

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

May 27-28, 2008

We are Westmount

Vol. 2 No. 5c

**Gearing up for Family Day this Saturday**

## Bigger than ever

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's 33rd Family Day promises to be bigger and last longer than ever this year, fueled by a growing demand for its activities that have consistently attracted thousands to this best-attended city event.

Taking place Saturday, May 31 in Westmount Park, the event kicks off at 9:30 am with the informal parade, which everyone is welcome to join as it makes its way from Greene and de Maisonneuve west to Metcalfe with a loop down to St. Catherine and north on Park Place to the park for opening ceremonies and races at 10 am.

"This year there will be more of everything and it will last longer," said Claude Danis, the program and community serv-

ices coordinator with Sports & Recreation.

"For the first time, we are extending our main attractions to 4 pm. So everyone will be a winner." These include the petting zoo and pony rides that usually are dismantled when the carnival booths were set up in the early afternoon.

Also lasting until 4 pm will be the Scouts' climbing wall, the 3 Field Engineers' aerial runway and the deejay. As well, new inflatable games and play equipment have been ordered and will also be available longer, from 10 am to 3 pm.

To meet the popularity of the egg toss and water balloons (1 to 2 pm) "we've doubled the amount of inventory," Danis said, recalling last year's long lineups for those events. The Dixieland band will also add to the carnival spirit.

### 100 community groups on tap

More than 100 community groups will present their activities and programs at information booths lining the pedestrian pathway. Among them, Contactivity Centre will hold its traditional bake sale and the city's own boutique booth will sell Westmount golf and t-shirts, mugs and other memorabilia.

"We're encouraging people to bring a picnic lunch and stay for the day," Danis said. But for those who choose to buy refreshments on site, these will be offered by Girl Guides, Venturers and Java U.

As well, barring emergencies, firefight-



Given her experience in Europe, Lesley Moffat, pictured here with her own dogs, advocates tougher Canadian protections for animals. To read this week's profile, turn to page 15.

ers and police will also have equipment on hand for children to explore and Public Security will mount an exhibit as well as provide extra officers on patrol.

Should it rain, as many activities as possible will be moved into the arena, "But we like to say it doesn't rain on Family Day," Danis added. She remembers only one rain day in the last 16 years.

Volunteers are in high demand to help run the races and staff the games. Interested persons should call Sports & Recreation at 514.989.5212.

The city plans to post a complete schedule of events on its website, [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org).

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## Westmount... just listed!!

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## Where in Westmount is...



Nearly everyone will recognize the statue shown on the left and know its location. The object on the right is well known to some, but not all, Westmounters. They are examples from a "know your city" picture contest with which the WMA is again challenging visitors to Saturday's Family Day at its kiosk near the bandstand. There will be a prize for the person who is most successful in identifying the 15 pictures, the above two among them. The photographs were taken by WMA director Stan Grossman and will be displayed in a design by the association's secretary Patricia Dumais.



played in a design by the association's secretary Patricia Dumais.

### Rotary pancakes at Family Day

The Rotary Club of Westmount will be serving a pancake breakfast at Family Day for the first time. The event starts Saturday, May 31 at 8 am "until we run out of pancakes," explained Rotary president-elect Cynthia Campbell. Proceeds will go to support a local children's project.



**526 CLARKE AVENUE.** Spectacular bright home on large lot with city views is beautifully renovated. This family home has a new cook's kitchen, private master bedroom with sitting area and sunroom as well as six more bedrooms, central air and humidification, new Marvin windows, integrated 2 car garage, large deck, garden and many more features. A must see. Asking \$3,150,000.

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## Irene Marks recovering at Neuro

Irene Marks, 91-year-old mother of Mayor Karin Marks and a well-known community volunteer, has left the intensive care ward at Montreal Neurological Hospital. She was rushed there a month ago after suffering an aneurysm. She subsequently underwent two brain operations, lasting eight and two hours.

"She is making a remarkable recovery for someone her age considering the lengthy surgery involved," the mayor told the *Independent*.

"My mother has now begun physiotherapy," the mayor added, emphasizing her great appreciation of the care at the Neuro.

"Their dedication is outstanding. Everyone, but particularly the nurses, has been wonderful and I have written to MUHC head Dr. Arthur Porter to tell him so."

### Electronic Independents available

Enjoy the Indie at supper time on Tuesdays! Sign up by writing us: indie@westmountindependent.com.

## Roslyn Ave. sale to support Keith Martin, Old Brewery Mission



Westmounter Keith Martin (far right) and teammates dipping their tires in the Pacific Ocean. Their cross-Canada ride began on May 13.

Roslyn Ave. below Sherbrooke St. has been holding garage sales for close to a quarter century.

This year, the event's proceeds will support two causes: Westmounter Keith Martin's "Moving Muscles" cross-Canada bike ride to support research into muscular dystrophy ([www.movingmusclesride.ca](http://www.movingmusclesride.ca))

and the women's shelter of the Old Brewery Mission. Martin is a UBC student who was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy in 2005. As of May 26, he had reached Golden, BC. Next stop: Lake Louise, AB, bound for Newfoundland. The garage sale takes place on Roslyn Ave. below Sherbrooke St. on Saturday, May 31 from 9 am to 2 pm.



**Maria Santini**

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[mariasantini@sympatico.ca](mailto:mariasantini@sympatico.ca)

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# One year later: city goes Independent

By DAVID PRICE,  
EDITOR

One year of the *Westmount Independent*. To be brief, it has been incredibly rewarding to work on a publication that the public is so keen to read.

### Beginnings

At greater length, the story goes something like this. It all started with phone calls encouraging me to start a Westmount newspaper. Former mayor May Cutler was one of the more vocal advocates, but there were other calls, and lots of other support and subtle encouragement as well.

So I started making some calls of my own. To publish a newspaper twice a month (our initial frequency; we now publish three issues per month), we would need more people.

The first calls were to Laureen Sweeney, the personified gold standard of Westmount reporting, and to Sandy Cobrin, a veteran Westmount advertising salesperson. I already knew each of them a bit.

When I was in high school, Laureen wrote a story about me and my debating partner. I remember meeting in front of the Sanctons' old digs on Hillside Ave. to take the photo. In Sandy's case, I'd actually bought some ads from her. Laureen and Sandy were soon on board, so news and advertising were well covered.

Next stop, a new newspaper meant more work for my existing team, includ-

ing Ted Sancton and Annika Melanson. Ted, whose family name is synonymous with quality newspaper publishing, was ready to venture back into newspaper layout. He had a host of tips for me before we even got started. His brother, Don, was kind enough to meet with me for a brainstorming session.

Annika was game, too. I'd first met her when she approached me about publishing her book, *The Montreal Pocket Parent*. She had so impressed me with her get-things-done approach that I'd hired her. Annika was pleased to adapt her parenting columns for Westmount – where she lived anyway – and branch out into other types of reporting, such as retail and trend spotting. She would also work in advertising sales.

Anthea Dawson and Carola Price made the same commitment to adapt their columns for the Westmount scene. Heather Black came aboard as a new columnist.

Third stop: the city. Would Westmount support a new paper? Mayor Karin Marks, director general Bruce St. Louis and the city councillors gave the green light to two one-page advertisements each month. This advertising was both a financial help and a heartening endorsement.

