

Bead Emporium closes



Ruth Shine has closed her Bead Emporium store on Victoria Ave. on September 2, 35 years to the day after opening it. In conversation with the *Independent*, Shine underlined her desire to thank all her customers and fellow merchants. Look for a detailed story about her decision and future plans in an upcoming *Independent*.



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City to be one big, open studio

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

More than 60 of Westmount's many artists will be opening their studios and group venues for this year's second Art Westmount weekend. Local merchants are partnering with the event for the first time to publicize the expanded showcase.



Taking place October 18 and 19, the open-air weekend will be staged throughout Westmount by the Art Westmount subcommittee of the city's Community Events Advisory Committee (CEAC).

"This is another celebration of how much talent we have around us," said Councillor Nicole Forbes, who initiated the concept two years ago and co-chairs this year's organizing committee with participant Andrew Burlone.

"The city will become one continued on p. 7

Westmount, Africa



Westmount where? These young Team Westmount soccer players display their new jerseys at an orphanage in Burkina Faso.

Photo: Catherine Gosselin

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount soccer jerseys and shorts have made their way onto the playing fields of an orphanage in Burkina Faso, formerly Upper Volta, in west Africa.

And it's all thanks to response from an appeal to the Sports & Recreation department from a local soccer parent whose work colleague would be providing humanitarian aid at an orphanage in dire need during July and August.

"We got great response and I want to thank the coaches and parents," said Westmounter Anne Duprat, who has three children in the soccer program and is senior manager in advisory services at KPMG.

"This was such a nice way of doing things," said Westmount sports coordinator Anitra Bostock. "I was happy to facilitate the collection."

Westmount donations

The jerseys were taken to Burkina Faso by Catherine Gosselin, along with soccer balls and donations from other sources.

"The children were delighted with the jerseys when they saw them," said Gosselin.

She and her spouse, Mathieu Halle – an assistant soccer coach on the South Shore – took a month's unpaid leave to

work at the Sandeba orphanage in the capital city of Ipele. And they were overwhelmed by the need for basics.

Soccer in bare feet

"They play soccer in bare feet so we had to give them first aid afterward. They have no shoes," she explained. "We also taught them how to boil water for 10 minutes so they could have clean water to drink."

"This is one of the poorest orphanages in one of the poorest countries. We are going to keep on collecting for them."

Gosselin can be contacted at 514.967.4062.

Re-cycle your bicycle and lend a helping hand

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A novel opportunity is being offered to Westmounters to donate their used bicycles for re-cycling in Latin America and Africa. It's a bicycle turn-in to be held as part of the Healthy City Project's "Live Smart, Live Green" fair at Victoria Hall on October 25 and is being provided by Cyclo Nord-Sud. This is a charity that has already sent more than 25,000 used bikes to areas of the world in great need.

"It's a way that a community can act globally," said Richard Aylett, one of the event's organizers.

For the donation of a bicycle and \$12 to defray shipping costs, donors will receive a tax receipt for the cash plus the estimated value of the bike, he explained.

"We're looking for all the bicycles sitting in basements that can be used in parts of the world where one bicycle becomes transportation for a family – and is used for driving produce to market."

This is the first time to his knowledge, he said, that a bicycle collection has been organized in Westmount. "I'd like to throw out a challenge to our community to exceed Cyclo Nord-Sud's target of 35

bikes from Westmount."

All bicycles in a reparable state and having a 20-inch wheel size or greater will be accepted during the collection time from 10 am to 1 pm outside Victoria Hall.

Cyclo Nord-Sud, a Montreal group, expects to hold 55 collections this year. A container of 450 bikes along with spare parts and tools was recently sent to Haiti. Other receiving countries include Nicaragua, Cuba, Bolivia, Ghana and Benin. Launched by the late Claire Morissette, founder of Vélo Québec, Cyclo Nord-Sud has David Suzuki as its honorary president.

First consultation September 16

The city's first of three public consultation meetings on the sustainability plan takes place Tuesday, September 16, which happens to be the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. The meeting starts at 7 pm in Victoria Hall. The plan is being developed by sustainable development coordinator Joshua Wolfe through three vision drafts available on the city website. See pp. 4 and 11 for more.

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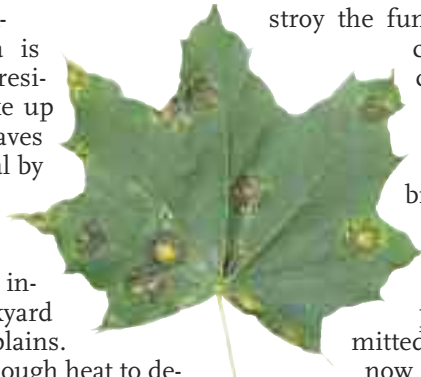


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Tar-spot leaf reminder, fall pickup starts Oct. 13

Westmount horticulturist Claudette Savaria is once again reminding residents of the need to rake up the tar-spotted maple leaves and bag them for disposal by the city. This will help ward off the spread of the fungus next year.

It is important to keep infected leaves out of backyard composters, Savaria explains. These do not generate enough heat to de-



stroy the fungus compared to the commercial facility the city uses.

The city's annual fall collection of bagged leaves and garden debris starts October 13 with crews picking them up five days a week. While clear plastic bags are still permitted, paper yard bags are now preferred. Until then,

garden debris is collected on Wednesdays except for the sector where kitchen and garden waste is collected on Monday.

"This is the third year that we're experiencing the fungus," she says. "It's widespread over the entire region." While it doesn't harm the trees, the leaves are unsightly and covered with the thick, round black spots.

The spots are caused by different species of fungi in the genus *Rhytisma*. *R. americanum*, *R. punctatum* or *R. acerinum* depending on the maple species.



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protected green space of the adjoining property.

Upstairs, the double master suite with den and ensuite features bay windows, built-in bookshelves, and a fireplace. There are two large, and one medium sized bedroom on this floor as well as the family bathroom.

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BON LIVING

‘Conscience of Canada’ endorses Dion’s Liberals

What was Roméo Dallaire doing in Westmount on September 2?

The retired lieutenant-general was at the 4300 apartment building on de Maisonneuve Blvd. stumping for his former St. Jean and RMC near-classmate Marc Garneau – the federal Liberal candidate in Westmount-VilleMarie – and also to defend the Liberals and their leader more generally.

