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## Exploring the secrets of Westmount's electric utility

# Hydro Westmount brings in \$3 million

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As lifestyle changes generate increasing dependency on electricity, Westmounters continue to reap the benefits of having their own electric utility that last year generated a net profit of some \$3 million for the city coffers.

It's one of the largest amounts the century-old company has earned, and it helps reduce the tax burden, thanks in part to relatively warm and stable winter temperatures, said city director general Bruce St. Louis.

And as the only municipality to operate its own power company on the island of Montreal – and only one in nine throughout Quebec – Hydro Westmount buys electricity at wholesale rates from Hydro-Quebec and redistributes it to the community with the same incentives and at the same retail prices as set by the Régie de l'énergie.

While part of the city ..... of Westmount, the elec- *continued on p. 17*

## Lagacé Dowson, from talking to running



CBC radio talkshow host Anne Lagacé Dowson (centre) announces her candidacy as the NDP candidate for the upcoming Westmount-Ville Marie byelection, as the party's leader, Jack Layton (left), and sole Québec MP, Thomas Mulcair, look on. For story, see p. 11.

# Work on fields pre-empts Communities in Bloom

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After more than a year of discussion and debate, city council approved the tenders July 10 for the start of work to reconstruct the soccer fields in Westmount Park south of the bicycle path.

The project will be undertaken by Techniparc Inc., at a total cost of \$709,902 under supervision by landscape architects Marc Fauteux & Associates for \$24,889 and MLC & Associates, engineering con-

sultants, for \$24,787.

It is expected to last from mid-July to the end of August, but some plantings may be left till later. The site will be cordoned off, but crossing access is to be provided, explained city horticulturist Claudette Savaria.

The extent of the project means the city will take a year out from competing in the Communities in Bloom contest. Instead, Savaria will focus on overseeing the work as liaison between the city and the con-

sultants. Westmount will continue its support of the national competition in order to compete again next year without having to requalify provincially.

The playing field work includes installation of irrigation and drainage systems, a natural turf surface and landscaping. A small portion of the bike path at the northwest corner of the tennis courts has already been realigned. Further configuration is to take place later as a separate project.



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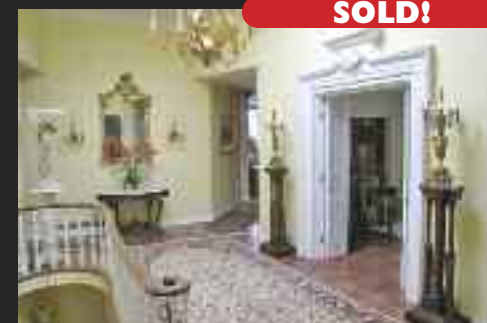
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## Indie Briefs...

### Garden tour returns

Westmount's walking tour of front gardens is making a come-back this summer after an eight-year respite.

About 80 gardens will be featured in this year's edition listed by neighbourhood in a booklet expected to be available at Victoria Hall in early August. Proceeds from the \$2 cost will go to the restoration of the totem pole.

Organized by the city's Horticultural Advisory Committee (HAC), volunteers have been walking the eight districts into which the city is divided looking for gardens with special features and providing brief summaries of what to look for.

### Totem work progressing

Westmount's totem pole is on its way to restoration.

After many years of fundraising for the project, the 12-foot totem has been removed to the city's Corporation Yard for evaluation by art conservation specialist Anne Lapointe, city horticulturist Claudette Savaria said last week.

Believed to be of BC origin, the totem was acquired from the former Campbell Gardens at 21 Edgehill Rd. and initially stood in the playground at Westmount Park until moved into the greenhouses in an effort to stave off further deterioration.

### Bronfman demo okayed

Westmount's demolition committee accepted July 2 that the poolhouse on the Bronfman heritage property at 15 Belvedere Rd. was demolished without a permit and agreed to a rebuilding program.

Urban planning director Joanne Poirier explained that the permit (to be issued August 2) will require the re-establishment of the city pathway along the property line and a new cost estimate.

It also imposed a \$50,000 guarantee and an 18-month deadline.

### DG shortlist interviewed

The search for a new director general to replace retiring Bruce St. Louis is entering the final stages with some "excellent candidates," Mayor Karin Marks said last week.

The selection committee that she chairs received a list of pre-selected names from the search firm of Kenniff & Racine from which it prepared a short list for interviewing. Marks said she "hoped" a decision could be forthcoming at the August council meeting.

### Save the Park! slate not in the works

Save the Park! is not organizing a slate to run in Westmount's next municipal election, despite rumours circulating to that effect.

In conversations with the *Independent*, Patrick Barnard, Mavis Young and David Parsons – three prominent members of Save the Park! – have denied the rumour that they are organizing a slate of candidates for city council.

Save the Park! and its unofficial "leaders" (the group has no formal executive) were very active during the Westmount Park artificial turf debate, and have continued to attend city council meetings and other open city meetings.

They frequently ask questions and express concern – in person and in the local press – about the now-approved plans for a fenced, real turf soccer field in Westmount Park and the proposed arena/pool reconstruction.

The terms of the current mayor and council run until October 9, 2009 (barring emergency meetings between that date and the election), with the next election on Sunday, November 1, 2009. Interestingly, an acclaimed councillor can replace an outgoing councillor before the election, raising the possibility (during an emergency) of a "mixed" new/old council.

## Roots of Empathy takes root



Roots of Empathy's provincial coordinator Coralie Desjardins (left) and founder Mary Gordon (right), with mother-and-daughter volunteers Denise Chevalier and Lucia (centre).



EMSB commissioner Ginette Sauvé-Frankel (left) with father-and-daughter volunteers Thanosai Dionisopoulos and Lexi. Dionisopoulos has seven children, including four at Roslyn.

It was all smiles at Roslyn School on June 19 as the second year of the English Montreal School Board's Roots of Empathy program came to an end. The program aims to reduce aggression and instill citizenship in children up to grade 8 by having a parent and baby meet with a given class throughout the year. Babies who are 2 to 4 months old at the start of the school year are eligible.

Within the EMSB this year, there were

six such classes at Roslyn and six at Westmount Park School.

In addition to these two schools, next year's program will include eight more classes located at four other schools.

Roots of Empathy was founded by Mary Gordon in Toronto and is now international in scope. EMSB commissioner Ginette Sauvé-Frankel learned about the program at a Vancouver conference in 2005 and worked to bring it to the EMSB.

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## Mayor's Column

# Arena/pool: Choosing professionals for first proposals

BY KARIN MARKS,  
MAYOR OF WESTMOUNT

For council, the month of July is generally a quiet one. Although we have one council meeting, we make sure it has a very light agenda. Generally, that would translate to a light July workload for our staff as well.

Not so for this year.

The proposed reconstruction of the arena, our final major building renewal project of our 15-year long-term plan, has created a buzz in the community not only among residents, but also among professionals in the fields of architecture and engineering.

Council had stated that we will be looking at the rebuilding of our arena facility with two ice surfaces, an outdoor swimming pool, a teen centre and ancillary services. We stated clearly that this facility would have to be energy efficient and built to recognized environmental standards. We held an open forum on the reconstruction that generated many thoughts and ideas.

And so, in early June, Westmount launched a tender call for professionals who will develop proposals for the facility with an understanding of all of the program needs, the construction limitations, the sensitivity to the built and green environment, the traffic constraints and the

focus on energy efficiency. In previous tender calls for professionals to renovate the library, Victoria Hall, the lawn bowling clubhouse, council had the latitude to invite firms who were known to do the kind of work we wanted and to select them based on interviews and price negotiation. For Westmount, this produced some excellent results all of which came in on budget and on time.

### ***New provincial law changes everything***

However, as of 2001, the provincial laws changed and completely revolutionized the process for selecting consultants for major municipal projects. For any professional contract exceeding \$100,000, there could no longer be an invited list of firms. Now, the architects and engineers have to be engaged via an open, rigorous public tender process adhering to a complex, but generally very effective, set of procedures that has entailed the following:

During the months of April and May, the administration prepared comprehensive specifications for engaging a consortium of architectural and engineering professionals that had extensive experience in the design and construction of municipal and/or institutional (e.g. university) arenas, pools and community service facilities....with a twist. We were also looking for a consortium that could help us design a LEED-certified facility, in keep-

ing with council's commitment to sustainable development.

Within the specifications was an evaluation grid – a pre-defined set of criteria that would be used to grade each proposal received. This would ensure that each bid would be assessed and graded in the same fashion by a selection committee appointed by council but which, by law, cannot include an elected official. Points are awarded for each proposal based on the following seven criteria:

- comprehension of the mandate,
- methodology to ensure the mandate's successful completion,
- composition, profile and expertise of consortium member,
- profile and qualifications of the key professionals from each firm,
- relevant projects designed and built by the consortium firms,
- quality control procedures to ensure compliance with budget, scheduling and project management objectives,
- qualifications and experience with sustainable construction and energy efficiency.

In addition to submitting a very detailed technical proposal, each firm submitted a monetary bid in a separate, sealed envelope. These envelopes are left in our city safe and will only be opened after the rating of the technical proposals is completed. The rating given to each consor-

tium's technical proposal along with its monetary bid will be entered into a pre-defined formula, the results of which will ultimately determine the best proposal.

### ***Lots of interest by bidders***

The tender call was launched in early June. It immediately attracted significant interest. Within two weeks, 30 firms came in and purchased a copy. By closing date on July 3, 12 very detailed proposals were submitted. The selection committee – composed of the city's director-general (an engineer); and directors of Urban Planning (an architect), Public Works (an engineer) and Sports & Recreation – essentially locked itself up for the following week to carry out a detailed analysis and evaluation of each.

Since council can have no input at this point, all we've been told is that there are some proposals from firms who have demonstrated their work in very exciting and impressive projects.

At this point, our team is still working only on the technical analysis. Within 10 days, this will be completed and the excitement around city hall will be heightened as they call for "the envelope please." Only then, will we on council know and subsequently share with the community who will be hired to develop a proposal for our arena and pool facility. Stay tuned, more to come....

