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new every month,  
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**The Update of  
new listings: p. 8**



Bought & sold: 4285 de Maisonneuve Blvd.



Profile: Jaspal Rangi p. 14

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

April 2, 2008 *We are Westmount* Vol. 2 No. 4a

## City gears up for eco-inquiries as public course launched Green roofs are coming!

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Imagine a Westmount of green roofs. It's a concept gaining ground as a way to decrease energy costs, lower ambient summer heat, control storm water runoff and provide a host of ecological benefits. And with momentum gaining, several Westmounters are already set to attend a four-part course in Green Roof Design being launched in Montreal Monday, April 7, by a Toronto-based North American association called Green Roofs for Healthy Cities (GRHC). Open to members of the public interested in green roofs, the course has been arranged in part by Westmount resident Catherine Richards, a GRHC volunteer, and is being attended by two members of the city's Building & Planning department.

### Building up expertise

"We want to build up our expertise to be in a better position to help citizens with

their inquiries," said department director Joanne Poirier. "People are becoming curious about green roofs." Poirier, who has been experimenting with a green roof on half of her own country house, said the concept is "more than a trend." And in Westmount, with its many dark flat roofs, "there's definitely a potential," she explained. Richards, who is a member of Les Amis de la Montagne, arranged for the course to take place at the Smith House on Mount Royal. She hopes through the course to become a certified consultant in green roof design in accordance with LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) standards. The introductory session – Green Roof 101 – has already attracted participants from Ontario and Vermont along with Montrealers, she said. Some spaces are still available ([www.greenroofs.org](http://www.greenroofs.org)).

### Green roof convert

Richards, a resident of Melbourne Ave., was recently won over to ..... the green roof concept *continued on p. 3*

## Tri-fecta for the Tri-Illium



From left: Caroline Jo, Lara De Stefano, Amanda McCoubrey, Julie D'Aoust, Tiffany Madon and Study science teacher Kelly Miller.

The Study, whose school flower is a trillium, will send its students on at least three exciting trips this year. As part of the International Climate Champions Program, Caroline Jo has been selected to go to Kobe, Japan in May for the G-8 summit and Julie D'Aoust has been chosen to go to a conference in the Yukon. On another note, a team of five Grade 11 physics students – including Jo and

D'Aoust – won the Eastern Canada semifinals of the Shalheveth Freier Physics Tournament and will be one of two Canadian teams to travel to Israel this month for the worldwide competition at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot. The full team is pictured above and consists of D'Aoust, Jo, Lara De Stefano, Amanda McCoubrey, and Tiffany Madon.

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## Renovations drive work value total to 5-year peak

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A five-year record in construction was reached in Westmount in 2007 when 869 building and plumbing permits were issued for an estimated \$47 million of proposed work. The figures from the city's Building & Planning department reflect a 27-percent hike over the previous year in the value of work applied for and a 37-percent rise in

the number of permits. "We reached a peak in 2007 with \$10 million more than last year," said Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier. The hot construction year was driven largely by additions, alterations and repairs to single and two-family dwellings, she explained. With only one new building start recorded last year – a house at 23 Edgehill at an estimated cost of \$2.5 million – overall

renovation work at existing residential, commercial, industrial and municipal buildings accounted for a whopping \$44.5 million of the 2007 total. In fact more was spent on renovating single- and two-family dwellings (\$33 million) last year than the total amount of renovations (\$30 million) in all types of buildings in 2006. At least 96 houses underwent major work ex- *continued on p. 6*

