacious area rented by Montreal in Westmount's Protective Services Building provided a central location. As well, the layout and condition of offices required little renovation, "basically only a little painting."

\$2.3 million facelift in 1997

The building, which also houses community police Station 12 and Westmount's Public Security Unit (including the parking permits office), underwent a \$2.3 million renovation in 1997.

The fire department premises include the firehall's apparatus room and the firefighters' second-floor quarters that include a kitchen, and recreational and sleeping areas. There are also fitness and lecture rooms. The administrative offices occupy three floors, including a separate kitchen.

While statistics are not yet available for 2007, firefighting crews responded to some 1,200 local calls the previous year, along with many outside Westmount.

Because its staff rotates less frequently than that of other branches, the fire pre-

Trink joins Astri Prugger



From left: Julia Rossman, Stephanie Mackinnon and Allyson McCarthy. A cocktail party was held at Astri Prugger Design (322 Victoria Ave., 514.369.4799) on February 28, to celebrate Tracy Gartner of Trink Jewelry joining Prugger at her newly renovated custom design dress boutique.

vention arm will continue to provide liaison with Westmount city hall, De Vries said.

No senior prevention chief yet

On the other hand, the newly created regional position of senior fire prevention chief will also work at Westmount, though by press time no appointment had been made. This will provide a more cohesive and consistent prevention approach among divisions, De Vries said. These previously operated "pretty much au-

tonomously."

The need for greater standardization of policies and procedures is particularly apparent in the enforcement of bylaws, he explained, especially for head offices such as school boards that cut across many different divisions. One example would be the amount of grace period given building owners between the issuing of warnings and court action, he explains.

Division Chief Claude Giguère will assume a temporary, pre-retirement role in facilitating the transition.



Fire Prevention Chief Daniel De Vries describes new south region organization based in Westmount.

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VAN LINES CANADA

At Second Glance

Learning curve

By Heather Black

Recently students from the Second Middle School of Liaoning Province's Teachers' College in northern China visited Westmount High as part of a cultural exchange to promote international friendship. As part of their day-long visit, the 45 students from the city of Dalian treated students to a performance of song, dance and theatre.

A Kids to Kids project, the trip was organized by Cindy Yao of Can-Share Connection Inc. Since 2004, this organization has offered learning activities to promote UNESCO's goal of encouraging "friendly relations between peoples and states having different social and political systems."

Face-to-face

The students, accompanied by principal Shan Hua, were warmly greeted by Westmount High students and principal Michael Cristofaro. As part of a face to face exchange, the visiting students shadowed their peers, and participated in class activities. As well, some demonstrated the ancient art of Chinese calligraphy.

However, the highlight of the visit was definitely the performance. Enjoyed by enthusiastic viewers, it was an opportunity for those from Dalian to introduce their culture through martial-arts dance and traditional instruments, as well as practise

their English through songs and drama. But perhaps more importantly, there were promises of friendship.



Web outreach

In addition to school trips, Kids to Kids projects offer to share online learning activities. The website (www.k2k2k.org) features writing competitions like "Kids to Kids – Colorful Eyes", sponsored in part by the Dalian Peninsula newspaper. It also includes an online art gallery for students to post their favourite creations.

According to organizer Cindy Yao, when teachers here suggest a topic or theme, she pairs the class with one in China and students communicate via email. Schools also post exchange requests. One Chinese school is currently suggesting a trip to Canada to plant trees on Earth Day (April 22).

Sponsored by a Dalian municipal government, this is the second time Can-Share Connection has organized an exchange trip for Westmount students. Last year, Roslyn School greeted elementary students from the same region. As part of that cultural exchange, local students sent books to their new friends and exhibited their artwork in Shanghai. Also Can-Share Connection arranged for Roslyn staff members Linda Aubé and Debbie Hanley to teach English for four weeks in Beijing, and participate in a two-

Don't worry! They're not permanent



Observant residents may have noticed that some street signs are not like the other ones. Other people have commented that the new ones are ... not as nice as the pre-existing ones. It turns out that the street signs at the de Maisonneuve/Lansdowne and Prince Albert/Windsor intersections are temporary. Westmount director general Bruce St. Louis explained to the Independent that sign-less corners were supplied with temporary signage made at the Public Works shop. Permanent ones identical to all of Westmount's other signs are on order.

day exchange with teachers in Qing Dao. Each year, organizer Cindy Yao brings an average of 60 students to local schools for cultural, language or science events. This year, Montreal schools will begin their first visits to China.

Education for international understanding

The goals of "international education" are lofty: to increase understanding, communication with and respect for all peoples, including domestic ethnic cultures and those of other nations, and to promote "international solidarity and co-operation."

According to social scientists, for positive relationships, contact between different cultures requires certain conditions: an equality in status, the existence of common goals and intimacy of interaction. If so, cultural exchanges, like those sponsored by Can-Share Connection, meet the criteria. But more importantly, these activities promote self-esteem and encourage students to learn about other cultures and, at the same time, have fun.

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

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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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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Letters to the editor

FOOTNER DESCENDANTS LIVE IN WESTMOUNT

Thank you for supporting the Westmount Historical Association by publishing the ongoing series Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before by its president, Doreen Lindsay.

In response to the article about "Who designed Braemar?", I wish to say that my children and grandchildren are descended from the architect William Footner.

We have always known that he designed Bonsecours Market, but did not know that he designed Braemar.

Because of this article and photograph, I can now show my children and grandchildren a piece of Westmount history that they have a personal connection to.

I am really enjoying your Westmount community paper.

SHARYN SCOTT

SUPPORT OR ENDORSEMENT?

To clarify the headline of Laureen Sweeney's excellent article on the train and highway corridor ("Westmount endorses train brief"), representatives from several cities – including Westmount – met with the Canadian Transportation Agency, local federal politicians and the Agence Métropolitaine de Transport, to voice concerns regarding noise, vibration, pollution and safety, and to comment on guidelines governing complaint resolution.

