

Meet-the-candidates moved

The organizers of the meet-the-candidates evening for the September 8 federal by-election have moved the event's location. It will now take place on Wednesday, August 27 at 7:30 pm at Westmount High.

INSIDE



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"Working hard to exceed your expectations."

Huge Healthy City fair shaping up for Oct. 25

Smart Living goes green this year

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As Westmounters gear up for back-to-school and the start of numerous fall activities, organizers of a huge community fair revealed preliminary plans this week for a wide scope of interactive displays and useful tips on living healthy, safe and green.

Called "Live Smart, Live Green", the event will be held by Westmount's Healthy City Project on Saturday, October 25 at Victoria Hall. It brings together a plethora of community organizations and specialists to share information and ideas.

"It's an opportunity for people of all ages to have all sorts of useful day-to-day information and meet with knowledgeable people, all under one roof," said Barbara Moore, who in 1996 initiated the first of several Smart Living Days.

Modelled on that successful hands-on event, this year's has the added attraction of a whole range of environmental pro-

grams and assistance to help residents participate in Westmount's new strategy for sustainability.

This includes demonstrations, competitions and information on preparing an emergency survival pack, personal protection, home security, health and fitness, composting and energy-saving devices – even a lunch café of healthy fare coordinated by Rosalind Davis.

"Our aim is to engage the community through information exchange and effective action," explained Richard Aylett, one of the organizers.

Underlining the all-encompassing nature of the event, he said, "How can you have a sus-



Westmounters Pavil and Solveig Lenoir look into their family's blue boxes for possible items to turn into art for the Healthy City Project's Blue Ox Challenge, held in conjunction with Live Smart, Live Green.

continued on p. 7

City starts massive search for sustainability views and actions

Westmount's promised sustainability plan will be unveiled September 2009, coupled with the actions needed to implement it. In compiling it, Joshua Wolfe, the sustainability coordinator hired by the city in June, will consult the public and city employees on an unprecedented scale.

His work plan and consultation proposals were approved at a closed-door session of council on August 13.

This fall, there will be at least three pub-

lic visioning sessions aimed at maximizing input. A dedicated web page has been designed to capture public comment. Messages to direct citizens to the site were being sent out on the city's new email network.

The two-hour sessions will be held in Victoria Hall on the 16th of each autumn month – September through November. The day of the week is deliberately varied to en-

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New by-election candidates

Three new candidates have entered the Monday, September 8 Westmount-Ville Marie federal by-election.

They are Régent Millette, David Sommer Rovins and Ronald Andrew Wattie. Elections Canada identifies all of them as “independent,” but Wattie has “Conservation Party” on his campaign signs.

Advance polls take place on Friday, Aug. 29, Saturday, Aug. 30 and Monday, September 1. Electors who wish to vote by special ballot must apply by 6 pm on Tuesday, September 2. Applications are available at www.elections.ca, by phone or in person at Elections Canada offices.

For meet-the-candidates meeting information, see p. 1.

There are five previously declared candidates: Guy Dufort (Conservative), Marc Garneau (Liberal), Claude Genest (Green), Anne Lagacé Dowson (NDP) and Charles Larivée (Bloc Québécois).

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Searching for sustainability...

continued from p. 1

sure maximum availability of citizens.

Dates and times are: Tuesday, September 16 (7 pm), Thursday, October 16 (7 pm) and Sunday, November 16 (2 pm).

There will be multiple small group sessions similar to the format used for the arena/pool project consultation in April. Wolfe is now forming a team of table animators to assist residents in the discussion process.

On Saturday, October 25 he will participate in the Healthy City Project's Live Smart, Live Green event.

Wolfe will also meet extensively with both commercial and social associations to explain the project and gather input. He has already met with city employees and

helped set up a staff team to provide specialist input and identify action.

Wolfe, an urban planner and sustainability expert, joined Westmount's staff in June after leading the two-year development of a plan for Milton Park.

In addition to the basic sustainability requirements set out by the United Nations, which centre on environmental, economic and social aspects, it is envisaged that the Westmount plan will extend its scope to culture, heritage and public health.

Despite the short timetable for such a project, council has asked Wolfe to propose steps that can be taken immediately to diminish the city's environmental impact.

Garden tour popular, booklet price up

The on-going walking tour of front gardens in Westmount is attracting much attention judging by the demand for the descriptive booklet at Victoria Hall. Its cost is \$4, an increase from that initially reported.

7-year-old Karam stars in film

Westmounter Thaer Karam, 7, is starring in the short film *Man of the Family*, which is playing at the Montreal World Film Festival. Screenings take place on Wednesday, August 27 at 5:50 pm and Thursday, August 28 at 11 am at the Cinéma ONF/NFB (1564 St. Denis).

Good cause on Westmount's southern doorstep Welcome Hall Mission donates school supplies to kids



Gloria Vega and Diana Fernanda were among the participants.



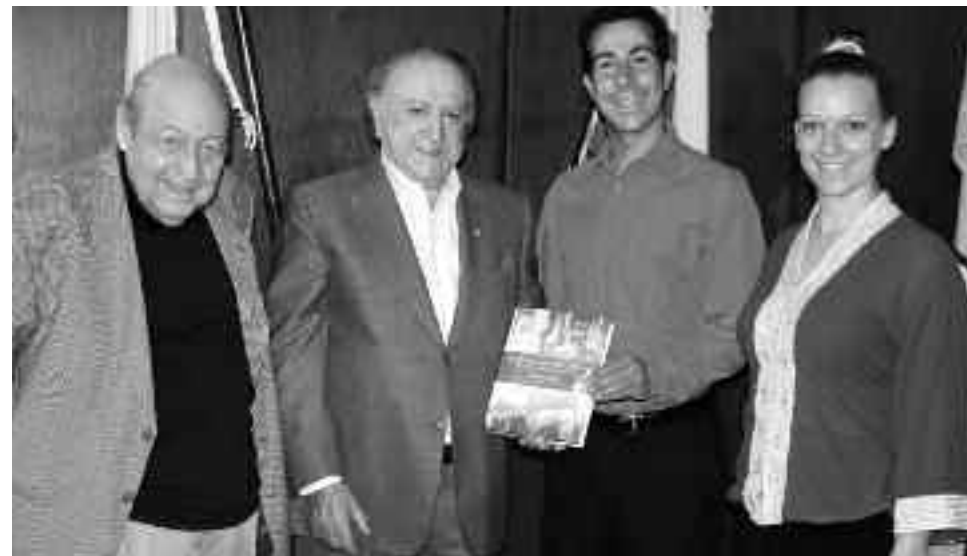
From left: Hayat Benkiran, along with Kanza and Donia, attended the event.

a turn on the inflatable structures.

More seriously, school supplies and shoes were distributed to participants. Backpacks were donated by the Marcelle and Jean Coutu Foundation, and shoes by the Aldo Group. La Presse was also a major sponsor of the event.

For more information on the Welcome Hall Mission or to help out, go to www.missionbonaccueil.com or call 514.523.5288.