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<div></div> <div>SPORTS ET LOISIRS</div> <div>Rénovation : Aréna/piscine</div> <div>Concernant le projet de rénovation des installations et équipements de l'Aréna/piscine, le conseil de Ville en est maintenant aux premières étapes de planification. Avant de procéder, il aimerait consulter la communauté. Venez partager vos idées avec les membres du conseil au cours d'un forum spécial :</div> <div>le samedi 12 avril de 12 h à 17 h Victoria Hall 4626, rue Sherbrooke Ouest</div> <div>Les détails seront affichés sur notre site Web. Info : 514-989-5263</div> <div>Inscriptions printemps-été</div> <div>Veuillez noter que toute inscription pour les activités de sports et de loisirs devra s'effectuer à l'Aréna, 4675, rue Sainte-Catherine O. de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30. Veuillez consulter le Répertoire des activités ou notre site Web pour de plus amples renseignements. Info : 514 989-5353. 🌿</div> <div></div> <div>TRAVAUX PUBLICS</div> <div>Nid-de-poule? Avisez-nous!</div> <div>Le Service des travaux publics de Westmount a besoin de la collaboration de tous les résidents et automobilistes pour s'attaquer aux nids-de-poule, un problème qui refait surface à chaque printemps. Si vous voyez un nid-de-poule dans n'importe quelle rue à Westmount, veuillez aviser la Ville immédiatement afin que le personnel des Travaux publics puisse le réparer.</div> <div>La ligne d'urgence des Travaux publics – 514 989-5311 – est accessible 24 heures sur 24, sept jours par semaine. Vous pouvez aussi communiquer avec la Ville à partir de notre site Web, ou par courriel à assistance@westmount.org.</div> <div>Floralies du printemps</div> <div>Venez visiter la 76<sup>e</sup> exposition de fleurs printanières. Le Conservatoire sera ouvert de 10 h à 19 h 45 sur semaine et de 10 h à 16 h 45 la fin de semaine et les jours fériés.</div> <div>Distribution d'arbres</div> <div>Dans son budget 2008, la Ville de Westmount a prévu un montant de 5 000 \$ pour la distribution</div>	<div>DATES À RETENIR</div> <div>Jusqu'au 19 avril</div> <div>Exposition : Œuvres de Mary Landry, Brian Merrett et Frederic Smith La galerie du Victoria Hall</div> <div>Le 9 avril – 14 h</div> <div>Atelier de poésie Bibliothèque</div> <div>Le 9 avril – 19 h</div> <div>Shelley Pomerance Investigates Poetry Without Borders Bibliothèque</div> <div></div> <div>d'arbres aux résidents. Vous pouvez obtenir sans frais un arbre de votre choix, à savoir un sorbier Cardinal Royal, un lilas Ivory Silk ou un orme Accolade. Les bons de commande à cet effet sont disponibles à l'hôtel de ville ainsi qu'à la Bibliothèque jusqu'au 16 avril. Vous pouvez également télécharger le bon de commande de notre site Web. Info : 514 989-5213. 🌿</div> <div></div> <div>BIBLIOTHÈQUE</div> <div>Concours littéraire McEntyre</div> <div>La date d'échéance pour le concours littéraire McEntyre est le vendredi 4 avril. Pour plus de détails, consultez notre site web : www.westlib.org.</div> <div>Atelier de poésie</div> <div>Célébrez le mois national de la poésie et laissez libre cours à votre créativité grâce à cet atelier sans prétention qui vous aidera à traduire vos sentiments en vers le mercredi 9 avril à 14 h. Arrivez avec votre grisaille et repartez avec un poème, ou venez simplement écouter quelques poèmes humoristiques et quelques sonnets Haïku! Info : 514 483-5604.</div> <div>Shelley Pomerance Investigates Poetry Without Borders</div> <div>Shelley Pomerance et un panel formé des poètes Stephanie Bolster, Susan Gillis, David McGimpsey, Carolyn Marie Souaid et Carmine Starnino vous convient à un débat amical sur la poésie le mercredi 9 avril à 19 h. Info : 514 989-5386. 🌿</div>	<div></div> <div>SPORT AND RECREATION</div> <div>Arena/Pool Renewal Project</div> <div>Council is now in the very early planning stages for a renewal of Westmount's existing arena/pool facility. Before moving ahead, Council needs feedback from the community. Come share your ideas with us at a special forum on:</div> <div>Saturday, April 12 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Victoria Hall 4626 Sherbrooke Street West</div> <div>Full details as to the format of the public forum will be posted on our Web site. Info: 514 989-5263.</div> <div>Spring/Summer Registration</div> <div>If you would still like to register for sports and recreation activities, please visit the Westmount Arena (4675 St. Catherine W.) between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. For complete details, consult the Recreation Activities Guide, or log on to our Web site. Info: 514 989-5353. 🌿</div> <div></div> <div>PUBLIC WORKS</div> <div>See a pothole...Let us know!</div> <div>Public Works is counting on the help of all residents and drivers in the City to battle that annual spring problem...the pothole. If you find a pothole on any street in Westmount, contact the City immediately so that Public Works personnel can repair it as quickly as possible.</div> <div>The Public Works emergency phone line - 514 989-5311 - is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can also contact us through our Web site, or by e-mail at assistance@westmount.org.</div> <div>Spring Flower Show</div> <div>The 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Flower Show is now open to the public. Conservatory hours are 10 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. on weekdays, 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on weekends and holidays.</div> <div>Special Tree Distribution</div> <div>Westmount has allocated \$ 5 000 in its 2008 budget for the distribution of trees to its residents. Residents may obtain one tree free of charge from the following selection: <i>Cardinal Royal</i> Mountain</div>	<div>DATEBOOK</div> <div>Until April 19</div> <div>Exhibition: Works of Mary Landry, Brian Merrett et Frederic Smith Gallery at Victoria Hall</div> <div>April 9 – 2 p.m.</div> <div>Poetry Workshop Library</div> <div>April 9 – 7 p.m.</div> <div>Shelley Pomerance Investigates Poetry Without Borders Library</div> <div></div> <div>Ash, <i>Ivory Silk</i> Lilac and <i>Accolade</i> Elm. Order forms are available until April 16 at City Hall, the Library and on our Web site. Info: 514 989-5213. 🌿</div> <div></div> <div>LIBRARY</div> <div>McEntyre Creative Writing Competition</div> <div>The deadline for the McEntyre Creative Writing Competition is Friday, April 4. For more information, please consult our Web site at www.westlib.org.</div> <div>Poetry Workshop</div> <div>Celebrate <i>National Poetry Month</i> and get creative in this lighthearted workshop that will help versify your curse on Wednesday, April 9 at 2 p.m. Arrive with a peeve and leave with a poem, or just come to hear some limericks and sonnet Haiku! Info: 514 989-5386.</div> <div>Shelley Pomerance Investigates Poetry Without Borders</div> <div>Join Shelley Pomerance and a panel of poets - Stephanie Bolster, Susan Gillis, David McGimpsey, Carolyn Marie Souaid and Carmine Starnino - in a fun lively bit of playful sparring about poetry, the people who write it and read it on Wednesday, April 9 at 7 p.m. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌿</div>



# Green roofs improve air quality

continued from p. 1

after reading about it and viewing an aerial poster of the island of Montreal that showed vast expanses of pavement and flat industrial roofs.

Typically, she said, green roofs are created by covering a roof's membrane with a layer of drainage stones, a special lightweight soil mix and the planting of sedum. There are even pre-planted sections on the market, she said. "We're not talking about high intensity roof gardens."

Acting as a roof insulator, the sedum plantings extend the life of the roof, provide stop-over locations for certain bird species, and have been shown to reduce the cost of heating and air conditioning by some 15 percent. A green

roof also improves air quality, and reduces and controls runoff that can cause sewer backup during torrential rains.

"The additional costs of installing a green roof at the outset are defrayed over the long term," she said.

The upcoming course will be led by GRHC founder and president Steven W. Peck.

Headquartered in Toronto, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities – North America Inc., has evolved into an internationally recognized not-for-profit industry association since its founding in 1999.

"It brings together roofers, soil specialists and professionals from many fields who are interested in the burgeoning new industry," Richards said.



Catherine Richards

## New penalties for speed, handhelds

Police are alerting Westmount drivers to new province-wide highway safety code regulations April 1.

It is now illegal to use any handheld cell phone or electronic device having a telephone component, such as a BlackBerry, unless legally parked. The penalty: a \$115 ticket and loss of three demerit points.

As well, penalties are doubling for excessive city speeding – driving more than

40 km/h over the limit, said police community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel. In Westmount, where speed limits are 30 and 40 km/h, speeds of 70 or 80 km/h will cost \$560 and six points for a first offence. Highway speeding penalties also escalate incrementally.

"It's a great thing," said Pimentel. "Speeding is the number one cause of accidents. Speed kills."


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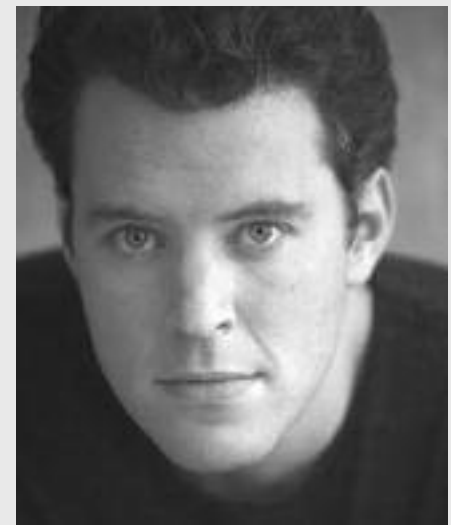
## Tenor star Kaiser to perform at Temple

Joseph Kaiser will sing at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom (4100 Sherbrooke St., 514.937.3575) on Wednesday, April 16 at 8 pm. He has performed at the Salzburg Festival and the New York Metropolitan. He also stars in Kenneth Branagh's soon-to-be released film, *The Magic Flute*.

Kaiser will perform arias, art songs and Broadway tunes and be accompanied by Michael McMahon on piano.

Anita Bensabat at the Temple explained to the *Independent* that, "His family has been a member here for a long time, so we have opportunities like this when he's in town." Nevertheless, given his stature in the opera world, a performance in Westmount "is a rare moment."