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## ***Citizen requests needs-assessment***

# Arena consortium bids remain under review by city

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The selection of a consortium to create scenarios for Westmount's proposed two-rink arena and pool remains under review, Councillor Patrick Martin announced at the July 10 city council.

A total of 12 bids were received for the \$20-million project, but their evaluation is complex and lengthy, he explained.

Local resident, businessman and arena-user David Schachter stated during the question period he was surprised to learn from Sports & Recreation that "no official report indicated the need for an additional rink." Did the number of people now turned away justify the project's expense?

When told by Mayor Karin Marks that a report had been done in 1999, he pointed out that was almost 10 years ago. Councillor Martin added that the current building was 50 years old and needed replacing.

Evaluation of the tender replies consists of rating each according to quality of services and price. This method ensures that the contract does not necessarily go to the lowest bidder, who may not be able to follow through to required standards.

The consortium's work will be based on the city's wish list for two full-sized arenas, a pool, teen centre and related rooms while taking into account the footprint, terrain, and social and sustainability considerations.

## Civic Alert

## Westmount's role in changing the world

BY DON WEDGE



It is possible that Mayor Karin Marks and Westmount council were ahead of the population when early last year they accepted the challenge of creating a sustainable community. But these days there is no doubt that citizens are concerned about the great issues of global warming, shortage of energy and one of the results, rising food prices.

Greenhouse gases have become the high profile issue, part of international and national politics. But we must learn to master many other environmental concerns on the way to sustainability.

Everyone will have to come to terms with the escalation of energy and food costs that will transform the next decades. We will also have to minimize the growing dangers of toxics, smog and other pollution, acid rain, insufficiently treated sewage, wildlife depletion and pressure on remaining green spaces, not to mention garbage and deteriorating roads, buildings and services.

So, how do we meet the needs of the present without compromising those of future generations?

Locally, council's months-long recruitment process resulted in the appointment of Joshua Wolfe as the city's sustainable development coordinator.

He has been on staff since June 1 with a desk and phone in city hall, but he has yet to be introduced to council and the public. However, the success of Wolfe's sustainability planning will depend on lots of consultation with the citizens as well as departmental staff.

He comes with hugely impressive credentials. Trained as an urban planner at the University of Montreal, he is an author, former head of Heritage Montreal and *Gazette* urban affairs columnist. He worked in California on pioneering sus-

tainability issues, and since 2001 had been a commissioner with the Office de consultation publique de Montréal.

Recently he was the principal author of the neighborhood sustainability plan for Milton Park (available at <http://tinyurl.com/63kzjx>).

Westmount has neighbourhoods too, with an even more varied infrastructure, and we can presume Wolfe will be faced with many of the same considerations.

### Changing the world

For Milton Park, the intention was to make a plan to serve the changing needs of residents, businesses and institutions and was "an invitation to change the world neighbourhood by neighbourhood." A lot of Westmounters would buy into that.

Among its visionary objectives were both polluter-pay and precautionary principles. The former is now beginning to be introduced in Quebec, but few people outside of Europe are actively pursuing the latter.

The concept was adopted by the UN after the great Rio conference of 1982. The precautionary approach should be applied, said the resulting charter, "when there are threats of serious or irreversible damage; lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."

CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) were a great example of what not to do. Introduced in the 1930s as a magic compound for multiple uses, including air conditioning, it took nearly 50 years to discover that they were the principal agents responsible for destroying the earth's ozone layer, which protects the sun's harmful rays from frying us.

The introduction of such innovation needs more care. The world got a reminder this year when the concept of developing ethanol as a fuel was belatedly found to be contributing to the global food shortage and everyone's cost of living.

And look how long it has taken to control the detergents that cause much of the blue-green algae destroying many lakes.

### Compost acceptance

Here in Westmount, we have shown we can adapt. Public Works says more than 80 percent of homes in the launch zone have embraced kitchen waste composting.

At the same time, we confront a dilemma. It is important to exclude plastic from the process, so bags made from corn starch were introduced.

An improvement certainly, but their use contributes to the food shortage prob-

lem. Paper bags lined with cellulose are the likely answer, but can anyone tell me where to find them?

There are well over 100 steps defined in Wolfe's plan for Milton Park, and it is likely that there will be more for our own larger community.

Residents should be prepared to become actively involved in Westmount's sustainability initiatives, as well as providing valuable input throughout the defining process.

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

## On the Market: 100 Abbott Ave.

This semi-detached Victorian house was built in 1897. It has two upstairs bedrooms, a large upstairs bathroom equipped with a Jacuzzi tub and a separate glass shower, a large terrace off the second bedroom, new hardwood floors, central air and a working gas fireplace in the living room. The master bedroom has built-in storage and closet space.

The six-foot basement is unfinished, but great for storage. At the back, there is no garden, but the property benefits from a two-car tandem parking space.

The drawback is that the house is adjacent to the Ville Marie autoroute and the train tracks, although glass sound barrier muffles sound and lets the light through.

This is a perfect starter home for a young couple or a bargain for someone wanting to live in Westmount, to enjoy all that the city has to offer.

**Asking price:** \$369,000

**2007 municipal taxes:** \$3,504

**2007 school taxes:** \$933

**Realtor:** Thomas & Maxwell Castle, Royal LePage Heritage, 514.934.1818.

*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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## Letters to the editor

### PARK MOVIE – PART I: WEDGE CONTRADICTS HIMSELF

I am writing to state my objection to Don Wedge's July 2 Civic Alert column in the *Independent* (July 2, p. 5). His personal attack on certain people in Save the Park! group is unfair and unprofessional. He also contradicts himself.

He states that when the ill-fated letter announcing the installation of artificial turf was sent out, the Save the Park! group "was not tuned in."

How could they be when they formed only after perceiving a threat to the park? I read the local papers, and recall no reports or columnists dealing with this issue before that letter.

There is another contradiction that is more troubling. He uses a report from the Quebec health department to say that asphalt surfaces in school yards are more toxic than artificial turf, but then goes on to praise a report out of San Francisco that



Westmount Park's southwest fields, July 10.

deals with the toxic effects of dust rising off pelletized artificial turf. By omission he fails to state that natural grass has zero toxicity.

I am not a member of Save the Park!, but I am a lover of the park as it is. That group has done a wonderful job of saving us all from artificial turf. Now, my concern is that the new soccer complex that the city has in mind will change the park in a detrimental way and it is not necessary.

I feel, as many do, that it is a public park. As such, the children's soccer program works very well for Westmount's needs. The grass could be preserved on a rotating system of regeneration between the three fields. We do not need more fencing, or hard runways, or concrete bleachers. I think it is a totally unnecessary idea to move the bike path, cut down the flowering shrubs along it as well as the grove of pine trees at the west end. This is a Bungling of the Park.

I feel Don Wedge's anger is misdirected. He should direct his anger to the

council. He must be aware that the city had already made submissions to the Quebec government for funding of the expansion project of the arena months before the city organized round-table discussions on "what the citizens want."

Many who in good faith attended those round tables were insulted when they learned of this.

What will happen if Quebec responds positively to Westmount's submissions? Citizens raised many questions, objections, and alternative solutions to the proposed idea of arena expansion. As far as I understand, no synopsis was published by the city from these round tables. Why not? These are the questions that Don Wedge should consider in his column.

Save the Park! is a grassroots group that tries to act as watchdogs to prevent hidden decisions being made by council.

ANNA O'CONNOR, LEWIS AVE.

### PARK MOVIE – PART II: WEDGE MISDIRECTS ANTI- DEMOCRATIC ACCUSATIONS

"Vitriolic, lugubrious, vilifying, bad taste" – I guess there's no point in asking Don Wedge what he *really* thinks about Patrick Barnard's video, *Save Your Park* ("What's behind resurrection of long-settled park dispute?".... July 2 *Independent*, p. 5).

And frankly, with reviews like this, there's not much chance it will be coming to a theatre in your neighbourhood anytime soon!

However, it is not Wedge wearing his film critic's hat, but as chronicler of all things civic with whom I take issue.

First, the accusation that Save the Park! "stifled a democratic response." Just what part of the democratic process was stifled by forcing a community-wide debate on an arrangement to install artificial turf, about which, according to Wedge, a group of parents "privately persuaded a reluctant administration to push ahead"? Not *publicly* persuaded – *privately* persuaded.

Save the Park! did not thwart the democratic response – it *was* the democratic response.

Second, the charge of NIMBYism. Unfortunately NIMBY has become an all-purpose slur, effectively precluding analysis of an issue. It is also difficult to refute. If, in this case, it means not wanting a slab of expensive fake grass in place of the real thing in a community park, we will plead guilty.

So will many others, because in reality Westmount Park is the backyard for a lot of Westmounters, even those who don't live on its periphery and because of con-

temporary environmental concerns, now all of our backyards have figuratively gotten a whole lot bigger.

Finally, Wedge casually lets drop the fact that "not all councillors supported the project." Who knew?

Not the voters of Westmount certainly, since not a peep was heard from these supposed non-supporters during the whole course of the discussion. Remarkably, while Wedge is outraged by the cinematic style of Barnard, he does not appear to be at all perturbed by a culture that ensures no effective debate at city hall.

On a brighter note, we are assured that no animals were mistreated or harmed during the making of the film. No Oscar for Barnard though.

MAVIS YOUNG, MELVILLE AVE.  
MEMBER OF SAVE THE PARK!

**Don Wedge responds:** Anna O'Connor and Mavis Young raise many issues about my article, but don't answer the central point: what was the motive behind resurrecting last year's victorious fight and using an international media?

I don't doubt that Save the Park! played a role in resolving the issue, but why wash tattered linen in public – and on such a great stage?

### IS INNOVATIVE SOUND BARRIER INNOVATIVE ENOUGH?

I do not consider the experimental section of acoustical wall at the end of Abbott Ave. to be a success.

It is my observation that the source of the sound pollution, the 2 & 20, is too far from the barrier, such that the energy of the sound waves from vehicular traffic is able to diffract around the height of that barrier.