Azrieli rekindles the torch



Westmount author David Azrieli, second from left, presents a copy of his new book *Rekindling the Torch: The Story of Canadian Zionism*, to Côte St. Luc mayor Anthony Housefather (to right), accompanied by picture editor Joe King (far left) and director of Library Services, Tanya Abramovitch. The book will be launched on Sept. 9 at 6:30 pm at Gelber Conference Centre at 2 Cummings Sq.

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How about the carbon tax?

Now, Mr. Dion proposes a carbon tax. The efficiency of such a tax has never been proven. On the contrary, a handout the Government of British Columbia issued on the tax it recently implemented mentions Sweden and Norway, two precursors in the area. However, the document is careful to omit that greenhouse gas emissions in Sweden were only stabilized and that those in Norway have increased significantly since 1990.

With 9 billion in environmental initiatives, the Conservative Government has a concrete plan to ensure the protection of the environment and reduce gas emission.

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Patient’s role in health care changing

By Eve Aspinall
Member of the Healthy City Project

For many years the government cut back on the number of students allowed into medical schools, despite the geriatric problem and despite the looming baby boomer generation. This has created a sellers’ market for doctors. The government should have done the opposite and produced so many doctors that they had to struggle to find patients. In a sellers’ market, there is less motivation to satisfy the customer.

In our older population, there was the traditional belief that the “doctor knows best” so they did not need to know everything. And they followed his instructions. But that is not how medicine is taught today and it is not the medicine of the future.

The onus is on patients to take care of their side of things. Patients should not be infantilized or patronized. They have a responsibility to look after themselves. The doctor is their consultant, who gives advice, prescribes treatment, and tells them what their diagnosis is. If they get a diagnosis from their doctor, they should go and find out about it.

It is very hard, after a 15-minute interview, to remember what the doctor said.

This is why Greene Avenue Medical Clinic physician Dr. John Hughes – lecturer at McGill University and former director of Professional Services at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital – uses printouts off the internet to give the patient information to take home so that they can read about it, then come back and have a more productive conversation. He is not sympathetic with those who are computer illiterates.

Everyone files a tax return, which is far more complicated than following health issues. Many of his patients in nursing homes are using email with their grandchildren. Public libraries provide access to computers and will provide help. People should keep informed about what wonderful services exist on the internet such as: Webmd, MedlinePlus, the patient portal of the US National Library of Medicine.

Prevention key

In our health care, we have to be preventative. We have to be healthy. We have to read the nutrient labels on packages. We must stop smoking and drive safely. We have to be thoughtful and mindful of how we live. All that junk food that goes down in society puts a tremendous burden on the Medicare system, taking away from the care that could potentially be there be-

Transitioning to breakfast



A new restaurant is coming to Westmount. L’Oeufrier, which specializes in breakfast and lunch, will open a location at the former Grosvenor Ave. and Sherbrooke St. site of Convivial and La Transition. It already has four restaurants around greater Montreal.

cause it is being tied up managing preventable chronic disorders. You must know what medications you are taking and bring them with you when you visit your doctor. You must be clear about what ails you, present it in an orderly fashion and not be concerned about every freckle. Use your precious time with your GP efficiently.

Private care?

Is it acceptable to opt for private medical services? Paying for private services has existed for a very long time but is more formalized now. People with power and position were always able to get it before. This leads to the question of what services should be covered and which should not. If we have private health care, is it the end of public health care? Only three countries in the world have governmental monopolies on health care: Canada, Cuba, and North Korea. Every other government has a combination of public and private health care. If it is good enough for England, France, Sweden, Germany, Spain, Italy, Norway, etc., it is probably good enough for Canada, Dr. Hughes believes.

What we have in Canada is perhaps a political sacred cow. Government health care bureaucracies, because of the large size of the budgets they control, have enormous power and influence that, like any human organization, they do not want to give up. Insurance companies, on the other side of things, may not be any better but there could be a reasonable compromise such that people are not forced into being second class citizens, which we are not.

Public health care will only wither if the

government of Canada allows it to. It has already done that to a degree and people have not complained substantially. That is no one’s fault except ours for not paying attention. People have to demand more from the government.

They don’t take everything



These wooden toys in the Greene Ave. area were left behind after August 20’s recycling pickup. The city does not accept wood for recycling.

The Inquirer What’s recyclable?

Reader Helen Tallentire wrote in to share a list of easy and hard recyclables, broken down by their 1-through-7 recycling numbers. The *Independent* in turn asked Westmount’s environmental coordinator, Marina Peter, which were recyclable in Westmount. It turns out that despite challenges with certain plastics, all types – except number 6 – are recyclable by Westmount. Number 6 is polystyrene, which in many of its incarnations is called styrofoam.

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

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

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Civic Alert

Why I'm so proud of last week's *Indie*

BY DON WEDGE



In real life, it is a canard that the world stops for summer. That was certainly true at Westmount's city hall, where there has been never-ceasing activity with councillors being called in multiple times.

At the *Westmount Independent*, we had a publishing holiday, which did not mean my colleagues' eyes and ears were closed. As readers saw in last week's paper, some pretty big decisions and events made "civic holidays" something of a misnomer.

I was especially proud of that issue and its deep coverage of the city and its people.

Let me declare my interest. In "retirement", I renewed my childhood interest in civic affairs as an apolitical activist. This column is an extension of that.

Close up as a WMA director, I saw the influence of John Sancton's *Westmount Examiner* on the community. So I was alarmed when, after nearly 30 years' of family ownership and stable editing, the journalistically-inspired publication was sold to corporate interests.

The standard slowly declined. I felt let down – and still do even in 2008.

The paper's editor changed and changed, and changed again. Out-of-towners all. The WMA drew council's attention to the potential problem.

WMA statement

"After the mayor, council and, possibly, the police chief, the next most important person in a municipality is the editor of the local paper," the association stated 14 years ago.

This is still true, particularly as we attempt to reshape our lives to make a sustainable community.

However, there is no avoiding the economics: newspapers – including local ones – have to pay their way and provide a return for investors.

The editor always has a special role and responsibility. Then Westmount got lucky. The *Examiner's* revolving door ended when Wayne Larsen settled in, first as a reporter and then as editor.

Despite the lack of support from his giant corporate owner, Larsen copes magnificently with the built-in hurdles and shortage of tools to provide competent coverage. Last week's papers illustrated his burden. Throughout the publishing break, the *Indie's* local writers had been about town, listening and questioning.

They heard many things, among them the discontent over the roof-raising on Bellevue Ave., Gascogne patisserie customers being upset at the lack of indoor seating and Luc Rivest's advocacy of a sustainable wood construction for the new arena. None were covered in the *Examiner*.

They were part of the 28-item local coverage in your *Indie* last week – touching important issues that will affect Westmounters.

Caluori's return

There was an even worse oversight in the treatment of top news from city hall. In July, the new director of Public Works, Jacques Lahaie, resigned. The much-admired former boss Fred Caluori came back to help with major peak-season projects. A month after Lahaie left, and two weeks after Caluori's return, there is still no word in the other paper.