Tickets: \$180 (benefactors), \$118 (patrons), \$36 (general public).



Joseph Kaiser

## Awaiting funding news from Quebec

# Arena plans still 'embryonic'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Despite many different reports concerning the status of plans to build a new Westmount arena complex, plans are still at a very "embryonic" stage, director general Bruce St. Louis said last week.

The city had not received any news from Quebec's ministry of education, sports and recreation concerning the city council's application in December for funding, he explained at press time.

### No price, no new plan

"At this point in time, we have so few facts and no price tag," he said. "It hasn't even evolved into a project yet." As a re-

sult, "it's way too early" for hiring professionals or conducting feasibility studies.

While the city simply "dusted off" an initial pre-merger arena plan as the basis for the recent application to Quebec, the plan "now requires a whole new approach." Among the new considerations is the element of sustainability.

And while preliminaries and various scenarios are being discussed by council members in general committee, St. Louis declined to comment on the possibility of building it as a private partnership arrangement.

The only news that might be forthcoming from council, he said, would be a progress report.

## Charest aware of Westmount arena plans

BY DON WEDGE

Councillor George Bowser has been assured that Jean Charest knows about Westmount's proposed new arena, and that the premier hopes that Quebec will make a contribution.

The two ran into each other while shopping recently. Charest recognized Bowser because of the latter's career as a musical entertainer.

"I'm a politician, too," Bowser told him. "I'm a Westmount councillor."

"I've heard about your arena," Charest said. "Mayor Karin Marks talked to me about it several times. I hope we will be able to give you some of the money!"

Bowser was impressed by the outgoing

approach of the premier. "I thought that he was positive and, in fact brilliantly elegant," Bowser recalled of their March 22 encounter.

The councillor added that he was struck by the informality of the meeting. "It says much for the peacefulness of Quebec that the premier can go shopping without a security man in sight. That was the case when we met," he added.

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At Second Glance

# A muse, some Templars and too few tax credits

BY HEATHER BLACK



Westmounter Michael Prupas is enjoying success in the television and film industry. His company, Montreal-based Muse Entertainment, has an impressive production list and has won numerous awards. Most recently, the film *New Deal*, starring Meg Ryan and William H. Macy, opened at Sundance, and the company announced production of a new NBC/Global television series, *The Last Templar*.

A chat with the former lawyer, however, revealed that the Quebec film industry is not all roses. The provincial tax credit — in particular the lower rate for English programming — is a contentious issue.

### Canadian pro

After 10 years in business, Muse Entertainment — with production houses in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver — is a major player in the Canadian film and television industry. Known to work with the industry's best, Muse has cast *Alias'* Victor Garber and Oscar-winner Mira Sorvino in *The Last Templar*.

Muse has also produced the television series *This is Wonderland*, adding much-

needed Canadian content to local stations. Another series, *Durham County*, shot in Montreal, was named “Best Dramatic Series” at the recent Canadian Film and Television Production Association's Indie Awards. The second season of *Durham County* is currently in development.

Also, the YTV teen comedy *Dad's in the Attic*, will start production next month in Ottawa — lured to that city in part by attractive tax incentives. Prupas explained that Quebec tax credits for English-language programming are lower compared to those elsewhere, but also compared to French-language Quebec credits.

### Money talks

While federal tax credits on film production — a percentage rebate on tax paid

— have been in the news recently, provinces also offer refundable tax credits. That percentage often determines film location as jurisdictions compete for production work. For instance, in December — with the Canadian dollar at par — the Quebec government raised the rate for foreign firms by five percent, but not for local companies.

While fixing the rate is complex — with bonus points awarded for filming outside of Montreal or for using special effects — a call to SODEC, which administers the program, confirmed a 10 percent bonus for French-language films or documentaries over 35 minutes. While some claim the bonus is needed to offset the difficulty of financing French films, others consider this policy discriminatory. And with a base set at 29 percent on

labour, the rate for local companies is lower than in other provinces. For instance, British Columbia announced a base rate of 35 percent; while in Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan credit rates can easily soar upward to 50 or 60 percent. Here in Quebec, tax credits stimulate work for the 35,000 employed at 500 production companies, as well as adding indirectly to government coffers.

So the question is: How many productions leave the province because of the low tax-credit rate on English programming?

### Paris North

For Prupas and Muse, the future continues to look bright. *Answered by Fire*, the story of two UN peacekeepers in East Timor, recently won a “Silver Hugo” at the Chicago International Television Awards, enhancing Montreal's reputation as an international cultural centre.

Muse's success is also a reminder that “Hollywood North” can flourish in the “Paris of North America”. But watch out for Knights Templar on horseback career-ing down city streets. Filming on *The Last Templar* starts this month in Morocco and Montreal.

Heather Black is a Westmount communication designer. Contact her: [atcitizen@gmail.com](mailto:atcitizen@gmail.com)



Executive producer, Michael Prupas (right) and actor Matt Lucas on the set of *The Wind in the Willows*.

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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EDITOR & PUBLISHER: David Price 514.935.4537  
EDITORIAL COORDINATOR: Kristin McNeill  
514.223.3578 – [indie@westmountindependent.com](mailto:indie@westmountindependent.com)  
CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney  
[laureen@westmountindependent.com](mailto:laureen@westmountindependent.com)  
LAYOUT: Studio Melrose/Ted Sancton

ADVERTISING SALES:  
Annika Melanson 514.223.3567

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## Letters to the editor

### ANOTHER HAPPY READER

Please put me on the mailing list for the pdf version of the *Independent*. I love your paper, and this way I'll be saving some paper!

LORI PERKINS

### A VIEW PERHAPS, BUT NOT IN NAME

I enjoyed the article about the Scouting trip to Namibia (and other articles) in the March 26 *Westmount Independent*. I would like to point out, however, that the church where 2nd Westmount Scouting meets is called “Mountainside”, and not “Mountainview” as reported.

VIRGINIA ELLIOTT, AKALA –  
2ND WESTMOUNT CUBS

### GET WITH IT, WESTMOUNT

In response to the letter of Tony Moffat and Richard Aylett of March 19, I have this to say. There is always hope in dreams and yes, it can be done if everyone shares the

dream. Having garbage pick-up once a month might be a goal but I find it unreasonable. Once a week is more realistic.

I have pets and they contribute a lot more to my garbage can than I do. A curbside compost pick up would be wonderful but not practical for multi-family buildings. I have a balcony as do some other apartment dwellers, and if they are willing to compost, there is a solution.

Why can't a commercial compost system be installed in the Corporation Yard? Why can't a biodegradable bag, made of heavy paper be made available? I take my paper recycling to the yard so why not compost? I might not want to compost during the heat of the summer but the option should be available to Westmounters that are willing to take our waste management further.

Get with it Westmount – give us all the chance to save our planet and our municipality! Please consider the Corporation Yard.