Each city suggested improvements and the presence of several cities gave weight. While Westmount lent *support* to neighbouring cities (and vice versa), none of the cities could be said to have formally "endorsed" the positions of the others.

Thank you for keeping our citizens so well informed of developments in this area.

PATRICK MARTIN
WESTMOUNT CITY COUNCILLOR

Civic Alert: Finding Westmount's next director general

Part 1: How Bruce St. Louis was chosen

BY DON WEDGE



Probably the year's most important task before Mayor Karin Marks and Westmount's city council is to choose the new director general. Bruce St. Louis' 16 years in charge have been outstanding in so many respects, not the least his interaction with mayors, council, employees and citizens.

He was someone "who loved the city as much or more than some residents," as Marks told the *Independent's* Lauren Sweeney last month when she reported on his impending retirement.

As council accepts the burden of defining the qualities needed by his replacement before they can even advertise the vacancy, I searched for insights from those involved as to how Bruce St. Louis became director general.

He joined the Public Works department in 1975 after being interviewed and recommended to city engineer Ed McCavour by Fred Caluori.

Caluori's friend and colleague

Caluori rose to become the city engineer and assistant director general, and was a great collaborator of St. Louis until retiring at the end of 2006.

"At the time he joined, we did nearly all the engineering work ourselves," Caluori remembered. "We designed and restructured the streets, made traffic studies, cleared the snow and looked after city buildings.

"Bruce was involved in a bit of everything, but his first major job was to supervise the construction of new garages in the Bethune St. yards. He learned the culture of Westmount.

"He was the leader in a crisis, not only by word but by his actions. He was accessible to everyone. They are qualities you would look for in any employee, but Bruce

had them all."

From Public Works, the future director general was promoted to become head of services, responsible for zoning and building permits.

There, he met alderman Peter Trent. "These subjects particularly interested me," Trent recollected.

"As a member of the Architectural and Planning (A&P) Committee, I saw a lot of him. Bruce had always mastered the dossiers presented to us and did so with integrity that became his hallmark."

Trent's persuasive push

Then, in 1986, the head of the Light and Power Department retired. It was to lead to a major break for St. Louis.

"He didn't want to apply at first," said Trent. "He felt he lacked the confidence and experience for such a major responsibility. But I persuaded him otherwise."

"Bruce was a major success there," said Phillip Aspinall, who was serving on council at the time, but had to resign mid-term. Trent returned to replace him as Finance Commissioner.

The director general's position became vacant in 1989 when Peter Patenaude took early retirement. Though only 37, St. Louis was again a favoured candidate.

May Cutler was mayor during this period. She recalled that council thought St. Louis had the necessary qualities but was young for the top job. "He had only worked for Westmount and would benefit from wider management experience for a few years."

Cutler picks outsider Schultz

So the idea of hiring a top manager on contract from outside to act as a mentor was born.

Chosen for the role was Manley Schultz, an engineer responsible for major projects in Canada and abroad, including the massive Alouette Smelter in Seven Islands. It was a remarkable career switch,

Westmount Park marks Black History Month



On Wednesday Feb. 27, the students of Westmount Park School celebrated Black History Month by performing various acts showcasing their talent, such as stepping, Trinidadian steel pan, choir and poetry reciting. Powerful words of Langston Hughes were read and the pre-kindergarten recited Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream."

but Schultz moved to Westmount and served as head civil servant until 1992.

Meantime, Peter Trent had begun his three-term run as mayor. Trent explained his relationship with St. Louis, "We had a symbiotic relationship of mutual trust. He was the most honest person I had ever met!

"Bruce – I noticed everyone addresses him respectfully, but in the first person – was terrific at delivering on major projects, like the library renovations, and dealing with a crisis. During the ice storm, he slept at city hall.

"He did well with the public – a quality he shared with Fred Caluori that may be difficult to repeat.

"He understood perfectly the relationship between the elected and the administration. I could leave the running of the

city to him. In fact, I was only able to do as much outside as I did — with the MUC and the Conference of Suburban Mayors – because of him.

"It is a terrific challenge to find the right replacement."

Next issue: What these veterans of municipal life would look for in a candidate today.

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

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ON THE SHELVES

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

Magazines

“The Black Pharaohs” by R. Draper, in *National Geographic*, February 2008, p. 35. Westmounter Henry Aubin’s book *The Rescue of Jerusalem* is cited in the article. “The World’s 50 Most Innovative Companies” by Chuck Salter, in *Fast Company*, March 2008, p. 72 “Kosovo: les pièges de l’indépendance” in *Le Nouvel observateur*, fév. 21, 2008, p. 30

Books on CD

Bones to Ashes by Kathy Reichs. With witty dialogue, well-drawn characters and a resonant emotional angle, Reichs’ tenth Temperance Brennan mystery finds her in top form. *Wuthering Heights* by Emile Brontë. The haunting tale of the tormented relation-

ship between Heathcliff and Cathy, two of the best-known protagonists in nineteenth-century literature.

English Adult

The Boys in the Trees by Mary Swan. This novel describes how late nineteenth-century small-town Canada deals with a terrible crime. Alice Munro found this “a mesmerizing novel filled with a terrible beauty.”

Stanley: the Impossible Life of Africa’s Greatest Explorer by Tim Jeal. Everything you thought you knew about Stanley turns out not to be quite true. A fascinating account of a life so extraordinary that there was no need to make it up.

A Guidebook to Contemporary Architecture in Montreal by Nancy Dunton.

French adult

Nous seuls by Emmanuel Kattan. A couple estranged for nine years decides to try for a fresh start. But can they erase the past? A tragic love story that, unexpectedly, takes on the air of a thriller.