But the biggest difference in coverage was the news of incoming director general, Duncan Campbell. The *Examiner's* subsequent story was heavily dependent on the press release from city hall. Its resulting coverage paled in comparison to the brilliant reporting by Laureen Sweeney.

In fairness, Sweeney had a week longer to file her story, but her experienced local news nose discovered a treasure chest of information about the new chief, such as the fact that George Hogg, his great-grandfather, was mayor 80 years ago.

Sweeney's front-page picture of the old mayor's portrait looking over the incoming DG's shoulder topped it all.

Another example of the corporate publisher's shortcomings was the *Examiner's* report in its July 31 edition on the July 22 special council meeting – the ugly meeting – called to endorse the contract of the architectural-engineering consortium for the arena-pool renewal project.

The *Examiner* story fully covered the contract details, yet ignored the emergence of the group protesting the upgrade itself – what I have dubbed "Save Us from the Arena" (SUFTA). To overlook that aspect was actually misleading.

Short-changing its readers was probably due to the absence of an *Examiner* reporter at the meeting. On the other hand, despite our paper's vacation, three *Indie* writers attended.

It showed once more how fortunate Westmount is to have the *Indie's* coverage – unsurpassed on the island. Its contributors' presence on the streets absorbs and reflects the community culture.

I support more than ever that WMA declaration: the local paper that is a part of local life builds the community.

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

A Sancton view

"After the mayor, council and, possibly, the police chief the next most important person in a municipality is the editor of the local paper," the Westmount Municipal Association stated in 1994.

"That still pretty much sums up the position," said Don Sancton, youngest son of John Sancton and last family member to edit the *Westmount Examiner*, when I recently sought his views.

In the years since leaving newspaper journalism, Sancton has carved a second career in the corporate world and is now a vice-president of Hill and Knowlton, the global public relations firm.

He is an interested *Indie* reader and remains very aware of the contrast between "journalistic missions of serving the community – or filling 15 percent of the space between the advertisements."

"You are both serving the public, but with very different perspectives," Sancton explained. "However, I believe readers attracted by the quality of the content are, in turn, bound to be more attractive to advertisers."

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Letters to the editor

FORMER MAYOR CUTLER ENDORSES NDP CANDIDATE

This is the first time in my long life that I am coming out openly in support of a candidate for our parliament.

I do so now because when someone of the calibre of Anne Legacé Dowson runs for office, I want everyone in Westmount to know her remarkable qualifications and how fortunate we are that she is offering to represent us. She is precisely the kind of person we need, and need more of, in government.

We need journalists in Ottawa, knowledgeable individuals who know what questions to ask, how to listen, how to check up on answers and suggest alternatives. It was my personal background as a journalist that enabled me to be a hands-on mayor of Westmount. Anne's record as a radio journalist in both English and French shows her to be particularly skilled.

We need someone to fight for the arts in Canada. This is very urgent at the moment when the Conservatives are cutting subsidies instead of increasing them. Anne is well-known in arts circles for her wide-ranging support.

We need her as an environmentalist. As a mother, Anne has done volunteer work with organizations dedicated to keeping us green, for the sake of her own children and ours.

We need her as a woman in parliament, not as a seat-warmer, but as a fighter for family, social and medical needs, and for responsibility and restraint internationally. And she can do it with a graciousness, also much needed in Ottawa.

So when someone with the intelligence, sensitivity, dedication and energy like Anne Legacé Dowson is willing to leave the day job she loves to represent us, how can I not support her?

MAY EBBITT CUTLER

HEALTH CARE NEEDS LEADERSHIP

I would like to add a call to arms to my recent article, "Our Health – Part Two" (July 15 *Independent*, p. 7).

What we need to know from our government is what they see is the future of Quebec's health care in explicit terms.

The government has a way of manipulating statistics that is not open and often confuses issues. The language frequently lacks clear definition and is open to misinterpretation. How the government is spending its health money needs to be clarified. In the June 4, 2008 report from the Health Council of Canada, it is noted

that – while the 2003 accord and the Primary Health Care Transition Fund (established in 2000) represented a common commitment to reform primary health care – funds have often been used elsewhere rather than investing in long-term, sustainable change.

There is a need for strong community leadership and action to develop viable solutions to the many problems and challenges of medical care.

EVE ASPINALL

GREENS VS. RIGHT TO CHOOSE IS 'OUTRAGEOUS FALSEHOOD'

I am deeply saddened and disappointed to see that Anne Lagacé Dowson is prepared to forego professional integrity and resort to the desperate, negative attacks that have poisoned both the NDP and Canadian politics in general and have resulted in such a surge in the fortunes of the Green Party.

Lagacé Dowson was quoted in your publication as saying that the Green Party was against a woman's right to choose. This is an outrageous falsehood.

The Green Party is proud to champion the most progressive and cutting edge policy solutions for the new century. Even a cursory examination of our platform will reveal Dowson's attempts to portray us as somehow right-wing as transparently manipulative nonsense. I trust the good people of Westmount to reject this form of dishonest politics in favor of the fresh, earnest and ethical politics of the global Green movement and help make history by electing North America's first federal Green.

Yours sincerely,

CLAUDE WILLIAM GENEST
DEPUTY LEADER AND CANDIDATE IN
WESTMOUNT-VILLE MARIE,
GREEN PARTY OF CANADA

INQUIRE BEFORE CHOOSING A VET

When I was a little girl, I read the novels by James Herriott, *All Creatures Great and Small* and *If Only They Could Talk*. I felt that veterinarians had a calling, that they were like James Herriott: a member of the community and a devoted healer who would never give up on treating animals.

As a child, when I first had pets, I was expected to keep up with the care, the walking, the cleaning and it became second nature. I remember my father's words, which my brother quoted this

weekend when he was in town: feed the pets before yourself.

Yet, in the last week, as we have lived sad times with illness and death of the youngest of our pets, my Dr. Herriott image has been destroyed.

I would like to make sure you never go through what I did. Have you ever asked your vet if they take emergency calls or walk-ins? Have you ever asked them if you had an urgent need for reanimation, if they are equipped? Have you enquired if there is a second or a third vet in our neighbourhood who could do a better job when time-sensitive emergency response is needed?

The 24-hour emergency veterinary hospital is far from Westmount: when you have only a few minutes, it is too far. I was told this week by a local vet that filling in a pet's admittance file when it was in agony was more important than providing first response. I was told that taking an emergency was not standard procedure, that they don't do "acute" cases. I was made to feel that an extra appointment might interfere with a lunch break.

Remember what I went through and ask the most important questions you will ever ask for your pet's life. This way you will avoid clinics that are really boutiques: excuses for selling pet food and accessories.

L. FOWLER

ARENA IS EVERYONE'S BACKYARD

In the August 19 edition of the *Westmount Independent*, Don Wedge ("Council 401") relies on the old cliché NIMBY (not in my backyard) to support his opinions about citizen reactions on July 22 to the city council's proposals for the arena/pool project.

