

School Open House Issue

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Citizens press for action on rail line

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

With uncertainty looming over the location of a rail line for the proposed airport shuttle to Dorval, citizens pressed for increased action to reduce noise and pollution from the existing commuter track during a recent meeting with top CP and AMT officials.

"We all agreed that we need increased public transit, but that we can't take away quality of life," Mayor Karin Marks said.

"Technology has to change regardless of what route is chosen for the shuttle. That's the city's position. They must provide seamless rails and lighter equipment on the commuter line so that pollution becomes less of an issue."

The fact-finding meeting took place Tuesday, September 9, at Centre Greene. It provided an opportunity for CP official Michel Spinnard and AMT president Joel Gauthier to hear firsthand the feelings of the community, and for residents to understand the mixed jurisdictional responsibilities. These result from CP owning the tracks and equipment, and leasing them to AMT to operate a commuter service as well as providing them with some funds. *continued on p. 3*

Westmount en-visioned



Joshua Wolfe, the city's sustainable development coordinator, at the September 16 sustainability visioning session. For news see p. 8; for analysis, see Don Wedge p. 5. Photo: Isaac Olson

Last council meeting for retiring Bruce St. Louis Toasts an 'extraordinary' community

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's retiring director general, Bruce St. Louis, began the countdown to his 33-year-career at the city council meeting Monday (September 22). It was to include a special send-off for the man who has held the city's top post for 15 years.

He will, however, stay on another three weeks or more to brief his successor on key dossiers after Duncan Campbell takes over the top administrative position Sep-

tember 29.

Planning to address the council meeting at its conclusion, which occurred after the *Independent's* press time, St. Louis, 55, recollected his impressions of running the city during an earlier interview.

"Isn't this an extraordinary community!" he said. "You never quite know what will happen here when you come to work in the morning. It's the wonder and frustration of it all, wrapped into one." *continued on p. 4*

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Lower Canadian tree-gardening



LCC students and Westmounters Paul Virally, Emmanuel Mavkidakis and fellow grade 3 student in the new LCC Tree Garden that was planted during the week of September 15. Students at LCC started this project in spring 2008 with a professional landscape design consultant and have since designed the garden and planted over 2,000 plants made up of 50 species native to Quebec. The garden is situated on the west side of the Royal Ave. campus and replaces two Norwegian Maples.

Residents want relief in short term

continued from p. 1

Updating of equipment would require additional infrastructure money, an issue Marks said she has already raised with Liberal electoral candidate Marc Garneau and the NDP's Anne Lagacé Dowson.

With a decision on the shuttle route targeted for February, she said, along with an upcoming study on the lowering of the Turcot interchange, the interwoven projects are expected to have an impact on the existing commuter route.

"Whatever the decisions, we need solutions in the short term," said Peter Howlett of Prospect St. He was one of the 30 residents from the three districts along

the tracks in attendance along with their councillors – John de Castell, Cynthia Lulham and George Bowser.

"We need to form a united front with NDG and Montreal West, which are also affected," Marks said. "Let's do this together."

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Legal opinion received, permit status now uncertain

At press time Monday, it was learned that a legal opinion from the city's law firm has confirmed a councillor's contention that the French version of the zoning by-law takes precedent over the varying English one.

The opinion comes while the court challenge to a city permit for 27 Bellevue remains under deliberation in Quebec Superior Court. In a widely publicized court case, the owner of 20 Sunnyside is asking the court to annul a city permit allowing the addition (see *Westmount Independent* Sept. 16).

Councillor Patrick Martin had urged his colleagues to vote against an amendment to the permit at a special council meeting September 9. He stated it was not

"legal" in the French context of the by-law. Supported only by Councillor Kathleen Duncan, his view was rejected in a 5-2 vote. While the permit was approved, Martin asked the city clerk to obtain a legal opinion.

Judge visits Westmount

The impact of the legal opinion is not immediately clear, but the court case itself has spilled into the streets of Westmount. After asking for wood framing to be mounted on 27 Bellevue to simulate another storey with dormer windows, Superior Court Justice Robert Mongeon took a stroll around the neighbourhood September 18 to see for himself what impact it might have.

Three shot with BBs at WHS

A Westmount High student shot three of his fellow students on Sept. 18 with what was described as a BB gun. Following the incident, one student was sent to hospital and the perpetrator was arrested.

When the *Independent* spoke to EMSB spokesperson Mike Cohen on Sept. 19, the gun had not been recovered and the 14-year-old (grade 9) had been suspended for the maximum five-day period. Further punishment was being considered.

The initial incident happened in the morning during art class. The school was unable to take any action at that time because the first victim denied being hit, despite being questioned for one hour. In the afternoon, the other two victims were shot.

Cohen described the shooter's goal as causing a "prank or joke" and was saddened that the event had happened.

"Westmount High's image has improved and it has improved academically. It is close to maximum enrollment. This was an isolated incident."

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St. Louis liked to ‘get hands dirty’

continued from p. 1

And in a city of such quality services and high citizen expectations, he added, “you really have to put to use every skill you have ever learned.”

Into city kitchens

Having risen quickly through the ranks of almost every area of the city management, St. Louis characterized his tenure in the top position as being one where “I’m into every kitchen in the city (operation). I like to get my hands dirty – and it breaks every management principle.”

Then he adds, with a characteristic smile: “Well – that’s just the way I am.”

And it resulted in part from his engineering background, his entry to the city in Public Works.

Learning to walk the fine line between the council of the day, the staff, and citizens, all of whom might have differing points of view on certain issues, was one of his strengths. But he said, “That was the challenge. You can fall into the trap of pleasing all the people all the time.” Nevertheless, he added, “I never worked with a council that didn’t have the best interests of the city at heart.”

While nine times out of 10, the council accepts recommendations made by the staff after a long process of study that includes corporate memory of what was tried in the past, “the council is there to make the decision and we (the staff) have to live with the outcome.”