Only ground-floor rooms located very near the sound barrier would benefit from a certain significant reduction. Second-floor rooms, and all residences beyond a distance equal to the height of the sound barrier plus 50 percent would not notice any significant sound reduction from the 2 & 20. This is my reading of the situation on Abbott along with my application of acoustics gained from a course I took at McGill.

There are "green" solutions that would provide other benefits besides some acoustical "taming" of sound pollution. One is a "living wall" like the one in Laval. It would have innumerable benefits. Visually, it would be pleasing. "Urban windows" could be designed to be included in its construction so that the long views to the east (sunrises, Mt. St. Hilaire, etc) could still be enjoyed.

Being a multifaceted number of surfaces, it might have a higher "taming"



The barrier at the end of Abbott Ave.

ratio to vehicular sound than the smooth lexon surfaces. (The lexon surfaces might even to a certain extent act as reverberating surfaces themselves.) A living wall would respire and thus provide oxygen to the adjoining population.

It would certainly help to filter some pollutants from the air. As we are all aware, the air quality of our neighborhoods has continually degraded in conjunction with the ever-increasing number of private vehicles on the highways and streets. There are many health reports appearing in different media that portray air quality as approaching a critical stage.

I would strongly recommend the idea of a living wall for consideration in Westmount.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.

### WESTMOUNT CAT FOUND – IN AHUNTSIC

Earlier in my life I had two litters of golden retrievers, which was an exciting experience for my two children, Jennifer and Mark. But now, living with a left-side paralysis as the result of an aneurysm, I must be very careful with what pets I can have and look after.

Nevertheless, last Thanksgiving, I found an orange tabby – Charlie, a delightful, playful, enchanting, gentle friend for my *continued next page*



Glassford with Charlie.

# Our Health—Part Two

BY EVE ASPINALL  
MEMBER OF THE HEALTHY CITY PROJECT

It is well known that our health care system is not working efficiently.

Our emergency rooms are desperately overcrowded, a direct result of the closures of community hospitals and forcing patients requiring only primary or secondary care to the more expensive tertiary-care hospitals. There are long waits for cataract removals, hip and knee replacements, and cancer surgeries and treatments, elective surgeries are being postponed. Wait times for diagnostic tests and medical procedures are long and frustrate both the patients and their health care providers.

There are shortages of anaesthetists, pathologists, radiologists, family physicians and nurses.

Many have been driven away by governmental restrictions, language laws and better financial compensation elsewhere. Limitations on enrolment in medical and nursing institutions have choked the supply of new professionals. Beds are closed to save money, but actually end up increasing hospital costs and clogging the emergency wards. Obviously, better organization is needed.

Dr. Martin Dawes, director of Family Medicine at McGill University says of the government, “They have tried introducing new systems. Group practice systems, which on the face of it seem good but that take over a year for the government bureaucracy to agree to the paperwork, and require multiple signatures of every patient. The second system is clinic network

to provide walk-in care. This is the opposite of what family medicine is about. No continuity, no coordinated follow-up, no appointment system and no one to call your own family physician. This new system is a public admission that this government has failed...”

Certainly, family doctors are the gateway into the health care system. They need to have the freedom to practise full-time to provide the necessary care to as many patients as they can manage. When you have no access to a doctor, where do you go? Who knows your medical history? Why are there no family physicians available in Montreal?

Family physicians have been writing to the government, to newspapers, speaking on the radio and television, but nothing is changing. But they need help – our help – to maintain our own health and to ensure that all of us receive the care we deserve. Suggestions of what form this takes range from simple letters to our members of the provincial legislature to class action lawsuits. One letter may not apply much pressure, but one or two hundred individual (not form) letters certainly would.

Dr. Dawes suggests that the questions the people of Quebec must ask are:

1. Is the government committed to ensuring that every patient has their own family physician?
2. If this is true, what is the process and timeline for ensuring this happens? There is a need for strong community leadership and action to develop viable solutions to the many problems that the government seems unable or unwilling to do.

On July 1, a very kind lady, Carole, had found Charlie in her Ahuntsic garden – 10 miles away from his starting point. She realized he was a special pet and had him picked up by the SPCA.

How did Charlie get to Ahuntsic, losing his collar and ID on the way?

Charlie is well, a little thinner, but happy on the window sill watching the action in the garden.

I have set up the Charlie Fund at the SPCA, the proceeds of which will be used to fund the inoculations that cats like Charlie receive when they arrive at the shelter.

MARGARET MACNAUGHTON GLASSFORD,  
CLARKE AVE.

To contribute to the Charlie Fund, please write to:

The Charlie Fund at the SPCA  
5215 Jean Talon West  
Montreal, QC H4P 1X4  
or call Tatiana at the SPCA 514.735.9172 x2240.

## Opinion The hidden history of Westmount Park

BY PATRICK BARNARD

Westmount Park not only has a stream flowing under it, it is also a place with an obscured history – hidden, that is, until the “turf war” here, as *Canadian Geographic* termed the recent park struggle. When citizens formed Save The Park! in October 2006, the first thing the group did was to join the National Association for Olmsted Parks in Washington, DC ([www.naop.org](http://www.naop.org)). The group here qualified as a member because Westmount Park is an Olmsted-inspired park, with Olmsted



Westmount Park's northern field.

Brothers of Massachusetts working as the first consultants for the park in 1899 (see [www.naop.org](http://www.naop.org), then Research, then Orgo, then Online Here, then type 02217).

However, from 2006 until 2008 various official and semi-official Westmount figures told me, repeatedly, “This is not an Olmsted park.” In recent weeks, Mayor Marks wrote to me about her long attachment to the park and conceded, “It is quite possible since Olmsted was a renowned landscape architect of the time that those who were hired by Westmount borrowed liberally from his design principles.” The connection is much closer than this.

This spring a specialized researcher who often works at the US Library of Congress, Camille Larson, transcribed at my request the microfilm of the letter from “Olmsted Brothers to Chairman of the Park Committee, Town of Westmount, August 1, 1899.” This document is the longest of four letters, a consultant’s report of just over 5,000 words showing intimate knowledge of the park as it was then. The long letter is now in the archives of the Canadian Centre for Architecture and can be viewed online at the website of the Westmount Municipal Association.

A century ago the Westmount authorities wanted an “Olmsted park,” but they could not afford to hire the US firm full-time, so they sought overall guidance through consulting advice both on the phi-

losophy of landscaping and on precise detail. And the letter of 1899 gives a beautifully clear and unpretentious explanation of the vision that Westmount wished to follow. The letter begins with a discussion of the athletic facilities and floral decorations often found in small parks, but warns that such additions are often “given greater weight” because they are “less subtle” than “simple landscape.” In other words, simplicity is a more difficult thing to achieve than cluttered complexity.

Such features, said Olmsted Brothers, “should be so contrived as to interfere with

the landscape in the least possible degree.” In fact, “glaring infringements of this rule are readily noticed and condemned by any one who has the least good taste.”

Open areas can accommodate all sorts of sports, but special grandstands, “would injure the landscape, and anyone would arrange the apparatus otherwise if it seemed feasible.” Human beings have an “unconscious appreciation of truly beautiful landscape,” the letter says, and mistakes “depreciate the value of a park.”

Repeatedly, the Olmsted advice stresses the beauty of open space and praises the then existing park because “provision for cricket, baseball and lacrosse has not interfered with the attainment of the best landscape effect, by requiring a good breadth of simple unbroken turf” (emphasis added). The “beauty of a lawn,” the letter says, “lies in the simplicity of its broad unbroken surface.”

That was the vision of the park and a wonderfully popular one it was. And in 1910, the city council appropriated \$300,000 to acquire the southern fields as “an extension of the park,” and explicitly “for the purpose of a public park” (By-law 221, Westmount City Council, 1910). They wanted then, at the beginning of the 20th century, to continue the vision of the founders. As we begin the 21st century, we should preserve that same Olmsted vision and heritage today.

## Letters...

existing cat Max and my grandchildren, Felix and Ruby Rose, who live in London, UK. Charlie – my orange ball of love – was the highlight of their recent trip to visit “Gigi”, their grandmother.

On June 13, Charlie, Max and I were in the garden and Charlie strayed. To where? I became frantic – putting signs and photos on street posts, placing ads in the newspaper, and calling Westmount Security and the SPCA continuously. Where was Charlie?

On July 4, I awoke in the morning and my ESP told me to go to the SPCA in person. Fortunately, a very kind resident in my apartment building who loves cats agreed to drive me.

Away we went – not even taking a carrier, not believing we would be that lucky. At the SPCA, I told them my story. The first cat brought out was my Charlie. I burst into floods of tears.

***OUR CARDS ARE ON THE TABLE:***

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- a merchant – autumn is the beginning of the busy pre-Christmas season
- the private schools – autumn is open-house season

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how you can, when you can.**

# **WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT**

***We are Westmount.***



## New to Westmount? Part 2: Tips for settling in Parkin', readin' & associatin'

**Tip 1:** Westmount residents can buy a "W" parking sticker from Public Security (21 Stanton St., 514.989.5222) that allows them to park in certain resident-restricted areas. The cost is \$5 and there is a limit of one per household.

**Tip 2:** Overnight parking is prohibited in Westmount, but if you need temporary access for you or a friend, you can register with Public Security (514.989.5222) so as not to get a ticket. There are also special rules for houses without parking facilities. Call Public Security.

**Tip 3:** There are two libraries in Westmount, the Westmount Public Library at 4574 Sherbrooke St. W. and the private Atwater Library at 1200 Atwater St. (yearly fee: \$20 to \$35).

**Tip 4:** There are two Metro stations near Westmount, Atwater (at de Maisonneuve) and the oft-overlooked Vendôme

(at de Maisonneuve), which is great for accessing the new Forum and Old Montreal on the orange line. There is also Villa Maria at Monkland and Décarie.

**Tip 5:** There are at least three community centres in Westmount, the YMCA (4585 Sherbrooke St., 514.931.6770), Centre Greene (1090 Greene Ave., 514.931.6202) and Contactivity (4695 de Maisonneuve, 514.932.2326). Contactivity is for senior citizens.