It is regrettable that Wedge is still using old-fashioned and pejorative terms to describe serious citizen opposition to bad ideas.

By Wedge's logic, we should all stay home and do nothing, since ultimately every citizen protest can be called NIMBYism.

No thanks, Mr. Wedge. In Westmount, "my backyard is also yours," and one day

you might just thank a NIMBY for looking out for you.

In fact, after using the NIMBY cliché in your column to chastise critics, you then concede that they have three major points:

(1) There should be reasonable "alternative cost studies" regarding the required ice surfaces for the arena;

(2) Surely citizens will "demand" a true consultation

(3) Council will have to "address the lack of transparency"

Mr. Wedge, why not devote your articles to a substantive analysis of why there has



Arena project continues to draw comments and interest.

been so much controversy in the city, instead of relying on hollow clichés?

Like Wedge, Stan Grossman is upset, according to his letter ("Civic Civility"), by the form of dissent at the council meeting on July 22. What Grossman ignores, is that when citizens express their frustrations, it's for a reason. The fact is that individual citizens have little power compared to a sitting city council. When they speak out loudly, it's a signal that things are *not right*.

In the case of the arena plans, we have a city council that has proposed a massive project well beyond the capacity of the city in terms of *budget, need* and *physical space*.

The very fact that such a huge project has even been proposed, in spite of the many constraints, is frightening to many citizens, and suggests that the city is willing to sacrifice a significant Westmount neighbourhood to achieve its goals.

Many consider this to be unacceptable.

PS Mr. Wedge: we need "rookies" in order to create "veterans" like you and me. Let's go easy on them please.

GARY IKEMAN
ST. CATHERINE ST.

Over \$5,000 raised against cancer



The Pierre Mon Coiffure team (from left): Manon, Carla, Josée and Carolina with Carla's shorn locks and her fundraising bar chart.

Local hairdressing salon Pierre Mon Coiffure has had a busy August. Employee Carla shaved her head in return for donations to the Canadian Cancer Society – and her \$5,000 target has been surpassed.

As of August 22, she wasn't sure by how much and was still counting on upcoming media coverage to drive the total higher. Carla's daughter, Paola, got into the

spirit, too. She took a more conservative approach (just cutting her hair short), but was able to donate it to make wigs.

To donate money, drop by the salon or send a cheque (made out to the Canadian Cancer Society with Carla's name in the memo section) to Pierre Mon Coiffure at 4435 St. Catherine St. West, H3Z 1R5.

Smart Living participation grows

continued from p. 1

tainable community without healthy people?"

Ideas Count

One such attraction will be an idea wall called "Ideas Count" adapted from industry by lawyer Lucy Stojak to collect suggestions for ways of making Westmount more sustainable. A prize will be offered, she says "to stimulate creativity through competition and recognize the most ingenious or family-oriented idea."

In keeping with 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy, local astronomers will be on hand with telescopes so attendees can monitor the heavens and learn about the value of dark skies and reducing streetscape lighting.

With the list of participants growing daily, among the many already confirmed are the Westmount Y, CLSC Metro, Contactivity, Centre Greene, police, Public Se-

curity, the fire department, and both Westmount and Atwater libraries.

Taking place just in time for Westmount's roll-out of the second phase of its kitchen waste collection, compost ambassador volunteers will be on hand with green bins to provide tips on adapting to the new process which replaces one of the traditional two weekly garbage pickups.

Confused about what goes into the blue box or what to do with e-waste? Refresher information and examples will be available.

An exhibition of art from recycled items called the Blue Ox Challenge will also take place in the Gallery of Victoria Hall from October 21 to 25 in connection with the event. Residents are encouraged to participate in the display coordinated by Christine Sherrington and Flora-Lee Wagner of the HCP's environment committee. They can be reached at blueoxchallenge@gmail.com.

End Cancer walks through Westmount



Westmounters Paul and Arlene Hubscher stand at Lansdowne and St. Catherine St. on August 24 to support their granddaughter, Samantha Eidinger (not pictured), and all of the End Breast Cancer walk's many other participants.

Approximately 2,250 participants walked 60 kilometers each on August 23 and 24 as part of the Jewish General Hospital's "Weekend to End Breast Cancer".

The route brought the walkers to Westmount from St. Henri through the Glen underpass. The event will raise over \$6 million to benefit the Segal Cancer Centre.



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Direct Access

Singles scene

Westmounters try new approaches to dating

By ANNIKA MELANSON

Westmounter Rosalie Fagan was single and ready to meet someone. She decided to do something. In 2004, she (with business partner, Elliot Marcus) began organizing monthly dances with live music and DJs to facilitate mingling for singles in their 30s, 40s, 50s and early 60s.

She started Word of Mouth Singles (www.wordofmouthsingles.net), where she met her boyfriend of two and a half years. "The way we started is truly through word of mouth," said Fagan, "people recommended others to join in. I mention this because we do not buy or sell mailing lists. Our clients appreciate that."

Fagan sends out about 2,600 emails a few times a month, informing people of when and where the next singles event will



Rosalie Fagan.



Carol Amro.

be held (to be added to her mailing list, email Fagan at the_next_event@yahoo.ca). About 100 to 150 people attend each party. "This is different from internet dating because it's face to face," said Fagan. "You can see what you are getting. You've got to be out there. There is nothing to lose by going to an organization that caters to sin-

gles. Come for the food, company, music and to have fun."

***The active approach:
Meet Market Adventures***

Fagan also attends Meet Market Adventures (www.meetmarketadventures.com), as does Carol Amro, who heard about Meet Market Adventures through Word of Mouth singles. Meet Market exists in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver and New York. Events include horseback riding, sailing, comedy nights, skeet shooting, archery, fencing, barbecues and organized trips, to name just a few. In general, about 200 people attend each event. Some of the Word of Mouth and Meet Market Adventures events have merged, providing singles with an even greater opportunity to meet people.

Being in the arts, Amro wondered if

Meet Market Adventures would be too sporty for her, but she found that there were activities to suit all types. "In fact," said Amro, "going to Meet Market events has enticed me to get back to some old hobbies, like horseback riding. These events make me want to get more active."

Asked about the "embarrassment factor" of joining a singles group she said, "It's awkward at first. That's normal," answered Amro. "But the awkwardness passes and people are quite welcoming."

Most of the attendees are between 40 and 75. "Single doesn't have an age anymore," said Amro. "I don't feel lonely anymore. I feel that I am part of a group. Even if you don't meet your match, it's an opportunity to meet like-minded people and it is a confidence booster. Lonely is not a word in my vocabulary anymore. Networking is the answer."

BUILDING PROJECTS: WHAT'S PERMITTED

The following are among the first half of some 80 permits approved by Westmount city council at a special meeting August 13.