L’art des listes: simplifier, organiser, enrichir sa vie by Dominique Loreau. Loreau argues in this philosophical and practical book that practising “the art of lists” is a key to good living. By the author of the best-seller *L’art de la simplicité*.

Picture Books for Children

Patience, Petit Renard by Kate Banks. From the moment he is born, Petit Renard is anxious to leave his den and explore the world, but his mum and dad know there is a time for everything.

Happy Birthday to You, Blue Kangaroo! by Emma Chichester Clark. Lily has decided this year she will have a pink birthday, but Blue Kangaroo is not pink!

Reference

CCH Preparing Your Income Tax Returns. 2008 edition for 2007 returns *L’année stratégique 2008*. A team of experts presents an analysis of the world’s situation and what is at stake in 2008.

Westmount clinics in new network

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two long established medical clinics in Westmount have joined forces with the MUHC’s Family Medicine Clinic and two others in NDG to form one of Quebec’s new family medicine groups and network clinics. (For photo, see p. 1.)

The five partners in the Queen Elizabeth Medical Group will provide patients with medical services 365 days of the year to improve access to care and reduce the number of non-critical visits to overcrowded ERs.

“People will be able to come here instead of going to an ER,” said Dr. Mark Roper, the physician in charge of the new group and director of primary care at the MUHC’s Department of Family Medicine.


Doctors from both the Roper Clinic at Sherbrooke and Melville, and the Hillside Clinic at Metcalfe and Hillside, including

Dr. Paul Lysy, are among some 30 physicians who will rotate to staff the network clinic located at 2111 Northcliffe Ave. in the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex.

Officially opened February 27 by riding MNA Russell Copeman, MUHC director general Dr. Arthur Porter and NDG/CND borough councillor Warren Allmand, the clinic will provide medical and radiology services weekdays 8 am to 8 pm, and weekends and holidays 9 am to 5 pm (514.481.4343).

Because of its accreditation by Quebec, the new network clinic will have access to government funding set up to help maintain the new groups, Roper told the *Westmount Independent* in a profile interview to appear in our next edition.

Also partnering in the clinic along with the QE’s Urgent Care Clinic will be the Vendôme Clinic at de Maisonneuve at Vendôme.



Notaries

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Art in Westmount

By HEATHER BLACK

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Galerie de Bellefeuille
Nathalie Maranda: Paintings.
Exhibit continues to March 10

Gallery at Victoria Hall
Nina Cherney: Painting. Exhibit
continues to March 15
4626 Sherbrooke St., 514.989.5226

McClure Gallery / Visual Arts Centre
Holly King: Photography. Vernissage:
March 6 at 6 pm. Exhibit: March 7
to 29
350 Victoria Ave., 514.488.9558

Parisian Laundry
Janet Werner: Too Much Happiness,
Paintings.
Vernissage: March 6, 6 pm.
Exhibit: March 7 to April 19
3550 St Antoine, 514.989.1056



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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. 🌿



SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Répertoire des activités printemps-été 2008

Le nouveau répertoire des activités sera distribué par la poste aux résidents de Westmount à compter du 10 mars. Des exemplaires additionnels du répertoire seront disponibles à compter du 12 mars dans les immeubles municipaux. Vous pourrez aussi consulter le guide complet sur notre site Web. Info : 514 989-5353. 🌿



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

La galerie du Victoria Hall

La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les œuvres de Nina Cherney jusqu'au 14 mars. Info : 514 989-5226.

Galerie : appel de propositions

Rappel aux artistes : la date limite pour soumettre sa candidature pour la saison d'exposition 2008-2009 de la galerie du Victoria Hall est le lundi 31 mars 2008. Pour de plus amples renseignements, consultez notre site Web ou procurez-vous le dépliant à l'hôtel de ville ou au Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5226.

DATES À RETENIR

Jusqu'au 14 mars

Exposition : Œuvres de Nina Cherney
La galerie du Victoria Hall

Le 11 mars - 19 h

Société d'horticulture de Westmount
Bibliothèque

Le 20 mars - 19 h

Association historique de Westmount
Bibliothèque

Les 26 et 27 mars de 18 h à 20 h

Période d'inscription
Activités de loisirs printemps/été 2008
Victoria Hall

Défilé de la Saint-Patrick

Joignez-vous à nous le dimanche 16 mars à midi pour le 184^e défilé de la Saint-Patrick. Les laissez-passer pour monter à bord du char de Westmount sont maintenant disponibles au Victoria Hall. Vous pouvez aussi vous joindre à notre groupe de marcheurs. Un autobus partira du Victoria Hall à 11 h 15 pour se rendre au site de départ. Info : 514 989-5265. 🌿



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Club d'échecs et de Scrabble

Aimez-vous jouer aux échecs ou au *Scrabble*? Les prochaines rencontres du club auront lieu les vendredis 7, 14 et 28 mars à 14 h à la Bibliothèque. Nous sommes toujours à la recherche de nouveaux joueurs. Info : 514 989-5386.

Conférences culturelles

I Remain J. Austen and Molly and James

Joignez-vous à nous pour une lecture-spectacle de *I Remain J. Austen and Molly and James* présentée par le *Golden Stagers* le mercredi 19 mars à 19 h. Une discussion suivra la présentation. Vous devez préalablement vous procurer des laissez-passer gratuits au comptoir de prêt. Info : 514 989-5386. 🌿



PUBLIC WORKS

Snow Removal

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.

Snow from Private Driveways

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. 🌿



SPORTS AND RECREATION

Recreation Activities Guide – Spring/Summer 2008

The new Recreation Activities Guide will be delivered by mail to all residences in Westmount starting March 10. Additional copies will become available in municipal buildings as of March 12. The complete guide will also be available for download on the City's Web site as of that date. Info: 514 989-5353. 🌿



COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Gallery at Victoria Hall

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present the works of Nina Cherney. The exhibition will run until March 14. Info: 514 989-5226.