**Tip 6:** There are a number of groups in Westmount to join, including the Westmount Municipal Association (civic issues, www.wma-amw.org), Westmount Historical Association (www.westmounthistorical.org), the Westmount Horticultural Society, the Sherlock Holmes Society (which meets at the Westmount Public Library) and the Healthy City Project (environmental issues, 514.989.5238).

## Compostable bags at Hogg Hardware

Hogg Hardware (4833 Sherbrooke St., 514.934.4644) is now carrying Bag to Earth biodegradable and compostable food waste bags (\$7 for five large bags). They also carry Glad starch bags (\$9.99 for ten).

## Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before Westmount Park School



BY DOREEN LINDSAY

Question: When was Westmount Park School opened? For answer, see p. 20.

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Westmount vous informe...

## Westmount Page



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## TRAVAUX PUBLICS

**Travaux de réfection du réseau d'aqueduc sur l'avenue Greene**

Veillez noter que les travaux de remplacement de la conduite d'eau principale sous l'avenue Greene se poursuivront jusqu'à la fin de juillet. Une partie du stationnement sur l'avenue Greene à proximité de l'excavation ne sera donc pas disponible. Toutefois, des espaces temporaires seront aménagés sur l'avenue Olivier. Veuillez consulter notre site Web pour des informations plus détaillées à ce sujet. Info : 514 989-5257.

**Travaux de réfection sur l'avenue Westmount**

Au cours des deux prochaines semaines, des travaux de réfection majeurs débiteront sur l'avenue Westmount, de la rue Belmont vers l'est jusqu'à The Boulevard. Ce projet de 4,3 millions \$, d'une durée approximative de 3 mois, inclura le remplacement de la conduite d'eau, des lumières de circulation ainsi que la reconstruction de la rue et des trottoirs. Veuillez consulter notre site Web pour des informations plus détaillées. Info: 514 989-5273. 🌿



## SPORTS ET LOISIRS

**Projet des terrains de jeux**

Le réaménagement complet de l'aire des terrains de jeux inférieurs du parc Westmount a débuté lundi dernier. La Ville entreprend donc la dernière phase de ce projet, qui une fois complété, fera place à un terrain de soccer gazonné de qualité supérieure dans la partie ouest du site, et une aire de verdure pour usage général du côté est. Les travaux se poursuivront en septembre, et le terrain nouvellement aménagé ouvrira de nouveau à la fin du printemps 2009. Un aperçu complet du projet est disponible sur notre site Web. 🌿



## ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

**Théâtre en plein air**

La troupe Repercussion Theatre présentera les pièces de Shakespeare *La tempête* le dimanche 27 juillet ainsi que *The Tempest* les samedis 26 juillet et 16 août ainsi que le dimanche 17 août

## DATES À RETENIR

**Jusqu'au 9 août**

Exposition de groupe : *Plus ça change*  
La galerie du Victoria Hall

**Le 26 juillet - 19 h 30**

The Tempest (*Théâtre en plein air*)  
Parc Westmount

**Le 27 juillet - 19 h 30**

La tempête (*Théâtre en plein air*)  
Parc Westmount

**Le 13 août - 12 h**

Séance du conseil  
Hôtel de ville

à 19 h 30 au parc Westmount. Entrée gratuite. N'oubliez pas d'apporter vos chaises. Info : 514 916-7275 ou www.repercussiontheatre.com.

**Art Westmount 2008 Appel de soumissions****Période de soumission prolongée!**

La Ville de Westmount invite les peintres et les sculpteurs westmountais à participer à la 2<sup>e</sup> édition d'Art Westmount. Cet événement aura lieu le samedi 18 octobre et le dimanche 19 octobre prochain. Les formulaires de participation sont disponibles au Victoria Hall et sur notre site Web. Date limite d'inscription : le 31 juillet. Info : 514 989-5265.

**Concerts d'été au parc Westmount****Du 6 juillet au 10 août à 14 h**

Venez assister à des concerts professionnels près de l'étang du parc Westmount les dimanches à 14 h. En cas de pluie, les concerts auront lieu au Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5226.

Le 20 juillet	Quartette Mary Ann Lacey
Le 27 juillet	L'ensemble du Carré Saint-Louis
Le 3 août	Quartette Robert Burman
Le 10 août	Trio Greg Amirault



## PUBLIC WORKS

**Water Main Replacement on Greene Avenue**

Work to replace the water main on Greene Avenue will continue until the end of July. This project will require the City to remove parking on Greene Avenue within the immediate vicinity of where the excavation will be carried out. Additional temporary parking will be provided on Olivier Avenue during that period. More information on this project is available on our Web site. Info: 514 989-5257.

**Major Road Work on Westmount Avenue**

Within the next 2 weeks, major road work will begin on Westmount Avenue, from Belmont eastward to The Boulevard. The \$4.3 million project involves replacement of the water main, replacement of the street lights and reconstruction of the roadway and sidewalks, which will take some 3 months to complete. Full details are available on our Web site. Info: 514 989-5273. 🌿



## SPORTS AND RECREATION

**Playing Fields Project**

The refurbishing of the Westmount Park lower playing fields began this Monday, as the final stage of the project got underway. The project entails the complete refurbishing of the lower playing fields which, when completed, will see a high quality, natural grass soccer field on the western portion of the site and a general-use green space to the east. The work will continue through September, with the refurbished field to reopen in late spring 2009. A complete overview of this project is available on our Web site. 🌿



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Theatre in the Park**

This summer, Repercussion Theatre will be presenting Shakespeare's *La Tempête* Sunday, July 27 and *The Tempest* Saturday, July 26; Saturday, August 16 and Sunday, August 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Westmount Park. Admission is free. Bring a lawn chair. Info: 514 916-7275 or www.repercussiontheatre.com.

## DATEBOOK

**Until August 9**

Group Exhibition: *Plus ça change*  
Gallery at Victoria Hall

**July 26 - 7:30 p.m.**

The Tempest (*Theatre in the Park*)  
Westmount Park

**July 27 - 7:30 p.m.**

La tempête (*Theatre in the Park*)  
Westmount Park

**August 13 - 12 p.m.**

Council Meeting  
City Hall

**Art Westmount Call for Artists****Submission deadline extended!**

Westmount painters and sculptors are invited to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Art Westmount. The event will be held Saturday October 18 and Sunday, October 19. Participation forms are available at Victoria Hall and on our Web site. Deadline to register: July 31. Info: 514 989-5265.

**Summer Concerts in the Park****July 6 to August 10, 2 p.m.**

Join us on Sundays at 2 p.m. at the lagoon in Westmount Park for free concerts by professional musicians. Rain location: Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5226

July 20	Mary Ann Lacey Quartet
July 27	L'ensemble du Carré Saint-Louis
August 3	Robert Burman Quartet
August 10	Greg Amirault Trio

# Anne Lagacé Dowson to run for NDP

*continued from p. 1*

CBC radio talkshow host Anne Lagacé Dowson will run for the NDP in the upcoming federal byelection in Westmount-Ville Marie.

Lagacé Dowson's candidacy was made public on July 3 and she held her official press conference on July 7 in Westmount Park, just east of the library. She has taken an "indefinite leave of absence" from the CBC.

Also present at the conference were NDP leader Jack Layton and the NDP's only Quebec MP (and ex-provincial environment minister) Thomas Mulcair.

Layton opened the conference with local reminiscences of his father's membership in the Rotary Club of Westmount and his grandfather's role in founding the Montreal Association for the Blind. As president of the Westmount Rotary, Layton's father, Bob, played a key role in fundraising for the Manoir Westmount retirement home.

Layton also recalled how his parents would dance to the music of Oscar Peterson in Victoria Hall.

## **Opposed to Conservatives and Liberals**

Also in attendance were Lagacé Dowson's two young children; her husband,

filmmaker and ex-Westmounter Brian McKenna; and her mother. She spoke about a number of issues, most notably the need for "social justice", her perception of, and opposition to, the closeness of the Conservatives and Liberals to George W. Bush and her opposition to Canada's current role in Afghanistan. She also decried the fact that Rwanda has more women in its parliament than Canada.

She went on to take campaign-style swipes at the other candidates, calling most Conservatives "pretty mean," saying about Liberal candidate and former astronaut Marc Garneau "Houston we have a problem;" opposing what she described as the Green Party's opposition to a woman's right to choose; and calling a vote for the Bloc Québécois a vote for the past.

Lagacé-Dowson lives in Mile End on the "edge of the riding" with no plans to move into it. She has previously lived in Westmount, within earshot of the Westmount Park location where she spoke.

As of press time, the byelection had not been called, but it must be called by July 26. The election can be held 36 days after announcement, and there is no maximum period between announcement and election. The most recent byelections took place 87 days after announcement.