15 Belvedere Rd.: to rebuild the accessory building at the rear;

10 Sunnyside: to rebuild rear balconies and front portico;

5 Sunnyside: rear landscaping to include new retaining wall;

29 Thornhill: to replace sunroom windows and siding;

5 Parkman Pl.: to build a rooftop terrace on the garage;

481 Roslyn: to modify front landing, replace windows and make interior changes;

61 Holton: to enclose balcony to create a sunroom;

4862 Westmount: to renovate sunroom;

65 Forden Ave.: to build new conservatory at rear of existing deck;

1 Severn: to replace windows, doors, garage doors and railings, and remove existing pergola;

68 Columbia: to replace front porch, stairs and railing; replace decking and railing of rear porch and balcony; widen rear stairs; and replace rear fence and some landscaping in rear yard;

19 Lansdowne Ridge: to build swimming pool and do some landscaping in rear yard;

4695 Sherbrooke: to replace upper front balconies;

635 Belmont: to replace a rear window with an oriel one;

621 Lansdowne: to replace a second-storey rear door;

524 Victoria: to replace the cover of a small roof at rear of house;

525 Mount Pleasant: to replace handrails at ECS entrance;

538 Prince Albert: to replace front second-storey window and one door and three windows on main floor at rear;

50 Hillside: to enclose back balconies;

750 Lexington: to replace dormer windows;

492 Wood: to replace front door;

597 Roslyn: to modify rear deck and stairs and do some landscaping;

353 Olivier: to install new window in a previously blocked opening;

648 Roslyn: to replace the door, window and refurbish the rear vestibule; and to reconstruct back stairs and do some landscaping;

693 Victoria: to replace windows;

4862 Sherbrooke: to modify rear stairs and balconies;

389 Claremont: to replace windows;

4860-4866 Sherbrooke: to replace windows;

649 Côte St. Antoine: to replace windows with new wood ones;

422 Prince Albert: to modify openings

on the side to accommodate reconfiguration of a bathroom;

804 Upper Lansdowne: front and back landscaping;

4492 St. Catherine: landscaping at front and side;

4375 Montrose: to modify a door opening for the installation of a window;

793 Upper Belmont: to rebuild following a fire including replacing windows and modifying rear addition;

310 Roslyn: to build a new front porch;

339 Victoria: to build a new roof terrace;

381 Grosvenor: to rebuild the rear deck, install a hot tub, and replace windows and doors;

5 Bellevue: to rebuild a retaining wall and do some landscaping at front;

579 Roslyn: to relandscape property;

738 Upper Belmont: to modify rear deck, including a new sunroom and new lower-level deck and stairs.

591 Argyle: to build a new porch at rear and modify opening leading to porch;

534 Côte St. Antoine: front and rear landscaping to include the building of a retaining wall at the back;

316 Grosvenor: to replace windows, modify some rear openings and remove rear shed;

84 Belvedere Rd.: to replace windows;

41 Summit Cresc.: to modify front stairs and do some front side and rear landscaping.



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The Inventory: Condos for sale in Westmount

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

Condos/duplexes for sale

\$189,000 Address unavailable
\$199,000 300 Lansdowne Ave. #1
\$294,600 2 Westmount Square #205
\$300,000 376 Redfern Ave. #2
\$310,000 376 Redfern Ave. #4
\$329,000 466 Victoria Ave.
\$338,000 2 Westmount Square #401
\$339,000 376 Redfern Ave. #25

\$339,000 300 Lansdowne Ave. #34
\$342,000 2 Westmount Square #601
\$349,000 Westmount Square
\$379,000 388 Olivier #7
\$389,000 4700 St. Catherine St.
\$399,000 205 Victoria #103*
\$409,000 52 Columbia Ave.
\$435,000 273 Melville Ave.
\$435,000 205 Victoria Ave. #303*
\$440,000 4700 St. Catherine St.
\$449,000 address unavailable
\$449,000 4444 Sherbrooke St. #106
\$455,000 415A Mount Pleasant Ave.
\$489,000 205 Victoria Ave. #202
\$509,000 200 Lansdowne Ave. #305
\$529,000 439 Grosvenor #14
\$538,800 Westmount Square
\$561,900 Westmount Square
\$569,000 Westmount Square
\$571,100 Westmount Square
\$585,000 468 Grosvenor Ave.*
\$589,000 466 Argyle Ave.
\$629,000 376 Redfern #6
\$637,000 4175 St. Catherine St. #301
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\$699,000 4104 Dorchester Blvd.

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\$1,950,000 4545 Sherbrooke St. **

\$2,640,000 4760-C The Boulevard*
\$2,950,000 680-A Victoria Ave*
\$3,450,000 4760B The Boulevard*

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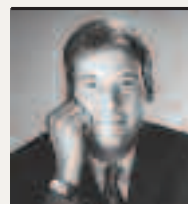
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Anne Lagacé Dowson

Looking to take the country in a different direction

BY KRISTIN MCNEILL

Anne Lagacé Dowson made public her candidacy to be MP for Westmount-Ville Marie on July 3, running for the NDP. The Independent spoke to her this week in the backroom of her campaign quarters in Westmount.

Currently a Plateau resident outside of Westmount-Ville Marie, Lagacé Dowson lived in the riding for 10 years, eight in Westmount. She is married to filmmaker Brian McKenna and has two young daughters, Emma, 8, and Tess, 4. Her passion is reading and she enjoys cycling. She has worked as journalist for more than 20 years and was recently CBC Radio Noon talk show host.

WI: As a journalist yourself, how does it feel to be on the other side of the table, answering to the media?

ALD: It is very different; it takes some getting used to, but it is exciting and it's a great opportunity. It's a different way of talking to people. ... As you know in journalism, the point is to be fair and balanced, even-handed in your treatment of issues, and I think I was fairly effective at doing that.

I kept my own agenda out of my journalism, and my own agenda wasn't exactly clear to me. In this new role, I have had to get used to changing gears, and sometimes I default to being a journalist on the campaign trail... this is work in progress.

WI: Even though this issue is dormant, where do you stand on the partition of Quebec into Canadian and Quebec portions in the event of separation?

ALD: The issue of nationalism in the campaign has not even come up, and the question of partition in some future separate Quebec is irrelevant at this point. I think that debate is not even on the radar.

WI: How do you feel about the Liberal's Green Shift plan? Does this address the concerns surrounding climate change in Canada?

ALD: This plan has been tried in other jurisdictions with some mixed success. The Liberals have come into this in a backwards way. The NDP is not in support of a carbon tax because we are in favour of bringing down emissions from what we

call the big polluters, including many in the tar sands. Our sense is why go after individual people who often don't have a choice in their fossil fuel use. We should go after the big emitters because they are responsible for 50 percent of the emissions whereas you and I are responsible for about 15 [percent].

What we should be doing in order to assist you and I in bringing down our fossil fuel emissions is to provide people with access to retrofitting of their homes, better windows, less dependence on fossil fuels in their daily lives. But not through a punitive measure such as a tax.

WI: Many people think of the NDP as the stalwart defender of social justice, and one that is less concerned with the economy. Westmount is a mixed place. How is your party relevant to the large business owners and successful entrepreneurs in Westmount?