### Ready to go

So there it was: people from all parts of Westmount life came together to build a new newspaper.

Soon after launch date, I would meet Westmount institution Don Wedge. True to his reputation for civic-mindedness, Don went out of his way from Edition One to say nice things about our efforts – despite contributing to another publication at the time. It was a great coup when he chose to become a part of our team.

Along the way, I'd also meet and get great content from Aurelien Guillory, Stuart Robertson, George Retek, Robert Galbraith, Doreen Lindsay, Lyzanne, Fern Breslaw, Eve Aspinall, Kristin McNeill and Ginette Sauvé-Frankel.

### Real estate, real estate, real estate

I have also met more real estate agents than most Westmounters ever do. These entrepreneurs form the backbone of support for community papers and it has been a pleasure to get to know them, some quite well. They work hard – on their cell

phones, on weekends, at night – and are worthy of emulation in so many ways. If you like community papers, you can't thank them enough for their support.

Little by little, we have added real estate clients by proving our connection to the community, their clients. We continue to work to provide them with a strong platform for their advertisements and to create a paper they can be proud to be in.

### What it takes

How did we get this far? In 1996, Hillary Clinton published a book about raising children entitled *It Takes a Village*. I don't know if that's true, but I do know that *it takes a city* to build and support a newspaper.

Thank you to everyone – advertisers, readers, writers, behind-the-scenes players – for helping us get to this milestone.

We intend to go a lot farther.

## Letters to the editor

### THANKS FOR PLANT EXCHANGE STORY

Thank you for Laureen Sweeney's wonderful article ("Plant swap set for May 14", May 6, p. 8) on the Westmount plant exchange.

VALERIE AITKEN, VOLUNTEER ORGANIZER  
AND MEMBER OF THE WESTMOUNT  
HORTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### CLANDEBOYE ALLEY TRAFFIC NOT TOLERABLE

Thank you for highlighting the problems that Clandeboye residents have had with the excessive traffic in our alley.

With all the bad weather we had during the winter, it was a daily struggle to exit the very narrow, rut-filled alley at rush hour considering the quantity of traffic. In addition, the entering drivers often failed (and continue to fail) to stop at the stop sign at the L-shaped turn and to yield to exiting traffic.

I have on a number of occasions waited in my garage for 15 to 20 minutes while car after car passed by without slowing. I have reached the turn in the alley, a mere 10 yards from the exit, to encounter an entering driver who refused to back up to allow me to exit, insisting I back up the 100 yards to the Batshaw parking lot.

Allowing access to the parking lot through the Clandeboye alley also puts the children living on Clandeboye and adjacent Prospect St. at risk. Many workers using the lot enter our street by travelling

north on Greene Ave. and turning onto Prospect in order to avoid the traffic light at Greene and Dorchester. These drivers often travel at excessive speeds.

Due to the activism of Prospect residents, we have had speed bumps installed on our streets. These speed bumps, however, are too wide to be totally effective and have not reduced the amount of traffic. The many young children living here would be much safer if the unnecessary traffic on our streets were instead reduced by re-routing the alley traffic.

Clandeboye residents require that something be done about the excessive traffic in our alley. The alley is simply not wide enough to sustain the current quantity of two-way traffic.

I am aware of no other street on which residents are expected to allow their alley to be used as a major thoroughfare. We encourage the Batshaw Youth Centre to find some other mode of access to their parking lot, perhaps by building a short driveway from Weredale through their own property directly to the lot.

I would like to update Councillor de Castell on the situation since his last visit. It is not tolerable, and we would appreciate his and the city's help.

SARA PEDERSEN, CLANDEBOYE AVE.

### NEW ARENA/POOL CREATES TRAFFIC, FISCAL CONCERNS

The city of Westmount is planning a new sports complex containing two full-size rinks, *continued on p. 6*

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

**We are Westmount.**

If you *don't want* to get our publication, Canada Post advises that you place a sticker on your mailbox that says, "No ad mail." **Si vous ne voulez pas recevoir notre publication:** Malheureusement, nous ne sommes pas capable de bloquer une adresse individuelle. Il faut mettre une étiquette près de votre boîte à lettres qui lit « Pas de média-poste ».

If you *do want* to receive our publication and you have a sticker on your mailbox (or are outside our distribution area), please send a cheque for \$1.50 times the number of issues left in the year. We will mail them to you for the rest of the current calendar year.

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

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

EDITOR & PUBLISHER: David Price 514.935-4537

EDITORIAL COORDINATOR: Kristin McNeill 514.223.3578 – indie@westmountindependent.com

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney laureen@westmountindependent.com

LAYOUT: Studio Melrose/Ted Sancton

ADVERTISING SALES: Annika Melanson 514.223.3567

Published by Sherbrooke-Valois Inc. 310 Victoria Ave., Suite 105 Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9 Fax: 514.935-9241

LETTERS & COMMENTS: We welcome your letters, but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please email any letter and comments to indie@westmountindependent.com. Every letter of support helps us with advertisers!

## Civic Alert

Only one, yet *Independent* is being imitated

BY DON WEDGE



The *Independent* is one year old, as you have probably noticed! I was amazed by the 49 messages from Westmounters that were published in last week's and today's papers.

They removed any doubt. David Price and his recruits are hitting the right buttons. Westmounters recognize that they have a paper filled with local news aimed at them, just like the great days of John Sancton's *Examiner*.

But the biggest tribute came from the competitor just across the street, the current *Examiner*, now owned by the Transcontinental group. Its switch to delivery by Canada Post – emulating the *Independent* – was a delayed admission that Publi-Sac, the previous distributor, was not what its readers and advertisers needed. Could the *Independent* have received a better birthday present than being copied by its rival?

Mayor Karin Marks summed up what many in the community have said. "The changes at the *Examiner* show that competition does work. I'm sure they are trying to improve because of the *Independent*."

The move coincides with a change in appearance. This new style is being introduced across the chain's Montreal weeklies, but the editors have limited say in it or in the way the editorial content is presented.

In the *Examiner*'s case, the layout is done by technicians in Dollard des Ormeaux, although editor Wayne Larsen indicates where his stories should be placed.

#### Distancing decisions

It is those kinds of corporate decisions that eliminate the local nuances that connect a community paper to its readers.

The most notorious de-Westmountization of the *Examiner* took place on January

31 last year. Regional director Louis Mercier, on a rare visit, told the staff that some were being fired and the rest were going to have to work out of offices in a strip mall in LaSalle.

It would lead directly to the birth of the *Independent*.

Public outrage to the move was enormous. Suddenly, there was no physical presence. A local paper needs to be plugged in everywhere, as the *Independent* has demonstrated for the past year.

Ex-mayor May Cutler, a former journalist and book publisher, led the critics. She urged Mayor Marks to protest to the corporate Transcontinental brass. Mercier was soon visiting Marks at city hall. By the summer, the offices were re-opened for Larsen when he was not needed in LaSalle, but not for other staff members. Only last fall did sales staff join him.

A WMA meeting that March turned into a roasting of the Transcontinental managers present. "If you don't give us a local paper, we will start one ourselves," thundered resident Allan Aitken.