FLORA-LEE WAGNER  
CLAREMONT AVENUE



## Civic Alert

## How our neighbours chose their director general

BY DON WEDGE



Pardon me for returning to the subject of the new director general. But the choice of Bruce St. Louis' successor will be so crucial for our future that we all should follow it with keen interest.

DGs change jobs, just like other managers. Only last month, Brossard as well as our neighbouring boroughs of Ville-Marie and Côte des Neiges-NDG got new chief civil servants.

There seem to be as many ways of choosing replacements as there are municipalities!

In Brossard's case, the new head, Aubert Gallant, had been assistant DG and Public Works director. From January, he served as interim before moving to the top job.

In Ville-Marie, Alain Defort, an electrical engineer who has worked for Big Montreal since 1991, was confirmed to the top post, but he had been the interim director since last November.

The real surprise, though, was the selection of Stéphane Plante to head CDN-NDG. His two predecessors were veteran bureaucrats from the Big City: Michel Brosseau and Gaetan Rainville.

**Creating a city**

Since 2002, they had been charged with creating a city-within-a-city, virtually from scratch.

The new appointee comes from a small city background. In a 16-year career in Deux Montagnes, he had diverse responsibilities – like St. Louis before he became Westmount DG.

Plante began as communications director, then became urban planning head with responsibility for relations with other governments and, finally, assistant DG.

He moved at the end of 2005 to Les Cèdres, the small municipality off the western tip of the island of Montreal, which is becoming the new CP rail freight hub.

He jumps from managing for a population of 5,732 to one of 171,395. That is an incredible switch!

I presumed that he was selected because of the two dominating projects in the CDN-NDG borough – the perhaps imminent MUHC hospital and, further down the road, the redevelopment of the Hippodrome site.

**Wanted: a conductor**

But I was wrong! Plante got the job for different reasons, borough mayor Michael Applebaum assured me.

"We were looking for a conductor – someone who could bring all the players together," he said.

"We were attracted by his potential skills at integrating the city services from downtown, all the borough's own department directors, the elected and the citizens.

"I think that, more and more, the boroughs are realizing that this is a problem that should be addressed. There must be smooth working between, for instance, public works and the parks departments. If not, the public suffers."

The same considerations will apply in Westmount, but with much less difficulty given the difference in size.

There were 29 applicants for the CDN-NDG vacancy. They were screened by a panel – a director from another borough, plus representatives of human resources and of the Big City DG, Claude Léger. Until a decade ago, Léger was himself DG of a small municipality, Montreal East.

Nine candidates were called for interviews, which Applebaum also attended; five of them were called in a second time. Three then undertook second-language tests and two finalists went through psychological testing.

In the later stages, borough councillors were given the opportunity to meet the candidates, although only Warren Allmand did so.

That was a tough screening. I don't think it is decided yet how far the process

will go in Westmount.

However, Councillor Tom Thompson, the administration commissioner, told me: "I'm amazed at how thorough our Human Resources staff is. I'm sure they will be even more so with a new director general."

**Westmount's needs**

Westmount has created a list of qualities that it is seeking for its vacant position. They have been given to five headhunter firms who are invited to submit candidates.

For Applebaum, the final test was Plante's willingness to accept a two-year contract, instead of the more usual three- or four-year deals offered to borough heads.

"It proved to me that he believed he was ready for the job," said the mayor.

Westmounters should hope Plante works out – as much as we will want our own new selected DG to succeed.

We suffer from Montreal's over-centralization, which was worsened by the forced mergers and the incomplete demergers. One way to overcome the damage is to have strong boroughs. The nearer they become to independent cities, the better placed we will be.

CDN-NDG is Montreal's biggest and second richest borough. Yet with all its problems, our neighbours need every bit of management skill they can attract.

Don Wedge's e-mail address is [calert@web.net](mailto:calert@web.net).

**End of St. Patrick's season?**

Contactivity (4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd., 514.932.2326) staff and volunteers cooked up a St. Patrick's Day feast on March 20. The main room was full of diners, as was the kitchen, pictured above. From left: Betty Lemaistre, Judy Lauer, Mary Stark, Bridget Blackader, Lansdowne Bear, David Simeonidis, Fiona Smith and Tish Connors.

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# Record year for construction

continued from p. 1

ceeding \$50,000 led by 15 Belvedere Rd. for which permits were issued for some \$7 million of work. Permits for \$500,000 or more were also approved for the fire restoration of 501 Roslyn and renovations at 21 Ramezay, 6 Sunnyside, 42 Forden Cresc., 356 Metcalfe, 65 Belvedere Pl., and 347 Redfern.

Historically, the estimated value of construction work listed on permit applications is generally considered to be conservative. Permits totaling \$2.6 million for repairs to the parkade at Alexis Nihon Plaza accounted for the lion's share of \$5.5 million of work in the commercial sector.

Of \$1.9 million in institutional work, ECS Junior School obtained permits valued at \$1.7 million while washroom changes at the RCMP (4225 Dorchester Blvd.) totalled \$900,000.

Other interesting permits were issued for the conversion of former Fire Station No. 2 into condos.

Demolition permits were issued for three sites: façade modification at 474 Mt. Pleasant, a "Category I\*" heritage property; destruction of a house at 310 Côte St. Antoine Rd. for building a new one; and more than 50 percent demolition work at 41 Summit Crescent.

Demolition hearings are required for the destruction of more than 50 percent of a building or for a number of special conditions that include work at Category I and I\* heritage buildings.

During 2007, Westmount inspectors carried out 6,638 inspections, 78 percent of which related to construction and plumbing. Others included such areas as occupancy and environment (e.g. garage).



This work in progress at 23 Edgehill Rd. reflects the only permit for new construction issued in 2007.



Narnia is preparing for its 25th anniversary vernissage, which will be held on April 15 at Centre St. Ambroise (5080 St. Ambroise). The Narnia children and staff have been busy cutting, gluing, painting and preparing for the exhibition and fundraiser which will feature artwork inspired by Roxie Munro, David Hockney and Piet Mondrian. The artwork will be

auctioned off at 7 pm. This is a community event in collaboration with Montreal artist Scott Mcleod and sponsored by Primadonna restaurant. Musician Michael Farkas will be showcasing his musical talents. Funds raised at the vernissage will go into "Narnia programming and workshops for parents and children," said Judith Litvack, executive director of Narnia.

## Ice dam or damn ice?



The problem



The solution

Holes in thick ice trapped this car (and others) in a lower Westmount alley on March 25. It's not just snow that can trap a car!



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## WMA seeks nominations for Walker Award honour

The Westmount Municipal Association is seeking nominations for the Derek Walker Award for Volunteer Citizen of the Year, which will be presented at its annual general meeting May 5. A special effort is underway for the AGM and award, given the WMA's 100th anniversary this year.