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Making decisions work

“That’s where the professionalism of this organization comes into play. We have to accept the decision and, at the end of the day, make it work in the best way possible.” But he’s used to taking it in his stride, he added: “I don’t get my way at home all the time, but I get to have my say.”

He credits his wife, Eileen, and son, Kyle, with giving him the stamina to work the long hours that have been one of his hallmarks. They were planning to attend his last council meeting.

Challenge-oriented, St. Louis said that crisis management – such as in the Ice Storm of ’98 – was something “I did okay in and enjoyed ... because failure was not an option.”

To relay the decisions of council to his directors and to encourage internal communication, St. Louis instituted regular early morning meetings on Tuesday which he called “breakfast club.” Over the merger with Montreal they had to be moved to the afternoon, but the name stuck and, after demerger, the timing, too.

Demerger best for staff

The merger, he says, “was a whole new world for us, and the least exciting and probably the worst four years of my career. Speaking strictly for the administration, it was the best thing to have demerged. Montreal is a massive machine, and the faster we got out of it the better.”

Lamenting the ensuing loss of the fire department, however, St. Louis believes that with time “and patience”, some of the locally based fire services related to prevention, inspections and first responder that Westmount was accustomed to will eventually return. “It’s a level of service we have to strive for. It’s my current disappointment but my challenge to pass on to my successor: to reconnect because it is really worth it.”

He has always tried to encourage a learning culture at city hall, he said. “I like to give people latitude. But don’t make a mistake twice.” He attributes his own success to lessons learned from many mentors including longtime (then) general manager Norman Dawe.

The biggest single change in his city career, he says, is the revolution in communications and technology. “I remember



Bruce St. Louis

Geraldine at the switchboard with 12 plugs. We could only take 12 incoming calls!”

What does the future hold for St. Louis? At only 55, and with his passion for action, the Beaconsfield resident admits he’ll soon be ready to tackle a new challenge. How about on the other side of a council table?

“They have my name,” he says.

A Tribute to Eileen and Kyle St. Louis

For Eileen and Kyle St Louis,
There’s someone I’d like you to meet.
You’ve seen him around now and then,
You may not know where or know when,
A vague apparition doing acts of contrition
For being late to some family event.

In Westmount we seen him often
Just not in a predictable place
Houdini’s the name that I call him
As he slips by us all with no trace.

He’s at hydro, the arena, no it’s Vic Hall,
Or it may be at midnight when he gets a call
There’s a fire – he’s there whether night time
or day
But to be that accessible someone did pay

It’s his family, who shared him with such
elegant grace
No anger or ranchor did we ever face
For stealing a father a husband their man
Who heeded all calls when to crises he ran.

Though tiny in stature he still feared
Eileen’s might
“She’ll kill me this time if I’m late tonight”
And there was just one topic which trumped
any file
It was clearly his pride in his favourite son,
Kyle

But now there’ll be someone hanging around
Wanting to fix things – his solutions abound
A slight guy with talents he’ll be looking
to use
Find him something to do just use any ruse!

Do you need Irish Coffee? Then he’s
your guy.
purveyor of wine bargains you surely
must try.
He’ll be tough with the builders should
need arise,
And soft as marshmellow when an old
lady cries.

After 33 years left in Westmount’s care
We’ll return him to you – not much worse
for wear.
Do I think you can keep him by the
homefires burning?
Not much chance of that. Its new things
he’ll be learning.
But whatever he does at home or away,
He’ll be missed around Westmount every day

But if like other retirees who’ve gone
There’s Fred and Gary, Frances and John
We’ll see him around we’ll find reasons why
We need him to help for some loose ends
to tie.

So Eileen and Kyle with our love and
our thanks
We return to you Bruce a guy from the ranks
Who rose to the highest the summit of all
Who saw Westmount’s needs and he heeded
the call.
We’re truly all grateful those here and beyond
And between us and you there’s a
forever bond.

Karin Marks
September 20, 2008

Civic Alert

Pioneers enjoy chance to transform Westmount

BY DON WEDGE



Nearly 50 pioneering Westmounters assembled in Victoria Hall's Lodge Room last week to begin to define the city's place in a sustainable world. Most surprised themselves by enjoying it enormously – at least that's what many told me.

Participants were still chatting informally for nearly an hour after the session was officially closed. It was an unexpected social success.

For one thing, it seemed so open, transparent and friendly. There was no cynical suspicion that overhung last spring's hasty "consultation" on arena wish-lists.

We were spared from any "Save us from....whatever!"

Although Mayor Karin Marks, councillors John de Castell and Patrick Martin, as well as director general Bruce St. Louis took part in the roundtable workgroups, they were there mainly as observers and it was a citizens' event.

Most people were meeting Joshua Wolfe, our new sustainable development coordinator, for the first time and he impressed everyone with his skill, charm and knowledge.

Marks leaned over to me and whispered: "Aren't we fortunate to have found him?"

We are.

He put together a technically slick presentation. A string of superb responses to the audience's questions marked his command of the issues.

What is sustainability?

Yet with all these positive factors, the project met hurdles. Everybody knows what sustainable development is – right? Not really.

For instance, people have heard of ozone layer destruction and the end of frogs in southern Quebec, but have yet to

absorb how all the troubling factors add up when considering the global future. And how much can we as a community do?

A frequent comment from many at the visioning process was that they did not know where it would lead. Perhaps, but they agree our grandchildren cannot be denied an earth that supports them.

We will all need to make huge changes to the way we go about things.

Slowly, people are recognizing that man-made global warming is nearing a point of no return with continuing serious damage to the planet.

Yet we still build coal-fired power plants. We talk of commissioning nuclear replacements although we have not learned how to dispose of the terrifying waste they create.

We largely ignore the creatures with whom we share the earth. We invent new chemicals faster than they can be safely verified.

Locally, our regional government – which we own a small part of – is asking taxpayers for \$1.1 billion to build factories to process our waste, much of which is material that should not have been manufactured in the first place.

In Westmount last year, we sent for recycling about 4,600 tonnes of varied materials plus 1,800 tonnes of green "waste." Even so, 10,000 tonnes went to landfill.