Dallaire is best known for his tenure with the UN in Rwanda during the genocide of 1994, an experience chronicled in his book *Shake Hands with the Devil* and a film of the same name. He was named to the Canadian senate in 2005.

Dallaire endorsed the previous Liberal government’s decision to spend more on the military, explaining that the money was spent on personnel (who had been burning out from overdeployment) and machinery (which was sometimes generations older than its users).

He also weighed in on Dion’s leadership abilities, relating how military educa-

tors had come to exclude charisma – an attribute he admitted Dion could have more of – as a key component of leadership. He pointed out how senior Liberals – e.g. Ignatieff and Rae – were working well together and that it spoke well for Dion’s managerial skill.

Also present, Garneau himself offered a fairly blunt assessment of Dion, “He is not a charismatic fellow,” but went on to say, “Harper’s not charismatic [either].” He still managed an enthusiastic endorsement of the leader, “I look up to very few people, [but] Stéphane Dion is one of them.”

The audience responded enthusiastically to Dallaire, with resident Daniel Hadekel calling him the “conscience of Canada.”

Dallaire replied to another listener’s suggestion that he be in a Liberal television advertisement by saying, “My mother” – an organizer for the Liberals in East End Montreal since the 1950s – “would be so proud.”



Marc Garneau (left) and Roméo Dallaire at the 4300.

Resident spars with garbageman

Public Works officials have asked police to investigate an incident involving a garbage collector and a resident over a bag of garden debris.

They also said they had requested the contractor to reassign the employee in question from his route in the west-end Sherbrooke St. commercial area.

The dispute reportedly began shortly after 9 am on September 4 when the woman was watering her garden and tried unsuccessfully to ask the man not to remove the bag that remained uncollected from the previous day’s special pickup of garden waste.

“I was infuriated because I had gone to so much trouble over my garden waste,”

she told the *Independent*. Calling Public Security to complain, she waited on hold, she said, then returned outside to ask the man to wait. “He was getting into the cab so I tried to stop him.”

An altercation ensued in which the woman fell while removing a folded garbage bag from his cab. She said she was not hurt but had to be helped up by passersby. Both police and Public Security subsequently responded to her calls in which she claims to have been pushed.

“My whole point is that what’s the use of going to all the trouble to recycle when there’s no commercial recycling for the merchants? As if my little egg shell is going to make a difference.”

Arena tender in translation for website

Specifics of the tender for architectural and engineering services for renewal of Westmount’s arena facilities are to be posted on the city’s website in the near future at the request of a local resident.

Westmount director-general Bruce St. Louis told the *Independent* the posting would take place once the original French document is translated and summarized to remove technical jargon.

The request to make it public came at the August 25 meeting of city council from local resident Gary Ikeman who said the types of requirements called for in the document should be widely available. He proceeded to read off a long list, which Mayor Karin Marks described as “a wish list.”

Councillor Patrick Martin supported the idea, explaining the document had been available at a purchase price of \$100 to potential bidders. Now that the contract has been awarded (to Le May & Associates), he saw no reason not to make the document available.

Council still tackling Bellevue permit

At press time Monday, most Westmount city council members had received subpoenas in connection with the September 8 start of the court case dealing with the controversial permit for adding a storey to the house at 27 Bellevue.

Meanwhile, a special city council was called suddenly for Tuesday, September 9 (after press time) to review the latest version of the permit bid application.

Council voted down a previous permit change August 25 in a rare 4-3 vote, indicative of a deep division within the group on the issue.

Sunnyside Ave. neighbours allege the Bellevue addition will block their view and that the original permit approved last March does not conform to the city’s own guidelines and by-laws.

Work to raise the roof of the Category 1 heritage house was stopped in May when Quebec Superior Court granted a temporary injunction sought by Mireille Raymond, owner of 20 Sunnyside.

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Election means by-election ballots won’t be tallied

When Prime Minister Stephen Harper called a general election for October 14, the Westmount-Ville Marie by-election (like three others around the country) was cancelled – as were the advance poll ballots cast by Westmounters and other riding residents.

In this case, 1,426 Westmount-Ville Marie ballots will be sequestered for at least a year before their destruction, but they won’t be counted. People wanting to vote early for the general election will have to do so again. In the previous general election (January 23, 2006), 4,348 voters voted by advance poll in Westmount-Ville Marie.

According to Elections Canada’s most recent information about Westmount-Ville Marie, 70,801 voters are registered amid a population of 94,061. Westmount’s population according to the 2006 census was 20,494.

41,340 votes were cast in the January 2006 election in the riding.

The riding stretches from Hingston and Beaconsfield avenues in NDG to St. Lawrence Blvd. and the St. Lawrence River. Its northern limit is a line formed by Queen Mary Rd. and Pine Ave. To south, it reaches to the 720 and Bonaventure expressways.

Mayor's Column

Westmount's sustainability vision needs your input

BY KARIN MARKS
MAYOR OF WESTMOUNT



Sustainability is like motherhood – something that no one can oppose. But the fact that we all agree on the importance of both does not assure that we have the same understanding or interpretation of their meaning

or their impact.

We do, however, all recognize that both are essential to the future of our society and our quality of life.

Motherhood, I shall leave you each to define within the confines of your own families and experience. But sustainability we must define together if we are to look at how it applies to our daily lives in this community and to the way the city functions.

In doing so, we will attempt to come to an understanding that will allow us as a community to go forward in a clear direction, guide future decisions and allow us to measure their success. That will be the role of a sustainable development plan which city council has undertaken to create with the community within the next year.

Plan will affect all city operations

This plan will affect how we operate internally within the administration of the city and in the community in our delivery of services to residents. It will guide us in assessing some of our by-laws and policies and assuring that they are providing the necessary opportunities for both today's and tomorrow's residents of Westmount. The plan will ultimately be a means of promoting practices that make it possible to sustain, in a responsible way, the quality of life that we currently enjoy.

The first step is to agree on a vision statement. While I can already hear the groans from those who have been involved in writing mission statements, please keep reading.

