## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

January 27-28, 2009 We are Westmount Vol. 3 No. 1d

### Residents shocked by 7-year rebuild of Ville Marie highway

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Plans to lower the Ville Marie Expressway onto embankments from Greene Ave. west to the Turcot Interchange drew fiery responses when unveiled by Transport Quebec at a public meeting January 19 at Victoria Hall.

The work is projected to start at the end of 2009 and continue day and night, 12 months of the year for up to seven years. Its timeframe coincides with construction of the MUHC superhospital.

Residents, many appearing shocked at the duration of the \$1.5 billion plan, voiced Westmount's long-proposed sound bar-They also suggested the project missed

concern over the impact of noise and air pollution, and the uncertain future of

an opportunity to incorporate new technology and to integrate it with some form of rapid mass transit that would focus on moving people rather than cars. How would it be an improvement over what was built 40 years ago?

"Seven years is an enormous amount of time," Mayor Karin Marks declared of the construction timeline. "What will be the impact on health?"

#### No easy answers

Suggesting there were no easy answers, she said Westmount would participate in upcoming BAPE environmental hearings and urged citizens to do likewise. If the plan should be approved, a ..... private partner would then continued on p. 6

### Steele marks 30 years as a milkman



Jeff Steele, with his wife Ginette, is marking his 30th anniversary this year as a milkman in Westmount. For 16 years before acquiring his own route in 1979, he worked as a milkman's helper, starting at age 6. The story of Jeff and Ginette is on p. 15.

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# **Brian and Vivian Grant**

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### Winter carnival features new events

By Laureen Sweeney

A figure skating show and a Termite hockey tournament are among new events and innovations at Westmount's Winter Carnival taking place from Thursday through Saturday, February 5 to 7.

"We're trying to involve the younger children this year," said Dave Lapointe, Westmount Sports and Recreation admin-

Along with the traditional toboggan night, horse-drawn sleigh rides and sugar

shack, how about taking a voyage to outer space as part of the family night party? Or reliving the burlesque razzle-dazzle of the Prohibition era at a Speakeasy Casino

The "Frosty Fun" activities kick off Thursday, February 5 at 6:30 pm at Murray Park with a bonfire, hot chocolate and lots of sliding as part of Toboggan Night. Inflated inner tires will be provided by the Sports and Recreation department, but it's recommended that sliders bring helmets. continued on p. 2



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### YMCA, Rotary support Nicaraguan youth centre

A YMCA youth centre has just opened in Santa Lucía, Nicaragua. It was made possible by funding from the Westmount YMCA, the Rotary Club of Westmount, three individual Westmounters, CIDA (the Canadian International Development

### Nicaragua 'Fast Facts'

- Nicaragua is the largest, and also the poorest, country in Central America, with a population of 5.3 million.
- One of every three children has some degree of chronic malnutrition and nine percent suffer from severe malnutrition.
- Adolescent pregnancies account for one of every four births nationally.
- Only 29 percent of children complete primary schooling.
- More than 167,000 children and adolescents are involved with child labour.
- Nicaragua has the lowest homicide rate in Central America.

Source: YMCA.

Agency) and others.

Westmount YMCA executive director Gary White spent January 6 to 13 in the Central American country on a "partner monitoring visit," as required by CIDA, a Canadian government agency that often matches funds applied by the Y to Nicaraguan projects.

"There is not a lot of money there, but there is a whole lot of hope, inspiration and dedication," an excited and sometimes emotional White told the *Independ*ent.

The Santa Lucía centre is a modest office without sports facilities, but it serves as a headquarters for volunteers and as a location for board games and classes.

Approximately \$8,000 was needed to get it off the ground. Some funds raised at the same time went to scholarships to help local youth volunteers with post-secondary studies. The US\$40-per-month stipends are enough to be a significant help in Nicaragua, where 80 percent of the population lives on less than US\$2 a day and almost half the population lives on less than US\$1 a day.