Ecological footprints

Pointing out that Canada's environmental footprint – an index of human demand on the planet's resources – was in a poor fourth place after the United Arab Emirates, the US and Finland, Wolfe added that the Quebec average was better (similar to Sweden in eighth place).

Use of resources is higher in affluent communities and therefore Westmount's is likely to be higher than the provincial average. Wolfe promised to calculate a local index for his final plan.

For this first step, residents were held back from finding solutions to these and

similar problems. Answers will be invited later in the process.

From the input of this and further sessions, Wolfe and his team will be assessing a vision of the future from all Westmounters – residents, workers and students.

The result will be a plan that council hopes will be adopted next September.

Only the number attending was disappointing. Last spring, more people turned out with their wish-lists for the arena than for September 16's meeting for a new city.

Hopefully, there will a greater partici-

pation at the next visioning session on Thursday, October 16, and there are also welcoming channels on the city's web site.

Many years ago, one of Victoria Hall's great nights was when 1,100 WMA members turned out to nominate Helen Rochester to become the first woman councillor.

When all the consultations are finished, I hope an even greater number will be able to tell their grandchildren they took a hand in defining a sustainable Westmount.

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

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Letters to the editor

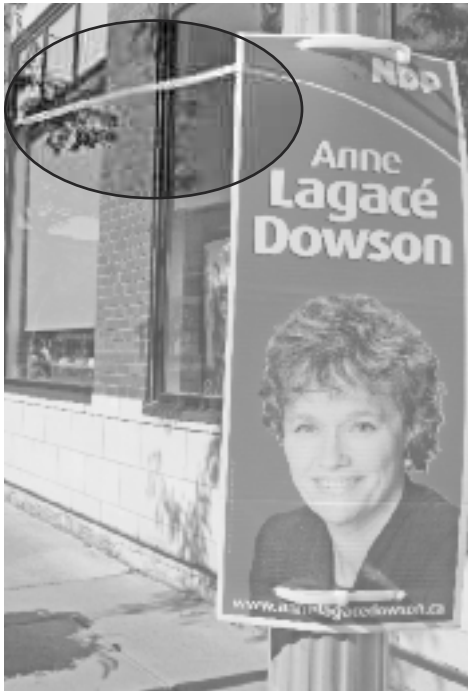
POLITICAL POSTERS POSE DANGER

I've noticed that the political posters that are affixed to lampposts, stops signs and whatever else pose a danger.

The huge plastic tie-wraps that are used to hold them up stick out, in some instances by as much as a foot. Depending on how high the signs are, they could poke out the eyes of an adult, child or, in some cases, a daschund. I should also point out that the size of these signs and their proliferation at intersections can limit the vision of drivers and pedestrians alike. Are there no rules governing the location and size of these posters?

If not, I suggest there should be.

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In the Victoria Village on September 19, the NDP, Green Party and Bloc Québécois had long tags on their signs. The Liberals and Conservatives had short or trimmed tags.

BOWSER WANTED TO INFORM, NOT ABSTAIN

In Laureen Sweeney's report of the recent emergency council meeting on the permit for 27 Bellevue ("Council adopts permit change", September 16 *Independent*, p. 1), she writes "... when Councillor George Bowser's request to abstain from the vote was denied by the city clerk..."

With respect, that's not exactly what happened.

I asked about abstaining because I wanted the city clerk to confirm, for the record, that councillors may not do so.

I knew this already, but I wanted to make sure that the press and the public were so informed. I never had any inten-

tion of abstaining.

GEORGE BOWSER, CITY COUNCILLOR

OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR MARKS: FIRE HAZARD?

Dear Mayor Marks,

In April, I contacted your building inspector who visited my apartment and was shown a serious fire hazard in the kitchen.

I am knowledgeable in oxidation, combustion and fire causes, with both physics/chemistry and chemical engineering degrees from McGill.

The stove is an inch from the wall and the wall is covered with polymer paint in many, many layers – an accumulation of forty years of painting.

This paint caught fire while I was cooking. Fortunately, I had a fire extinguisher



available and was able to extinguish it before a more serious fire could result.

Your inspector brought two young men in fire uniforms who deemed the fire to be my fault because I had an oven mitt beside the stove.

In their rush, they never asked for the flashpoint or the construction of the mitt. I have a mitt for inspection. It is made of fire retardant materials. The danger of future fire in the building was disregarded.

This city's by-laws apply to this situation where there is a flammable surface beside a stove. Yet your inspector disregarded this.

Why?

As mayor, I ask that I get an answer to my previous letter and prompt action on

Take off those muddy shoes!



Victoria Hall superintendent Aldo Cipriani shows off the new concert hall floor now ready for the start of the Sports & Recreation programs this week. The room was closed over the summer for removal of the original 83-year-old floor, repair to the sub-floor and installation of the new red oak flooring. It was cut and fitted as a complete replica costing in the range of \$90,000. "We hope all the users and taxpayers will feel that it's their floor and treat it with special respect," said community events coordinator Maureen Lafrenière.

this statement of serious danger.

ANDREW H. SPEIRS,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

Reply from Westmount's director general Bruce St. Louis. With regard to this particular case, city inspectors did follow up on Mr. Speir's concerns and concluded that there was no building code violation in terms of the proximity of the stove to the wall.

As for investigation into the small fire that occurred in the vicinity of the stove, this matter was investigated by the Montreal Fire Department's prevention divi-

sion that is located in Westmount's fire station.

In fact, I followed up with the prevention chief personally to make sure that the investigation had been carried out (which it had) and that the comments of his investigator had been relayed to Mr. Speirs.

In a case such as this, i.e. when a concern is expressed regarding a potential fire hazard involving possible flammable materials, it is the responsibility of the Fire Department to take the lead in the investigation since their personnel have the expertise and technical training to do so.

Rotary's 2009 auction and garage sale cancelled

The Rotary Club of Westmount has cancelled its 2009 garage sale.