ALD: The NDP has been consistently sympathetic to small and medium sized businesses, not very sympathetic to the agendas of very large multi national corporations. We understand that business has to be conducted, and we're certainly not interested in slowing or blocking that process, but we are interested in a more fair distribution of the wealth. In that sense, social justice agenda applies.

For example, we are very concerned with what has happened with employment insurance which is becoming increasingly unavailable to people; we're worried about job losses. ... Our

focus would be to take some of the money from, for example, the cap and trade, and use the power of the government to encourage the development of green technologies to increase the number of skilled jobs in things like high-speed trains made by Bombardier, electronic cars [manufactured] by the ZENN company in St. Jérôme and using geothermal heating downtown.

WI: Who you would like to see as future president in the US?

ALD: A lot of people in the riding have been following the US politics carefully because suddenly you have this great new development of a woman and a relatively young black man contesting the nomina-

tion for the Democratic party. I think most Canadians tend to be Democrats – that's a safe guess. I have even seen Obama signs out in Westmount.

A lot of people are intrigued by what is going on in the US and rightfully so, because it goes to this agenda of a concerted attempt to break with the old-line approach, and freshen the political debate, raise the tenor of the political debate out of this old style partisan wrangling.

WI: And the relations between our countries should he be elected?

ALD: Ultimately it would change relations for the better. He has a more tolerant attitude in international affairs...he would tend to be a less jingoistic, less militaristic president, and that would be a good thing for all of us.

WI: Based on what we have learned from our experience in Afghanistan, looking at the strife occurring in Georgia, what should the West be doing – getting involved, standing by or doing nothing?

ALD: The international community ... needs to look at the situation there, and Canada should play an active role in the discussion. Canada needs to return to its role as a moderate, reasonable middle power. Under the Conservatives, and even under the Liberals, we have been moving away from that...

The only way to establish peace is by sitting people down and talking, not through increased military presence. By establishing a more civil society and by facilitating discussions between adversaries... In Afghanistan, where we don't have natural allies on the ground, we've had to ally ourselves with warlords and people who have no interest in a peace. We need to be looking at going down a path to peace, which includes humanitarian aid and strengthening the civil society, not rolling in tanks necessarily.

WI: What could break the Liberal stronghold in Westmount?

ALD: This desire for change. The voters in the riding feel very taken for granted on many levels. I am hearing from people that they're interested; they're considering

voting for us – they saw what happened in Outremont last year when Tom Mulcair won in a supposed Liberal stronghold.

NDP MPs make excellent constituency MPs – they work very hard for their people...they're not preoccupied with an



NDP candidate Anne Lagacé Dowson

Ottawa power agenda, they're much more concerned with issues on the ground.

WI: Now that we've talked about some global issues, do you get involved in some of the more local issues that affect this little community, such as the park and artificial turf?

ALD: I thought this was a telling example of how concerned people are with the environment on a micro and macro level.

WI: In your case, these two issues are close to the heart of your party platform: the environmental issue, protecting a natural green space, and the community issue, allowing more field time for kids recreation.

ALD: I think it points to the fact that there is not enough green space in the urban area. That's certainly evident when you drive through the riding – there aren't nearly aren't enough parks and green spaces.

I would [also] say issues like the lack of libraries in the riding. Westmount is very fortunate to have such a beautiful library... there is not much of a library presence in NDG, there are very few libraries downtown.

That would be an issue I would be really interested in working on, to bring all the levels together to try and focus in on access to libraries and green spaces.

“NDP MPs make excellent constituency MPs ... they're not preoccupied with an Ottawa power agenda.”

Atwater Library at 180

Original leadership (part 2)

BY SUSAN MCGUIRE

With the approaching 180th anniversary of the Westmount-based Atwater Library and Computer Centre, the Independent is pleased to present a series of articles about ALCC people and events from its start in 1828 as the Montreal Mechanics' Institution.

Montreal's development into an industrial and manufacturing metropolis was spearheaded by men who belonged to the Montreal Mechanics' Institution in 1828-35, and to the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal after 1840. They included men of different skills in the building and shipping trades, as well as those who were architects, lawyers, doctors, bankers, grain merchants and retail merchants. These are some of them:

Edward Maxwell joined MMI in 1829, the year he came from Scotland, and was elected to the managing committee in

1832. He had the £1,384 carpentry contract for the Mechanics' Hall that was built in 1854. He was the father of specialty woods merchant E. J. Maxwell, and grandfather of architects Edward and William Maxwell.

Aaron Philip Hart, the fourth lawyer in the extended Hart and Judah families to be accepted to the bar in Canada, gave lectures at the MMI in 1829, left in a huff, and was a member again in 1840. He raised a Loyalist militia regiment during the 1837-38 rebellions, then defended the *Patriotes* in the 1838-39 trials.

François-Antoine Laroque, a fur trader and explorer at age 17 who served in the War of 1812 and was imprisoned by the Americans, was a businessman when elected Mechanics' Institution vice-president in 1830. His son Alfred Laroque was a founder of the Montreal City & District Savings Bank.

John Ostell, just arrived from England, joined the Mechanics' Institution in January 1834 at age 21, and was elected to the committee of managers in 1835. In 1845 and 1846 he was elected president of the Mechanics' Institute. A surveyor /architect, he embellished the architectural landscape of Montreal.

John Lovell, one of the eldest in a large Irish farming family located near Montreal, became a printer's apprentice and then started a publishing company that still operates today. He was elected to MIM's Committee of Management in 1840 at the age of 30.

William Watson arrived from Scotland in 1801 with his parents and two millstones. At an early age he learned milling with his father, joined MIM in 1840, and later enabled his Ogilvie nephews – Alexander Walker, John and William Watson – to build the largest flour milling enterprise in Canada.



William Hutchison Photo courtesy Dr. Lawrence Hutchison.



The Matthew Hutchison family while in Goderich, Ontario.

Photo courtesy: Michael Ogilvie

William Hutchison, son of a Scottish farmer with a background in masonry, built the Bank of Montreal in 1837, joined MIM in 1843, and later was involved with

construction of the East Block of the Parliament Buildings. His sons were architect Alexander Cowper, builder John Henry, and flour inspector Matthew.

Where's Aldo? Back!



We found Aldo Cipriani in front of the still off-limits main hall of Victoria Hall.

City of Westmount worker Aldo Cipriani came back to work at Victoria Hall on July 14 after an absence of more than a year.

Cipriani returned to his duties after receiving knee-replacement surgery. He was in a buoyant mood and told the *Independent*, "I am very happy to be back. People

can see it in my face. It is very nice place to work."

Cipriani has lots to be happy about: a few days ago he became a grandfather for the second time.

His place of work will itself be back on duty soon: Victoria Hall's rebuilt main-hall floor will likely be ready for action Sept. 8.



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Wine: What's In Store...

Sharing in wine discoveries



BY CAROLA PRICE

I adore passing on a wine find to people, especially when they are the kind who love to explore the fun in a wine and not just a bargain. I love it even more when someone stops me or emails me to tell me what they've discovered.

Such a thing happened not too long ago and I figured I should pass on the information to all those looking for something new.