Even though the efforts of writing such statements are painstaking, the process enables a group to discuss and prioritize the values for which an organization, in this case a city, stands and that are supported by its members and its operations. This process initiates a group discussion and an interaction that builds community, awareness and understanding. Like motherhood and sustainability, it would be hard to argue with the value of awareness and understanding.

In Westmount, we wanted to be leaders in defining and creating the elements of a sustainable city. We began by trying to

identify community values. We first held a council workshop, followed by a meeting with residents from a variety of active local groups, and consultations with our own Healthy City committee. We then asked our newly-hired, but extremely experienced, sustainable development coordinator, Joshua Wolfe, to look at the values articulated at these meetings. His mandate was to put forward some vision statements based on that input and on the kind of vision expressed by other cities like ours. These would then be discussed by the community at large.

Dialogue between all residents

Now it is time to engage *all* of you in this dialogue. We want you to participate in the creation of Westmount's vision statement for sustainability. We want you to participate in the generation of ideas for actions to be pursued. We want you to be part of defining the future for our community and for generations to come.

To this end, Joshua will begin by holding three visioning workshops during which residents will have a chance to learn a bit about what has been done elsewhere and then focus on three proposed statements which reflect the ideas shared so far. Participants may endorse one of those or may want to modify them or combine them or come up with completely new ones. This is just a starting point from which to evolve.

Some of you will choose to become very involved with this process, while others may attend only one session to have their say. All input is important.

These days with the emphasis on the changing environment, on the need for awareness about healthy living, on the importance of protecting identity, heritage and culture and the many other potential components of sustainability, we cannot close our eyes to the role a city can play in assuring all of these. But these are not de-

cisions to be made alone by those who govern. They must be the fruit of a broad consultation, creative and informed input and the building of consensus around a shared vision.

All welcome

Whether you are a longstanding resident of Westmount with a grown family or you're a new member of the community who is single or with a house full of children, your input is important. Whether you are 85 or more, or you are a youngster interested in how this city will be for you as you grow up, the more perspectives we have, the more inclusive the result.

I invite you to participate and to stimulate others and be challenged by the ideas of your friends and neighbours.

Meetings will be held at Victoria Hall:

- Tuesday, September 16 from 7 pm to 9:30 pm
- Thursday, October 16, from 7 pm to 9:30 pm
- Sunday, November 16, from 2 pm to 4:30 pm

More information is available on our website.

This process and its outcome is something to which I am very committed. I think its evolution will be exciting. We are incredibly fortunate to have a uniquely well-informed population with a breadth of experience to bring to this societal debate and I am so looking forward to seeing what will emerge.

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

EDITOR & PUBLISHER:
David Price 514.935.4537
EDITORIAL COORDINATOR:
Kristin McNeill 514.223.3578
indie@westmountindependent.com

CHIEF REPORTER:
Laureen Sweeney
laureen@westmountindependent.com

LAYOUT: Studio Melrose/Ted Sancton

LETTERS & COMMENTS: We welcome your letters, but reserve the right to choose and edit them.
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Correction

In our September 2 Comin' Up, we erroneously stated the blood drive hosted by the fire department, police and Public Security was to take place on September 4. In fact, it took place two days before. We apologize to the hosts and would-be donors.

Selwyn to host youth conference

Selwyn House will be hosting a conference, Educating Youth for Global Responsibility, on Thursday, October 2 to mark its centennial. The event is open to the public.

Speakers include filmmaker Sacha Trudeau, freestyle (mogul) skier and Olympic gold medalist Jennifer Heil and former Ontario premier Bob Rae.

The conference will take place at the school from 2 to 6 pm. Tickets are \$15 for students and \$25 for adults. Proceeds will be divided among the participating organizations. Tickets can be purchased at www.selwyn.ca via or by contacting Vanessa Ferreira-Valente at 514.931.9481 x 2292 or valentev@selwyn.ca.

Civic Alert

Opening the books: tax less, now or later

BY DON WEDGE



Never mind the latest “Save us from the Whatever” (SUFTW) critics, let us declare that Westmount Inc. works! Despite all the distractions of 2007, the audited results for the year showed an operating result with a 14 percent surplus – a \$5 million windfall on a \$36 million budget. In 2006, it was \$3.5 million.

These are sizeable amounts. As reported last week, the funds have been stashed away to meet costs and keep taxes down in the years to come. Council allocated \$500,000 for snow removal, \$600,000 towards the new arena and \$1.7 million towards pay-as-you-go.

Could there have been different priorities or different amounts allocated? We were not part of the debate and we will probably never know.

What was the reasoning for making funds available for the future arena rather than a tax cut?

Will it lead to a reduction in taxes for 2009? Or would we be better off reducing the debt sooner rather than later?

Could we return the pay-as-you-go fund to the pre-2002 level so that it covers all the routine maintenance without the expense of borrowing money? Or should we reduce the big debt dumped on us by Montreal during the forced merger years?

I would have liked to hear more of finance commissioner Guy Charette’s thinking on these issues. Contemporary democracy calls for a public entry point into these kinds of decisions.

At least we know where last year’s extra income came from. The biggest boost was the welcome tax on property transfers. The buoyant market produced \$4.4 million – double what had been expected.

Montreal collects more fines

Also nearly double was the \$1.9 million

in fines. Previously Montreal had been very lax in collecting from defaulters.

Plus, Hydro-Westmount had particularly good results in 2007, not paying any penalties for peak cold-day use.

What are the chances of another big surplus in 2008? It is too soon to know, but city treasurer Claude Lachance said we should not presume the welcome tax will continue at the same level. When making provisions of this type, they take five and ten year averages.

Hydro’s costly cold-day surcharges kicked in this year. Snow clearing was also very high this winter and there may be more big expenses before January 1.

Commissioner Charette and treasurer Lachance developed the policy of combining the many debts from the forced merger, which were then covered by bonds issued for the total.

Interest on these only became payable midway through 2008, but next year’s budget will have to meet the full year’s interest plus some capital repayments.

Public input sought

To explain such details last year, treasurer Lachance and his department went to a good deal of trouble to prepare a presentation, but only five citizens attended. Nevertheless, council will try again this year.

But first, both the process and background for the 2009 budget will be put on the city’s website, according to Tom Thompson, chair of the Finance and Administration Committee. Public input on the flexible items will be sought, also via the internet.