"The Walker Award rules require that the nominee should be someone living in Westmount, who has made a great contribution to our community, whose volunteer work has gone mostly unrecognized and/or who has done most of their volunteer work in Westmount," said WMA director Francie Montgomery. WMA directors and city employees are excluded. Recent recipients include Andrew Macdougall, Nancy Wright, Geraldine Gahan and former mayor Peter Trent.

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appointment only.



## Sara Colby to exhibit at Centaur



Westmounter Sara Colby will exhibit her Quebec landscape paintings at the Centaur Theatre (453 St. François Xavier, 514.288.3161) from March 25 to May 25. Colby has been painting for over 30 years and focuses on the Eastern Townships.

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*Bought & Sold: Real estate transferred Feb. 26, 2008*

Address	Price	Evaluation	Buyer	Seller	Date
320 & 320A Elm Ave.	\$1,625,000	\$1,000,000	Abderrahim Elamile & Zakia Dabssi	Charles Straessle	Mar. 13
642 Roslyn Ave.	\$1,175,000	\$910,000	Stephen Sager & Adrienne Kardos	Keith Flavell & Sophie Melchers	Mar. 4
497 Mountain Ave.	\$1,050,000	\$895,000	Alain Sabourin and Abraham Blair Wolman	Fereydoun Mavaddat and Golnaz Sharif	Feb. 29
445 Elm Ave.	\$1,050,000	\$676,000	Anne Robert & Georges E. Morin	Ginette Lepage & Guy Pinard	Feb. 26
4281 de Maisonneuve Blvd.	\$960,000	\$710,000	Tien Vu Mac & Frédérique Tania Schmitt	Institut Notre-Dame du Bon Conseil De Montréal	Mar. 7
602 Côte St. Antoine Rd.	\$775,000	\$726,700	Thomas Pitfield & Anna Gainey	Emilia Nunez	Feb. 29
31 Thornhill Ave.	\$720,000	\$695,000	Martin Valasek & Lisa Janina Rambert	Estate of Martha Louise Smith	Mar. 11
4 & 6 Windsor Ave.	\$700,000	\$404,500	Barbara Jeanne Buchanan (Ritter)	Estate of Michael Brian	Feb. 29
4285 de Maisonneuve	\$640,000	\$437,000	Elaine Lang	Institut Notre-Dame du Bon Conseil De Montréal	Mar. 10
4700 St. Catherine St. #711	\$472,500	\$497,700	Bryna Levin (Cohen)	Kuo Lee Li & Shone Hwa Sun	Feb. 27



The least expensive house:  
4285 de Maisonneuve Blvd.



The most expensive house: 642 Roslyn Ave.



The smallest transaction was for a condo  
at 4700 St. Catherine St.



The most expensive transaction included  
two addresses at 320 & 320A Elm Ave.

*The Update: Houses up for sale since March 19 edition*

The Update is content 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](http://MLS.ca). Real estate agents have more information (including the address of all houses) available to them on a private network.

\$749,000 46 Windsor Ave.  
\$819,000 Chesterfield Ave.  
\$824,000 9-11 Parkman Place  
\$875,000 588 Lansdowne Ave.  
\$1,150,000 464 Victoria Ave.  
\$1,250,000 629 Belmont Ave.  
\$1,295,000 636 Murray Hill Ave.  
\$1,299,000 4335 de Maisonneuve Blvd.  
\$1,325,000 20 Renfrew Ave.  
\$1,399,000 530 Mt. Pleasant Ave.  
\$1,467,000 address unavailable  
\$1,495,000 631 Roslyn Ave.

\$1,550,000 561 Grosvenor Ave.  
\$1,575,000 3720 The Boulevard

\$1,595,000 488 Elm Ave.  
\$2,399,000 29 Forden Ave.



The least expensive new listing: 46 Windsor Ave.



The most expensive new listing: 29 Forden Ave.

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**Notre Dame de Grâce.** Beautiful and spacious condo, 2 bedrooms, open concept large living room/dining room, large closets and storage, western exposure, back balcony to bbq, wood floors and parking, walking distance to Vendome metro. **Asking \$225,000**

Photos: [www.mcguiganpepin.com/1394541](http://www.mcguiganpepin.com/1394541)



**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](http://www.mcguiganpepin.com/1407510)



**NDG.** Rare find! Architecturally interesting 50's gem! Quality renovated, very bright, contemporary 3 bdr + den, 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](http://www.mcguiganpepin.com/1413003)



**Outremont** Great building in a good location. Beautiful condo, spacious with 2 bedrooms + a large den, 2 bathrooms, and a good eat in kitchen. Enjoy the view of Mt Royal. **Asking \$559,000**

Photos: [www.mcguiganpepin.com/1419712](http://www.mcguiganpepin.com/1419712)



**NDG** – In Monkland village – Duplex, both units have renovated kitchens and bathrooms. 3 bedrooms lower, 3 + 1 bedrooms upper, front and back balconies, patio area, fireplaces. High basement, loads of storage. **Asking \$569,000**

Photos: [www.mcguiganpepin.com/1419699](http://www.mcguiganpepin.com/1419699)



**Westmount.** Bright English style cottage renovated with taste, on quiet cul de sac, 3 bedrooms, MBDR+++ , wood floor, fire place, playroom, bedroom + bathroom in basement. Extended kitchen w/dinette, pkg for one car. **Asking \$575,000**

Photos: [www.mcguiganpepin.com/1395608](http://www.mcguiganpepin.com/1395608)



**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, pkg. **Asking \$598,000**

Virtual tour: [www.mcguiganpepin.com/1399557](http://www.mcguiganpepin.com/1399557)



**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. Occupancy as per leases. **Asking \$685,000**

Virtual tour: [www.mcguiganpepin.com/1342727](http://www.mcguiganpepin.com/1342727)



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

Photos: [www.mcguiganpepin.com/1410550](http://www.mcguiganpepin.com/1410550)

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## Retail Watch BY ANNIKA MELANSON

### Liv opens on Sherbrooke

There's a new boutique in town: Liv (4930 Sherbrooke St., 514.759.4930, [www.livurbain.ca](http://www.livurbain.ca)), which opened on March 14. Quebec label Lolë, an urban clothing line, is the store's main brand.



Marie Charland is the co-owner of Liv boutique, which carries clothing for urban living: travel, sports and leisure.

"Urban" simply means that the clothes are versatile and can be worn for travel, sports or an evening out. Lolë clothes have many different properties: UPF 50+, moisture wicking, quick-dry, travel friendly, anti-bacterial and stretchy.

Other lines *en boutique* include Mexx Sport, Carve Design (trendy beachwear from California) and Babolat, which includes an all-white collection for tennis-goers.

### Avenue des Arts opens on Avenue Victoria

Westmounters can now purchase art supplies right here in the 'hood.