The event's chair, Sandy Highet, explained to the *Independent* that there were "too many uncertainties," including finding a suitable place to store items, having enough Rotarians and volunteers to manage all aspects of pickup, storage and sale, and assuring access to the Westmount arena for the actual event as the city contemplates the facility's future.

The sale normally takes place in June,

although the club is already getting calls for pickups.

Club historian Haagen Kierulf said that the Rotary has held the garage sale since 1976, although it has been cancelled some years because of other large events such as fundraising to build Manoir Westmount or to run an antique show.

The Rotary Club, Westmount's only service club, is now looking at other means of fundraising for their many local and international projects.

How sweet the victory



Enrico Quilico

Enrico Quilico, 25, had much more to celebrate than conquering the half triathlon Saturday, September 13, on Île Notre Dame.

It marked a key milestone in his long rehabilitation from a motorcycle accident in May 2006 that left him comatose, and suffering life-threatening physical and massive brain injuries.

Son of Kathryn Stephenson and Gino Quilico, Enrico grew up in Westmount on Grosvenor Ave., graduating from Selwyn House School in 2000.

"It's truly a miracle," his mother said of his two-year rehabilitation and his recent triumph. She credits it to the perseverance of many family members, including the strong support of his sister Sofia.

Enrico has just returned to Concordia University as a part-time student in psychology and sociology.

The Study holds annual Terry Fox Day



Grade 4 students Clara MacIntosh, Latisha Pungartnik and Emma Beaudry. "Terry Fox did a lot of work and ran even though he had one leg," said Pungartnik.

The Study elementary school held its annual Terry Fox Activities Day at The Annex on September 19. This event was initiated by Westmounter and Study parent Ian Crandall, father of Kristin Crandall,

who started the Terry Fox Day at the Study 10 years ago. Crandall thought that it would be a good idea to raise awareness and funds for cancer research. To date, The Study has raised close to \$48,000.



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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Liberal

Marc Garneau, Liberal candidate and first Canadian astronaut in space, has the vision, the leadership skills and the track record to represent Westmount-Ville-Marie effectively in the House of Commons and to make a significant and far-reaching contribution to our country.

We urge you to join us in voting for Marc Garneau and the Liberal Party of Canada on October 14th.

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Chris and Graham Bagnall
Stanley Baker
Monica and David Berger
Stephen R. Bronfman
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Studying Mandarin

The Study has just become the first Quebec school to offer Mandarin Chinese at the grade 5 and 6 levels.

The Study has offered Mandarin for four years as one of its third-language options at the senior level. The other language is Spanish.

The course will be taught by Bing Li, a new teacher at the school.

Visioning Westmount

Approximately 50 people showed up at Victoria Hall on September 16 to discuss three possible vision statements for a sustainable Westmount.

Vision statement #3 proved to be the most popular one targeted for development by participants. For the complete texts and to participate remotely, go to the city's website at www.westmount.org and click on "sustainable development."

The next visioning session takes place at Victoria Hall on Thursday, October 16 at 7 pm.

For analysis of the event, see Don Wedge p. 5.



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Bernadette Bjornson enquired about getting more involvement by businesses.



Pierre Bricault asked about stricter building codes and preventing highrises from moving in.

Westmount

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Paul Marriott asked about the role that Hydro Westmount and Hydro Quebec can play.



Bronwyn Mantel asked about encouraging more green roofing.

All photos: Isaac Olson



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New teachers join WPS

Cindy Norman



After graduating from Memorial University in Newfoundland, Norman taught briefly there before coming to Montreal. She has been working for the EMSB since 2002. With experience teaching students at every elementary school grade except Pre-K in several schools in the Montreal area, including Roslyn and FACE, Norman now teaches a split class of grade 1 and 2 students at Westmount Park School. "I am excited to say that I am now a permanent teacher with the EMSB."

Marina Rendina

Replacing a maternity leave teacher, Rendina is teaching an English Kindergarten class at Westmount Park School. She has



been teaching for four years in both English and French at various EMSB schools throughout the city in various grades. "I'm excited to be here! The building is beautiful, the staff is very nice and most importantly the children are great!"

Rick Gasparini

Having spent the last six years of his 8-year teaching career at an elementary school in Rosemount, Gasparini will now be heading into Westmount each morning to teach a split class of grade 5 and 6 at Westmount Park School. A sports enthusiast, with a particular affinity for soccer, which he played competitively growing up, Gasparini has other interests which have led him to supervise the school's Chess Club and participate in the Westmount Park Home & School Association, which organizes fundraising activities for the school.



Open this *Indie* for open houses



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continued at lcc.ca/leaders

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Open House Schedule

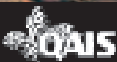
Akiva	Tuesday, November 4: 9:30 am & 7:30 pm
Centennial	Thursday, September 25: 5 pm to 9 pm & Saturday, October 4: 10 am to 2 pm
ECS	Thursday, October 2: 9 am to 11:30 am & 4:30 pm to 7 pm
LCC	Saturday, September 27: 9 am to noon & Tuesday, October 7: 10 am to 2 pm & 5 pm to 7 pm
Loyola	Saturday, September 27: 9 am to noon
Marcelline	Tuesday, September 30: 4 pm to 8 pm (for secondary only)
Marie de France	Saturday, October 4: 10 am to 3 pm
Roslyn	Wednesday, November 26: 10 am to 12 pm
Sacred Heart	Saturday, September 27: 1 pm (last tour at 3:30 pm)
Selwyn House	Monday, October 6: 5 pm to 8 pm (information session for grade 7 at 6 pm) & Friday, November 14 (Kindergarten only): 8:30 am to 10:30 am (information session at 10:30 am)
St. George's (sec.)	Saturday, October 4: 12 pm to 3 pm & Monday, October 6: 6 pm to 9 pm
St. George's (ele.)	Monday, October 6: 9 am to 12 pm & Tuesday October 7: 9 am to 12 pm & Kindergarten on Wednesday, November 12: 9 am to 12 pm
Stanislas	Saturday, October 4: 10 am to 4 pm
The Priory	Sunday, October 19: 2 pm to 4 pm & Tuesday, October 21: 9:30 am to 11:30 am
The Study	Thursday, October 2: 9 am to noon & 4:30 pm to 7 pm
Trafalgar	Saturday, October 4: 10 am to 1 pm
Villa Maria	English: Sunday, October 19: 1 pm to 4 pm; French: Saturday, September 27: noon to 4 pm

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OPEN HOUSES

Vienna on the St. Lawrence



From left: Astri Prugger, Elizabeth Wirth and Udo Stundner.