He anticipated that this will be available by early October and then the presentation would be made before a regular council meeting.

One can only hope for constructive input from residents. The interest generated in municipal spending by the renewal of the soccer field and the arena renovations ought to trigger keen debate on the sort of options outlined above.

But public budgeting’s scope is limited as so much of the spending is fixed.

For instance, there is almost no flexibility with labour costs. If we continue to employ 216 full-time people, then the expense will be very predictable because of the negotiated agreements.

Indeed, most costs are unavoidable – snow clearing, for instance. Nonetheless, council should discuss the flexible areas, as well as the big picture, with residents.

In preparing for 2009, Thompson is anticipating at least one windfall.

In the summer, when Mayor Karin Marks and her colleagues of the reconsti-

tuted cities negotiated the new deal with Montreal, it seemed wishful thinking that there might be a net benefit of about \$3 million annually due to Westmounters.

Since then, there has been a sense of waiting for the other shoe to drop. So far, it hasn’t. Or at least, if it fell, it was so softly it could not be heard!

Now Thompson is confident that that a \$3 million differential will be realized. And those debatable questions will recur: should we cut taxes or accelerate the reduction of the debt burden?

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

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Letters to the editor

IKEMAN NOT IN SUFTA, NOT ITS LEADER

The September 2, p. 5 article by your columnist Don Wedge ("Reasonable accommodation, Westmount-style"), states that I am the leader of a group called SUFTA. This is completely false.

I have no association with such a group, and am not familiar with them.

Please ensure your writers get their facts correct before publishing my name.

GARY IKEMAN, ST. CATHERINE ST.

Editor's note: Thank you for the letter. In the paragraph before Don Wedge identifies you as the leader of "SUFTA," he

and cons of Westmount's future arena undertakings.

What is important:

- Rudeness and bullying are not acceptable;
- The dissemination of misinformation leads to unnecessary conflicts;
- City council has initiated public discussion;
- The opponents have had unlimited access to using the question periods at the city council meetings of July 22 and August 25;
- The opponents should respect the needs, rights and desires of other citizens;
- Respectful dialogue – instead of repetitive one-sided, lengthy, hateful, shrill di-



Arena continues to be the major issue for comment.

states: "Questioners [at city council] included ... protesters – *whom I think of as* "Save us from the arena" (SUFTA)" [*emphasis added*].

I think a normal reading of the column – or even just the two paragraphs mentioned – makes it clear that SUFTA is a term invented by Wedge and that you cannot be the actual leader of an invented group.

INCIVILITY 'NOT RIGHT', EVEN IF 'THINGS' AREN'T

A letter ("Arena is everyone's backyard" by Gary Ikeman, St. Catherine St.) in your edition of August 26 states that I (in my letter of the August 19 edition) ignore that arena opponents speak out loudly because things are *not right*.

The crux of my letter was not the high decibels of lung power, but the incivility. The author's unwarranted rationale for disorderly conduct is that, in his opinion, "things are *not right*."

What is next? A justification for rioting? Arson? Bombing?

At this time, I will not refer to the pros

atribes – is essential;

- Nature endowed us with ears as well as tongues.

STAN GROSSMAN,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

DOG BY-LAW 'UNENFORCED'

Dorothy Lipovenko made a great suggestion with her letter last week ("Public meeting with Public Security"). A public meeting with the Public Security director and some of his staff would be educational, not least for Public Security, one suspects.

There's been a major turnover of Public Security staff in the past couple of years and Lipovenko referred to it. There's a popular feeling that the unit is not what it was. Early in June, a senior Public Security office was quoted saying they were going to enforce the dog by-law. It would have been an original move and a substantial revenue producer. Sadly, the PSOs on the street seem never to have got the memo and the by-law goes unenforced.

D. O. NEWNHAM,
METCALFE AVE.

Dawson coroner's report under local review

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

At press time, local Montreal police and Westmount city officials said they would be reviewing the coroner's report into the Dawson College shooting two years ago that claimed the life of one student and the perpetrator, and wounded 16 others.

A long list of widely publicized recommendations released September 4 includes the further restriction of firearms and increased security. Dawson has already beefed up its own security measures following the rampage September 13, 2006.

"We'll be checking to see if there is something we can learn from that report," said police commander Michel Wilson, local station 12 commandant. "It's a constant evolution."

Westmount director general Bruce

Louis also said he would be looking at the report with a similar objective.

Police constable Alain Diallo, who continues to work at station 12, is among those who will be receiving the Medal of Bravery from Governor-General Michaëlle Jean at Rideau Hall September 19, Wilson confirmed. Diallo and a partner were already on the scene on another call when the incident began unfolding.

Westmount public safety officers, who also worked at the scene, have been among those honoured for their actions in preventing further injury and loss of life.



*Constable
Alain Diallo*

Norman and Douglas Shearer win new posthumous award

A Westmount sister and brother who gained Hollywood fame starting in the 1920s were honoured Sunday at the 10th anniversary and induction celebration of Canada's Walk of Fame in Toronto.

Norma and Douglas Shearer received the new Canadian Legends Award given posthumously to Canadian pioneers in film, music, sport, arts, and innovation. It was inaugurated by the Walk's sponsor, Cineplex Entertainment and Universal Studios Canada. Actress Norma, who is perhaps more widely known than her brother, won one Academy Award and was nominated for many, while Douglas is reported to have won seven times for sound technology along with many nominations.

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Westmount group supports non-violence charity 'Rock, Paper, LOVE'

BY ANNIKA MELANSON

"Rock, Paper, LOVE" is a fashion show that will benefit LOVE (Leave Out Violence), a Montreal organization that works with youth affected by violence.

The show will take place at the ultra-trendy Koko restaurant and bar, located in the Opus Hotel (10 Sherbrooke St. W.), on September 23 at 6:30 pm and is put on by Parasol, a committee of six women that was formed last year to raise funds for chosen charities.

Parasol's members are Westmount business owners Astri Prugger (dress designer) and Tracy Gartner (jewelry designer), as well as Eugenia Leavitt (fashion designer), Lea Stillinger (professional photographer and owner of Mitz), Claudia Gravel (jewelry designer) and Selene Calef (a patron of the arts).

"It was formed from a street corner conversation between Selene and me," said Prugger, "we wanted to do something for charity and decided to do it."