Four years ago, Westmounter Pierre Le Gourrière started to paint and take classes at The Visual Arts Centre (350 Victoria Ave., 514.488.9558, [www.centre-desartsvisuels.ca](http://www.centre-desartsvisuels.ca)). He soon realized how "frustrating it is to have to go downtown to buy a tube of paint," and thought, "Wouldn't it be nice to have a boutique right here in Westmount?" He decided to open one with his business partner, David O'Brien.

Avenue des Arts (328A Victoria Ave., 514.843.1881), which opened this week, is conveniently located just a few steps from the Visual Arts Centre. Le Gourrière spent time with the director of the fine arts program at the Visual Arts Centre to find out what materials are needed for their classes and workshops. After doing extensive market research, "the response was incredibly enthusiastic," said Le Gourrière.

The new store will focus on fine arts: drawing, painting, water colour, pastel, ce-



David O'Brien and Pierre Le Gourrière in front of their new fine arts supply store on Victoria Avenue

ramics, sculpture and art books as well as music. "Future projects include a children's section," said O'Brien.

Hours are Monday to Friday from 10 am to 7 pm, Thursdays from 10 am to 9 pm and on Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm.

### Photography exhibit

Mary Landry, Brian Merrett and Fred-eric Smith will be exhibiting a collection of their photographs at The Gallery at Victoria Hall (4626 Sherbrooke St., 514.989.5226) from March 28 to April 19. The gallery's hours are 10 am to 9 pm from Monday to Friday and 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

### Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before

## When did Westmount's Victorian Age begin?



BY DOREEN LINDSAY

Question: Who developed Victoria Ave? For answer, see p. 13

## ON THE SHELVES

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

### Magazines

Révélation Horst Rippert, veteran de la Luftwaffe "C'est moi qui ai abattu Saint-Exupéry" in *Le Figaro Magazine*, mars 15, 2008, p. 48.

"Yes we can: is Barack Obama changing politics?" by Graham Fox in *Policy Options Politiques*, March 2008, p. 22.

### DVDs

*Empire of the Sun*. Based on J. G. Ballard's autobiographical novel, this film tells the story of a boy whose privileged life is upturned by the Japanese invasion of Shanghai in December 1941.

*Sand and Sorrow*. Narrated by George Clooney, this documentary details the historical events that have given rise to the Arab-dominated Darfur government's willingness to kill and displace its own indigenous African people, and examines the international community's failure to respond to such profound crimes against humanity in the past.

### Adult English

*A Life of the Skies* by Jonathan Rosen. This is part birding history, part birding travelogue, and a consideration of the relationship between

spiritual yearning and evolutionary science.

*King Lear* by Gareth Hinds. An excellent graphic-format rendition of one of the bard's great tragedies. The grotesquely expressive faces are right out of William Blake.

### For Children

*A Kid's Guide to Giving* by Freddi Zeiler. If you are a kid who is concerned about helping other children, protecting endangered animals or conserving the rainforest, this book is for you! Ages 10+.

*Copain des jardins* by Renée Kayser. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, you will discover something new in this informative book on gardening!

### Reference

*Access City of Westmount*. A directory of public buildings in Westmount that are accessible to the physically handicapped.

*A Guidebook to Contemporary Architecture in Montreal* by Nancy Dunton and Helen Malkin.

### Displays in the Library

St. Patrick's Day postcards from the library's collection.

April is poetry month – a selection from the poetry books.



Notaries

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# *Colourfully Yours: Trains, textures and Toronto*

BY AURELIEN GUILLORY  
& GRETA VON SCHMEDLAPP



As usual, my dears, we're rushing to do too much in too little time...

So, since Aurelien and I visited the Toronto Residential Design Show recently, I promised to give you-all my edited view of it.

But here, I must remind our dear readers, that - in the extended winter we Canadians are having - the train (preferably first class), not the plane or the car, is the sensible and stress-free way to arrive in style and comfort. Tho' you can't get a martini, the other types of drinks are available, as well as room to work on the laptop and move around.

## **Pattern is back**

Now to the news: Pattern is back! Everywhere!! Shoppers are seeing patterns and colour combinations that remind us elegant ladies of a certain age of the psychedelic 1960s.

The youngsters think it's all new, but among us friends, pattern has just been modified with new technology. We now have baroque styles that are printed in large scale on wall vinyl 54 inches wide, with metallic and opalescent inks. The pattern size is very different from the past.

Please remember that a little pattern goes a long way. Treat it like a spice for your room. Try small amounts first, and as you and family get used to it, add some more. For a long time, fabrics have been about texture, with many similar tints or shades together. I know of several furniture shops that have bought the new patterned chairs or carpets, but have failed to educate their salespeople about how to assemble them into a cohesive room.

So, we often have several elements trying to be the most important in the same room (e.g. a patterned sofa next to a plaid armchair), with chaotic results. Well-planned mixes of stripes, plaids and baroque can be very rich and elegant. The easy way to reduce the battle of who's the most important is to

keep to the rule of "Patterns should be either one half or twice as big as the others."

## **Proportions and perceptions**

Aurelien says this rule keeps the pattern ego-trippers calm and a cohesive room is the result. Of course, there must be only one colour scheme, but it can have different elements within the same room - all respecting the amounts of colour. If your featured carpet or sofa fabric is mostly red with smaller amounts of olive green and gold, keep the same proportion of colour for the other items.

Don't forget that different people's cultures affect their perception. I remember Aurel's story of design counseling. He had to find a bridge between the husband who was European and was reared with many Persian carpets, and the wife who was Canadian from Calgary and thought that rough hand-woven wool was quite enough pattern!

Enough of theory, now, let me again emphasize that visiting a design show is always worthwhile. Since we are influenced with info from all over the world, there are multiple options evident in all of our shops and catalogues. I seem to find four definite themes in our world today: (1) retro-revisited, (2) organic or ecologic, (3) ethnic or world-beat, and (4) futurist-modernist.

Which are you, dear design reader? I await your response.

Montreal is often more European than the Big TO, so plan to visit the Montreal home shows and the spring SIDIM (that's the Salon International du Design d'Intérieur de Montréal - its 20th anniversary - general admission at Place Bonaventure is Saturday, May 24 from 10 am to 6 pm for \$10 to \$15). I will keep you posted with more details, as well as my next visit with Aurel: Mexico.

Thanks for reading, do keep in touch, and until next time, keep on designing.

Colourfully yours,

Greta von Schmedlapp.

Keep your comments coming: Catch us at [www.colorsbyaurelien.com](http://www.colorsbyaurelien.com)

# Happy Pets of Westmount

It is a sad fact that there are many pets up for adoption. Through the efforts of Fern Breslaw of Underdog and Lyzanne, we've tried to place a few of them with Westmount owners.

But there's another whole other story out there! Westmount is full of happy pets. We thought we'd devote some space to *that* story.



Stéphanie O'Bready, Westmounter and owner of dogwalking service Montreal Dog Walking, along with Mylène Martin-Charbonneau, dogwalker from Laval, walk their charges at Summit Park.



A TMR resident enjoys the open space of the Summit to run his Rottweiler puppy.