Meantime, Cutler contacted Westmount's best-informed reporter, Laureen Sweeney, who in turn led her to David Price.

#### Price's Westmount base

Born and schooled in Westmount (Roslyn, Selwyn House), Price had gone on to Dawson CEGEP and McGill before taking law and an MBA at the University of Toronto. For five years, he worked in banking.

In 2004, he switched to the family book-publishing business, Price-Patterson, which he now leads. Two years ago, he also launched his own company, Sherbrooke-Valois, to publish newspapers and calendars.

The first product was *Vivva Montreal*, an eclectic mix of country weekending articles and a wide interpretation of the arts. As its publisher, Price learned about printing, Canada Post distribution, selling ad-

vertising and what readers valued. Studio Melrose, headed by Ted Sancton, John and Mary Sancton's middle son, was responsible for the design work.

When Cutler sought out Price following the emigration of the *Examiner* to LaSalle, she convinced him of the need for a Westmounters' paper produced locally and dominated by local content – as was the *Examiner* in John Sancton's time. On the opposite page, Price tells his own story of putting the team together.

So the *Independent* was born a year ago, featuring the reporting of Sweeney, Sancton's senior writer.

Much as the *Examiner* of 20 years ago used to be, the new paper is crammed full of local news: large and small, happy and sad, serious and light-hearted, nostalgic

and contemporary. It is modern enough to be freely available via the internet at [www.westmountindependent.com](http://www.westmountindependent.com).

Price's energy and determination have established the new weekly. In addition to being its publisher and editor, he writes some of the stories, takes many of the pictures, sells to advertisers and delivers copies to the drop sites.

David Price has become the new John Sancton, bringing Westmount a paper that shares its daily life. It is something virtually impossible to do with a publication owned by a conglomerate based in Place Ville Marie. So difficult, in fact, that the 73-year-old *Examiner* is copying the newcomer!

Citizen activist Don Wedge's email address is [calert@web.net](mailto:calert@web.net).

## On the Market: 110 Upper Bellevue

This house, with its breathtaking 180-degree views of the city, from downtown to Lac St. Louis, has the feeling of a house in the Hollywood hills.

The view is definitely what gives this property its "wow factor". The house was built in 1957 and is representative of the era. The main floor benefits from white marble floors, a mirrored dining room wall, a powder room, a wood-burning fireplace, an open concept and a wall of windows overlooking the city. There is a feeling of tranquility on the terrace.

The master bedroom, located on the main level, has been renovated. It is equipped with lots of closet space as well as an ensuite bathroom, which features marble tiled walls and floor, a whirlpool tub and a separate glass shower. The kitchen overlooks a quiet street and needs updating.

Downstairs there is a den, two small bedrooms with good-sized closets, a bathroom, a laundry room and a door leading to a two-car garage. The lower-ground floor (an above-ground basement) is unfinished, but could make a good media or



game room, guest quarters or office.

This property would best suit a couple, a family with teenagers kids or a bachelor seeking a "trophy" property. The views are sure to impress. As it has no garden and because of the layout, this property is less suitable for a young family.

**Address:** 110 Upper Bellevue Ave.

**Asking price:** \$1,995,000

**Municipal taxes:** \$17,842

**School taxes:** \$3,679

**Realtor:** Brian Dutch, Re/Max Westmount Inc, 514.933.6781

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

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# We are one, and we thank you for supporting us

■ A few months ago, I saw a home for sale on Upper Belmont in the *Independent's* Inventory.

I told my son, David, who was looking for a home. He bought it last week and will take possession in June.

I love your paper. Small. Concise. Lots of news and more.

Happy Birthday. Keep it coming.

MORRIE M. COHEN, FORDEN AVE.

■ Congratulations and best wishes for the first anniversary of the *Westmount Independent*. The paper looks great and is a pleasure to read.

COLIN AND JUNE PATERSON

■ Best wishes on your 1st anniversary. It's a good read and improving all the time.

You've clearly scared the b'jesus out of the *Westmount Examiner*, as they have made several changes and seem to be working to maintain their market share.

Good luck and hope you get lots more advertisers in the coming year.

MERNE PRICE, LANSDOWNE AVE.

■ When the paper started, we wondered if...

Now we know: the *Independent* represents the interests of Westmounters.

ALLEN NUTIK, REDFERN AVE.

■ Keep up the good work. The *Independent* is a great newspaper!

RICHARD LORD, CLARKE AVE.

■ Congratulations on your first anniversary. Best wishes for another successful year.

RICHARD ADAMS & KEN BURKE, DE  
MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

■ I would like to support the *Westmount Independent* by adding my name to your one-year anniversary "best wishes" list.

Best Wishes for your One-Year Anniversary

JUDITH PHILPOTT, CLAREMONT AVE.

■ Thanks for the great reporting of Westmount news over the last year.

Please add my name to the "Best Wishes" list.

FRANK PHILPOTT, CLAREMONT AVE.

■ I really appreciate receiving your newspaper automatically in my inbox. I read every issue. I am so happy you have so many other appreciative readers. I just finished reading your "best wishes" page and I'd like to add to everyone's show of support for a great community newspaper.

Keep up all the good work.

LORI PERKINS

■ You are doing a great job of covering Westmount topics. Please keep it up.

The only improvement we would suggest is a more user-friendly website to which we could easily link from ours and from which we could send links to individual articles of interest to far-away friends and family.

Best wishes and thank you.

DIANA & DAVID NICHOLSON, ROSEMOUNT  
AVE./WWW.WEDNESDAY-NIGHT.COM

■ Congratulations on an excellent newspaper.

VALERIE & GARY AITKEN

■ Bravo!

Keep up the thoroughly professional work you all are doing. And congratulations!

GABRIELLE & WAKEHAM PILOT

■ I fully support your newspaper and just enjoyed the well-written article by Heather Black.

I feel your paper has picked up from where the *Westmount Examiner* used to be as the articles on different projects the city is planning are very important for all citizens to read and learn about.

I personally hope you will continue to grow your readership and provide this im-

portant forum for the citizens of Westmount.

LARRY KLEPPER

■ I look forward to every issue of the *Westmount Independent* and especially enjoy the profiles of the people in the community. I am also grateful for the pet content and the *Independent's* efforts in finding homes for these creatures. The team behind the paper obviously has compassion. Keep up the great work!

MARGARET MARTIN,  
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD

■ Delighted that we now have an informative and enjoyable community newspaper.

DIANA & DUNCAN MCNEILL,  
PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

## Letters...

continued from p. 4

a teen centre with food services and an outdoor swimming pool in the facility's current location.

The current complex is located in an area where there are many public services, including the Armory, a private school, Westmount's Public Works department, Westmount High, Westmount Park, tennis courts, the Westmount Public Library and a church. To the west is a dog run and small park. There are also many apartment buildings, row houses and condominiums, and substantial traffic, including St. Catherine St. buses. The Superhospital will add even more traffic. The current complex's size, height and footprint blend in very well with these surroundings.

The city has stated that it has high demand for ice time and that this is the impetus for the extra full-size rink. As well, the current pool is in need of substantial repair. We acknowledge these facts, but:

- How much should the city do to meet the skating needs?
- Is it realistic to squeeze extra capacity into an already very tight space?
- What are the other implications of such

a large project?