LOVE was founded in 1993 in Montreal by former Westmounter Twinkle Rudberg, whose husband was murdered by a 14-year-old boy. LOVE's mission is to reduce violence in the lives of youth by building a team of youth who communicate a message of non-violence.

"LOVE is changing the culture of youth and is allowing these youth to pursue their dreams," said Rudberg. "The 'Rock, Paper, LOVE' fashion show is the perfect example. Beatrice Yankey [one of the show participants] has always had a love for fashion and LOVE is proud to help her pursue this dream, with many thanks to Astri Prugger for taking her under her wing and working with our youth on this beautiful project."

A number of Westmounters are on LOVE's board of directors, including Jeff Baikowitz (chairperson), Satoko Ingram, Brian Bronfman, Brenda Proulx and Patrick Shea.

Shea joined LOVE in 2003 while living in New York and became a director and of-



Eugenia Leavitt (left) and Astri Prugger.

ficer of the first US branch. Shortly after his return to Montreal, he joined the Quebec board of directors. "I joined because of the destructive role that violence plays with youth," he explained.

Tickets are \$50 and include a fashion show, hors d'oeuvres and drinks (donated

by the Koko restaurant and bar) and a goody bag at the door.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Astri Prugger, Astri Prugger Design, 322 Victoria Ave., 514.369.4799, www.parasolmontreal.com.

Community coming together for Art Westmount '08

continued from p. 1

huge gallery."

The goal of the event is to provide amateur and professional painters, photographers and sculptors with the opportunity to exhibit their work and for residents to

be able to watch them and meet with them – and even acquire the artwork.

This year's open studio weekend features an increase in participating artists over the 43 in the inaugural one in 2006. It also involves many volunteers who will assist where needed. There was no selection committee and the event was open to all local artists.

This time, the many viewing locations will be within Westmount to improve access. Some local artists who maintain studios elsewhere will be able to exhibit their work in group settings. One will be Victoria Hall proper. The Gallery will be used as a staging and a rest area where coffee will be served.

The partnership with advertising merchants makes it possible for organizers to publish a high-quality directory of the participating artists including samples of their work, Forbes explained.

Now in preparation, the directory will be available free of charge in about a month at Victoria Hall and other municipal buildings as well as the outlets of all participating merchants and business owners.

"It's bringing together all ages and all sorts of artists including those living at Place Kensington and Manoir West-



Andrew Burlone, Virginia Elliott and Nicole Forbes discuss the grouping of exhibit venues.

mount," Forbes said. "Our Westmount Scouts will also be delivering the directory door to door in some areas of the city."

While the event is backed by the city through the Recreation & Culture standing committee of council, artists will be responsible for showing their work and for

any arrangements they make with visitors.

In addition to Forbes and Burlone, members of the organizing committee include Mui Bui, Amy Creighton, Virginia Elliott, Jennifer Goddard, Chantal Montreuil, Ramez Rabbat, Janis Walsh and Daniela Zekini.

Late summer sun



Crossing guard Roger O'Connell keeps a vigilant eye at the intersection of Clarke Ave. and de Maisonneuve – while dressing for September 3's great weather. Pointing to his water bottle, he said, "It's not beer!"

Comin' Up...

Tuesday, Sept. 9: Westmount Horticultural Society's first meeting of the fall at the Westmount Library at 7 pm. Membership: \$10 for remainder of year; \$5 guests. Info: www.whsociety.com.

Wednesday, Sept. 10: Special Council Meeting at city hall at 12 noon. ● Michael Tritt reviews *Away* by Amy Bloom at 10 am at Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom. \$8.

Monday, Sept. 15: Montreal Camera Club's opening meeting at Westmount Park Church (4695 de Maisonneuve) at 7:30 pm. Highlights of upcoming fall program, newcomers welcome. Info: John Zimmerman at 514.484.6656.

Wednesday, September 17: Eliezer Yaari, general director of the New Israel Fund on building Israeli civil society, human rights and religious tolerance at 7:30 pm at 4100 Sherbrooke St. 514.937.3575. ● "The Wisdom of Larry David's *Curb Your Enthusiasm*: A Conversion Confrontation" at 5:45 pm at Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom, \$10 per person (dinner & materials). Reserve early 514.937.3575.

Thursday, September 18: Westmount Historical Association lecture "Marianopolis

College; Celebrating its Centennial" by Françoise Boisvert CND, the CEGEP's director general, at the Westmount Public Library from 7 to 9 pm. \$5 at the door.

Saturday September 20: Slichot program: Garry Beitel presents his film *My Dear Clara* at Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom at 8:30 pm. 514.937.3575.

Wednesday, Sept. 24: "The Wisdom of Larry David's *Curb Your Enthusiasm*: Jewish Stereotyping of Jews and Non-Jews in Our Time" at 5:45 pm Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom. \$10 per person (dinner & materials). Reserve early 514.937.3575

September 26, 27 & 28: The Foundation for Public Poetry's Montreal Public Poetry Festival at Café Culturel SABA (5124-A Sherbrooke St.). For complete schedule: www.publicpoetry.wordpress.com.

Thursday, October 2: Selwyn House's *Educating Youth for Global Responsibility* conference from 2 to 6 pm. Tickets: \$15 for students, \$25 for adults. Tickets can be purchased at www.selwyn.ca. ● St. Leo's (330 Clarke Ave.) Super Bazar from 1 to 6 pm.

31 Willow reborn



As reported in the June 3 *Independent*, the house on the northeast corner of Willow and Claremont was flattened on May 28 (right).

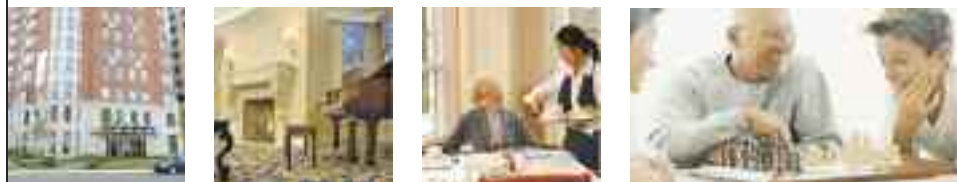
Above is the outline of the new house as of September 4.



photo: Carol Kremer.