Gallery Call for Submissions

Reminder to artists: the deadline for applications for the 2008-2009 exhibition season of the Gallery at Victoria Hall is Monday, March 31, 2008. Check the City's Web site for complete details or pick up a brochure at City Hall or Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5226.

DATEBOOK

Until March 14

Exhibition: Works of Nina Cherney
Gallery at Victoria Hall

March 11 – 7 p.m.

Westmount Horticultural Society
Library

March 20 – 7 p.m.

Westmount Historical Association
Library

March 26 and 27 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Registration Period
Spring/Summer 2008 Recreation Activities
Victoria Hall

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Join us for the 184th St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 16! Board the Westmount Float or join the walking contingent. Passes are now available at Victoria Hall. A bus will transport participants from Victoria Hall to the float on Sunday at 11:15 a.m. Info: 514 989-5265. 🌿



LIBRARY

Chess and Scrabble Club

Do you enjoy playing chess and/or *Scrabble*? Our new club will meet on Friday, March 7, 14, and 28 at 2 p.m. Drop by for a friendly game as we look forward to meeting new players. Info: 514 989-5386.

Cultural Lecture Series

I Remain J. Austen and Molly and James

Join us for a staged reading of *I Remain J. Austen and Molly and James* by *The Golden Stagers* on Wednesday, March 19 at 7 p.m. Tickets are FREE and available at the main circulation desk. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌿

Bought & Sold: Real estate transfered since February 6, 2008

Address	Price	Evaluation	Buyer	Seller	Date
4779-4785 Sherbrooke St. W.	\$2,850,000	\$1,478,400	9166-7907 Québec Inc.	Furst Management Inc. / Gestion Furst Inc.	Feb. 6, 2008
4873-4873A Sherbrooke St. W.		\$653,000	9166-7907 Québec Inc.	Furst Capitale Inc. / Furst Capital Inc.	
417 Claremont/4945 Sherbrooke St.		\$664,300	9166-7907 Québec Inc.	3457800 Canada Inc.	
20 Arlington Ave.	\$1,350,000	\$744,300	Scott B. Jones	Mathieu Lafleur-Ayotte	Feb. 11, 2008
743 Upper Roslyn	\$1,007,000	\$872,900	Paul André Martineau & Julie Lecomte	Philippe Boulanger	Jan. 25, 2008
4374 De Maisonneuve W.	\$985,000	\$544,800	Pascale Delhaye	Les Soeurs de la Congrégation de Notre-Dame	Feb. 18, 2008
317 Prince Albert Ave.	\$810,000	\$719,500	Kate Rusko	Laurent Deb & Karine Aline Denoues	Jan. 31, 2008
381 Grosvenor Ave.	\$772,850	\$542,300	Johann Tomas Sigurdsson & Johanna Jakobsdottir	Gideon Pollack	Feb. 14, 2008
720 Victoria Ave.	\$700,000	\$684,000	Joseph Chin & Gillian May Bellwood	Helena Van Der Star	Feb. 13, 2008
478 Wood Ave.	\$580,000	\$450,000	Astrid Ann Evans	Michelle Golfman	Feb. 18, 2008
50 – 52 Columbia Ave.	\$475,000	\$451,300	Frederic Klein	Margaret Gordon Frost	Feb. 15, 2008
4215 De Maisonneuve W. #3	\$370,000	\$284,300	Valérie Baillargeon	Lisa Mashaal	Feb. 14, 2008
435-9 Grosvenor Ave. #10 (usufruct)	\$360,000	\$4,600,000	Jan Fergus	Linda Goldman	Feb. 20, 2008
343 Clarke Ave. Apt. # 7	\$218,000	\$112,500	Nahad Karim	Gianni De Pastena & Linda Scavone	Feb. 18, 2008



50-52 Columbia Ave.



343 Clarke Avenue. #7 is a unit in this building.



20 Arlington Ave.



492 Argyle Ave.

The Update Houses up for sale since February 20 edition

The Update is content provided by the Westmount Independent, and is compiled from public sources and parties that contact us. To find a brokered property's listing agent and additional information, please go to MLS.ca. Both listing agents and agents working with buyers have more information (including the address of all houses) available to them on a private network.

\$459,000 Address unavailable
\$669,000 57 Columbia Ave.*
\$1,075,000 318 Côte St. Antoine Rd.*
\$1,145,000 492 Argyle Ave.
\$1,200,000 447 Prince Albert Ave.
\$1,379,000 356A/B Olivier Ave.
\$1,495,000 738 Upper Belmont Ave.*
\$1,550,000 Address unavailable
\$1,575,000 10 Willow Ave.

\$1,595,000 36 Anwoth Rd.
\$1,695,000 14 Ramezay Rd.
\$1,749,000 24 Melbourne Ave.*
\$1,790,000 3284 Cedar Ave.
\$1,845,000 Address unavailable
\$3,500,000 109 Upper Bellevue Ave.
*Listed as "address unavailable" in February 20 edition, but since identified.



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Westmount, Quebec, H3Z3C1

Constance Dingle joins Sotheby's International Realty Québec as affiliated real estate agent. A standout at one of New York City's largest residential real estate firms, Connie is looking forward to applying her prior real estate sales experience to the Westmount and Montreal markets.