Westmounters Astri Prugger, Elizabeth Wirth and Udo Stundner are among the organizers for this year's Austrian Ball of Montreal – the event's 50th anniversary.

The November 22 ball at the Château Champlain will benefit SOS Children's Villages.

On ball night, guests – including 16

debutantes and escorts – will keep Austrian and Viennese traditions alive by ballroom dancing to a wide variety of music ranging from waltzes and tangos to salsa.

For more information, call the Austrian Society of Montreal at 514.369.2339 or go to www.balautrichiendemontreal.org.



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Sec. 1: October 25

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September 27, from noon to 4:00 pm

French Sector Entrance Exams

Sec. 1: October 4

Sec. 1 to Sec. 5: October 5

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**Secondary I
Entrance Testing**
October 8, 16 and 23



Lazar Hart connects world's children via art

By Kristin McNeill

Westmounter Susan Lazar Hart has a vision of connecting children across the globe through art.

Portraits Beyond Boundaries, a self-funded, non-profit initiative, was conceived by Lazar Hart and her daughter Kelsey, a St. George's graduate, to introduce art to children as a way of expressing themselves through self portraits and, through the exchange of the artwork, raise awareness about other cultures and places.

The inspiration behind Portraits Beyond Boundaries came while Hart was

into the small room to create their portraits, and then lining up to do it again. The Harts stayed for three weeks, getting down on the ground painting, taking photos, giving workshops, and visiting orphanages and hospitals. "It was totally not what we had anticipated and everything that we had desired."

Many kids in developing countries have not laid eyes on paint before, according to Lazar Hart. "For them, it's more like an explosion of exploration. Even the street kids wanted us to take the pictures. They wanted to know that there is a child on the other side of the world that is looking at



Susan Lazar Hart with a girl living in an orphanage near Kathmandu. The red paint on her forehead was placed as an act of welcome.



Kelsey Hart facilitates a workshop on painting self portraits to a group of school children at the Hindu Vidyapeeth institute in Nepal.

working in Costa Rica delivering life coaching services through another self-initiated venture.

During her visit to a school where she brought along donated pencils and other art supplies, she said "I asked myself what else can I generate? There must be more than giving somebody something – even though it was just like Christmas for them. Art, okay. Investigating people, okay. Opening a universe for somebody else – what would that look like? I could work with the kids and have them make portraits of themselves, and then I can exchange them."

The first school to participate was in Nepal, far from Lazar Hart's home base in Westmount and Kelsey's life in Toronto, where she works as a freelance costume designer. Lazar Hart says it was a success.

She recalls one day when their workshop brought in waves of children coming

them." She said the ironies were revealing in how the kids chose to portray themselves. One boy whose only home had ever been a poor orphanage wanted his picture taken in a rose garden.

There is interest in Costa Rica and New Zealand, but the idea has been slow to take off in North America, according to Lazar Hart. She has canvassed Westmount-area and another Canadian school and is seeking advice on how to improve the mission's message so that more Canadian and US schools sign on.

Her hope is to open a forum of discussion that asks how students see themselves, how they see each other and facilitate workshops where they paint their own portraits that will then be exchanged with a reciprocating school across the globe.

For more information, see www.portraitsbeyondboundaries.com.

A recipe to try this High Holiday season

Date truffles

Wheat, gluten & egg free
1 lb of dates
1 Tbls honey
2 tsp cinnamon
Cocoa
Shredded coconut
Ground hazelnuts
Chocolate

Soak dates in boiling water for 10 minutes, until soft. Strain and reserve the liquid.

In a bowl or blender, mix dates, honey and cinnamon until dates become a thick puree. If you need to, add some of the reserved liquid. Put mixture into a bowl and refrigerate for 15 minutes or until firm.

Scoop and shape into balls. If the date mixture is too sticky, you can flour your hands and run them under warm water.

While the date balls are still cold, roll them in the cocoa, shredded coconut or ground hazelnuts.

Melt the chocolate in the microwave for 30 seconds at a time. To make chocolate smooth and glossy, add 1 tsp of vegetable oil and stir. Refrigerate until 10 minutes before serving.

Courtesy of Boulangerie Le Fournil.

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Dark Sky project to be featured at 'Live Smart, Live Green'

Time to act on wasted light

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

How dark is the night sky above your Westmount home? How many stars can you see beyond the light from the street or the splashing of light from your neighbour's spotlights?

Over-lighting of the city interrupts sleep, confuses migratory birds, prevents appreciation of the skies and costs millions of dollars in wasted energy, says astrophysicist Tony Moffat.

In calling for action to reduce light pollution in a sustainable community, Moffat is preparing a Dark Sky awareness exhibit to be presented at the Healthy City Project's "Live Smart, Live Green" fair taking place October 25 at Victoria Hall.

"The clock is ticking with regards to global warming," he said.

The time has come to cap the upward shine of street lights, increase security by redirecting light where it is most needed, set standards for the night-lighting of office buildings and eliminate the light-washing of homes.

Moffat, a longtime Westmount resident



Astrophysicist Tony Moffat displays one of many views of the sun similar to what Westmounters may expect see through telescopes at "Live Smart, Live Green", weather permitting.

and emeritus professor of astrophysics at the University of Montreal, has arranged for the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada to mount an exhibit and provide telescopes for public viewing of the sun's activities.