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Programs managed by Centre Greene

CHILDCARE

Activity	Age	Day	Time	Cost	Coordinator	Information
After School Program	5-13	M-F	3:45 – 6pm	\$195 / Month	Sophie Cram	514-931-6202
Pedagogical Days	5-13	Various	8am – 6pm	\$30/ day	Sophie Cram	514-931-6202
March Break Camp	5-13	March 2nd – 6th, 2009	8am – 6pm	TBA	Sophie Cram	514-931-6202
Halte Garderie	12mth – 5	M,W,F	9am – 3pm	\$25 / day	Centre Greene	514-931-6202

CHILDREN

Tumbling Tots	under 5	T&Th	9:30 – 11am	\$3.50 / drop-in	Centre Greene	514-931-6202
TGIF	5-11	Fridays	6 – 8:30pm	\$12 drop-in	Centre Greene	514-931-6202

SENIORS

Seniors' Luncheon	Seniors	2nd & 4th Wednesdays	12:15 – 2pm	\$5.00 / meal	Centre Greene	514-931-6202
Caregivers Tea	All	3rd Tuesday	2 – 4pm	tba	Mary-Anne McNally	514-931-6202
Meals on Wheels	Seniors	T, F	Mid-day	Need volunteers	Jackie	514-935-3817
Ballroom Dancing for People						
Living with Parkinson's	All	Th	2 – 3pm	\$10/class	Ellen Rubin	514-484-2016
Tai Chi-based Gentle Stretch	Seniors	W	11am – 12pm	\$10/class	Craig Cormack	514-369-7860

Programs managed by outside instructors

DANCE (For inquiries please call instructor)

Classical Ballet	4+	Various	Various		Ora Kozlov	514-932-2389
Classical Ballet	Adults	F	9:15 – 10:45am		Ora Kozlov	514-932-2389
Intermediate Ballet	Adults	M & W	9:15 – 10:45am		Sheila Lawrence	514-989-9034
Baladi	Adults	M	7:30-9pm		Fouzia Aachi	514-931-0827
Creative Movement	3-7	Sat	1:30 – 2:15pm		Andrea de Almeida	514-939-5518

MARTIAL ARTS / FITNESS / WELLNESS

Olympia Tae Kwon Do	All	W, F, Sat	Various		Reza Ramezani	514-486-2139
Prayer of Heart & Body Yoga	Adults	M	5 – 6:15pm		Lucinda Lyman	514-937-2996
		W	9:15 – 10:30am			
Northern Shaolin	16+	W	7:45 – 9:15pm		Martin Roy	514-510-8076
Kung-Fu		Sun	1 – 2:30pm			
Capoeira	All	T, Th	8 – 9:30pm		Jeroo Jamaji	514-804-3624
Kickboxing	All	T	6:30 – 8pm		Jeroo Jamaji	514-804-3624
Yoga	All	T	10 – 11am		Erica Follon	514-710-7842
Tai Chi	Adults	Th	7 – 8pm		Craig Cormack	514-369-7860
Chi Kong	Adults	Th	5:45 – 6:45pm		Craig Cormack	514-369-7860
Relaxation	Adults	T	6:30 – 8:30pm		Tina Galego	450-655-3605

HEALTH / EDUCATION

La Leche League	Moms & Babies	2nd Thursday	9:30 – 11am		Kimberly	514-504-5815
Breast feeding info & support					Melissa	514-939-0698
Family Massage Course	All	T	7 – 9pm		Craig Cormack	514-369-7860
Kui Hua Chinese Language School	5-13	Sat	10 – 12:30pm		Sally Lei	514-365-0407

SPORTS

MacGregor Soccer School	6-15	T, Sat	Various		Greg MacGregor	514-935-4036
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ROOM RENTALS (For inquiries please call Centre Greene 514-931-6202)

Room	Rental Rate	Approximate Capacity	Room	Rental Rate	Approximate Capacity
Gym	\$47/hr	200	Kitchen	\$17/hr	15
<i>The Gym at Centre Greene is available for friendly games of Badminton, Floor Hockey, Basketball and Soccer.</i>			Conference Room	\$17/hr	15
Sunroom and Kitchen	\$37/hr	75	Studio	\$20/hr	40
			3rd Floor	\$17/hr	30

HOLD THAT DATE! Don't miss our annual Treats n' Treasures Holiday Bazaar on Saturday November 22, 2008

Is there a program or activity that you would be interested in that is not currently offered? Please contact us:

Centre Greene, 1090 avenue Greene, Westmount, H3Z 1Z9

Tel (514) 931-6202 • Fax (514) 931-4505 • E-mail info@centregreene.org • www.centregreene.org

Croquet on the bowling green



Louis Nel of Ottawa (left) and Westmounter Andrew de Courcy-Ireland at the Quebec Open Croquet tournament, which was held at the Westmount bowling green on September 5 and 6.

CLASSIFIED

Lost cat. White with grey tail and grey head. Lost in Westmount. If found, please call: 514-486-3886.

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Londono visits alma mater



Tatiana Londono after speaking to Marianopolis students.

Photo: Isaac Olson.

Tatiana Londono, a Westmount-based real estate agent, broker and reality TV star, returned to Marianopolis, her former CEGEP, on September 2 to speak to commerce students. While recounting her own story of graduating from Marianopolis and McGill to jobs at call centres, in real

estate and finally on TV, Londono told students that the key to prosperity is hard work and determination. Londono has appeared on *Buy Me* and now stars in *The Property Shop*. Her one-year-old firm, the Londono Realty Group, is based at 4150 Sherbrooke St. near Greene Ave.



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Sec. 1 to Sec. 5: November 1

French Sector Open House

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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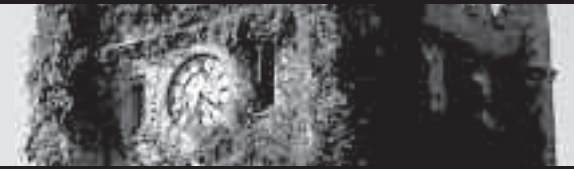
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Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount



Sustainable Development

Building a new vision for the future

Sustainable development is essential to keeping Westmount vibrant. Take part in a community-wide discussion on a new sustainability vision for the City that will inspire and guide future actions and policies.