A wolf in sheep's clothing

Once part of the magical group of grapes in Bordeaux this varietal was thought to have perished, mainly due to the fact that it was a sickly team member and didn't perform well in French weather. Vines were brought from Bordeaux to Chile in the 1800s *et voilà*, the Carmenère grape thrived in the Andean conditions.

However, it was not properly catalogued upon arrival and was lumped in with Merlot when it came time to harvest. Hence the Chilean Merlot that came to market was distinctly different from other Merlot producing countries. It wasn't until the 1990s that we caught on, mainly due to the efforts of a scientist interested in DNA testing of Chilean grapes.

Just the beginning

So now we know that Carmenère is not Merlot and should be harvested differently in order to fully appreciate its character. Having separated the vines, with newfound pride that their country may have the only surviving Bordeaux vines on the planet, Chilean wineries harvest Merlot almost a month earlier than Carmenère. While they both have some similar characteristics Carmenère can taste of green peppers and coffee, blackberry, tobacco

and throw in some black peppercorns for good measure.

It is quite delicious and can be an amazing value, the reason I keep coming back for more!

Let's taste



Carmenère, PKNT (pronounced Picanté), Terrastral, Chile, SAQ#10669816, \$11.60

While this is not the world's greatest example, it represents bang for the buck and when having a few people over for BBQ lamb and shish taouk, this is the wine to serve with it. It has a vegetal and peppery taste that can easily be complemented with balsamic glazed grilled vegetables. Pick a Marechal or Tomme de Savoie if you want cheese.

Available at press time: Victoria, Atwater Market, Across from Atwater market, Pepsi Forum.



Carmenère, Casillero del Diablo, Chile – SAQ# 10915052, \$12.80

This is a sweeter example of the variety and some Merlot character creeps through with plum and blackberry while the coffee and tobacco scents and taste are always lingering. This is more refined than some other Carmenère and marries well with Korean ribs and grilled rib eyes with herbed Dijon sauce.

Available at press time: Across from Atwater Market, Pepsi Forum, Victoria.

And a South American white:



Torrontes, Etchart, Cafayate, Argentina

SAQ# 00283754, \$13.15

This off dry white has a lot of the floral character that I like in wines from Alsace with a nice citric bite at the finish. This is the wine for drinking as

Underdog

BY FERN BRESLAW



Choupette is a sweet little beagle who was relegated to a garage where she spent the first five years of her life in a little cage all to herself. In case her life wasn't quite crummy



Choupette

enough, her owners also managed to forget to feed her more often than not.

When she was rescued by Gerdy's Rescues, Choupette was only skin and bones. Still, she has managed to recover from everything she has been through – with only one exception: she continues to believe that every meal may be her last. She is therefore not your average rescue as the guarding of her food bowl and anxiety around food in general will require both training and a good deal of kindness from anyone who is up for giving this less than perfect puppy a second chance.

Find out more about adopting Choupette by contacting Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions at info@gerdysrescue.org.

an apero unless you want to match it with sole Florentine or perch in lemon butter. Lighter cheeses like Swiss, Oka and St. Paulin enhance this light bodied and easy drinking wine.

Available at press time: Pepsi Forum, Westmount Sq., Victoria, Across from Atwater Market.

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Book Review

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Bridge for Bright Brains: Our zone dominated the 2008 Canadian bridge championships

By GEORGE RETEK

Our zone (Quebec and Eastern Ontario) was not very gracious to the visitors by taking all three Major Team Championships, and qualifying these teams for the first World Mind Sport Games to be held in China.

Open Team Champions : N. L'Ecuyer, M.-A. Fourcadot, K. Fergani, V. Demuy, R. Lebi, D. Jacob.

Women Team Champions : P. Nisbet, K. Cumpstone, M. Lacroix, P. Gaudreault, K. Fung, S.Culham.

Senior Team Champions: S.Brown, B.&J. Bowman, E. Zalusky, J. Czyzowicz.

A very special thank you to the newest member of the ACBL Board of Governors, Jean Castonguay, who had organized this championship from his hospital sickbed and to Barbara Hastings and Barbara Corcoran (both members of the ACBL Goodwill Committee) who had tirelessly looked after the hospitality of hundreds of players who came from all over Canada.

The following was probably the most

talked about deal of the tournament. No-body vulnerable.

North		East	
♠	K J 7 6 3 2	♠	A 8 5 4
♥	J 8 7 6 5	♥	-
♦	-	♦	J 10 5
♣	9 4	♣	K 10 7 6 3 2
West		South	
♠	9	♠	Q 10
♥	K 9	♥	A Q 10 4 3 2
♦	A Q 7 6 3 2	♦	K 9 8 4
♣	A Q J 8	♣	5

In one match the bidding progressed:

North	East	South	West
P	P	2H (weak)	3D
4H	5D	Double	-

Declarer ruffed the small Heart lead and dropped the King from his hand, creating the illusion of singleton. Played four

rounds of trumps. When South won the last Diamond, he “naturally” switched to the Queen of Spades that allowed the last Heart to be discarded on the long Clubs. Curtain! 5 Diamond doubled made with an overtrick (650).

At the other table the bidding proceeded:

North	East	South	West
P	P	1H	2D
2S	3C	P	5C
5H	6C	P	P

Double

North doubled for the unusual lead (Diamond). When South led a spade instead, there was no other trick for the defense. Six Clubs doubled with an overtrick making (1,190). Even 7 clubs cannot be defeated if played by West.

There were other interesting results. In another match (holding the same cards) one North-South pair was allowed to play in 5 Hearts doubled, making on misdefense (650).

Who said that bridge is not exciting?



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Comin' Up...

Thursday, August 28: Westmount Scouting registration (ages 5 to 23) at Westmount Park Church (de Maisonneuve/Lansdowne) – 6 to 8 pm. For info, call 514.937.5527 or www.scoutswestmount.ca

Monday, Sept. 1: Women's Rosh Chodesh Prayer Service for the Hebrew month of Elul – 8:30 am at the Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue in the chapel. Women and children welcome. Info: Judy at 514.484.7862.

Wednesday, Sept. 3: The Golden Stagers do a dramatic reading of the short play about Jane Austen, *I Remain ... J. Austen*, followed by discussion led by Ann Weinstein at Atwater Library and Computer Centre – 12:30 pm. Free, donations welcome.

Thursday, Sept. 4: Performer and writer Kate Story reads from her debut novel *Blasted* and performs celtic and contemporary music with Curtis Driedger and Derek Bell – 6 pm at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre. Refreshments. Cost: \$20; \$10 for Library members. Info: www.katestory.com

Saturday, Sept. 6: Centre Greene Open House at 1090 Greene Ave. – 10 am to 3:30 pm. Experience all the different activities and courses for kids and adults. Free. Info: 514.931.6202, www.centregreene.org

Sunday, Sept. 7: Sunday Morning, Boker Tov! at Temple Emanu-El- Beth Sholom. Rabbi Lerner on what's new regarding big changes in Jewish funeral and mourning customs. Breakfast: 9:30 am; presentation: 10 am. Cost: \$5. Info: 514.937.3575.