## [Tip 7]

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## Bought & Sold: Real estate transferred since May 16, 2008

Address	Price	Evaluation	Buyer	Seller	Date
627 Clarke Ave.	\$1,750,000	\$1,558,200	9123-4252 Québec inc.	Mary Powell	29-May-08
481 Roslyn Ave.	\$1,650,000	\$1,294,400	Ronda Diamond & Richard Cherney	Jeanie Krupp & Barry Wexler	2-Jun-08
487 Mount Pleasant Ave.	\$1,650,000	\$1,594,900	Susan Caon	Margit Suess	3-Jun-08
4287 Sherbrooke St.	\$1,610,000	\$1,147,000	Francis Bouchard & Claudie Vachon	Louis Crevier & Sophie Savoy	5-Jun-08
11 Hillside Ave.	\$1,500,000	\$2,388,900	6980554 Canada Inc.	Canadian Institute for Neuro Integrative Development	10-Jun-08
36 Anwoth Rd.	\$1,400,000	\$1,037,900	Chantal Sorel & Alexander Talyor	Daphne Ann De Jong	17-Jun-08
459 Mount Pleasant Ave.	\$1,350,000	\$829,400	Zimmar Holdings Ltd.	Thien Vu Mac & Tania Schmitt	16-Jun-08
738 Upper Belmont Ave.	\$1,318,000	\$1,079,900	David Cohen & Laurence Baloul	John Andrew	28-May-08
4400 Montrose Ave.	\$1,300,000	\$975,000	Yves Michel Creton	Carole Brohman & Martin Bindman	17-Jun-08
1 Belfrage Rd.	\$1,285,000	\$1,191,500	Cheryl Cornforth	Aaron Ostrega & Linda Zlatkin	2-Jun-08
11 Belfrage Rd.	\$1,285,000	\$911,200	Geoffrey Heward	Sean O'leary & Laura Dahl	20-Jun-08
356 Kitchener Ave.	\$1,275,000	\$931,600	France Castonguay & Marc-André Deslippe	Sylvain Lalonde & Louise Macdonald	17-Jun-08
557 Lansdowne Ave.	\$1,170,000	\$830,600	Benny Schwartz & Beverly Ostronoff	Timothy Lapin & Helen King	10-Jun-08
633 Murray Hill Ave.	\$1,125,000	\$963,600	Christine Cardinal	Nancy Urquhart & Christopher De Minckwitz	6-Jun-08
792 Upper Lansdowne Ave.	\$1,040,500	\$972,400	Bertrand Giroux & Chantal Nadeau	Fanny Zacharjasz	16-May-08
89 Holton Ave.	\$1,025,000	\$600,000	Stéphane Dubreuil & Douglas Choy	William George & Selma Filali	19-Jun-08
305-307 Elm Ave.	\$1,000,940	\$713,300	Lesley Pretula	Margaret Macsai	3-Jun-08
709 Grosvenor Ave.	\$1,000,000	\$781,600	Hung Bui-Quang	Ahmed Bayade & Bahia Settaf	2-Jun-08
84 Belvedere Rd.	\$1,000,000	\$800,000	Suzanne Lemire & Jean Lamothe	Marie-Michèle Dufay & Gérard Virthe	3-Jun-08
4700 St. Catherine St. Apt. 808	\$980,000	\$1,035,700	Susan Schloen & Jean-Pierre Picard	Susan Kirby & Hugh Jones	23-May-08
367-369 Melville Ave.	\$975,000	\$588,700	Hugues Gagnon & Alexis McLaughlin	Jean Setrakian & Annabelle Cumyn	11-Jun-08
596 Lansdowne Ave.	\$920,000	\$830,400	Alain Danino & Isabelle Weber	Maueal Cosio & Susan Tange	2-Jun-08
312 Lansdowne Ave.	\$850,000	\$712,600	Robert Asch	Deborah Oakes	30-May-08
427 Mount Pleasant Ave.	\$835,000	\$750,000	Ylang Huy Ha & Nicolas Ellis	Cary Povitz	16-May-08
28 Anwoth Ave.	\$792,000	\$696,500	Alain Dufour & Lynn Smiley	Lorayne Horwood	19-Jun-08
252 Kensington Ave.	\$770,000	\$780,100	Linda Vranckaert	Pierre Marcoux & Michèle Billard	3-Jun-08
4475 De Maisonneuve Blvd.	\$750,000	\$542,700	Tom Hopkins	Louisa Da Silva	5-Jun-08
324, 324A & 324B Victoria Ave.	\$750,000	\$530,100	6972209 Canada Inc.	Michel Gosselin	12-Jun-08
487 Argyle Ave.	\$740,000	\$726,500	John Howes & Constance Classen	Joan Presant	3-Jun-08
11 Winchester Ave.	\$725,000	\$551,100	Alyson Turner	M.-S. Price-Gallagher (Fiduciaire de Nice-Tri Trust)	18-Jun-08
1116 Greene Ave.	\$685,000	\$492,900	Cynthia Logan & Léon Jackson	Stefan Mercier	28-May-08
27 Chesterfield Ave.	\$675,000	\$570,900	Nicholas Farkas & Leslie Symansky	Robin Wright & Lindsay John	28-May-08
541 Lansdowne Ave.	\$665,000	\$376,500	Véronique Monet & Bruce Campbell	Louis Bombardier	2-Jun-08
46 Windsor Ave.	\$640,000	\$503,800	Christian Matossian & Amanda Dawson	Michael Lally & Marilyn McGee	3-Jun-08
316 Grosvenor Ave.	\$630,000	\$570,400	Sjesse S. Prupas & Laura Butler	Katherine Gray-Donald	26-May-08
75 Holton Ave.	\$615,000	\$576,500	Pascal Blais & Catherine Beaubien	Laurent De La Beaumelle	26-May-08
346 Lansdowne Ave.	\$551,000	\$485,000	Lynn Herzeg	David Price & Catherine McKenzie	29-May-08
62 Bruce Ave.	\$545,000	\$467,900	Nancy J. Waterston	Margot Grant (Kyle)	2-Jun-08
421 Claremont Ave.	\$530,000	\$380,900	Béatrice Pillet	Lynn Perkins	17-Jun-08
140-142 Irvine Ave.	\$522,500	\$252,600	Michael Rezek & Evelyn Couture	Glenn Feldman & Irwin Lande	5-Jun-08
439 Grosvenor Apt. 17	\$495,000	n.a.	Lynn Perkins	Kenneth F Salomon	21-May-08
227 Melville Ave.	\$475,000	\$418,900	Linda Zlatkin	Véronique Monet & Bruce Campbell	16-Jun-08
4855 De Maisonneuve Blvd. # 205	\$345,000	\$289,800	Millie Amoros	Jewel Tomarkin	18-Jun-08
81 Hallowell St.	\$340,000	\$312,100	Sharad Goel & Shobhita Garg	Louise Myrand & Marie-Claude Savard	12-Jun-08
4823A St. Catherine St.	\$259,000	\$206,500	Mary Mosend	Barbara Gilbert	16-Jun-08

## Barnard releases second and third movies

Save the Park! member Patrick Barnard has just released two more mini-films on YouTube. His first mini-film, *Save Your Park*, has been available for several weeks. Each film is approximately 10 minutes long.

Barnard's new films, *Guive Mirfendereski speaks about Synthetic Turf* and *Bill Crain Speaks – About Synthetic Turf*, were made available the week of July 1.

Unlike *Save Your Park*, which chronicled the battle in Westmount over artificial turf by interviewing several anti-artificial turf Westmounters, the latest releases are interviews of American anti-turf activists, Guive Mirfendereski of Newton, Massachusetts and Bill Crain, a professor at the City University of New York.

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## Westmount Art Scene

## Featuring Darlene Cole and Marie-Danielle Leblanc

BY HEATHER BLACK

“Art carries us to places where strength and delicacy coast along; certainty and uncertainty; known and unknown; usual and strange...” These are the words that artist Marie-Danielle Leblanc uses to describe her seascapes. But they apply equally to the whimsical storybook art of Darlene Cole.

**Cole at Galerie de Bellefeuille**

Painted Room is the name of Darlene Cole's colourful new series. Conceived as rooms for her daughter's dollhouse, the artist retains many of her past themes – the innocence of childhood, the gentility and gentleness of an earlier era. Her subjects – children and pets – are loosely rendered with undefined features against watercolour-like backgrounds. In the eye-catching pink and green “Painted Room (shifting thoughts)”, a young girl dressed in white with black patent-leather shoes skips while nearby a gift lies unopened on a blue chair.

The artist's narratives intrigue: Why is the present unopened? Is she waiting for

guests? The composition of each scene is curiously off-centre, creating an ominous tension. Only a few details – a ribbon, a



Darlene Cole: “Painted Room (shifting thoughts)”

Peter-Pan collar or leaves – are raised from the smooth surface. In the outdoor scene “Painted Room (whisper and listen j-i-t-b)”, a young girl and boy sit with a blue box between them. The space between the two imparts a calm and gentle intimacy.

In contrast to quiet gold-green meadow, “Painted Room (lucky puppy)” is hot pink. Here a young girl plays with a yoyo while a black Labrador retriever watches. The artist's use of a solid colour evokes a further abstraction of childhood experience and emotion. A resident of Brooklin, Ontario, Darlene exhibits throughout North America and is one of Canada's most successful young painters.

**Leblanc at Galerie Sandra Goldie**

Marie-Danielle Leblanc is a young Montreal abstract artist known for her evocative seascapes. Painting the sand, sea and sky with a mix of acrylic, oil, wax or tar, in “Diamond Cove”, she creates an alchemy of textured resists, modern and dynamic, the gloss resin finish captures the wetness of sand, sea and cloud.

The elongated panel, “St. Anthony”, painted in subtle tones, creates a continuous horizon of beige-grey sea. The textured contrast of sand and surf emphasizes inaction and action, matter and thought. She describes the act of painting in similar terms of duality – of abandon-

ment and receptiveness.

In “Tilt Cove”, the contrast of mottled brown sky against a black shore and a fluid red sea emphasizes the surface tension created by the various media. What results is a dynamic and modern texture that conveys the sea's restlessness. A native of Three Rivers, Leblanc currently exhibits in Cape Cod, Calgary and Montreal.

**The alchemy of imagination**

Their art entices – transporting us to places of certainty and uncertainty, known and unknown, usual and strange. But Darlene Cole's “Painted Rooms” also awakens our own tales of dogs, rabbits and black patent-leather shoes, while Marie-Danielle Leblanc's reminds us of seaside moments of wind and waves. And in the end, we coast on our own memories of vulnerability and strength.

The work of Darlene Cole is found at Galerie de Bellefeuille, 1367 Greene (514.933.4406). Marie-Danielle Leblanc exhibits at Galerie Sandra Goldie, 4898 de Maisonneuve, Suite 100 (514.670.8327).

## THE WESTMOUNT TOWNSHIPPER

**Underground adventures  
at Capelton Mines**

On the site of the old Capelton mines (800 Route 108, North Hatley, 1.888.346.9545, www.minescapelton.com) visit the museum or wind your way through the underground galleries that were dug by candlelight with picks and shovels in 1863.

Check out the three ecological outdoor trails and games in the forest, which the kids will especially enjoy.

The website is in French only, but Eng-

lish tours are available and most of the guides are bilingual.