Nestled on the slopes of one of Mount Royal's three summits and surrounded by the Montreal urban region, Westmount is a human-scaled city offering safe, healthy and pleasant places to live, work, play and grow. Westmount seeks to be sustainable over the long term by working to advance:

- the stewardship of our natural environment - locally, regionally and globally;
- a vibrant and balanced economy based on the prudent and equitable use of natural and human resources;
- a sense of responsibility in our citizenry - toward each other, our neighbours, and the people of the rest of the world;
- a strong sense of place created by people, and featuring a distinctive landscape and built environment that will endure over time;
- human health and dignity, including physical, mental and social well-being;
- meaningful engagement and input into political decision-making processes.

As the local government, we work to create a community that can meet the needs of the present while ensuring that future generations and other species will flourish.

Westmount is a human-scaled city on the island of Montreal that strives for sustainable development by seeking environmental preservation, economic vitality, health for all, a sense of community, and social equity. We work to create a place that can meet the needs of the present while ensuring that future generations and other species flourish.

Sustainable development aims at meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The City's objectives are ecological integrity, heritage preservation, healthy lifestyles, economic efficiency and social equity among individuals and generations.

In Westmount, the implementation of the sustainable development approach will ensure that residents' essential needs are met, maintain the best possible living environment for residents, and facilitate resident participation in the decision-making process on issues affecting them, while minimizing the impact of human activity on the environment.

Three drafts, one vision

Here are three draft vision statements for your comments and suggestions. From these ideas, the City will craft a final text that reflects input from members of the community like you.

Share your thoughts with us:

- Submit your comments electronically through our Web site
- Collaborate through your preferred Westmount community group
- Participate in any – or all – of three public meetings at Victoria Hall
 - Tuesday, September 16 at 7 p.m.
 - Thursday, October 16 at 7 p.m.
 - Sunday, November 16 at 2 p.m.





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Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1459934

LE SUD OUEST



DU CANAL ST.

Great loft with wall to wall windows and city views. 11-ft ceilings, original beams, brick wall. Corner unit overlooking the canal, bike path, walk to Old Montreal, Downtown, hard wood floors, central air, garage and gym locker. **Asking \$299,000**
Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1407510

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GRAND BLVD.

Bright spacious pristine cottage on wide Blvd. Updated 4+1 home with open concept kitchen/dining/family room. High and dry bsmt. Immense garden for kids and dogs. Very convenient location to amenities and transport. **Asking \$419,000**
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Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1454927

LE SUD OUEST



DU CANAL ST.

Loft studio, in the Corticelli, close to Downtown & Old Montreal, next to canal and bicycle path. Perfect pied à terre- wood floors, big windows, renovated bath, large kitchen overlooking interior garden, open living/dining/bedroom area and Murphy bed. Easy parking. **Asking: \$219,000**
Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1459143

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Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1427564



Colourfully Yours: Pima in Lima

BY AURELIEN GUILLORY
& GRETA VON SCHMEDLAPP



Well, hello my dears!

It's been a long vacation from the *Westmount Independent*.

Your dear Greta von Schmedlapp has been a travelling design sleuth for the past several months...

I guess I should say "*Hola!*" instead, since Aurelien and I were invited to the PeruModa fashion and home show in April; and – after visits to New York, Toronto, Quebec City and our beloved Eastern Townships – I'm again hiding stowaway to go to the Peru Gift Show in late September...

We are researching and detailing the continuing Coleccion Aurelio that Aurelien and I last mentioned about our trip to Puebla Mexico... We have just received a big box from Lima, with lovely colour samples of the Pima long-staple cotton bedding that we first encountered in April...

The sheets, duvets and pillows are so

luxurious, you will think that the quality has stratospheric prices, but neither Pratesi or Frette or Porthault can equal the detailing of the glamorous embroidery with ancient, yet modern, motifs.

We have also discovered cozy Alpaca throws and cushions as well as carpets to bring to our Canadian clients this winter. I am happy to report that the sheets wash beautifully – tho' Aurelien loves to have the cottage well water and clothes line add a special feeling and scent to his sheets.

We visited several New York shops looking for equivalent quality, and did find it at \$1,200 per set, as the Pima is equal to Egyptian at about two thirds the price.

Every one of Aurel's clients and friends has sighed over them, and is waiting for the shipment news after we return...

So, my design fiends, as I said about Mexico, I say double again about Peru. We here in the north haven't a clue about the design and quality level that the Lima ladies have to choose from.

Wait till I report on the llama carpets and other goodies we will soon have.

Now, I must also tell you, that my

avowed addiction to the classic GIN martini has been shaken by the elegant complex flavours of the Peruvian iconic PISCO SOUR.

The only trouble is that the grappa-like essence called Pisco is not easily found here, those crisp and complex flavours will soon require me to find a special importer... Fasten your seat belts, Westmount. The Pisco sour is on the invasion path.

Now, I must bring us back to the reality of fall starting back here. Have you seen the design area around the Decarie/Jean Talon/Royalmount area?

Decor Inc. moves from Westmount

Another superb shop has moved from Westmount to the area: that classic shop on St. Catherine and Olivier, Decor Inc. has joined the venerable Fraser and Union Lighting. Decor has been around for over 30 years, and its new location at 5650 Royalmount is lovely, and all on the ground floor.

New things are arriving from owner Robert Martin's shopping at the High Point Market. They excel at the perfect ac-

cent item, not big sofas, but choice and different pieces. I must again say that Ambiente in the old Kenny Wong's location looks really opulent with all sorts of fine Barbara Barry designs, while I must remind you that the second floor of Fraser on Devonshire has a surprising batch of deco and retro modern items that contrast with the classic traditional main floor.

Thomasville has a huge selection of large fabric swatches to help you imagine the perfect sofa covering. So, design fiends, get out there and shop!

Oops! I can't forget our Westmount-in-the-country, Knowlton. Joel Dumas and his Mosaik shop are opening the lofts to rentals for the ski season, and Aurelien's designed loft #8 has now super canvas drapery from our secret source C&M Textiles, and special items from Joel's last Bali visit...

Do stop by in the next few Sundays, perhaps your dear Greta will be there with Aurel for a good cup of Darjeeling.

I must stop now, do HELP me find a source for Pisco here *POR FAVOUR*.