The goal is to open up a whole new interest in the skies, and reduce the astronomical and biological impact of light pollution through improved light management while ushering in the UN's International Year of Astronomy in 2009. As Moffat more specifically adds: "400 years since Galileo pointed the telescope skyward setting the stage for the Age of Reason."

"I realize we can't do everything overnight, but education is crucial."

Can save \$50 million

"In Quebec, more light is produced per capita than anywhere in the world. We over-light our streets. Montreal is almost as bright as New York City, which is kind of embarrassing. It's also estimated that over \$50 million could be saved annually

in Quebec by getting rid of wasted light and improving light management."

Of street lighting, Moffat said, no more than 1 percent should go above the horizontal.

"We have to bite the bullet and modify our street lighting." In this respect, he said, the somewhat maligned cobra light standard does a slightly better job than the Washington bulb, which disperses its light in all directions.

A dome of light covers any big city for miles around. "You have to go far away from the city to see the Milky Way."

"If only we could harness all that energy," Moffat said, pointing out how it has been the photosynthesis of plant material over hundreds of millions of years that has produced the oil now being used up in only a few decades of time.

"You'll be amazed to see how active the sun is," he said. "It is truly humbling."

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's website at www.rasc.ca provides further information on the value of dark skies, including the work of ASTROLab at Mount Megantic, the world's first certified International Dark Sky Reserve.

Scooting around

Sylvie Lafrenière, a real estate agent with RE/MAX Westmount, has already clocked 200 kilometers on her one-week-old Chironex Pistol 50 scooter – just in Westmount. To the *Independent's* knowledge, she is the first agent to get around to appointments this way.

After a recent trip to Thailand with her husband where they travelled by scooter to birdwatch, she returned home with the conviction that this mode of transport would be more efficient than a car for her line of work.

Lafrenière admits it's a toy, but with all the agent caravans, open houses and appointments that mean many hours on the road, she enjoys the hassle-free parking, quiet ride and less pollution-creating transportation. Winter driving, is another story, she says.



Sylvie Lafrenière.

Another Westmounter, home designer contractor Gerry Bergeron of Aubergine Interieurs, has used his 49 cc Tomos scooter for three years. He uses it from April to November. He estimates that he spends \$3 to \$5 on gas per week versus \$50 to \$60 with his car.



Gerry Bergeron.

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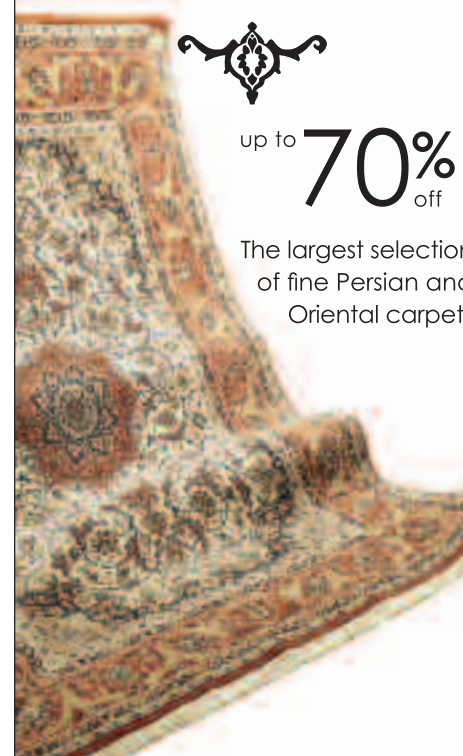
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Where do you live?

- ☐ Above The Boulevard (incl. north side)
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- ☐ Below Sherbrooke St. (incl. south side)

Do you live in:

- ☐ a house ☐ a duplex
- ☐ a multi-unit building?

Do you own your home? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you own a second home? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Which of the following newspapers do you receive at home?

- ☐ *Actualités Westmount*
- ☐ *The Suburban*
- ☐ *Westmount Examiner*
- ☐ *Westmount Independent*
- ☐ *Westmount Times*

Which of the following newspapers do see around town?

- ☐ *Actualités Westmount*
- ☐ *The Suburban*
- ☐ *Westmount Examiner*
- ☐ *Westmount Independent*
- ☐ *Westmount Times*

How many readers are you responding for?

___ men ___ women ___ total
___ anglophones ___ francophones ___ total
ages _____

What is your favourite Westmount newspaper?

How much time do you spend with an average issue of the *Westmount Independent*?

Please rate the following features and columns (1 to 5, 5 is highest)

- ___ 9 Lives by Lyzanne
- ___ Arts Scene by Heather Black
- ___ At Second Glance by Heather Black
- ___ Bridge for Bright Brains by George Retek
- ___ Building permits
- ___ City council & affairs coverage by Laureen Sweeney
- ___ Civic Alert by Don Wedge
- ___ Colourfully Yours by Aurelien Guillory
- ___ Comin' Up
- ___ On the Shelves
- ___ Profiles by Laureen Sweeney
- ___ Retail & Trend Watch by Annika Melanson
- ___ Underdog by Fern Breslaw
- ___ Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before by Doreen Lindsay
- ___ What's Cooking in Westmount by Anthea Dawson
- ___ What's in Store by Carola Price
- ___ REAL ESTATE
- ___ The Inventory (condos)
- ___ The Inventory (houses)
- ___ Bought & Sold (house transfers)
- ___ On the Market

What do you like most about the *Westmount Independent*?

What do you like least about the *Westmount Independent*?

What should we do differently?

Other comments?

Thank you.

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Wine: What's In Store...

American wines

BY CAROLA PRICE



I have always loved the fruit-driven, intense and slightly alcoholic wines that come from our American friends. Whether in California, Washington, Oregon or in New York State, wines made there are of a slightly different breed than those from Europe. I saw the delightful wine movie, *Bottle Shock*, the other day and it brought back so many memories of the European attitude towards New World wine and how California turned their ideas completely upside down.