**House & Garden tour fundraiser  
for The Piggery Theatre.**

Join The Piggery Theatre (215 Simard Road, 819.842.2431, www.piggery.com) for a tour of some of the North Hatley's most beautiful homes and gardens on Thursday July 17.

The tour is from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm and a box lunch is included at The Piggery. Tickets are \$50. Call to reserve.

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# What's Cooking in Westmount? Cold soups for summer

BY ANTHEA DAWSON



With summer in full swing and temperatures still on the rise, Westmounters these days are looking for anything to cool down with. Though your freezers may be packed to the gills with pints of ice cream, there is another really easy and healthy way to stay cool this summer, and that's with cold summer soups – and with the veggies and fruits in their prime, July is a great time to start experimenting.

The beauty of cold summer soups is that they are extremely fast to throw together and they are a great way to sneak lots of veggies into your kids' or any picky eater's palate without them really knowing it. They work really well as a fast lunch with a salad or sandwich, or as a lovely first course before dinner, and often don't require any cooking at all – just some pulsing in your food processor. The only thing that takes time with cold summer soups is giving them enough time to chill properly – as a former teacher of mine always said, soup should be either be served piping hot or chilled to the bone, never in between.

The most famous of the cold summer soups is probably the Spanish classic, gazpacho, which literally translates to “has evolved over the centuries” – quite a fitting term considering everyone I know seems

to have their own delicious version of the recipe. The tomato and mixed vegetable delicacy can be served chunky or puréed, with croutons or not, and sometimes even with no tomatoes at all. Including fruits into savory soups is a summer tradition reaching new heights now, and you can really have fun experimenting with sweet/sour/spicy flavour combinations, especially when it comes to a diverse soup like gazpacho.

My favourite soup growing up was and continues to be the timeless French vichyssoise. I remember begging my mum to make up her famous recipe for any special occasion, and still to this day it is *the* soup to appear at birthday dinners. Invented in 1917 at the New York Ritz-Carlton by French chef Louis Diat, vichyssoise takes the simple and classic soup combination of potato, leeks and cream, and turns it on its head by chilling it. Nowadays, anything from green peas to pumpkin can turn up in new wave versions of “vichyssoise”, but I prefer the classic myself – as long as it's served icy cold!

Making cold summer soup, or soups in general for that matter, is a great opportunity to use vegetables and fruits that are in season, to really get the most out of their flavours. Right now is a great time to be using baby beets, both red and golden. A bunch at Metro on Victoria Ave. is selling for \$3.49 and the selection at the markets these days is great.

## Borscht

The traditional cold beet soup, borscht, is a simple purée of beets, fresh orange juice, onion, sour cream and chives to garnish. Though beets may not be to everyone's taste, they are packed full of nutrients and natural sweetness – it's probably their vibrant redness that make people a bit wary.

Something to keep in mind when making your chilled summer soup, is that unlike their hot counterparts, they don't tend to freeze very well. It's probably due to the fact that often the ingredients aren't cooked. But since they are so simple to make, it's not too hard to throw together another batch when the moment strikes.

The recipe I have included here is a fruity version of gazpacho, using mangos instead of the traditional tomatoes. The red chili adds a bit of a kick so if you're sensitive to spice, you may want to leave it out. Have fun experimenting this summer with your favourite flavour combinations,

and enjoy this cold soup season!

## Mango gazpacho (serves 4 – 6)

2 ripe mangos (peeled and chopped into chunks), 1 medium cucumber (cut into chunks), 1 red pepper (deseeded and cut into chunks), 1 small red onion (cut into chunks), 1 long red chili (deseeded and chopped – optional), 2 cloves garlic (chopped), 2 cups freshly squeezed orange juice, 2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil, 2 Tbsp. lime juice, ½ tsp. tobasco sauce (or more, to taste), 2 Tbsp. snipped chives, salt and pepper to taste, chopped cilantro or parsley for garnish

In a food processor, pulse together mango, cucumber, red pepper, red onion, chili, and garlic, until they are slightly puréed but remain chunky. Transfer to a large bowl and stir in orange juice, extra-virgin olive oil, lime juice, tobasco, chives, and salt and pepper. Divide evenly amongst bowls and garnish liberally with cilantro (or parsley).

## Hydro's history parallels today's concerns

# What goes around comes around

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While the momentum to go green pervades almost every sector of today's life, when it comes to the history of century-old Hydro Westmount, what goes around seems to come around.

The utility was originally founded in 1906 to generate electric power through the burning of garbage not only as a means of reducing high electrical rates being charged by a private company (Montreal Light, Heat & Power), but also to solve a major problem: no acceptable dump could be found for the increasing amount of garbage.

For a short period, the steam plant also melted snow.

And fast forward to 1960, a report from the utility that could have been written today, stated: “The new price structure for fossil fuels has made electricity, as a heating fuel, the best buy on the energy market, and the impact of this development is now reaching us.”

When Westmount first built the Glen power station to create its own utility, then called Westmount Light & Power, it was able to generate enough electricity by means of a 525-kilowatt steam-driven generator.

After six years of self-sufficiency, however, it became necessary to purchase bulk

power to supplement the steam plant's output even though the generating capacity was increasing.

In 1933, Westmount acquired the Montreal Light, Heat & Power's distribution plant within Westmount's boundaries before the larger company was purchased by the Quebec Hydro Electric Commission. With the Westmount acquisition of the network in 1933, it took over all electrical retailing in the territory.

That year, the steam plant also attained its ultimate capacity although for 15 years it provided standby power in case of a major power failure and served as a bargaining tool in dealing with the power supplier.

In 1948, Westmount made a decision to close the steam plant, after its usefulness was put into question. In 1955, the turbines and auxiliaries were sold to BC forestry giant MacMillan Bloedel, but the boilers served seven more years to operate the city's old snow melting plant.

The network has evolved over the years from the original 525 kW to reach a capacity of 7,500 kW in 1949 and 85 million kW today. Through the years, however, a rationale from 1976 has remained intact: “We can continue to provide excellent service to our customers, and some net revenue to our taxpayers.”

See also p. 1/17 for story.

## THE WESTMOUNT LAURENTIDER

### Summer Farmers' Market in Val David

The Val David organic farmers' market is on every Saturday morning from late June to late September. It is the largest farmers' market in the region, with over 50 stalls. This is a wonderful place to wan-

der around, sampling local and organic produce: cheeses, meats, fruit, vegetables, deserts, wine and there is even a “raw foods” stall. This open-air market will get your mouth watering.



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Westmounter Julie Hébert shops at the Val David Farmers' Market.



# Demand rises 3 percent per year

*continued from p. 1*

tric utility is operated as the equivalent of a separate business, something that enabled it to maintain its autonomy during the forced mergers.

Small enough to have flexibility but large enough to have leverage with Hydro-Quebec, the utility supplies some 10,000 residential, commercial and institutional customers that last year consumed 399 megawatts (399 million kilowatts) – more than ever before.

“We’re working on a lot of improvements to meet the new demand which grows by about 3 percent a year,” said Hydro Westmount director Pierre Dubé at the main Glen power station.

“Much is driven by new habits. Some people are working at home which requires more computer equipment. Some want spas and pools and more lighting.” Heating alone accounts for about 30 to 45 percent of consumption.

## Benefits of local control

Profitability, he explained, is only one of the benefits of having a locally controlled utility, which has just handled some 350 address changes over the moving period this summer.

With 39 employees, it prides itself on customer services and the flexibility to respond quickly to neighbourhood needs. Because Bell Canada and Videotron use Hydro Westmount’s poles for distributing their own services, Hydro Westmount can

intercede directly with both companies, he said. “This is a big advantage.”

But one of the main advantages lies in the ongoing maintenance of the system and the ability of Hydro Westmount to retain and/or regain power as quickly as possible during widespread blackouts, such as Ice Storm '98. This resulted in part from its bargaining power with Hydro-Quebec as one of its larger single customers.

## Few failures reported

During this year’s wind storm June 10, very few localized failures were reported in Westmount. The regular tree pruning program helped prevent as much as possible the falling of tree limbs on electrical wires, Dubé said.

Refurbishing and upgrading of the network is an ongoing and vital aspect of the utility’s work.

“We have to look to the future and make investments,” Dubé said. This year, these are being made on a capital works budget of \$900,000. The work includes adapting the substations to be monitored remotely from the Glen power house. In addition to the Glen power station, Westmount has three substations Olivier, Park (at Murray/King George Park) and Côte St. Antoine (beneath the lawn bowling club).

## Generated own power

With a capacity to supply a peak of 85 megawatts (85 million kilowatts) at any one time, the system is a far cry from the



In the operations centre at the Glen Power Station are, from left: Tony Forchilli (customer service), André Duplantie (construction), Walter Ta (finance) and hydro director Pierre Dubé.

utility’s start in 1906 when it actually generated its own power using a 525-kilowatt steam-driven generator and a single overhead distribution line “tottering up the Glen.” (See story on p. 16)

Nevertheless, over-consumption and under-consumption can generate financial penalties up to \$250,000 a month if Hydro-Quebec has to supply Westmount with more (or less) than the contracted amount of electricity.

This more typically occurs during extreme cold spells in January or February. “That’s why we ask citizens at certain times to refrain from drawing large amounts of electricity during periods of heavy usage.”

Dubé understands the big picture from the inside. He came to Westmount to head the utility January 1 from Montreal’s Elec-

trical Commission, which provides the underground facilities for Hydro-Quebec and other users.

With Westmount being one of the first municipalities to lay its main distribution circuits underground, “we’re lucky that all our aerial distribution lines are at the backs of houses,” he said. But replacing these with underground installations or ground level transformers can be costly and requires a lot of collaboration with citizens.

“We’re looking for new approaches and state-of-the-art devices to improve efficiency, performance and aesthetics.” And there’s always the “dream” of going green.

## Prototype streetlight is cobra-Washington hybrid



Looking for a new “Washington” streetlight for your street? This prototype spotted on Glen Rd. (left) could be coming your way if current tests prove its worth.