As a result, the Y's mandate in Nicaragua is very different from that of the



From left, second: Carlos Amodar Moraga (secretary general of the Nicaraguan ACJ), third: Debbie Dore (vice president of the Rotary Club of Westmount), fourth: Gary White (director the Westmount YMCA), sixth: Sheila Laursen (director of International Programs of YMCAs of Quebec) and ninth: Santos Martinez Flores (mayor of Santa Lucía).

Canadian branch. Youth volunteers from the Y give local schools what are often their only extracurricular programs by supervising soccer games and giving sexeducation classes. Y centres teach basic skills like baking to people without home cooking facilities.

This is White's second visit in as many years. The Westmount, Hochelaga-Maisonneuve and Cobourg, Ontario Ys are partnered with the Nicaraguan Asociación Cristiana de Jóvenes (ACJ), as the Y movement is known in that country. The connection between Nicaragua and the Westmount Y goes back to the early 1990s.

In partnerships with the Ys of other countries, the ACJ also runs land bank and heifer programs. Both aim to empower Nicaraguans by giving them ownership of productive assets. The money lent for the acquisition of land, and any calves produced by the heifers, return to the Y to sustain the programs.

White is obviously proud of the Y's Nicaraguan work and happy to travel there, but there is a downside to moving so quickly from a society where people do so much with so little to one of great relative affluence.

"It is hard to be back," said White.

## Space Odyssey new Friday night event at Winter Carnival

continued from p. 1

The same night, the deck will be dealt at Victoria Hall where Casino Night beckons adults only to take a chance at roulette, Blackjack, poker "and more." To participate in the spirit of the "speakeasy," partygoers are encouraged to dress in keeping with the theme – the era of the 1920s. Westmounter Shauna Feldman will be one of the Team Burlesque performers.

Both the Casino Night and Space Odyssey require tickets and are being coordinated by committees of volunteers. These are chaired by Jochen Esquiolant (Casino Night), and Helen Campbell and Doug Leahey (Space Odyssey) – all for the Community Events Advisory Committee.

Friday, February 6, will be party night for the entire family – a carnival Space Odyssey – that replaces the traditional cruise theme. "We've been everywhere in the world," said Claude Danis, of the previous themed cruises. "Now we're going even further away on the spaceship *Westmount of the Stars.*"

Another change this year will be the re-

location of the old-fashioned sleigh rides and sugar shack with taffy pull to the north soccer-football field parallel to Melville Ave. These Saturday daylong activities used to take place on the playing fields across from Westmount Park School.

Meanwhile on Saturday, the string of events at the arena starts off at 10 am with face painting and the new Termite hockey tournament for girls and boys aged 6 and 7. This is followed by the figure skating show at 11:15. "This is our first winter carnival show," says sports coordinator Anitra Bostock. "The girls (aged 7 to 14) are incredibly excited." It's also the first costumed show in some 20 years since those produced by Beverly Adams.

A free hotdog lunch at noon continues until 1:30 at the same time as a running program of general skating, a puck shooting contest for all ages, races and games on ice, a tug of war and family skating from 2:30 to 9:45 pm.

A full listing of times can be found on p. 12 and at www.westmount.org.



Debbie Dore and Gary White in front of the new Santa Lucía youth centre.

## Volunteers plan Champagne Gala for Alzheimer's



Among the volunteers organizing the event, from left, Hera Bell, Ursula Kobel, Marina Cutler, Sonia Besner, Mary Vanaselja and Geneviève Charette.

A new fundraiser to benefit The Alzheimer Society of Canada has been spearheaded by Westmounter Marina Cutler.

The inaugural Champagne Memories Gala has been planned in conjunction with the organization's 30th anniversary and will take place on May 2 in Ottawa. Cutler, chair of the gala, has been inspired to organize this event because her mother lives with the disease and to raise awareness of the reality that Alzheimer's is on the rise. She is supported by a dedicated team of volunteers, three of whom also have family members afflicted by Alzheimer's.

Cutler explained Ottawa was the city of choice to host the event because of a supportive social network there and because it is the country's capital city, but many Montrealers plan to attend. Canadiens general manager Bob Gainey has signed on as honorary chair.