- What is the extra cost and added space requirement of a food concession?
- How much will a new complex cost? (Estimates are currently running at \$15 million to \$20 million or more.)

Westmounters have seen dramatic increases in taxes over the past five years and the city's debt and interest costs have increased dramatically.

We expect our city administrators will keep its citizens informed as the project develops.

Further, citizen comments should be made at [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org), where a special feedback form is available.

GARY IKEMAN, ST. CATHERINE ST.

## SAVE THE PARK'S MESMERIZING TALES

It was no more than 18 months ago that Westmount was introduced to a fanatical group of residents residing around Westmount Park. As a Westmount resident, my weekly reading of the local Westmount publications has been littered with slanted and fictitious stories. Based on these readings, I should believe that we live in an oligarchy in which the evil city council of Westmount lies to and betrays its citizens.

However, if I decided to take a moment

and actually open my eyes to how city officials were conducting their business, I would conclude that we are very fortunate to reside in such a fair and democratic society. I would challenge anyone to try getting in touch with officials at the city of Montreal and compare their response time to that of Westmount city officials. Not only does our city government have open-door council meetings twice a month, but in the past year they have organized at least two major forums. The first one I went to with regards to the fields was sadly hijacked by the aforementioned fanatical group. Despite their best efforts to do the same with the second meeting about the potential pool/arena project, I was glad to see a stronger and wider representation of Westmount residents. It was no surprise that this latter meeting was more positive and that many good ideas and concepts were shared.

While I am in complete agreement over issues such as the right of speech and public opinion, it is my hope that the Save the Park! (which essentially consists of about four people who seem to have a lot of time on their hands) will allow city officials a chance to prove that they are only trying to do what is best for ALL of Westmount.

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## Notaries

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F. 514.931.2534

# Best wishes to the WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Richard Adams & Ken Burke,  
de Maisonneuve  
Sally Aitken & Allan Aitken,  
St. Catherine St.  
Jane Allan, Victoria Ave.  
Marty Algire and Lindsay Holmgren,  
Burton Ave.  
Stewart Arbuckle, Metcalfe Ave.  
Joyce Arsenault, de Maisonneuve  
Phil Aspler, Victoria Ave.  
Nada Backovic, Dorchester  
Betty Balaila, Sunnyside Ave.  
Donna Banks & Stuart Robertson  
Deanna Barwick Wall  
Francine & Serge Belec, Grove Park  
Bob Bassett, Sherbrooke St.  
Charles Bierbrier, Aberdeen Ave.  
Joe & Marilyn Blankfort, Lansdowne Ave.  
Herb Bercovitz, Sherbrooke St.  
D. Besner and M. Besner  
Paul A. Billette, Columbia Ave.  
Barbara Bourke  
Julie Bourne, Victoria Ave.  
John Bridgman, Bruce Ave.  
Brigitta Brittain, Grosvenor Ave.  
Thane Calder, Argyle Ave.  
Thea & Bill Calder, Clarke Ave.  
Malcolm Campbell, Lansdowne Ave.  
Trevor & Margie Caron, Clarke Ave.  
Jacques Chagnon, MNA for  
Westmount-Saint-Louis  
Chloé Chapoulie, Pom'Canelle,  
Sherbrooke St.  
Jake Chadwick and Mary Brierley,  
Roslyn Ave.  
Diane & Doug Deruchie, Wood Ave.  
Pat Donnelly, York St.  
Peter Duffield, Clandeboye Ave.  
Kathleen Duncan, Lansdowne Ave.  
Paul & Judy Echenberg, Sydenham Ave.  
Nancy & Charles Eddis, Sherbrooke St.  
Terry Evans, Ramezay Rd.  
Mila Felcarek and Katherine Hope,  
Grosvenor Ave.  
Barry Friedberg, 310 Victoria Inc.,  
Victoria Ave.  
Brian O'N. Gallery  
Peter Govan, Victoria Ave.  
Joan & Geoff Graham, Olivier Ave.  
Stan Grossman & Anne Dixon-  
Grossman

John & Karma Hallward, Carleton Ave.  
Michael St. B. Harrison, Mountain Ave.  
Richard & Susan Hart, Belmont Ave.  
Julie Hébert, Lansdowne Ave.  
Keith Henderson  
Anne Holloway, Lansdowne Ave.  
Suni Hope-Johnston, York St.  
Beverley Hutchison, Kitchener Ave.  
Gerhard Jacob, Olivier Ave.  
John Johnston, de Maisonneuve  
Daniel Kaufman  
Susan Kazenel  
Larry Klepper  
Shelley Kerman, Church Hill  
Helen Kurlents, Sherbrooke St.  
Marilyn & Michael Lally, Windsor Ave.  
Hélène Le Bel, Grosvenor Ave.  
Donald & Sheila Lawrence, Greene Ave.  
Sarine and Ray Lawson  
Richard Lord, Clarke Ave.  
Susan Lord, Grosvenor Ave.  
Dick & Janet Macklem  
Jack Martin, de Maisonneuve  
Margaret Martin, de Maisonneuve  
Carrie Mazoff  
Susan McGuire, Montrose Ave.  
Deirdre McIlwraith, NOVA Montreal,  
Victoria Ave.  
Neil & Catharine McKenty,  
Somerville Ave.  
Michael McKenzie, Lansdowne Ave.  
Peter & Joan McKinnon, Lansdowne Ave.  
Peggy McMullan  
Diana & Duncan McNeill,  
Prince Albert Ave.  
Henry Mietkiewicz & Dorothy  
Lipovenko, York St.  
Brian Mitchell, Mount Pleasant Ave.  
Francie Montgomery, Douglas Ave.  
Ian H. Moodie, We Care Home Health  
Services, Victoria Ave.  
Barbara Moore, Lansdowne Ave.  
Leah Moss, Carleton Ave.  
Jacqueline & Edward Neville, Clarke Ave.  
D. O. Newnham, Metcalfe Ave.  
Diana & David Nicholson,  
Rosemount Ave.  
Allen Nutik, Redfern Ave.  
Mary O'Reilly, St. Catherine St.  
Colin & June Paterson, Melville Ave.  
Lori Perkins

Frank Philpott, Claremont Ave.  
Judith Philpott, Claremont Ave.  
Gabrielle & Wakeham Pilot  
Gwen Planet, Roslyn Ave.  
Michael Polak, Prospect Ave.  
Nicholas and Tracey Powell,  
Sherbrooke St.  
Sara Provencher, Clarke Ave.  
Harold & Pam Price, Sherbrooke St.  
Merne Price, Lansdowne Ave.  
Michael and Jennifer Price, de  
Maisonneuve Blvd.  
Tim & Denise Price, Murray Hill  
Mary Ramsay, Clarke Ave.  
Dr. Gertrude J. Robinson  
Patricia Roman, Lansdowne Ave.  
Ron & Dorothy, Grosvenor Ave.  
Robert G. Ross  
Mary Sancton, Sherbrooke St.  
Lorna Sandler, Somerville Ave.  
Sharyn Scott on Consignment,  
Sherbrooke St.  
Duncan Shaddick, Clarke Ave.  
Patrick Shea, Sara Pedersen and  
Liam Shea, Clandeboye Ave.  
John Shingler, Burton Ave.  
Ruth Shine, Bead Emporium  
Leon Stiller  
Dusty Vineberg Solomon,  
Kensington Ave.  
Florence Stevens, de Maisonneuve

Peter F. Trent  
Andre & Lilian Trudel,  
de Maisonneuve Blvd.  
Liliana Uribe, St. Catherine St.  
Justin Vineberg, de Casson Rd.  
Rhoda Vineberg & Robert Vineberg,  
Forden Crescent  
Trina Vineberg-Berenson,  
Lansdowne Ave.  
Mackenzie & Rena Watson, Metcalfe Ave.  
Steve & Jan Weir, Parkman Pl.  
Joan Winsor, de Maisonneuve Blvd.  
Christina Vroom, Stanton St.  
Mavis Young, Melville Ave.  
Anthony J. Zitzmann, Anwoth Rd.