Westmounters Nikki and Madhu Pai with their pooch Coco near Westmount Park.



Westmounter Sandra Best with Mylo at Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve.

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# On the Market: 8 Burton

Conveniently located on the western edge of Victoria Village, this property is equipped with a large master bedroom, two small bedrooms and two full bathrooms: a great option for a family.

Unlike many Westmount houses, the property is in move-in condition and benefits from a chef's kitchen with stone countertops, exposed bricks in the living room, a backyard, air conditioning, a fin-

ished basement, as well as a walk-in closet in the master bedroom. Each bedroom has its own balcony and the house is airy and bright due to two skylights. The total living space is approximately 1,585 sq. feet.

As Burton is not an access street, it is quiet – ideal for kids to play street hockey. Adding to the sense of community, Burton residents have an annual street sale every fall and even had their own newspaper at

one time. The street was mostly built from 1890 to 1920 by builder-speculators, who built in pairs of two or four houses at a time and sold them.

Address: **8 Burton**. Asking: **\$675,000**  
2007 municipal and school taxes: **\$6,937**  
Realtor: **Sylvie Lafrenière, RE/MAX Westmount Inc., 514.933.6781**

*Editor's note:* Joan & Jill Prévost continue to have great luck with the On the Market lottery, but they sell their winning houses too fast! This time it was a property at 4742 The Boulevard, co-listed with Paul Harrison, that won, but could not be featured because had already been sold.

*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.*



## Pet Expert: The Pit Bull problem

BY LYZANNE & FRIENDS



**Question:** In the January 30 *Independent*, the Underdog column introduced readers to Teddy Bear, who “looks very much like a pit-bull,” despite being a Labrador/pitbull mix. He is still at the SPCA. How do we

find Teddy Bear a new family when people are worried about pitbull-type dogs?

**Answer:** I can't believe Teddy Bear hasn't found a family yet. It is so sad, since I have played with him myself at the SPCA more than once and know what a wonderful fellow he is.

Teddy Bear is a classic case of pitbull fear. What is worse is that he is a Labrador mixed with pitbull, and he has all the affectionate nature and incredible energy of Labradors! Yet, after all this time at the shelter, he still gets incredibly excited when a volunteer walks him. Do you blame him? He thinks someone is taking him home!

He needs a kind owner who will give him a chance to find his place in a new home. Please help us get Teddy Bear a family. It has been too long. Spring is coming in Westmount and he should find a place in our hearts.

For info, contact Stephanie at 514.823.4175 or 514.735.2711 or Kira at 514.735.2711 x 2243 or kshabram@spcamontreal.com.

## Adopt Bella

BY LYZANNE

This photograph of Bella, a bichon frisé mix, shows her after she was shaved down to the skin when she arrived at the SPCA, since she was terribly matted and neglected by her previous owners.

Most of us know how beautiful bichon frisés are, so you can just imagine what she will look like when her coat grows in and she gets a bit of grooming. Bella was saved by the SPCA recently, and has to put on weight.

She is timid and sweet, and she would make a great companion. She has never known real affection and is not yet very playful but, after a little bit of attention, she will likely come into her own.

Please call Kira at the SPCA at 514.735.2711 x 2243 or email her at kshabram@spcamontreal.com (refer to tag 175).

## History quiz: Victoria Ave.

*continued from p. 11*

**Question:** Who developed Victoria Ave?

**Answer:** Ephrem Hudon Jr.

It was in 1873, 135 years ago, that Ephrem Hudon Jr. bought the land south of Côte St. Antoine from his uncle, Antoine-Isaie Hurtubise for \$43,000. Antoine-Isaie had been selling off parts of the family farm since 1839, when he and his brother had divided up the land. In 1847, he gave a strip of land north of the Côte St. Antoine Rd. to his sister, Justine-Solomée Hurtubise, after she married Ephrem Hudon in compliance with their parents' wishes. Being a good businessman like his father, Hudon Jr. divided his land into 113 lots from Côte St. Antoine Rd. down to St. Catherine St. Did he realize that only one year later the land would become part of the new village of Notre Dame de Grâce and just two years later, there would be 600 people living here?

Our Victoria Ave. developed from the original dirt road running down the hillside from the Hurtubise farm. Originally called Hurtubise Lane, it was renamed Victoria Ave. during the celebrations surrounding Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. In the surge of patriotism, the Town of Westmount gave the name Victoria Hall to the community centre they built in 1899 and named the new park they created out of farmland Victoria Jubilee Park (later changed to Westmount Park).

Victoria Ave. developed as a commercial street after the electric tramway was built in 1895 to carry passengers along Sherbrooke St. to Victoria Ave. and down to St. Catherine St. The tramway continued into the 1950s.

Today we can still see the first residential houses built on lower Victoria. The five

quaint, stone, single-family 1896 row houses numbered from 321 to 329 were built by J. Brousseau on the east side of Victoria below Sherbrooke St. They still provide family housing in the midst of what has developed over the years into a commercial street. Across the street on the west side, six larger two-storey attached stone buildings were constructed the following year by J. B. Brouillette working from plans by Gamelin & Huot Architects. Numbered from 320 to 330, they are interesting for the combination of both residential and commercial.

The building that houses the Visual Arts Centre today was not constructed until 1910. It was originally built as Biltcliffe's Department Store, where hardware, school supplies and groceries were sold. The large windows were possible because of the strong steel structure.

At the corner of Victoria and Sherbrooke St. in 1907, the Royal Bank built its exemplary building. As was usual in those days, the architect, Howard Stone, designed an apartment for the manager above the bank.

Victoria Ave. only continued north of Côte St. Antoine after 1889 when the Village of Côte St. Antoine bought a strip of land from the Hurtubise family. In 1912, the city built Fire Station No. 2 on Victoria Ave. up at the corner of The Boulevard. Later owners of the Justine-Solomée Hurtubise House at the corner of Victoria Ave. and Côte St. Antoine Rd. sold sections of their property to others. Number 565 Victoria was built in 1912, 563 Victoria was built in 1923 by the artist Harold Mowat, and 559 Victoria was built by Joseph Brodtkin in 1949. The small Well House at 555 Victoria was also built in 1949.

*Doreen Lindsay is president of the Westmount Historical Association.*

## Summit leash period unchanged

The annual “on-leash” period for dogwalkers at Summit Park begins April 15 and ends June 15. There have been rumours circulating through the dogwalking community that the current off-leash period would be extended due to extensive snow coverage, but there has been no change in the date since last year. The city has this regulation to protect migratory and nesting birds during the spring mating and migration season, although it is not popular with some dogwalkers. No dogs were available for comment.

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## Westmount Profile: Jaspal Ranghi

# Designing his mosaic of life

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

His textile designs and paintings are commissioned internationally to commemorate museum exhibitions, provide exclusive gifts for heads of state, and adorn corporate and residential floors and walls, and even the interiors of private jets.