The funds will go towards art-based programming to improve the lives of people living with the disease and their families. A new website, www.champagne memoriesgala.com, goes live on February I, or call 514.489.4888 for information or tickets. The cost is \$350 for individuals or \$5,000 for a corporate table.

### Watch out for bluebox schedules

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount Public Works officials are reminding residents to pay special attention to regulations that require bluebloxes and apartment bins to be set out before 8 am on Wednesdays.

This is particularly important now that a new contractor started January 21 on sudden notice and may not be using the same routes as the previous one, explained interim Public Works director Marianne Zalzal.

"So far, he seems to be doing a good job," she said after the first collection. Residents may report missed pickups or other problems, however, by calling the Public Works office at 514.989.5311.

The reason for the change in contractor

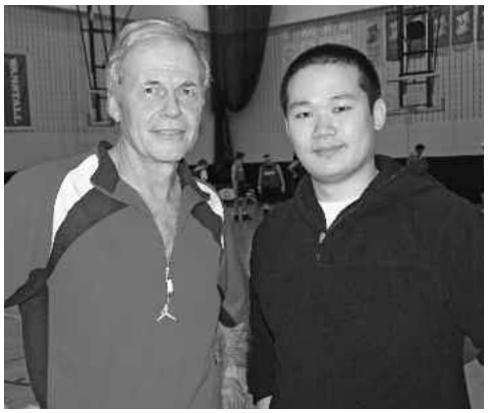
is that JC Fibres, which has held the contract for some time, informed the city unexpectedly that, given dwindling markets for the recyclable material, it was subcontracting out the remaining period left in the contract, which expires at the end of March.

Some of JC Fibres' trucks have been rented out and may still be seen doing curbside collections.

A new three-year contract with RCI Envionnement Inc. starting April 1 was ratified by city council at the December 15 meeting.

It resulted from a common call for tenders by the reconstituted cities and covers the collection and transport to Montreal, which in future will handle the disposal of the recyclable material island-wide.

## Selwyn basketball tournament honours Colin No



From left: Selwyn coach Peter Govan (left) and Colin No's twin brother Toby ('97). Govan taught the twins when they attended Selwyn.

By Isaac Olson

Colin No's life was cut short after a mere 22 years, but his memory lives on at his alma mater, Westmount's Selwyn House School, where the alumni association, holds an annual basketball tournament in his name.

"It's a great way to honour his memory because he loved basketball and he loved the school," said Ziad Kaedbey, classmate and friend of No. "He was a big part of Selwyn House."

Having graduated in 1997, No died suddenly of a brain aneurysm in 2002. He had attended the school from grades I through II and stayed involved with Selwyn as an alumni representative. Held in the Speirs Building on January 22, the five-year-old tournament, which brings a mix of alumni and staff to the gym, is put on each year to both remember the former SHS basketball player and raise awareness about the Colin No Memorial Fund. So far, the fund has raised over \$14,000 to help finance student scholarships.

"It makes us think of him every year," said Kevin Boyle, another classmate and friend. "He was a stand-up guy – trustworthy, generous and nice to everyone."

Toby No, Colin's identical twin, came to

watch the games. Although it is not in his family's nature to remember their lost loved one in this way, he said his family is touched by way the school community reacted to his brother's early death.

"We feel very honoured," Toby No said. "We hope the endowment will grow enough to help at least one student."



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## City Council to adopt vision statement on February 2

By Mayor Karin Marks



After an extensive public review process, Westmount city council is now scheduled to vote on a sustainable development vision statement at its February 2 meeting.

As most of you know, one of the priorities of this administration has been to develop a community sustainable development plan and begin changing the way we operate in a number of

Sustainability is understood differently by many, and the creation of the plan requires an open process that allows residents to help define it for our city. First, we had to create a community vision statement. A vision statement is designed to be a compelling portrait of the future, to provide direction and support goals and actions

#### Portrait of a sustainable Westmount

In order to do this, three public meeting were held last fall. Each session was attended by a broad range of Westmount residents who discussed, with great enthusiasm and passion, their ideas of what would make Westmount sustainable.