When in Rome

European wine is made from age-old, strongly guarded recipes. In order for a wine to have certain branding, it must comply with district rules. These rules have also introduced new and exciting methods and branding, like the "Super Tuscans", who couldn't qualify for Chianti status because of their introduction of Cabernet Sauvignon to Sangiovese. Thank goodness for the rule-breakers or we wouldn't be drinking any new blends of wine from Europe. This brings me back to America and the dedication to quality and breeding in wine production.

A frontier attitude

What was clear from the movie was that California growers just wanted global recognition of their product as a whole rather than personal vineyard fame. They want the world to know that California makes amazing wine and variation from vineyard to vineyard remains largely for one's personal taste. Wine is a drink made by farmers for everyone to enjoy and shouldn't have any pretense.

Let's taste



Chandon Brut, Napa Valley, SAQ#10542031, \$22.95

This bubbly is dry, crisp and refreshing and is the perfect starter wine with oysters, shrimp cocktail and nibbles. It has some toasty character, but there is tropical fruit in the beginning, and then some lime and grapefruit towards the finish. While not as refined as its champagne counterpart there is a reason that the famous French house Moet Chandon opened a winery in California. The climate is great for growing Champagne grapes. Available at press time: Across from Atwater Market, Atwater Market, Pepsi forum, Victoria.

Pinot Noir, Belle Vallée, Oregon.

SAQ#10947839, \$29.65.

Better priced than Burgundy with some French earthiness, this dry and complex red is one that can be put in the cellar for ten years or decanted now and enjoyed with herbed rack of lamb or duck with morels and sour cherry sauce. There is a lot of black earth, pencil shavings, black cherry, cedar and baking spice in the flavour and it is a bit alcoholic, letting you know it needs time to soften. Available at press time: Across from Atwater Market, Victoria.

Chardonnay, Riverstone, J. Lohr, Monterey. SAQ#10270434. \$17.65

This is one of those big and bold whites that while being dry has a generous amount of sweet fruit in the finish. Look for peaches and pineapple with almond and apricot in the nose. It is buttery and slightly acidic, and matches wonderfully with dilled salmon, grilled veggies and medium and gooey cheeses like Manchengo and St. André. Available at press time: Westmount Square, Victoria, Across from Atwater Market.

4300 and 50

The 4300 apartment building at de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Clarke Ave. celebrated its 50th anniversary on September 18. Festivities were "enlivened" by a small fire in the complex and the arrival of firefighters at the party. *Photos by Robert J. Galbraith.*



From left: Don Stoyanovich, Lucille Fortin, Fran Yagod and Max Kalman, one of the original architects of the 4300.



Sade Hausner



From left: Bruce Walker, Jocelyne Lalande and Robert Bourgeois.



From left: Michael Price and J. DiClementi.



From left: Marge Lazarovitch, Nathalia Rossokhata, Ben Lands, Diane Maislin and Robert Bourgeois, with a server.

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The Manoir at Place K



Place Kensington residents look on as Mary Sancton from the Manoir (foreground) and Helen Gluckstal from Place Kensington prepare their shots.

Place Kensington hosted Manoir Westmount on September 18 for the Quarter,

Final Annual Shuffleboard Curling Tournament. The game is a hybrid of floor curling and shuffleboard, which to the uninitiated looks like shuffleboard on a rubber mat. The competition was polite but lively, with one competitor being heard to say. "They're all ringers."

Doreen Friedman from Place Kensington and Simona Buth from the Manoir acted as coaches and umpires.

The final score? 860 to 510 for the Manoir.

Said Friedman wistfully, "Usually there is a home ice advantage."

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9 Lives: Sweet Nicky

BY LYZANNE

Sweet Nicky is a handsome orange tabby, wearing a white shirt and white mittens, making him unique. He is also a real charmer: an easygoing young fellow who enjoys the family life, purrs like a luxury motorboat and is friendly with other cats.



The regular home routine, with every-one coming and going around him in the house, would suit him just fine. Hugs from one, play with another, treats from the kitchen.

Sweet Nicky was abandoned and needs a family as soon as possible, so please consider adopting him. He is a little over a year old, is very healthy, has been neutered and has had all his shots.

Sweet Nicky is gentle and kind, he truly deserves a better life. For more information on him, please call Gerdy on her

pager at 514.203.9180 or email her at info@gerdysrescue.org or go to her website at www.gerdysrescue.org.

Thank you for adopting a cat in need!
Your neighbour, Lyzanne

Artwork by Laura S. Cohendet



Sweet Nicky



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Underdog

BY FERN BRESLAW

When Whisky came out of the closet it wasn't because he had an affinity for the boys at the dog park. More likely than not, he had never been taken to the dog park before.



Whisky

No, Whisky came out of the closet because the landlord of the apartment where his family had lived found him locked away in one and let him out.

His owners had been evicted and decided to move on at the classic one-year mark when puppies turn into grown-up dogs. They clearly thought it best if they left him somewhere pleasantly out of sight and out of mind.

Sadly, he had been in there sometime, and was starving and terrified.

Whisky was put into a foster home where he has managed to get along with everyone and everything despite his unfortunate background.

He is sweet and smart and has yet again proven that dogs have much bigger hearts than most people. He is giving us all a second chance, which is ironic, given he needs one most of all.

To help Whisky, contact Sophie's Dog Adoption at 514.523.5052



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Comin' Up...

Tuesday, Sept. 23: St. James Literary Society presents writer and columnist Monique Polak discussing the research that led to *What World is Left*, an account of her mother's experiences in a World War II concentration camp at 7:30 pm at the McGill Faculty Club (3450 McTavish). Admission \$10. Info: 514.484.0146.

Wednesday, Sept. 24: Westmount Knit n' Natter group meets again after summer hiatus at 7 pm at Westmount Park United Church (de Maisonneuve door). Meetings take place on the last Wednesday of each month. All levels of knitters are welcome.