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Westmount. Heritage s/d house in A1 location – the flat – steps from Westmount Park, and every amenity. 10 ft ceilings with ornate moldings, skylight, a lot of windows, renewed. 4+1 bedrooms, large eat-in kitchen. Ext. pkg for 3 cars. Ideal for large family. **Asking \$999,000**

Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1410550



Westmount. Cozy English style cottage renovated with taste, on quiet cul de sac, 3+1 bedroom + 2 bathrooms, wood floor, fire place, playroom, bedroom + bath in basement. Extended kitchen w/dinette, parking for one car. **Asking \$595,000**

Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1395608



Westmount Amazing bright and spacious upper duplex condo in most desirable location, steps from Westmount Park and all amenities; 3 bdrs, 2 new baths, wood flrs, double lvr rm, separate dnr, sunrm, bachelor apt in basement, garage, sundeck. **Asking \$550,000**

Virtual tour: <http://www.mcguiganpepin.com/1403961>



Notre Dame de Grâce. Great family home 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



Notre Dame de Grâce. Rare find! Architecturally interesting 50's gem! Quality renovated, very bright, contemporary 3+1, deluxe custom kitchen. This unique, efficient home sits on a 5000 sf lot/mature per. gdn, great street, schools, parks and commuter train. **Asking \$442,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1413003



Le Sud Ouest. Great loft with wall to wall windows with city views. 1 bedroom, 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



St Henri. Loft Sherwill. Spacious master bdr with walk-in cc. Mezzanine off lvr and dnr. 12.5 ft ceilings, large windows. Living area has a separate office space off kitchen and dnr. The upper mezzanine is perfect for storage and guest area. Walk to market, metro. **Asking \$279,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1368870



Notre Dame de Grâce. 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. Hall with coat closet. **Asking \$229,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1367058



Notre Dame de Grâce. Beautiful condo, walking distance to Vendome metro, 2 bdr, a lot of closets and storage, open concept, large lvr/dnr, western exposure, back balcony to bbq, wood floors and parking. **Asking \$225,000**

Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1394541

514-937-8383



McGuigan Pepin Inc. has the distinction of being the exclusive broker for Westmount of LuxuryRealEstate.com's Board of Regents, a network of the world's most elite luxury real estate brokers. Brokers with this distinction provide leadership and the highest level of personal service and commitment to their clientele. All properties listed by Regents will be promoted on LuxuryRealEstate.com as well as Regents.com.



Camp Caravan (2 of 2): More day-camps and tips

BY ANNIKA MELANSON

Kamp Kinema at the Westmount YMCA

The Westmount YMCA (4585 Sherbrooke St., 514.931.8046) will offer its annual summer day-camp this summer: Kamp Kinema Junior (2 ½ to 5 years) and Kamp Kinema Senior (6 to 12 years).

Diverse activities will be offered, including swimming, music, drama, sports, arts & crafts and theme weeks. Special events and outings are also planned, such as visits to Westmount Park's wading pools and fields, as well as to the Westmount Public Library and greenhouse.

The day-camp also welcomes children with special needs. This integration program is facilitated through consultation with professionals. In order to ensure that your child's needs will be attended to, contact the Y as soon as possible.

In addition to the day-camp, a counselor-in-training program is offered to 15- to 17-year-olds interested in working with children. This program will prepare participants through practical experience to become dynamic leaders. Applicants will be interviewed prior to admission. For

more information or to register, contact the Westmount YMCA (see above).

Have a creative summer at the Visual Arts Centre

The Visual Arts Centre (350 Victoria Ave., 514.488.9558, www.visualartscentre.ca) offers a summer day-camp with a theme, "Art through the Ages."

This summer, children ages 6 to 17 will take a creative journey through the pages of art history, learning about ancient civilizations and contemporary artists as well as being introduced to the materials and the techniques of different historic periods. This program offers stimulation through creativity and play, and takes place in the centre's air-conditioned studios as well as in Westmount Park and pool, where outdoor activities complement the afternoon programme.

Several programmes are offered to suit each age group:

- Little Studio (ages 4 to 5)
- Adventure in Art (ages 6 to 8)
- Contemporary Drawing Workshop (ages 9 to 12)
- Clay Pottery & Sculpture (ages 12 to 17)



Campers at the Visual Arts Centre proudly display their creative work

- Drawing Fundamentals (ages 13 to 17)
 - Painting Studio (ages 13 to 17)
- Both Youth Workshops and Teen Workshops are two-week courses with three classes a week and cost about \$115.

Specialized language camp in Westmount: The Montreal Fluency Centre

For children with language difficulties (i.e. challenges with the use of language and the social use of language), The Montreal Fluency Centre (4626 St. Catherine St., 514.489.4320, www.montrealfluency.com) offers a day-camp, assisting children with their language goals.

This language camp, led by speech-language pathologists, provides intensive group therapy, four mornings a week, to children ages 4 to 6. The centre expects camp spaces to fill up very quickly with existing clients. If you are interested in your child attending this summer, it is a good idea to contact them as soon as possible to ensure a spot.

Tips when selecting an overnight camp

Overnight camp is a wonderful experience for children ages 7 to 18 and is often their first experience with being away from home for an extended period.

An important first step when choosing a camp for your child is meeting or speaking with the camp director. A good rapport with the director is a most important component of a successful choice. This is the person that has the most interaction and

the greatest effect upon the campers. Get a feel for the director by thinking about how your child might interact with this person.

When meeting or speaking with the camp director, use the opportunity to talk about anything special that is going on in your child's life (i.e. a new baby at home, a divorce, if your child is a bed-wetter, has difficulty making friends or socializing, etc). The camp staff will be made aware of any special situation or individual challenges that your child might be facing, and be prepared to deal with any special situation in the best possible way.

Take a moment to consider the type of camp that makes the most sense for your child and try to develop your reasons for those preferences. Ask yourself and your child what your expectations of the camp experience will be. Is your child involved in a sport in which he would like to excel? Would you like to encourage your child to try new activities and experience something completely different? Does your child have special needs and, if so, is the camp staff equipped to deal with them?

Some important points to consider when choosing an overnight camp are:

- Is the camp co-ed or not?
- How is the camp staff trained and what are their qualifications (first aid, CPR, etc.)?
- Safety and supervision (asking what the ratio of camp counsellors to campers, depending on the age group, will give you

FINE ARTS SUMMER CAMP 2008

AGES 6 TO 12

Give your kids a creative, fun Summer Camp experience! With our professional artist/teachers, they'll discover watercolour, gouache, pastel, wood, clay, paper mache, soapstone, printmaking, puppetry and more, in a full day bilingual program. We offer creativity & play in a stimulating environment. Activities in the park and swimming included, in small groups.