Tuesday, Sept. 9: Westmount Horticultural Society's next regular monthly meeting features an Evening with Dennis D'Etch- every of Flore Westmount in the Westmount Room of Westmount Library – 7 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Coffee and cookies are offered beforehand. Info: www.whsociety.com. Starting in September, membership fees are \$10 for remainder of calendar year (reduced from \$20), guest fees are \$5.

Saturday, Sept. 13: Dyslexiability, a non-profit charity and Westmount-based group that helps people with learning difficulties, is hosting a get-together at Victoria Hall – 1 to 4 pm. Info: www.dyslexiability.com or 514.815.7827.

One-year anniversary

Westmount's first city hall wedding



Argyle residents Gino Ricci and André Major and their dog Betty on the red carpet, surrounded by friends and family at their wedding ceremony last August.

Raudsepp in *Of Mice and Men*

Westmounter Matthew Raudsepp will play Whit in Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, as put on by the Montreal Theatre Ensemble and the John Abbott theatre department.



Performances will take place at the Casgrain Theatre (21,275 Lakeshore Rd.) from August 27 to September 13 on Tuesdays to Saturdays at 8 pm, plus Sunday matinées at 2 pm.

Raudsepp is excited about the production, "[Director] Terry Donald is the best theatre professional I have ever worked with.

"The cast is always inspired and motivated by him; it is exciting to be under his direction. I hope the Montreal Theatre Ensemble stays around and continues to do many more plays as it offers lesser-known actors an incredible environment to work on their craft.

"I think the excitement the cast feels towards this show and each other will surely come across to the audience."

For reservations, call 514.515.9140 or write sales@mtlte.com.

One year ago, on August 25, 2007, a couple was married for the first time ever at Westmount city hall.

This was the first wedding ever held physically at city hall, although it was performed by a notary friend of the couple unconnected to city council and staff. In February 2008, the province agreed to a request by Westmount that councillors and the mayor be able to perform wedding services. Councillors Lulhan, de Castell, Forbes and Thompson and the mayor have been accredited to do so.

Argyle Ave. residents Gino Ricci and André Major decided for aesthetics and convenience to have their ceremony across the street rather than go to the Palais de Justice. The 25-minute ceremony was attended by the couple's best men and 90 guests in the council chamber.

"That day, everyone [at city hall] was aware we were having a wedding ... they had the parking liberated for us and we had a nice red carpet from the walkway all the way up the stairs right into city hall to where the ceremony was."

After the wedding, photos were taken on the front steps outside, the couple and their guests simply walked across the lawn and to their house where celebrations continued until 2 am.

"Neighbours couldn't complain because I invited them. That's always the best option. Everybody had a great time."



Newlyweds Gino Ricci and André Major leaving their wedding ceremony at city hall last August.

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Westmount Profile: Tom Thompson

Making it happen

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

He makes things happen.

That's the common thread running through Tom Thompson's 45 years with McGill in athletics, fundraising and alumni development, 11 years on Westmount city council and many volunteer efforts.

"In every task you take on – voluntary or in your work – you're expected to do something and seek improvement, not sit back and hide," he says. "Every institution can benefit from improvement."

That's the way he typically turns his own accomplishments into the more generic realm, hidden behind a characteristic wide grin and spoken in phrases carefully crafted to forge unity, and advance his causes through friendly persuasion.

Raised more than \$850 million

Thompson has helped McGill raise over \$850 million from graduates and friends. Many were contacted directly by him as "one of the most skilled people ever to make the case for the university to donors," according to a recent tribute to him by the McGill Alumni Association on its presentation of the Award of Merit, its highest honour.

"His extraordinary contribution to higher education," it states included building the university's active alumni branches from 13 into an international network in some 100 countries "without equal in Canada."

Representing District 2 on city council, and chair of the Finance & Administration committee, Thompson recently headed the city's search for a new director general.

He has also chaired Westmount's Healthy City Project, moving its initiatives into legislation, particularly in the anti-pesticides area. As one HCP member says: "It wouldn't have existed without him."

Slowly transitioning into full retirement from McGill over the last four years as senior philanthropic advisor, Thompson is now turning his "person touch" to helping with the planning of Westmount's new Sports & Recreation facilities.

It's a project that embodies almost all aspects of his life: athletics, community resources, fundraising and environmental leadership.

Brainstorming for arena funding

He's already held low-key brainstorming sessions with selected members of the community to explore fundraising possi-

bilities for what is touted as a \$20 million venture. "The attractive feature of private support," he explains, "is that it will allow Westmount to build more in terms of quality and efficiency, and give us an edge relative to services in other communities."

One of the reasons he became a councillor in the first place, he adds, was "my concern with other government levels and the need for us in Westmount to pay our share, but not one penny more."

He traces his fundraising beginnings to student volunteer work at the YMCA's Camp Kanawana in the late 1950s. "We needed four new canoes. So I wrote letters to people telling them we had paid the first third, and needed help with the remainder. We ended up with four canoes."

Born in Montreal, Tom and two brothers grew up playing street sports initially "south of Westmount" and then in NDG. "As a youngster, we were the only English family in the area. I was always chased the eight blocks to school, and back again. But then we all got together to play hockey at night!"

Worked at McGill at 14

His first job at McGill came at the age of 14 while a student at the old Montreal High (now FACE). He became a weekend porter at the Douglas Residence and it opened his eyes to the world of learning McGill offered.

Thompson obtained a BSc in physical education in 1958, followed by a teaching diploma, and a master's in education 20 years later. After teaching phys. ed. at high school, he joined the McGill staff in 1962, becoming director of required sports and coaching intercollegiate teams.

Eight years later, he was recruited by Westmounter Lorne Gales (then executive director of the Graduates' Society) as its branch secretary. It launched his fundraising and development activities. Among many positions, Thompson served as the director of Alumni Relations, of the Annual Fund and of Campaign Planning.

He and his wife, Sherrill, moved to Victoria Ave. from Montreal West in 1985 with their daughter Shaun and son Brian.

When Quebec Premier Jean Charest moved next door, Thompson welcomed his new constituent along with "the benefit of SQ security." Thompson flashes an amused smile – a hint that an explanation or historical quote is about to follow. "When one of our cats got out by mistake, one of the SQ officers recognized him



Tom Thompson receives the McGill Alumni Association's top award May 21 from the principal and vice-chancellor, Heather Munroe-Blum, a fellow Westmounter.

brought him back!"

Thompson responds coyly when asked about a fourth term on council. He's now 71, he answers, and hopes to resume an interest in art by taking courses at the Visual Arts Centre. A former president of the Westmount Municipal Association, he has chaired the Water Safety Committee of the Quebec Red Cross, the parents' committee

at Edinburgh School, and the parents' committee of the former PSBGM.

He also served as a governor of the Fraser-Hickson Library and a director of Montreal Association for the Blind. He now chairs the volunteer development committee of the MAB Mackay Centre. Quoting a World War II slogan, he explains: "We win when we work willingly."



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