Hasta la vista, your Greta.



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Centre Greene kicks off fall season



Centre Greene's advanced ballet group.

Centre Greene's (1090 Greene Ave., www.centregreene.org) advanced level ballet group, taught by ballet program director Ora Kozlov, performed at the centre's open house on September 6.

The event began with a neighbourhood parade around Stayner Park, which was followed by a sing-a-long with Centre

Greene's beloved Ben. Adults were invited to participate in trial classes that will be offered for the fall session, such as Tai Chi Gentle Stretch and Relaxation.

For more information about fall classes for all ages offered at Centre Greene or to register, call 514.931.6202.

Strathcona Ave.'s street party



From left: Marie-José Rousseau, Faten Hodroge, Serena Aspinall-Hodroge, Lena Atlas, Alicia Hamilton, Meryl Spielman, Milica Vachon, Andrey Hollinger, Navena Cahill, Fiona McFarlane and Lily Lam. Not pictured: organizing committee member Rachelle Sochaczewski.

Strathcona Ave.'s street party was held on September 7, providing a chance for neighbours to mingle and get to know one another. All ages enjoyed food, drinks,

games and socializing. This is the first street party in nine years, but residents are planning to make this an annual event.

More than courses at Thomas More



From left: Westmounters Sylvie Plouffe, Barry Cole and Claudia Bierman registering for the fall term.

Students registered for their fall courses at the Thomas More Institute, just east of Westmount on Atwater Ave. at Sherbrooke St., during the adult-education institute's open house, book sale and registration on September 6.

One fact that many Westmounters may not know: there is more than just course work available at the institute. Through Bishop's University, the Thomas More In-

stitute can grant BA degrees.

There's another public event planned for this month: the institute will hold its 44th annual art exhibition and art sale by contemporary professional Quebec artists from Wednesday, September 10 to Friday, September 19.

The Thomas More Institute is located at 3405 Atwater Ave. (514.935.9585, www.thomasmore.qc.ca).

Ever wondered how?



Workers at 200 Lansdowne Ave. mow the lawn using rope to keep the mower in place on the steep hill.

Westmount Profile: Stan Grossman

Taking a stand

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

He takes a stand against something he perceives as wrong. And if it runs counter to the opinions of others, so be it.

After all, Stan Grossman is his own man – and one with a lifetime of experience in community organizations, trail-blazing social causes and moving them forward into leading edge legislation.

Advocate, environmentalist, art collector and passionate cyclist, he rarely misses an opportunity at a Westmount city council meeting to pitch for extended bike paths, increased restaurant permits or even for civility among other questioners.

“I’ve been a rebel all my life,” he says. And now that he’s in his late 70s, he adds, “I’m still an idealist, but I like to be practical.”

As a student from a conservative family in the late 1940s, Grossman joined the CCF club and protested the Duplessis Padlock Law, which outlawed the propagation of communism.

While living on Lac Marois for 30 years, he served as president of the St. Anne des Lacs citizen association. Here, he launched water testing of septic tanks to prevent leakage into the lake by doing it in his own kitchen. “Then I got the mayor involved.”

He also pioneered limitations on motorboats. Soliciting legal expertise, he found a way to successfully adopt and enforce legislation. “We became the first municipality in Quebec to do so and paved the way for others.”

He has been secretary of the Beaconsfield Chamber of Commerce, treasurer of Alliance Quebec during the Anthony Housefather presidency, and even helped run a Laurentian theatre.

Rebel with respect

And it’s through his experience with other municipal councils, he says, that he’s earned huge respect for Westmount’s. “They’re light years ahead of what I’m used to. While I’m a rebel, I feel you have to show respect for others and it upsets me when people try to advocate their causes rudely and without that respect.

“I have no patience for people who have no tolerance for the opinions of others. I’ve taken a stand recently against the Save the Park! group, and the anti-arena people because of a lack of tolerance,” he explains.

As an ardent cyclist, Grossman uses the bike path to go downtown, “but I feel very sorry for the merchants on de Maison-neuve who are suffering from it.” He’s not afraid to tell off other cyclists who cut off 6-year-old kids on bike paths.

Nor does he hesitate to press his point of view with close colleagues – even at board meetings of the Westmount Municipal Association, of which he’s a director and a member of the 100th anniversary committee.

“You’ll notice I never ask my questions at council on behalf of the WMA,” he muses.

In fact, as official timekeeper at the recent Meet the Candidates evening, Grossman was bothered by the customary raising of a sign to alert speakers to the remaining 30 seconds. “I find it rather offensive,” he says. “We have to find another way.”

Always a loner

Born in Montreal, Grossman grew up “in Mordecai Richler’s neighbourhood”. As a student at Strathcona Academy, he says, “I was always a loner.” At McGill, “I was sort of anti-establishment. I felt I would never grow old; other people were born that way.”

But he became immersed in politics as vice-president of the student CCF club and of the Student Labour Club that studied labour issues. Many years later while living downtown, he became president of the Westmount Progressive Conservative riding association, and in 1972 worked as campaign chairman for (now Senator) Michael Meighen.

After McGill in 1949, Grossman went into the family fur business for 10 years. “Then I tried running an import company, gravitated into life insurance and evolved into financial services.” The work is a common interest he shares with his wife, stockbroker Anne Dixon. “I still have some of my some longtime clients.”

He also enjoys the freedom to take off on his bicycle. He thinks nothing of cycling out to St. Anne to Bellevue or over to the South Shore.

Married in a cast

“I was very unathletic when I was young – more into photography. But with the years, that changed. I was even married in a leg cast from here,” motioning to his foot, “all the way up to here, following



Stan Grossman in front of a painting by Canadian painter F.S. Coburn.

a ski accident at Mount Washington.”

An art collector, he reads poetry, fills a carousel of 300 CDs and plays the harmonica, keyboard and ukulele.

A Westmount resident since 2001, Grossman has happy memories of the Laser sailing regattas and costumed Labour Day races he introduced while

chairing the Lac Marois sailing club. “Those were a lot of fun. And that’s one thing I like about the Westmount community with its Spring Soirée and the Winter Carnival.

“I’m a serious person, but I think we should enjoy life because it doesn’t last that long.”

[Tip 11]
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