Weekly sessions
June 30 to Aug 22
Mon. - Fri. 9:00 - 4:00
Extended hours available

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VISUALARTSCENTRE

www.visualartscentre.ca
350 Victoria Ave. Vendôme Métro
514-488-9558

for choosing an overnight camp

good insight)

- Is there a nurse and/or doctor on staff?
- What kind of communication is permitted with the parents?
- Are visits allowed?
- The camp's attitude regarding discipline.

References

Ask for references from families whose children have attended the camp. Another

method is to consult one of the camp advisors and associations that will provide you with a list of accredited camps, as well as what criteria camps must meet to keep campers happy, healthy and safe.

Certified camps are visited by camp consultants and must adhere to health, safety and staffing ratio standards.

Some accreditation group include:
– Student Camp and Trip Advisors Inc. (514.934.1462, www.

campadvisors.com)

- l'Association des camps du Québec (www.camps.qc.ca)
- The Ontario Camping Association (www.ontariocamps.ca)
- The American Camp Association (www.acacamps.org).

The Easter Bunny at the greenhouse

The bunnies who make their annual appearance at the Westmount greenhouse for Easter will be "on display" from March 20 to March 30.

This is a wonderful time to admire the beautiful flowers, visit with the rabbits and take some great photos of the kids.

On the Market: 337 Metcalfe Ave.

This two-storey townhouse was built in 1966 by Alcan to showcase its aluminum siding. It shares a quiet courtyard, accessed through wrought-iron gates, with its five neighbours and is set back from the road. It is a particularly sunny unit, as it has windows on three sides.

It is equipped with four bedrooms, three bathrooms plus a powder room, as well as two fireplaces. This is a great alternative to condo living, with minimal maintenance.

Lynda Gould, who has lived in one of the courtyard's five townhouses since 1976, formed a group with her neighbours following a problem with her roof. It was then that they decided to get together and share the costs of managing the property. The cost of the outside upkeep (landscaping and snow removal) is about \$1,500 a year.

The interior living space of 337 is approximately 2,675 square feet, plus a basement with 675 square feet of living space. The basement is above ground. It makes a great "pad" for a teenager, convenient guest quarters or a great home office. The property also benefits from an attached, indoor two-car garage.

Townhouse living in the heart of Westmount.

Address: 337 Metcalfe Ave.

Asking price: \$815,000

2007 taxes: \$11,250

On the Market is content provided by the Westmount Independent and is not paid for, or approved by, real estate sellers or their agents. Houses are chosen randomly.



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Two Week Camps

Session	Ages (co-ed)	Start	End
#1	10-16	June 22	July 5
#2	10-16	July 6	July 19
#3	10-16	July 20	Aug. 2

One Week Camps

Session	Ages (co-ed)	Start	End
Junior	9-12	Aug. 3	Aug. 9
Senior	13-17	Aug. 9	Aug. 17

For further information contact: **Parkside Ranch Inc.**, 1505, Alfred-Desrochers, Orford, QC, J1X 6J4
Tel.: **819 868-0431** • Fax: 819 868-6730 • E-mail: registrar@parksideranch.com

Website: www.parksideranch.com

St. Matthias' Church welcomes you to worship during Holy Week

Sunday March 16

Palm Sunday Eucharist Service 10:30 am

Wednesday March 19 Tenebrae Service 7:00 pm

Thursday March 20

Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm

Friday March 21 Good Friday Service 12 pm (noon)

Sunday March 23 Easter Sunday Sung Eucharist Service 10:30 am

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 Rev James McDermott

Director of Music: John Wiens

Organist: Loren Carle



Pet Expert: Fostering

BY LYZANNE & FRIENDS

Question: I know that the SPCA needs volunteers, but I have thought of fostering as well. What would that be like?

Kira Schabram (Montreal SPCA): A few weeks into working at the SPCA, a co-worker asked if I would consider fostering a timid calico beauty and her newborn kitten. It was summer and the SPCA had simply run out of cages for all the animals desperately awaiting foster care.

I didn't know what to say. I had never fostered before. What would be expected of me? Could she be left alone with my own cat? What if she became sick? After another look at Charlotte I knew she needed me. Whatever issues would arise, we would figure them out together.

Luckily, most of my worries were unwarranted, and Charlotte and Henri spent the majority of their three-week stay with me happily keeping each other occupied. I have fostered many times since, including Smokey, an overactive rabbit, and Maple, a neglected pit-bull puppy.

And my fat tabby Rigby has helped me raise countless litters of orphaned kittens. Sure, it has been a bumpy ride at times.

Some have become sick and Maple certainly wasn't housebroken when I took her in. And sure, giving them up when they are ready for adoption still leaves me crying on the couch with a big pint of ice cream.

But, overall, fostering is what I am proudest of in life. Knowing that you are personally responsible for saving that animal's life and sometimes staying in touch with the future adopters is all the thanks I need.

I tell this story because, like always, the Montreal SPCA is in desperate need of foster families. We currently have dogs and cats undergoing medical treatment, as well as pregnant mothers and orphaned kittens. All just need a little time and space in your home.

Food is provided and vet care, if necessary, is arranged at a severely reduced fee. The average time to foster is between 3 and 8 weeks. For more information, please visit the foster department Monday to Friday from 4 pm until 7 pm and weekends from 11 am until 5 pm, call 514-735-2711 x 2243 or email foyerdaccueil@spca-montreal.com.

Thank you.



Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before

Why a second “Hurtubise”?

BY DOREEN LINDSAY

Question: Why is Riverview also called the Justine-Solomé-Hurtubise house?
For answer, see p. 13

Colourfully Yours: The Case of the Velvet Bullfighter

BY AURELIEN GUILLORY
& GRETA VON SCHMEDLAPP



As usual, my dears, I'm in such a rush to deal with all my design projects.