And for Jaspal Ranghi, whose clients include the Museum of Civilization, the Royal Ontario Museum, Bombardier, Alcan and The Montreal Children's Hospital, every design receives the same attention to detail that embodies his own life and passion for native tribal cultures, art and nature – horses in particular.

"All these themes carried forward into my designs," he says.

A resident of Westmount since 1977, Jaspal established his Monsoon studio of art and design 24 years ago. It is now lo-

around the house," he says.

Not surprisingly, aircraft have always played a key role in his designs and he delights in his work for Bombardier, including client gifts at a Paris air show.

Also prominent in his designs are horses that he grew to love as a child on his grandparents' farm in India. They also depict his later equestrian days in Hudson after his move to Montreal.

Jaspal attended high school in Ottawa, which he says "was very small-town and provincial at the time, but provided easy access to hiking, fishing and camping."

He studied anthropology and philosophy at the University of Toronto and Carleton where he received his BA in 1974. A student job at the Museum of Man launched him into the art world.

"I was working in the anthropology department where they desperately needed an artist. So because I was artistically inclined, I began sketching, photographing and painting for them. The next year, the drawings were published. That was a big thrill." He also met a number of interesting native peoples, "and we hit it off as members of minorities."

Jaspal spent the next few years studying art in earnest in Cuernavaca, Mexico; Florence, Italy and Basel, Switzerland, "which opened up the whole art world to me." He eventually set down roots in Montreal where he had been energized during Expo '67.

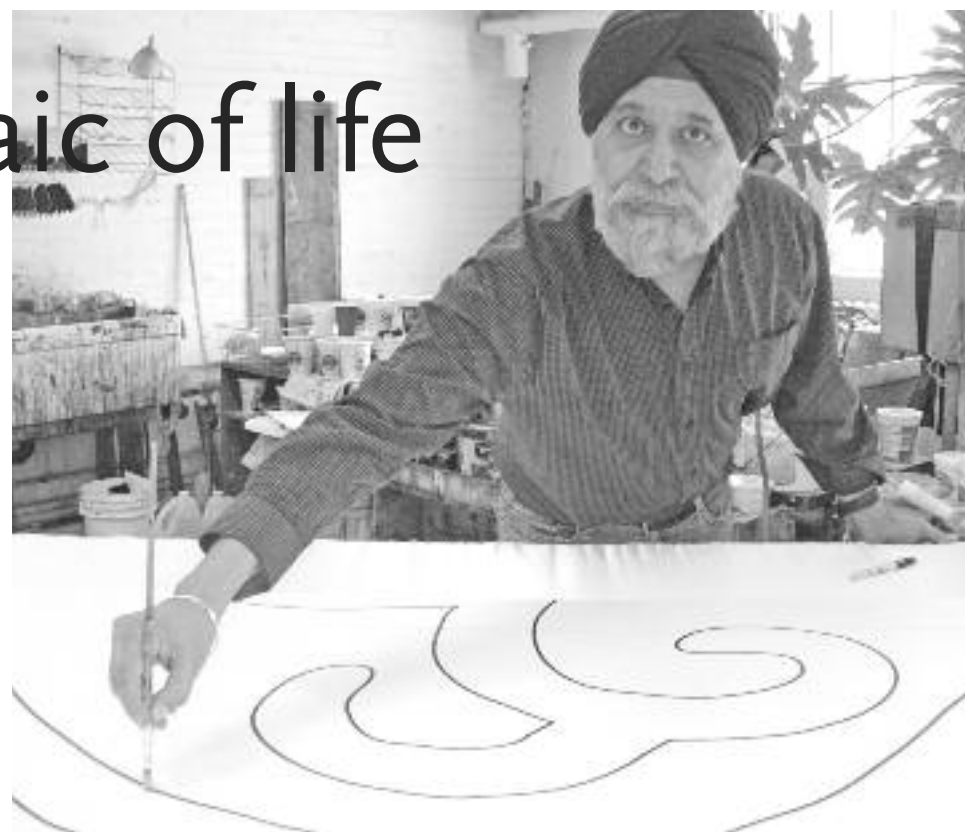
### Raised family in Westmount



Two of Monsoon's ties

Since its start in 1984, Monsoon has diversified from a textile art studio specializing in custom-designed fabrics for interiors and fashion into the area of corporate gifts and art. These include nine canvas paintings of wild mustangs for the Diamond Star Ranch development in Vale, Colorado.

Another of his favourites is a large centennial canvas painting for the lobby of The Montreal Children's Hospital. It depicts children in a multicultural dance, incorporates the word "welcome" in 50 languages, and may be viewed along with other work at [www.artistic-corporate-gifts.com](http://www.artistic-corporate-gifts.com).



At his Monsoon studio, Jaspal Ranghi works one panel of what will be a large mural.

Among recently completed commissions are silk scarves and ties for the Emily Carr exhibit at the Vancouver Art Gallery and for the Atlantic Salmon Federation in New Brunswick and the US. A line of Daphne Odjig ties and scarves for the Museum of Civilization is among many ongoing projects.

### Researching at library

"I'm always using Westmount Library as a reference for my projects," he says. That's why he was pleased to create hand-painted rainbow-coloured scarves to identify library staff for the commemoration of last year's Library Week.

He has also raised his family in Westmount where he continues to live. Daughter Anisha and sons Teja and Ranjit all attended Roslyn School.

While Jaspal has two assistants at the studio, he contracts out the production of his larger commissions to China and Korea. Carpets, such as the one for Alcan's Montreal head office, are made in India to his designs.

One part-time member of the staff is "Peaches", a golden retriever rescued by Jaspal and his wife, Rani. "Peaches comes to work with me for a half day," he says. "She's a working girl now. She knows my clients. I don't want to leave her alone at home too long. I'm studying the psychology of dogs. They need constant stimulation."

And delving into his latest interest is just the way Jaspal pursues all his others – with the same earnestness and love that merges his work and personal time into one calling in life.

cated only a few steps south of the Westmount border at 1050 Lacasse St. in St. Henri. And it is here where he not only creates his designs but also produces many of his smaller commissions and hand-painted materials.

"We're a very eclectic studio," he explains.

### Inspired by AVRO

Born in India's Punjab region, Jaspal came to Canada in 1958 at the age of nine to join his father, an aeronautical engineer, who had been working on the AVRO Arrow jet project that was eventually scrapped by the government. "I grew up with all these bits and pieces of the AVRO



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## The line is long, but deemed worth it

Westmounters arrived at Victoria Hall in their usual, large numbers to register on March 26 for Sports & Recreation activities.



### CLASSIFIED

#### Rummage Sale!

St. Matthias' Church Annual Spring Rummage Sale will take place on Saturday April 12th from 10am to 1pm, in the Lower Hall of the church (entrance at 131 Cote St. Antoine Road – corner Metcalfe). Something for everyone! Great bargains! We hope to see you there!



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