**C**ongratulations to  
the *Westmount  
Independent* on  
its first year anniversary.  
May all its readers enjoy  
many more years of  
interesting, intelligent  
and informative coverage  
of Westmount.  
Keep up the good work.  
**Sandy Cobrin**

[Tip 2]  
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# The Inventory: Condos for sale and brokered rentals in Westmount

The Inventory is content provided by the Independent, and is compiled from public sources and parties that contact us. To find a brokered property's listing agent and information, please go to [MLS.ca](http://MLS.ca). In addition, both listing agents and agents working with buyers have more information available to them on a private network. If you are a real estate agent or private seller whose property has been overlooked, please write to us at [indie@westmountindependent.com](mailto:indie@westmountindependent.com).

### Condos/duplexes for sale

\$189,000 Address unavailable  
\$199,500 Address unavailable  
\$279,000 376 Redfern Ave. #2  
\$289,000 376 Redfern Ave. #4  
\$294,600 Address unavailable  
\$299,000 300 Lansdowne #14  
\$319,000 376 Redfern Ave. #25  
\$329,000 466 Victoria Ave.

\$329,000 376 Redfern Ave. #9  
\$339,000 376 Redfern Ave. #19  
\$339,000 4444 Sherbrooke St. W. #403\*  
\$344,500 2 Westmount Square #601  
\$349,000 3235 St. Antoine St.  
\$359,000 2 Westmount Square #401  
\$369,000 468 Victoria Ave.  
\$369,000 Address unavailable  
\$379,000 Address unavailable

\$389,000 4700 St. Catherine. St. #703  
\$389,000 421 Victoria Ave.  
\$396,000 43 Bruce Ave.  
\$399,000 205 Victoria #103  
\$429,000 Address unavailable  
\$449,000 205 Victoria Ave. #303  
\$469,000 343 Clarke Ave. #4  
\$469,000 Address unavailable  
\$469,000 Address unavailable\*  
\$470,400 Address unavailable  
\$489,000 200 Lansdowne Ave. #503  
\$489,000 Address unavailable  
\$494,000 Address unavailable  
\$498,000 Address unavailable  
\$525,000 437 Grosvenor #7  
\$529,000 439 Grosvenor #14  
\$538,800 Address unavailable  
\$561,900 Address unavailable  
\$569,000 Address unavailable  
\$569,000 3 Church Hill  
\$571,100 Address unavailable  
\$579,000 54 Thornhill lower  
\$585,000 468 Grosvenor Ave.  
\$599,000 2 Westmount Square #1203  
\$599,000 512 Prince Albert Ave.  
\$619,000 466 Argyle Ave. \*  
\$629,000 376 Redfern #6  
\$637,000 4175 St. Catherine St. #301  
\$650,000 Address unavailable  
\$654,000 376 Redfern #23\*  
\$795,000 Address unavailable  
\$825,000 468 Argyle Ave.  
\$1,375,000 4175 St. Catherine St. W. #1402  
\$1,510,000 1 Wood Ave. #1205  
\$1,699,000 227 Clarke Ave. PH-1  
\$1,950,000 4545 Sherbrooke St. \*\*  
\$2,640,000 4760-C The Boulevard\*  
\$2,950,000 680-A Victoria Ave\*  
\* Also for rent.  
\*\* Combines residential & commercial flats.  
**Brokered Rentals\***  
\$695 Address unavailable  
\$710 Address unavailable  
\$710 Address unavailable

\$720 Address unavailable  
\$750 499 Elm #5  
\$875 447 Prince Albert #4  
\$910 Address unavailable  
\$965 Address unavailable  
\$1,215 140 Irvine Ave.  
\$1,300 Address unavailable  
\$1,600 424 Claremont Ave.  
\$1,600 Address unavailable  
\$1,625 Address unavailable  
\$1,700 295 Victoria #201  
\$1,700 376 Redfern #17  
\$1,750 340 Olivier  
\$1,800 88 Columbia Ave.  
\$1,850 79 Bruce #3  
\$1,900 4326 Sherbrooke St. #28  
\$1,910 4800 de Maisonneuve Blvd.  
\$1,975 Address unavailable  
\$2,000 or \$339,000 4444 Sherbrooke St. W. #403\*\*  
\$2,000 4328 Sherbrooke St. #26  
\$2,100 Address unavailable  
\$2,250 Address unavailable  
\$2,250 Address unavailable  
\$2,300 295 Victoria Ave. #101  
\$2,500 Address unavailable

continued on p. 11



## Journée familiale

au parc Westmount

**Le samedi 31 mai**

Fêtez l'arrivée de l'été à Westmount.  
Activités et jeux pour tous âges  
à partir de 10 h.

## Family Day

in Westmount Park

**Saturday, May 31**

Celebrate the arrival of summer in Westmount.  
Activities and games for all ages as of 10 a.m.





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# Canada's national sport takes hold here

BY ROBERT J. GALBRAITH

Lacrosse is being played in Murray Hill (King George) Park by an ever increasing number of Westmount youth.

What many people don't know is that this location is within sight of the sport's birthplace. If you look southwest from Murray Hill along the St. Lawrence towards the Lachine Rapids, you can glimpse the land of the Kahnawake Mohawk. These lands are one of the ancestral Five Nations' territories where lacrosse, Canada's national sport, was born.

Now, over 500 years later, Westmounter Timothy Murdoch explains, "I started the program in 2006 when we had 30 kids participating. Now we have over 90 kids and it keeps getting better organized and grows every year." Murdoch founded and oversaw the Westmount Sports & Recreation program in its first year.

Murdoch, who is head coach of McGill University Men's varsity lacrosse, says that not only is the sport growing in popularity amongst Westmount youth, but it is a continental phenomenon. "There were a handful of players in North America in 2000, now we have thousands, speaking conservatively, playing right across the



Lacrosse at Murray Park.

continent. The West Island now has 400 kids playing in its program. It's a sport that sells itself."

Murdoch commented that, "you will see more and more players getting better

and better. By the time they reach 18, they will have been playing for ten years. They'll be at the top level."