As you might have surmised, with the mention of Merida, Mexico in my last letter to all you design friends and fiends, Aurel and I did have a jaunt to the Yucatan peninsula to escape those mentioned Winter Blues, and we do apologize for the information-heavy techno-speak about lighting.

Light boxes

I am pleased to mention that those colour-corrected light boxes that I mentioned last column are also available at your friendly Jean Coutu pharmacies. Union has a larger selection, with expert sales staff, but the various fixtures are there at Jean's place near Guy on St. Catherine St. I remember that 20 years ago, when Aurel was certified as a colour and light therapist, it was really flakey knowledge!

While in Mexico, I was reminded of dear clients of years ago, for whom I had

to incorporate the favourite memory of their Mexican holiday – a genuine painting of a bullfighter, well painted on a deep indigo velvet.

Talk about a design challenge! Not only was said matador well painted and well framed (and also highly priced), its colours were scintillating. We did manage to use the painting in the family den, with several throw pillows accenting the general colour palette of the matador's suit. We also had to paint the display wall the rusty red from the painting to provide a proper background, along with several ceramic platters from the same region to complete the display. I guess I must relate one of Aurel's maxims: “Context is everything.”

Aurel often continues with the idea that there is no such thing as Bad Taste: it's all about the surroundings, and the way it's put together.

I, as a veteran shopper, can testify that travel does bring out the shopper-hunter in my blood. We all have the glorious skirt or blouse that we bought on a whim while on holiday in the Caribbean, only to discover that back in our snowy northern city, those glorious tropical colours are requiring everyone to look at you with sunglasses!

Discoveries

The same goes in our houses. I recently had the fun of discovering a superb collection of birds rendered in paintings, sculptures, plates, etc. on my initial tour of Aurel's new client. (He often does have me along sometimes, as I am his Muse, after all.)

So, a few weeks later, their study/music room now has an entire wall painted a superb airy “eau de Nil” and over thirty objects d'art expertly mounted. Truly a well-hung wall! Aurel's clients' friends are astounded.

All the visitors to the new makeover ask: “Where did you get this super collection?” She replies, “We had it all along over the years. Aurel just made us realize it.”

So the moral of the story: Don't play Easter-egg hunt all over your home with your favourite bibelots. Mass them over the sofa, along the hall wall, in the powder room, etc. to great effect.

Remember home

Likewise, if you do want to bring back a piece of art from your travels, don't depend upon your shaky colour memory of

your distant home. Bring paint and fabric cuttings of the room in question, and be ruthless about matching – so the effort and hauling of this heavy and often bulky item will be a delight when you unpack it – not a rude shock requiring wall repainting and reupholstering!

I was tempted to buy one of the lovely hand-embroidered Yucatan blouses, when Aurel said that I would have to paint all of my cottage deck wicker, so that it wouldn't clash with the blouse! I gulped, and decided upon some delightful silver earrings instead.

Of course, all you shoppers out there, do remember this little story and ALWAYS shop with samples of the things you currently live with while you are out on the hunt for that essential item. I'll be tempting you with news from Aurel's recent tour of Toronto's Design Expo on my next letter to all of you devoted fans...

The word is out: “pattern is back.” How you use it can make you or break you!

Bye for now, yours,

Greta von Schmedlapp.

Keep your comments coming: Catch us at www.colorsbyaurelien.com

ECS sweeps robotics competition



From left (with grade level): back row, Mr. Hatziegeorgiou (parent and mentor), Katarina Pessina (grade 9), Anh Nguyen (9), Olivia Cheong (11), Elodie Favier-Bouchard (11), Jane Panangaden (9), Emma Beliveau (11), Samantha Walsh (9), Lexi Stefanatos (9), Mimi Warshaw (9), Ms. Lauren Aslin (Director of IT and Curriculum Integration / Robotics Advisor), Mrs. Janice Ewanyshyn (Music Teacher). Front row: Marissa Hatziegeorgiou (3), Lawrie Shahbazian (9), Rivelle Zlatopolsky (11), Sophie Kabbash (11), Laura Kabbash (7). These are the core students of an extended team of 103 who worked behind the scenes.

On the evening of February 23, a team of ECS students learned that they had won top awards at the Canadian Robotics Competition.

A robot by the name of CabarECS, built

by students from grades 5 to 11, catapulted its way to victory, defeating 24 teams from schools across Quebec. ECS walked away with the Best Overall Champions trophy, a first for any girls' school. The girls also

History quiz: Hurtubise

(from p. 12)

Question: Why is Riverview also called the Justine-Solomé-Hurtubise house?

Answer: The house was built by Ephrem Hudon in 1847 for his wife Justine-Solomé Hurtubise.

In 1847, François Ephrem Hudon, a successful Montreal merchant, built the original red brick house for himself and his wife Justine-Solomé Hurtubise, daughter of Pierre Jérémie Hurtubise and Archange Bouthillier, who lived in the original Hurtubise house to the east of Riverview bordering on present-day Victoria Ave. The family farmhouse had been

built in 1739 on the Côte St. Antoine Rd.

The original Riverview was enlarged in 1879 after being bought by William Simpson, manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. He added a second floor and an attic under a mansard roof covered with polychrome slates, as well as a central Victorian tower crowned with a wrought-iron balustrade having four weather vanes shaped like sunflowers. He added one floor to the summer kitchen at the back of the house.

Today, the house is divided into two houses, east and west. It was completely renovated and preserved by Philip Ronchetti and Pauline Woolnough after they fell in love with it and bought it in 1985.

A theatrical presentation of the history of the people who lived in Riverview over its 161-year history will be presented by Dramatis Personae, Westmount's community theatre under the direction of Ann Elbourne and Ellen Rubin.