It’s a hybrid creation of Hydro West-

mount developed as a cost effective way to combine the stylish look of the Washington light standard (middle) with the existing “cobra” poles (right) and their in-place wiring.

Currently, only streets being reconstructed receive the new wiring and Washingtons – a lengthy and costly process that could take many years to complete throughout all of Westmount.

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## 9 Lives: Kitten Diary

BY LYZANNE

Esperanza, found as a stray, is an exquisite one-year-old silver shaded Persian with a gift, her ability to love! Her abundant affection has flowed not only to her own kitten, but to three motherless ones.

These adorable newborns were found by a construction worker just before a



Esperanza and her kittens.

building was demolished, brought to the SPCA and then to the Chatopia shelter for fostering with Esperanza.

Esperanza and her kittens will be ready to be adopted in our community at the beginning of August. I will keep you posted on their personalities and their delightful antics!

### Ready for adoption

This small family is presently living at Chatopia, a wonderful feline shelter managed by Animal Adoption Montreal, along with twenty other purebred cats who are up for adoption as well.

For more information on them, please contact [aam.petfinder.com](http://aam.petfinder.com), email [adianpetrescue@gmail.com](mailto:adianpetrescue@gmail.com) or call Maggie Shuter on her cell at 514.839.2070.



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## Retail Watch BY ANNIKA MELANSON

### Lisa Anella Esthetics acquires new \$87,000 machine

BY ANNIKA MELANSON

There can't be too many \$87,000 cosmetic machines in Westmount, but aesthetician Lisa Anella has one of them.

She recently acquired an \$87,000 Elos machine, which is used for tightening the skin and reducing wrinkles.

The machine combines bi-polar radio frequency and light energies to heat the dermal tissue, stimulating collagen production to reduce wrinkles, lift the skin and leave it smooth and toned. Proponents see it as a revolutionary non-surgical and gentle skin tightening procedure.

Anella and her staff have been trained by a nurse to use the new machine. Among the many services offered at Anella's salon are a variety of face treatments using lights and micro currents: micro-dermabrasion, cell renewal treatments, enzyme peels and hair removal.

Explains Anella: "We offer a highly personalized service, which is what makes us different."

Jamaican-born Anella grew up in Leeds, England, before a short modeling career took her to Italy, where she lived for six years. It was in Milan, after receiving "a great aesthetics service," that she decided to pursue a career in the field.

"I knew at a young age that I wanted to do something that would be mine," said Anella. She studied at Europe's elite Centro Scuola Europea de Milan for two years before graduating with five certificates. She came to Montreal in the 1970s and worked for Joelle Baron, who had the salon at the time in Westmount Square.

"Within six months, I had a two-week waiting list and I just loved what I was doing," said Anella. But she was only earning \$3.25 an hour, which forced her to dip into the saving account, that had been feathered by her former modeling career. By 1977, Anella had no money left and she panicked. It was then that she decided to work for herself and opened a small salon on Victoria Ave., above The Bead Emporium. She has "never looked back."

In 1987, Anella opened one of the first day-spas in Montreal on Monkland Ave., Spa en Ville. "We were fully booked. You couldn't get an appointment. You name it, we did it." After "the spa thing was done," Anella realized that the needs of the baby

boomers had evolved and she restructured her business, acquiring more advanced technology in aesthetics for corrective and



Lisa Anella (centre) with her team, Leanna Cere (left) and Cathy Chan (right) and her new Elos machine.

preventative care. She opened Lisa Anella Advanced Esthetics (4146-A St. Catherine St., 514.931.9997, [www.lisaanella.com](http://www.lisaanella.com)). "This is a niche market. It's for people who want to look young without cutting," said Anella, "and you don't have to wait to be old and wrinkly to start."

On the day of the interview with Anella, I experienced a LumiFacial (a facial done using lights from a computerized machine) that included a hydrating treatment. I also had a non-surgical eyelid lift. Although subtle, I did notice a difference in my eyelids: they seemed to be, well, "lifted." The treatments were pain-free and relaxing, and although not an expert myself, I felt confident in Anella's experienced and gentle hands.

"I have come full circle," said Anella, "I started in Westmount at \$3.25 an hour and now I am back at the top of my game."

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## Underdog

BY FERN BRESLAW



This week we are running two dogs; one is lost and one was found.

Puss is a little Westmount pitbull who was lost on June 23 when she was caught in a car crash on the Turcotte exchange. Terrified; Puss ran down the highway and disappeared, leaving her human mother heart-broken. Puss was only wearing a choker, but can be identified by her uncropped ears, long tail and the little white socks it looks like she's wearing. If you have information, please contact Sara at 514.578.0585.

Waldo was found running around the streets in St. Leonard.

He was all matted and tragic, and though he must have been owned once,

nobody came looking for him.

This little guy is maybe six or seven, has been debarked and is cute as a button. He is a papillon/dachshund mix and fits in a lap, which is where he belongs.

Find out more about adopting Waldo by contacting Sophie's Dog Adoption at 514.523.5052.



Lost: Puss



Found: Waldo

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## Westmouter acquires Canada's UPS stores



Westmouter Larry Plotnick (left) and David Druker are the new owners of MBEC Communications Inc., master licensor for UPS and Mailboxes etc... stores in Canada.

Westmouter Larry Plotnick and his business partner David Druker recently acquired MBEC Communications, the Canadian master licensor for The UPS Store and Mail Boxes Etc.

"Over the past 10 years," notes Plotnick, "The UPS Store and Mail Boxes Etc. network has doubled its footprint in Canada, growing to over 330 franchises ... we are committed to continuing our growth." The UPS Store and Mail Boxes Etc. form Canada's largest franchise network of business service centres. There is a West-

mount location at 4148A St. Catherine St. between Greene and Wood.

Plotnick's background includes time at Proctor & Gamble, Gillette and Max Factor. He was one of the founders of consumer electronics distributor AVS Technologies, which he sold in 2005. He has lived in Westmount for over 20 years.

Plotnick met Druker in connection with his work for the Mt. Sinai Hospital in Côte St. Luc. Plotnick was the initial organizer for the Sinai Rally and met Druker on one of the hospital's committees.

## Comin' Up...

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

**Wednesday, July 16:** "How One Meshugginer Changed the Last 350 Years of Jewish Life", part of Dine & Discover series with Rabbi Lerner at Temple Emanuel Beth Sholom. Dinner at 5:45 pm and study at 6:15 pm. \$10 for dinner and study. No charge for class only. To reserve for dinner: 514.937.3575.

**Saturday, July 19:** Jack Locke gives a poetry reading at Château Westmount – 3:30 pm. The reading is open to all. Locke is a published poet who gives readings in Montreal and Paris, founded the Verdun Poets and is a freelance journalist.

**Tuesday, July 29:** Summer BBQ and book sale to celebrate reading, food and friendship and raise money for the Atwater Library and Computer Centre and the Montreal Children's Library – 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Deals on books for children and adults. Hot dogs supplied by Metro Fletcher. All proceeds from sales support ALCC and Children's Library programs.

**Thursday, July 31:** Beading workshop at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre – 1-4 pm. Learn how to make a beautiful crystal ring and add a little bling to your life. Required kits and supplies will be on sale for \$15. All proceeds for ALCC. Info: Garnitures Dressmaker: 514.935.7421.

**Thursday, August 7:** First Thursday Gallery Walk of the art galleries on Greene Avenue – 5:00 pm. Meet Heather Black at the corner Greene and de Maisonneuve (Galerie D'Este). All are welcome.

**Monday, August 11:** The *The Fall/Winter 2008-09 Culture, Sports and Recreation Activities Guide* will be distributed to all households in Westmount by Canada Post beginning August 11, 2008.

**Until Friday, August 15:** Westmount artist Roxanne Dyer exhibits "momentum" at Club Saint-James (1145 Union Ave.) Dyer will also be participating in Art Westmount this fall. Info: www.roxannedyer.com.

## Bridge for Bright Brains: Does size matter?

BY GEORGE RETEK

There was a time – and now I am showing my age – that "BB" used to stand for Brigitte Bardot, the sex goddess of "God Created Women" fame. In the future, I trust that "BBB" will stand for "Bridge for Bright Brains", the title of my bridge column, that I hope will provide you with lots of enjoyment.

Just like when the night is darkest, your faucet is dripping every third second and your favourite sport team lost six games in a row: that's how a bridge player feels when picking up these cards.

9832 / 984 / 843 / 632

This is what happened to me in the KO final of a Florida Regional Tournament. The bidding was fast and simple:

**West:** INT (15 – 17 HCP)

**East:** 4 C (keycard Gerber)?

**West:** 4 Spade

(2 Aces & minimum hand)

**East:** 7 NT

Here are the four hands:

**Leo Weniger**

♠ J 10 5

♥ Q 10 6

♦ 9 6 5

♣ Q 10 8 4

**John Fognaught**

♠ A K 6

♥ A J 7 3 2

♦ Q 7

♣ J 9 7

**Marvin Ferguson**

♠ Q 7 4

♥ K 5

♦ A K J 10 2

♣ A K 5

**George Retek**

♠ 9 8 3 2

♥ 9 8 4

♦ 8 4 3

♣ 6 3 2

Partner led the Spade Jack taken with the Ace. When declarer played his five Diamond winners, it was obvious that partner had both missing Queens (otherwise declarer would have claimed 13 tricks). To protect partner, one needs to cling to the three "worthless" Clubs and declarer can not succeed. It is important to retain one's concentration no matter how unimportant the cards may appear to be.

This is the final five card position, that defenders had to anticipate at trick two and discard accordingly:

**North**

♥ Q 10 6

♣ Q 10

**West**

♥ A J 7

♣ J 9

**East**

♥ K 5

♣ A K 5

**South**

♥ 8 4

♣ 6 3 2

At trick 8, my partner was discarding after declarer. Had declarer retained three Clubs, then partner would have discarded a Heart. Actually declarer discarded a Club and only two Hearts to arrive to the above position.