A good part of the ..... growing interest here is *continued on p. 13*

## 310 Grosvenor (Westmount)



Detached home on Grosvenor, in the heart of Victoria Village. Renovated with love, sunny garden, basement with playroom & extra bedroom. Designer kitchen. Parking. One of a kind. Won't last. **\$855,000**

## 621 Victoria (Westmount)

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## The Westmount Parent Fun at Family Day and La Ronde

BY ANNIKA MELANSON

For 33 years, the city of Westmount has kicked off the summer season with Family Day. Spend a fun-filled day in Westmount Park with the family on Saturday May 31 from 9:30 am to 4 pm. All ages are encouraged to participate in a variety of fun activities from a costume parade to hay rides, races and a tug-of-war. There will be pony rides, a petting zoo and a carnival. Kids can bounce on the inflatable structures, have their faces painted at the make-up booth, pet a llama, feed a goat and compete in the egg toss. Make a day of it and pack a lunch or purchase a snack on-the-go from Java U and the Girl Guides to the Scouts. Community groups and organizations will be on hand to give out information about their activities.

As usual, officers from Westmount's Public Security Unit and neighborhood Station 12 will be conducting child seat safety inspections. Bring your car to the Family Day site and officers will verify that your child seat is properly installed at no charge. For more information, please contact Sports, Recreation and Community Events at 514.989.5353.

### La Ronde opens for the summer

La Ronde is open. This is a great way to spend the day with the whole family. For little ones (under 3), there is

an area called *Le Pays Ribanbelle*, which is located near the entrance. There are rides suitable for the younger crowd.

Stroller rental is available onsite and diaper change tables are available in the public bathrooms. You are allowed to bring your own food, which is a great way to make healthy choices while cutting costs.

For those with babies, the La Ronde restaurants will heat up baby food upon request. Something to note is that coolers, glass and aluminum containers (i.e. soft drink cans) are forbidden and will be confiscated at the entrance. Be sure to pack food in plastic containers.

The cost of admission is \$38 for adults, \$25 for kids and free for children under 3. Parking is \$15 for the day. La Ronde is located on Île St. Hélène. If you are going by Metro, get out at the Jean Drapeau station and then take the 167 bus, which only runs during La Ronde hours of operation.

For more information call 514.397.2000 or go to [www.laronde.com](http://www.laronde.com).



Family Day activities will again have some inflatable structures for kids to climb on.

### INVENTORY... continued on p. 8

\$2,500 Address unavailable  
\$2,525 200 Kensington Ave. #802  
\$2,600 4548 St. Catherine St.  
\$2,750 4855 de Maisonneuve Blvd. #501  
\$2,800 254 Metcalfe #a  
\$2,800 or \$469,000 Address unavailable\*\*  
\$2,950 4214 de Maisonneuve Blvd. #02  
\$2,950 or \$619,000 466 Argyle Ave.  
\$3,000 447 Prince Albert Ave. #1.  
\$3,500 343 Clarke Ave. #6  
\$4,200 388 Grosvenor Ave.  
\$4,800 Address unavailable  
\$5,000 Address unavailable  
\$5,000 200 Kensington Ave. #1000 PH  
\$5,400 or \$846,000 380 Lansdowne Ave.  
\$5,750 611 Lansdowne Ave.  
\$6,000 or \$654,000 376 Redfern #23\*\*  
\$6,300 456 Mountain Ave.

\$6,700 259 Metcalfe Ave.  
\$6,700 or \$2,200,000 Address unavailable\*\*  
\$7,250 or \$1,275,000 4335 de Maisonneuve Blvd.\*\*  
\$7,500 767 Upper Belmont  
\$7,500 or \$1,699,000 227 Clarke Ave PH-1\*\*  
\$7,750 or \$1,495,000 488 Mountain Ave.\*\*  
\$9,995 20 Devon Ave.  
\$11,000 Address unavailable  
\$12,000 680 Victoria Ave.  
\$12,000 4760 The Boulevard  
\$12,000 or \$2,640,000 4760-C The Boulevard\*\*  
\$12,000 or \$2,950,000 680-A Victoria Ave.\*\*  
\$15,000 3657 The Boulevard  
\$15,000 or \$2,390,000 Address unavailable

\*Dollar figure is rent per month unless stated.

\*\*Also for sale. 2nd amount is asking price.

## Westmounter launches CD at the Atwater Library



Karen Potje performs one of the songs from her new album *Can't Help But Love You, Baby* on May 24 at the Atwater Library

Karen Potje delighted young and old at the Atwater Library on May 24 at the launch of her CD of children's music, *Can't Help But Love You, Baby*. Potje started writing songs 18 years ago after her first son was born when she wrote a song about him. She continued from there, writing "a collection of songs in my head," said Potje.

A resident of Burton, "the kids on Burton got me going again," said Potje. It was then, three and a half years ago, that she approached her producer and decided to make her first album of children's music.

Potje and her ensemble of Montreal musicians performed songs from the album at the launch. The songs, with their clever, fun lyrics based on Potje's real life, got everyone's feet tapping. Toddlers and children in the audience were encouraged to participate with instruments provided by Potje.

After the performance, the audience called for an encore, which Potje performed. "I am really happy with the result," Potje said of her album, "and I got to work with such great musicians." For more information or to purchase a copy of Potje's CD (\$15), contact her at [karen@karenpotje.com](mailto:karen@karenpotje.com).

## Comin' Up...

Here's what is happening in Westmount in the coming weeks:

**Wednesday, May 28:** Captain Montgomery Price of the Canadian Forces on the efforts of Canada's provincial reconstruction team in Kandahar – 12:30 pm at Atwater Library and Computer Centre.

**Thursday, May 29:** Community Youth Project exposition at The Gallery in Victoria Hall. Runs until June 13.

Lunch followed by "Oldies & Goodies" singing-along – 1 pm at Contactivity Centre. \$5. To reserve: 514.932.2326.

Neil Bissoondath reads from his latest work, including *The Unyielding Clamour of the Night* – 7:00 pm at Atwater Library and Computer Centre.

Marianopolis is hosting The Crystal Ball organized by the students to support autistic children – 6 pm to 2 am at Four Points by Sheraton on Côte de Liesse. Ticket info: [crystal.ball.08@hotmail.com](mailto:crystal.ball.08@hotmail.com).

ArtNow: Designer Aurelien Guillory on Archi-wickets and painter Ron Jamieson Jr. on Inspiration – 7 to 9 pm at Westmount Library.

**Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31:** Roslyn School's centennial celebrations. Go to [www.roslynschoolfoundation.ca](http://www.roslynschoolfoundation.ca) to register.

**Saturday, May 31:** Family Day – 9:30 am to 4 pm in Westmount Park.

Visit Contactivity's Craft Sale during Family Day at their booth by the park entrance nearest to the Westmount United Church – 10:30 am.

**Sunday, June 1:** Memorial service for Professor Michael Lawrence – 11 am at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom. Info: 514.344.3417.

**Tuesday, June 3:** Judeo-Christian Dialogue with guest speakers Adele Brodeur and Pierre Toth on "Assimilation, Integration and Identity within Judaism and Christianity" at Temple Emanu-El Beth Shalom – 7 pm. \$5. Register: [tklein@videotron.ca](mailto:tklein@videotron.ca) or 514.73.2103.