The play will take place at the Westmount Public Library on Thursday, March 20 at 7:00 pm. \$5 at the door. 514.932.6688.

Doreen Lindsay is president of the Westmount Historical Association.

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Westmount Profile: Bill Smith

Career parallels Dawson story

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Appreciating heritage and preserving history extend beyond Bill Smith's personal life into the work arena at Dawson College, where his career began as an office boy. That was 38 years ago when the CEGEP first opened its doors on Selby St.

"It was the first day of the rest of my life," he says. "Since then, I've found a continuing challenge and many interesting projects."

Retiring as IT coordinator, Smith says that Dawson has always been a very welcoming place. "I'm only leaving now, a year after I could have, because it's time to go and make way for younger people. I've seen the cycle go round more than once!"

Salvaged historic cheque

And when this longtime Westmount resident departs, March 11, he'll leave behind an important part of the CEGEP's history. It's the \$12.2 million cheque that Dawson wrote to purchase the current site at Sherbrooke and Atwater in 1982 from the Congrégation de Notre Dame. The heritage property was the sisters' Mother House and secretarial school.

"Once the cheque went through, I made sure it never got destroyed when it reached the seven-year retention period," he says. And as accounting coordinator, he was in the right spot to safeguard it and frame it for his office wall.

On another wall hangs a large photo of his grandfather, George R. Smith, who was elected to the Quebec legislative assembly for Megantic in 1908 as a Liberal. George went on to build the house on the northwest corner of Kensington and de Maisonneuve around 1911, the year he was appointed to the upper chamber for the division of Victoria. (Photo on page 1 shows Bill Smith with his grandfather's photo.)

Bill and his wife, Pat, who moved to Westmount 30 years ago, have raised their own daughters, Catherine, Maryann and Laura, in their home on York Ave.

Returned to birthplace

Interestingly, he was born at the former Western Hospital (now site of the Mon-

treau Children's) only two blocks away from where he has spent his career.

His early years on a small hobby farm in Danville provided bucolic memories of chickens, a donkey cart, haylofts and being chased by a goose. "It instilled in me a love of freedom and the desire to do things my way within the confines of conformity. I've always believed if at first you don't like what you're doing, do something else."

The family moved to St. Lambert and then Thetford Mines, which "I couldn't wait to leave," he says. Freedom came with one year of parties, bridge and fun at Bishop's University, followed by a summer job in northern BC at Cassiar, the only open pit surface asbestos mine at the top of a mountain in Canada.

"It introduced me to the land of the midnight sun, manual labour and office work." Facing an ultimatum from his father at the end of the summer, Smith applied for work at Dawson on learning it was among the first CEGEPs starting up that fall. "Because I had three months of experience in an office, in a mining town, they thought I might have potential, so they took me on."

Worked at all 14 campuses

And two weeks later, Dawson welcomed its first students at the former Frosst pharmaceutical building where employees were moving out at the same time. The CEGEP quickly spread onto 14 different campuses, "and I've worked on every one," he says.

In purchasing, accounting, payroll and MIS, Smith has been at the heart of the operation as it grew into a student population of 7,700 by day and 1,700 at night. The largest CEGEP in Quebec is also one of the best run, he adds. "We've had a budget surplus since 1996."

Smith's fascination with history enhanced his interest in the renovation of Dawson's present 100-year-old building. "I attended many Westmount council meetings as various plans and models were presented."

Problem solver

Describing himself as a problem solver and a systems person, Smith manages the



Bill Smith with the \$12.2 million cheque used by Dawson College to buy its current campus.

general administration IT department. His team of 12 programmers, technicians and analysts maintains a large network of computers and develops programs for providing management with data and information that are used in decision-making, including student information.

The epitome of a lifelong learner, Smith had accumulated so many course credits in various areas that he was accepted six years ago in the MBA program at the University of Liverpool. The degree he received two years ago is "a personal achievement that I couldn't have done without the support of my family and so many people at work."

And his work with IT, which he has managed for 12 years, "enabled me to

apply what I learned about management along the way. It was an opportunity to demonstrate that I had the capacity to provide leadership in a new area."

When he's not working, Smith enjoys walking and golfing as well as the family's three-season cottage in Val David. One of his passions is the *New York Times* crossword. Another is the book club he joined 19 years ago. Actively involved during the 1990s in the TAG teen centre, Smith hopes to have more time in retirement to give back to the community he loves.

"The reason I do things is because I can," he says. It's the philosophy that has driven his career and life so far, and which, he says, will guide a more balanced life in retirement.

Westmount figure skaters



Westmount Sports and Recreation presented a skating show on February 29 at the Westmount arena. The presentation showcased this year's Friday figure skating group, whose members have been skating together for the last couple of seasons. The girls glided and twirled to the beats of the Spice Girls.

Westmount's St. Patrick's float open to residents

Westmount residents will again be able to join the city's contingent in the St. Patrick's parade Sunday, March 16. Passes to ride on the city's float may be obtained at Victoria Hall. A limited number are available.

On parade day, a bus will take participants from Victoria Hall at 11:15 am to the

staging area. The parade moves east along St. Catherine St. from Fort.

Inviting residents to participate, Councillor Nicole Forbes told the city council meeting February 25 that they may also walk with representatives of community groups.

The Westmount Townshippier – Extra

Glen Mountain opens for March

The *Westmount Independent* has learned that Glen Mountain, located in West Bolton just outside of Knowlton in Brome County, has opened for March.

Skiers showed up on March 1 to inaugurate the short season. The ski hill will only be open on weekends in March and on Friday, March 21. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$30 for students and children.

The Glen currently plans to be open next year for a normal-length season, but it is unclear on what basis. It may only be open on weekends and may have a mixed membership/pay-per-use revenue model.

The ski hill has been closed for 3½ seasons (since 2004). For more information, go to www.clubmontglen.com or call 1.450.243.6666.



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