Thursday, Sept. 25: Westmount YMCA's free lecture on "Myths and realities about gambling and betting: Know more... and lose less" at 7 pm presented by La Maison Jean Lapointe. Bilingual question period. Free, donations welcome. ● ART NOW at the Westmount Library at 7 pm. Speakers include artist Adria Collins, photographer Gabor Szilasi, and gallery owner Anthony Collins. Info: Heather Black 514.989.9091. Free, all are welcome.

Sunday, Sept. 28: The Orpheus Singers are offering a rehearsal open to the public with commentary by musical director

Peter Schubert at St. Matthias' Church (131 Côte St. Antoine) between 2 and 4 pm.

Thursday, Oct. 2: Film screening of "The Great Granny Revolution" at 7:30 pm at Centre Greene, followed by Q&A with filmmaker and Wakefield Granny Brenda Rooney. Tickets: \$10. Info: 514.931.6202, cgspecialevnts@gmail.com. ● St. Leo's (330 Clarke Ave.) Super Bazar (clothes, books, discs) from 1 to 6 pm.

Sunday, Oct. 5: "The Recent History of the Jews in Quebec since 1945, through the eyes Marcel Adams" at 10:30 am at Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom. Cost: \$5 includes breakfast and lecture. Open to all. Info: 514.937.3575.

Saturday, Oct. 18: Safely dispose of leftover paints, solvents, used batteries, pesticides, used clothing and electronics, etc. at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection in the parking lot of Westmount Library between 9 am and 5 pm.

Weekly: Come to a meeting of the Westmount Toastmasters club and find out how to overcome your fear of public speaking or hone your communication and leadership skills. Tuesdays at Victoria Hall at 6:50 pm sharp.

Call for singers

The Orpheus Singers chamber choir is seeking experienced singers from Westmount and beyond. Rehearsals take place on Wednesdays at St. Matthias Church between 7 and 9:30 pm. For information and auditions, call 514.398.8591.



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Westmount Profile: Gabrielle Pilot

Where colour reigns

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Surrounded by paintings, Gabrielle Pilot announces with a dramatic sweep of the arm: “Colour is very important in our family.”

She’s referring to its role in her own artistic evolution and her paintings that hang in hundreds of homes as well as to the legacy she has inherited. Robert Wakeham Pilot, her father-in-law, and his step-father Maurice Cullen, are both renowned Canadian painters.

But figuratively speaking, Gabrielle’s own life can be likened to a canvas splashed with the colour of early days in faraway places, schooling on the high seas, a passionate pursuit of community causes and her conversion of a mountain-top swamp into a garden estate.

“My use of colour has changed dramatically from the gaudy fuchsias and lime greens of the 1960s,” Pilot explains. “At the time, my father-in-law watched and watched my experiments, and I learned a lot from him about mixing colours.”

But influenced by his work and that of Cullen, she has come to adopt the softer blues, whites and pastels that characterized their landscapes and winter scenes.

Exhibiting at Art Westmount

Gabrielle is one of the 60 Westmount painters currently preparing to exhibit their work at various locations during the Art Westmount 2008 open studio weekend October 18 and 19.

And that’s just one of her many community commitments that currently include the co-presidency of the Westmount Horticultural Society, organization of events for the city’s Horticultural Advisory Committee (HAC) and work for the Thomas More Institute, for which she helps run an annual trip to Stratford.

A co-founder of the Westmount Cooperative Pre-school and the Brome Lake Garden Club, Pilot also brought La Leche League to Quebec in 1966 to promote the values of breast feeding. She and her husband, investment counsellor Wakeham Pilot, have three children – Christopher, Cullen and Kyle – as well as four grandchildren.

Global upbringing

Born in Melbourne, Australia, Gabrielle’s global upbringing has had a profound impact on the way she embraces

other cultures. Her mother, Rosalind Cosgrave Moquette, grew up in China, the daughter of Canadian diplomats.

Gabrielle’s own father, Henri E. Moquette served in the Dutch air force in the Far East and became an international banker. As he travelled, the family circled the globe by sea three times, going to Indonesia, Vancouver, South Africa, China, Portugal and Holland. Gabrielle’s first school days were on board ship.

When her father founded the Mercantile Bank of Canada in Montreal in 1953, the family came to Westmount. She remembers how amazing it was to come right off the boat from “flat Holland” and ride up the switchbacks of Belvedere to reach their first home here at 6 Sunnyside. Later, her father built the house at 62 Belvedere Rd.

Speaking mainly Dutch, Gabrielle’s introduction to The Study proved difficult and she was sent to boarding school (the former St. Helen’s) “to be disciplined,” she says with a smile.

But it was later at St. George’s where she developed a serious interest in science, winning a scholarship to university in Rhode Island. Disillusioned by a party atmosphere, however, she returned home and began studying art. At École des Beaux Arts, she was a member of the last graduating class, which designed the children’s playground for Expo ’67.

Launching into textile design, she proceeded to sell hundreds of her own hand-painted jogging suits to Bloomingdale’s in New York.

With the birth of her children, she took up her first volunteer pursuits along with painting and teaching. She created a course at the YM/YWHA called “My Hands Can” for pre-schoolers and their caregivers, and introduced it to other schools. She later taught art to seniors at Place Kensington.

A passionate piano player, Pilot became involved in the Suzuki Parent Foundation, learned to play the violin and played in “The Silver Strings”.

In the last 25 years, gardening has become an obsession. More than 300 members of various garden clubs have visited her garden estate atop a mountain in South Bolton in the Eastern Townships.

She and her husband discovered the area while climbing one day in 1976. It was swamp and thick forest. “But we fell in love with it and began buying up bits



Gabrielle Pilot at work.

and pieces. We were basically pioneers on this land.” After years of clearing it, knocking down beaver dams and connecting the swamp to a lake, they built the house they now call “Amik” after the beaver symbol of the ’76 Olympics.

Pilot now tries to spend a portion of each day painting. She pursues a separate

theme at each of her three studios. In town, it’s children’s portraits. At a winter home on Sugar Loaf in Maine, she works on “Drapery & the Human Body”. In the country, she paints “Flight & Birds”, the collection that is the focus of her exhibit during Art Westmount.

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