**Wednesday, June 4:** Women's Rosh Chodesh Prayer Service for the Hebrew month of Sivan at the Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue – 8:30 am. Women and children welcome. Info: 514.484.7862.

**Thursday, June 5:** Annual Super Sale – 1 to 6 pm at St. Leon Parish (330 Clarke). Info: 514.935.4950.

**Friday, June 6 at 8 pm; Saturday, June 7 at 2 pm and 8 pm; and Sunday June 8:** Dramatis Personae's *Departures and Arrivals* Victoria Hall – 2 pm. Free.

**Tuesday, June 10:** Westmount Horticultural Society celebrates 10 years with greenhouse tour – 7 pm. Free for members, \$5 for guests. Dedication of bird bath at 6 pm in storyteller's garden.

Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before

# Roslyn School in the making



BY DOREEN LINDSAY

Question: How old is Roslyn School? For answer, see p. 13

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# ON THE SHELVES

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

**Magazines**  
“The bottled water backlash: environmental concerns are sending people back to their taps”, by Melissa Knopper in *E: the environmental magazine*, May/June 20008.  
“China: inside the dragon”, in *National Geographic*, May 2008, special issue.  
“Parfum de lilas: histoire et culture d’une grand arbuste”, par Larry Hodgson dans *Fleurs, plantes jardins*, mai 2008, p. 34.

**DVDs**  
*Radiant City*. Filmmaker Gary Burns and journalist Jim Brown peer into the windows and lives of those who call suburbia home in this humorous pseudo-documentary.  
*There Will Be Blood*. Set in the early 20th century, this film follows the rise to power of a charismatic and ruthless oil prospector, driven to succeed by his intense hatred of others, and psychological need to see any and all competitors fail. Adapted from the novel *OIL!* by Upton Sinclair.

**English Adult**  
*Plague of Doves* by Louise Erdrich. In this mesmerizing multigenerational novel, a senseless and horrific crime in 1911 forever changes the lives of several families living in and around Pluto, North Dakota, a white town on the edge of an Ojibwe reservation.  
*Sleep Easy Investing: Your Stress-Free Guide to Financial Success* by Gordon Pape.

**French Adult**  
*Battement d’ailes* by Milena Agus. This previously unknown Sardinian author had a great success with her first novel *Mal de pierres*, soon to be adapted for the big screen. Her new book, set in a picturesque village, is a portrait of an eccentric woman, rejected by her peers. The story is told by one her few friends, a lively 14-year-old.  
*Nos chères amies* by Denise Bombardier. The author analyses feminine friendships. She asserts that “there is as much passion in friendship as in love and that friends are as vital to happiness as the man of our life.”

**Children’s (for 6 to 9 year olds)**  
*Guess What Is Growing Inside This Egg* by Mia Posada. A charming book that shows the many ways animals care for their eggs.  
*Que fait-on? Comment dit-on? Verbes et expressions* by Taro Gomi. A humorous look at the many different ways a child can say hello, thank you, sorry, good job, etc. in French.

**Reference**  
*Montreal Entrepreneur’s Guidebook*. This guidebook provides would-be entrepreneurs with a detailed roadmap outlining the steps involved in starting a business.  
*The Columbia Encyclopedia of Modern Drama*. A to Z reference for modern drama  
*Encyclopédie pratique de la nouvelle médecine occidentale et alternative: pour tous les âges* by the Duke Center for Integrative Medicine.

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**Westmount Park United Church**  
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corner Lansdowne  
(514) 937-1146

**Weekly Saturday Service**  
4:30 p.m.

Come relax and enjoy  
worship & warm  
fellowship at WPUC.  
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## Underdog

By FERN BRESLAW

Meet our John Doe, dog #231.

He's a big fat nobody with not much going for him these days. What we do know is that he's a husky/German shepherd mix with a sweet personality and a nasty case of kennel cough.

He was dropped off by Khanate Animal services without any back story other than a strong hunch that less-than-loving people were his previous owners.

"#231" is somewhere between 1 and 5 years old, depending on who you ask. His SPCA file is a complete, lengthy report on a lovely female husky. It would have given us lots of useful information – were it in fact about him.

The fact is that #231 is disappearing and that nobody will even notice once he's gone. He has no name, no history, and isn't even out in the adoption

room for fear of spreading his cough (which can be treated). He is a lovely, gentle dog, but requires too much of a leap of faith for the average shopper. Find out more about adopting #231 by contacting the Montreal SPCA. (514.735.2711)



## 9 Lives

By LYZANNE

We featured Bobby not too long ago but, surprisingly, he hasn't found a family yet. So we would like to bring him to your attention again because he is so wonderful. Bobby is a handsome 5-year-old Himalayan, with huge golden eyes. He is an indoor-only cat though! He is neutered, has had all his shots and is very healthy. To find out more about Bobby, please call Gerdy on her pager at 514.203.9180 or email her at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org) and check our website [www.gerdysrescue.org](http://www.gerdysrescue.org).



Harry

Harry is a beautiful grey domestic long-hair, with stunning green eyes and a sweet pink nose. For a cat that is only a bit more than a year old, he is quite clever!

Being homeless during the coldest part of the winter, he waited for his opportunity to enter a commercial establishment, made his home in the basement until he was discovered and fed. He was brought to Gerdy's attention for adoption: he is now neutered, has had all his shots and has a great bill of health. He is very friendly and hopes never to see another basement life! For more info on Harry, please call Gerdy on her pager at 514.203.9180 or email her at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org).

Please help us find homes for Bobby and Harry, they deserve the best.



Bobby

# History quiz: Roslyn School

*continued from p. 12*

**Question:** How old is Roslyn School?

**Answer:** 100 years old this year.

Roslyn Avenue School opened in September 1908 with 10 teachers and 264 children. The principal was Miss F. W. Young. The new school became home for all elementary students living north of Sherbrooke St., west from and including Arlington Ave. going north to Belmont, all Belmont and west to the city limits at Claremont. In those years, pupils had to attend the school within their district. The girls' playground was on the Roslyn Ave. side of the school and they entered by their own door. The boys' playground and entrance door was on the Grosvenor Ave. side. The words GIRLS and BOYS can still be seen above the doors.

Education for their children has always been important for Westmounters. At that time Westmount had its own board of school commissioners. They had already built King's School on Western Ave. (now de Maisonneuve Blvd.) in 1896 to accommodate 350 students and Queen's School on Olivier Ave. in 1900 for 550 students.

These two schools, in addition to the older Westmount Academy built in 1895 for 681 students on Côte St. Antoine Rd. (present day Selwyn House), provided for the families in the southern section of town. They now needed to provide for the developing northwest section. By 1907, the population had increased to 12,000.

Credit for building the "most beautiful school in Westmount" was given to Mr. W. D. Lighthall, chairman of the Westmount School Commission. It was at his insistence that the budget be increased to "provide an attractive and airy building." The total cost of the land, building and furnishings amounted to \$138,750. The school commission selected the architectural firm of Ross and Macfarlane to de-

sign a school to accommodate 500 students and they chose land on Westmount Ave., which was still a dirt road, between Grosvenor and Roslyn avenues. The architectural firm designed the two-storey brick building with an asphalt shingle roof, small-paned glass windows set in chain-bond frames using Elizabethan architectural forms with Flemish pediments and a fretwork gable. The first addition was added in 1924, and a second in 1952 when the enrollment reached 950.