When you looked at the hand, would you have predicted that the setting trick would be the tiny 6 of Clubs? Accurate signaling on defense allowed North and South to hold unto the right cards. At the other table our teammates, Betty and Steve Surasky stopped at 6NT and our team won 14imps instead of losing 11 to secure victory.



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## Westmount celebrates Canada Day



All ages gathered on Academy Rd. for a Canada Day barbecue. Pictured are Jacob and Evianne Pimentel, enjoying the festivities.

## More retiring teachers at local schools

### Eileen Lewis

After 24 years at Vanguard School on lower Metcalfe, Eileen Lewis is retiring. At 21, she arrived in Canada by boat from Scotland and accepted a teaching position at a St. Laurent school. "Little did I think that I would not return to Scotland except for family visits." She married a Montrealer and taught in the public and private school systems. After time away from teaching to raise her three sons, she returned to work as a teacher in 1988 at "The Project School", a small school housed in the basement of Westmount High which "served the local community who wanted their troubled students tested for academic difficulties." This later became Vanguard School. Of her experience there, she said "Vanguard has been, for me, a very special place. I don't know how many times I have heard, 'Vanguard has saved my children.' We have taken students who were academically two years behind in their education, with severe learning difficulties, and helped them to succeed."

### WPS teachers

Westmount Park School said goodbye to three teachers who retired this summer. **Helen Brzesinski** was a teacher for 33 years, 15 of which she spent at Westmount Park where she taught grades 1-3. **Alana von Blerk**, also a teacher for 33 years, with 20 years in the grades 4-6 classrooms of WPS.

**Carolyn Singman** was a teacher for 37 years, 33 of which she spent at WPS, teaching grades 5 and 6. She was also instrumental in forming and managing The Chess Club for over 10 years, which competed in local and provincial events. According to the school's principal, Christina Delaney, Singman "attended all community events in support of her students, [and] served as a summer tutor at Tyndale-St George Community Centre in Little Burgandy for a number of years. She has taught generations of families here at WPS and is highly respected by the community." Due to the fact that all three women are camera-shy, no photos were provided.

### Mary Tkachuk

Retiring in September 2008 from the Priory School is Mary Tkachuk whose first and only teaching job was at the school since 1975. She started teaching grades 3 and 4, then grade 6 for several years and finally Grade 5. Her daughter, Vera Bullock, started in Kindergarten at The Priory the same year Tkachuk joined the school. After the classroom, Tkachuk became coordinator for the school's application to become a member of CESI, read with 1st and 2nd graders on an individual basis and worked in the library, which continued until her retirement. To her students, she was "Mrs. T" and was known as the teacher who didn't give homework on the weekends!



Mary Tkachuk

## Quiz: Westmount Park School

*continued from p. 9*

**Q:** When was Westmount Park School opened?

**A:** September 1914

This school opened for students in September 1914 as the new Westmount High School on Academy Rd. John MacFarlane, chairman of the Westmount Board of School Commissioners, laid the cornerstone on November 29, 1913. It was built for grades 7 to 11 and the first principal was R. E. Howe. The total cost was \$480,000. A new addition was added to the west end in 1929 for a cost of \$86,000 and two years later an addition was added to the east end at a cost of \$142,000. The architect, D.H. Macfarlane designed two crenellated turrets to crown the main entrance of this elegant, solid brick and stone Neo-Tudor style school building.

The Westmount School Commissioners had purchased land on the south side of Westmount Park from the city of Westmount where the school now stands in anticipation of building a high school. The old Westmount Academy on Côte St. Antoine Rd. at the corner of Argyle Ave. could hold only 600 students and was too small to accommodate all the children of the new families who were moving into the area. Graduating pupils from the three elementary schools in Westmount (King's School, Queen's School and Roslyn) needed a high school.

The number of children needing education in Westmount was continuously increasing. In 1901 the population was only 8,856 people, by 1911 it was 14,579, and in

1920 it was over 18,000.

In 1940, the grades were split; 7, 8, and 9 stayed in the building, which became known as the Westmount Intermediate School. In 1943 the name was changed to Westmount Junior High School and the principal at this time was C. H. Savage. Grades 10, 11, and 12 were moved to the newly constructed Westmount Senior High School (Selwyn House today) on Côte St. Antoine. This continued to be the Westmount Senior High School until the new high school was built on St. Catherine Street in 1961, at which point this building became the Westmount Park Elementary School.

On November 29, 1988 the teachers and students organized a great 75th year celebration. Local newspapers are full of accounts of a gigantic birthday cake decorated with 75 candles and the school crest. The children launched balloons. Each balloon had a message attached with the child's name, school and address. The principal, Paul Saunders, signaled the children to let go and the balloons drifted off accompanied by a joyous cheer. By that time the school was administered by the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal. Since 1998 it has been in the English Language School Board of Greater Montreal.

The warm and gracious principal, Christina Delaney, is looking forward to organizing and celebrating the 100-year anniversary five years from now.

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

### Foster Search

## Homes needed for babies and toddlers

BY RENA RUBIN,  
FOSTER CARE & RECRUITMENT WORKER,  
BATSHAW YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRES

Foster parents are needed to care for infants, babies and toddlers, often in emergency situations. These children may even be newborns whose parents are ill prepared to care for them because of their young age, lifestyle or emotional or psychiatric problems.

If one or more of these conditions exist and puts an infant or toddler at risk, and placement is necessary, then foster parents who are at home and able to care for the child's needs – setting up a daily routine, attending medical appointments, providing essential stimulation, hugs, and nurturing is crucial to help them settle and experience minimal disruption in their lives.

For some youngsters, keeping the tie between parent and child through visits happens, with foster parents helping to facilitate these until a plan for the youngster can be made.

For others, it may entail supporting their integration back to their mom or dad or extended family, or to a permanent home that may become their adoptive family.

Social workers and a health professional provide support and guidance. As well, there is monetary assistance.

If you would find it rewarding to be a foster parent for babies or toddlers, whether their stay with you is brief – a day or a week, or for several months, please contact Batshaw Foster Homes for Children at 514.932.7161 x1139.

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# **WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT**

***We are Westmount.***

## Westmount Profile: Jim West

# Jazzing it up for the 25th

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Whether he's celebrating the 25th anniversary of his independent record label, Justin Time, or playing hockey several nights a week with other Westmount Old Timers, "time flies where you're having fun," says Jim West.

And it takes only a few short minutes of speaking with this longtime resident to feel the energy and passion he puts into these pursuits – including his advocacy for a new arena in Westmount and the input he has been providing in related consultations with the city.

"I play hockey just for the craziness of the game," he says. "I need the complete distraction."

That's from days characterized by a constantly ringing cell phone, trips to Toronto, recording sessions, industry meetings and numerous business decisions he faces as the founder and president of Justin Time Records and Fusion III, which distributes some 500 record labels across Canada.

### A Night to Remember

In recognition of his 25th anniversary, the Montreal International Jazz Festival set aside the main concert hall at Place des Arts on Saturday, July 5, for West to hold a celebration concert called "A Night to Remember". And for West, reaching the milestone year in such a competitive industry was in itself a winning goal.

"To me, success is making good recordings and not losing money," he says simply. "Especially when other labels are falling like flies right now."

The recording industry is in a state of flux owing to the digital revolution, a maze of copyright issues, partnerships with numerous stakeholders, and internet marketing. And retailers are allocating more space to items such as game boys and cell phones.

### He's easy-going

Describing himself as "easy-going," West says it's a quality needed "to produce a great record" and deal with artists of the calibre of Oliver Jones, Diana Krall, David Murray, Oscar Peterson, the Montreal Jubilation Choir, Bowser and Blue and other notables he has recorded.

He took advantage of the recent Jazz Fest to set up recording sessions with some of the visiting performers and feels that he and the 29-year event have "grown

up together."

A university lecturer in music business courses, West has served on numerous boards of record and music associations, and has just wrapped up a 10-year term on the board of FACTOR (The Foundation Assisting Canadian Talent on Recordings), latterly as its chair. Named Producer of the Year at the National Jazz Awards in 2001, he was admitted to the Canadian Music Week Hall of Fame in 2004.

### Grandfather worked for Westmount

West's roots go well back in Westmount. His maternal grandfather, Tom Dodds, worked for the city over the period of 1912 to 1958 as a salaried employee with Public Works.

His interest in musical groups began as a teenager at Westmount High when he and some friends acquired the rights to rent out to various bands two basement rehearsal rooms in what was then the youth clinic building at 4424 St. Catherine St.

While it didn't exactly launch his career, "it certainly played a part in it," he says, though he never played in a band himself. After school, in 1972, he worked three years as the road manager for Mahogany Rush, a Quebec-based rock group he met through the youth centre.

### Went to work for Sam

During studies at Dawson College and McGill, he began working part-time to help set up the Sam the Record Man store where he became head buyer in 1979 after obtaining a BA in political science. "It was incredible training ground," he says.

But his big break came in 1982. That's when Almada Corp., a small distribution company where he subsequently worked as a sale rep, closed its doors. West received its equipment and inventory as severance. And the die was cast.

He set up his own companies with immediate retail access into the racks at Sam the Record Man. The independent Justin Time label was unique in Montreal, he says. Over time, it has diversified from a jazz, blues and gospel label into all types of music with a collection of some 300 recordings.

Despite rapidly changing technology, West says that many people miss the sound quality of the vinyl records he started out with and the large advertising space on the record jacket that "hit you in the face."

Justin Time is named for West's first



Jim West displays his 25th anniversary CD collection of Justin Time Records depicting his favourite photo of downtown St. Catherine St. taken in 1955 and coincidentally on the day he was born.

child and only son, Justin (27), who now works with his father and the staff of more than 40, and runs his own record label, Secret City. West and his wife, Janine, also have two daughters, Jessica (24) and Jenna (19), along with two dogs. They live on Lansdowne Ave., "the street where all the good Westmount hockey players live,"

West adds jokingly.

Returning to the need for updated recreational facilities, he says, "We're a bunch of Westmount residents who have to find ice time in NDG, Côte St. Luc or St. Constant – even in the winter."

And for West, that's a "distraction" of a different sort.

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