The French immersion program began in September 1968 with 110 pupils in kindergarten.

To collect this information about Roslyn School, I reread the informative small book entitled *Roslyn: The Story of a Canadian School*, written by Molly Fripp, Ann Elbourne and Maryla Waters as part of a Roslyn School History Project in May 1977. You may read it in the Westmount Library.

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

## Roslyn Centennial celebration

This year, **Roslyn's Centennial Celebrations** are being held at the school on **Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31**. All former students who do not have their name on the invitation list are asked to phone Jasmin 514.670.8111. For more information, you can also go to [www.roslynschoolfoundation.ca](http://www.roslynschoolfoundation.ca)

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# Canada's national sport

*Continued from p. 9*

due to the decline of baseball in Quebec. "I see a steady growth of the sport at the expense of baseball. When the Expos left, it hurt baseball at the youth level," commented Murdoch.

Presently, Kyle Peterdy is the commissioner of the youth league, coach and organizer who puts the teams together. Kaitlin Soye runs the girls program. Both are former McGill University players. "The sport got a huge boost when Kyle stepped up as organizer. He had just graduated from McGill with a degree in physical education," said Murdoch, who is now working more in the background supporting the sport.

The game received another huge boost when the program was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Bell Community True Sport Program. The grant allows the la-

crosse program to purchase goals, extra equipment and especially goalie equipment. Now having the opportunity to play goalie doesn't require the family to purchase the equipment, which can cost hundreds of dollars.

"It encourages a higher degree of participation," says Murdoch. "It's a good investment as we are going to see this program expanding in part because of it."

Boys from 7 to 12 years old and girls 8 to 12 play in the lacrosse program every Wednesday (6:30 to 7:30 pm) and Sunday (5 to 7 pm) from May 4 to June 15, at Murray Hill Park.

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## Academy Rd. barricades up, it must be summer



The city has put up its usual concrete barricades where Academy Rd. turns a 90-degree corner at the arena/pool.

## Pennies for St. Michael

Sharyn Scott of Sharyn Scott on consignment (4925 Sherbrooke St., 514.484.6507) is collecting pennies for St. Michael's Mission. "The government is thinking of getting rid of the penny. So people can just drop them here," she explained to the *Independent*. St. Michael's Mission (514.844.8127, 137 President Kennedy Ave.) serves the poor and homeless of the urban core by providing meals, clothing, shower facilities and referrals.



The jar of pennies.

## The Rotary Club of Westmount

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# Profile: Lesley Moffat – from head girl to head investigator

## Speaking up for livestock

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

**W**estmounters are being urged to pressure for updated legislation governing more humane treatment of livestock during transport, and to purchase meat and poultry raised locally.

Canada lags far behind Europe in consumer awareness and in-transit regulations, said Lesley Moffat, who grew up in Westmount, was head girl at The Study and is now head of investigations for France and Holland with Animals' Angels.

This is an international non-profit organization based in Frankfurt dedicated to the welfare of animals during transport. It accompanies animals to slaughterhouses to ease their in-transit suffering, works with law enforcement agencies and raises public awareness.

"I'm not a radical," Moffat said on a recent visit back to Westmount. "But I do think people have to eat fewer animal products, try to buy organic and have a voice in this issue." Reducing the distance that animals travel also lessens the likelihood of abuse, an area in which consumers can play a role, she said.

"The store will provide what consumers demand. In Europe, you know from the label on the package where the animal was raised and under what conditions."

### *Animals being shipped too far*

Canadian laws, compared with the EU, are very outdated, she explained. "People don't realize animals are going so far to be slaughtered – Canadian cattle to Russia, Alberta pigs to Honolulu via California, and horses flown to Japan."

Under Canadian law, she added, cattle can be left up to 52 hours without water, food or rest. In Europe, cattle must be given water every 14 hours and must be unloaded, rested and fed after 29 hours of transport. "Pigs in transit in Canada can spend up to 40 hours without water, compared to a maximum of 24 hours of total transport time in Europe and with access to water throughout."

### *Tails trucks across Europe*

Moffat, who studied animal science, is based in Amsterdam, but spends much of her time on the road crisscrossing Europe behind trucks, monitoring their transportation of livestock from market auctions to slaughter houses.

Animals' Angels, she said, has earned so much respect that she rarely has issues asking truckers for their papers or in-

specting conditions aboard. Violations she looks for include overcrowding of trailer trucks that impede air circulation, parking in the sun, and sick or fallen animals in danger of being trampled.

When illegalities or abuses are found, she calls local police who act as enforcement agents. Animals' Angels also advocates for the quick euthanizing of sick animals on arrival at slaughter houses.

Moffat's greatest impact on animal welfare since joining Animals' Angels eight years ago, she said, is her development of a police training program. "Europe has all these laws but is challenged by the difficulty of enforcement by various agencies that include vets and highway police."

She has recently rolled out the training program in Hungary following its introduction in France, Italy, Germany and Holland. "We now have 1,200 police in France that are becoming specialists," she says with pride.

### *'Typical' Westmount life*

Always interested in animals, Moffat led "a typical Westmount" upbringing that included early schooling at Roslyn. After reading an animal rights magazine at age 12, she embraced a vegetarian lifestyle. "It totally changed my life. I cried about it for years until I realized I could make a difference."

During her teen years, she volunteered at Urban Animal Advocates and viewed her role in animal welfare as more than "a sweet little past-time." By the same token, she said, she also worked with Sun Youth and has never lost her faith in humans.

Studying animal behaviour and environmental geography at the University of Guelph, she went on to earn a master's degree in animal science in 1997 from the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, focusing on the importance of foraging to laying hens and also working with pigs. She became a voting member of the Canadian Council on Animal Care.

### *Worked with chimps in Chambly*

In 1997, Moffat began working with the Fauna Foundation in Chambly, a sanctuary for chimpanzees rescued from AIDS research in the US. "I was able to put my behavioural knowledge into practice," she said. The work extended to many farm animals.

Two years later, she moved to Europe with a friend and planned to teach English in Germany for a year. Instead, she offered her assistance to Animals' Angels after

viewing a documentary about the group and it has evolved into a career.

Her work as an inspector used to be more dangerous, she said. Once, when she and a colleague were observing a Belgian animal collecting station that was importing donkeys for export to Ireland, a driver confronted them with a bat before speeding off through the narrow streets as they called for help.

On another earlier occasion, she was tailing a truck in northern France carrying 6,000 chickens that had been left in the sun causing the death of some 2,000. She called several police forces before getting action. One officer even ridiculed the situation, she said. This led her to create the police training program.

Returning to her message of reducing transportation stress on animals and en-



*Lesley Moffat at a horse market in France.*

couraging informative packaging labels, Moffat said that concerned citizens can write to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency of Agriculture Canada asking for updated legislation.

Consumers can also request merchants to sell locally and organically raised meat and poultry.

"With all the knowledge we now have regarding animal welfare," she said, "we no longer have an excuse to not act."

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