In addition, Joshua Wolfe, the city's sustainable development coordinator, met with certain associations and groups, e.g. Dawson College's sustainability coordinator, the Westmount Municipal Association, the Westmount Historical Association and the Contactivity Centre. The process initiated a group discussion

and an interaction that built awareness and understanding of our community's definition of sustainability.

#### Short and sweet

Most agreed that the statement should be both short and sweet, yet long enough to explain all the different themes that are included under the term "sustainable development."

The goal was to emerge with some level of consensus on a statement that best represents the desired direction for Westmount.

The draft statement tries to accomplish that, by beginning with a one sentence description, and then proceeding to define each of the five sustainability elements or pillars. These include the environment, community, the economy, public health and heritage. They reflect both global concerns and local priorities.

In addition to the vision statement, members of the public also came up with certain principles or values that we will use to guide planning for sustainable development:

- Strive for continuous improvement toward sustainability.
- Reduce, reuse and recycle resources.
- Promote sustainable construction and renovation.
- Incorporate mindfulness towards the environment.
- Take climate change into consideration.
- Work toward zero waste, zero emissions and net-zero energy consumption.
- Endorse cyclical renewability of resource use and consumption.
- Maintain cultural and ar- continued on p. 13

### **Letters to the Editor**

#### FROM WIGWAMS TO ARENAS

Very often, I walk and bicycle through highways and byways of Westmount. I keep wondering what the spirits of those who dwelt here prior to the 18th century must be agonizing.

The community of that time had a few wigwams. Then along came larger wigwams and some log cabins.

Eventually, governing administrations desecrated the area by permitting homes with indoor plumbing and central heating (and electricity).

To worsen matters, the happy hunting ground, where coyotes and bears were fair game, was converted to a park that provided playing fields, a swimming pool, tennis courts and an arena.

Quel sadness!

Stan Grossman de Maisonneuve Blvd.

### AN ARCHITECT BY ANY OTHER NAME?

I would like to bring to your attention an issue which was included in your article "Rules are rules" (January 20, p. 1).

The design consultant mentioned in the aforementioned article, Mr. Adam Borowczyk, is not a member of the Order of Architects of Quebec and therefore cannot be referred to as "architect."

Such a professional designation is strictly restricted for use by members in good standing of the professional Order of Architects of Quebec and/or any other recognized professional architectural order or association.

> Antonio Di Miele, Architect Sherbrooke St.

Editor's note: For clarity, our reporter did not ask Adam Borowczyk for his credentials and used the word "architect" because he was acting in that capacity.

### HOLIDAYS SHOULD MEAN TIME OFF

37 years ago, I spent Christmas working as a cashier at the Chateau Montebello. When the Christmas schedule was posted, I had not been scheduled to work Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Even at my young age, I quickly discerned that it would be more expedient for me, a young unattached woman living in the hotel's dormitory, to work the holidays than one of the other women listed – a wife and mother involved in her community, who surely had more in her life than serving the families at the hotel.

I don't know what part of the holidays Paul Anthony ("More library, please!", January 13, p. 10) does not understand. To keep the Westmount Public Library open throughout the holidays means that, for his enjoyment, library personnel would have to sacrifice their holiday time with their families and friends.

Throughout the year the staff at the Westmount Public Library provides literally world-class programs and service. The children's library continually offers creative and stimulating seasonal programs, while their parents and the rest of the community can take advantage of everything from book clubs to interesting speakers, workshops and so much more. Check-out, reservations and assistance in the reference room is always friendly, courteous and helpful. And the library staff participates in many community programs including Family Day and Poetry in the Park.

In truth, having lived in cities across the country, I have never found a library that meets the needs of its community to the extent the staff at the Westmount Library does.

The city of Westmount is blessed with employees who are committed to the community above and beyond what is or could be expected. Can we, who benefit daily from their work, be such Scrooges as to deny them time with their families and lives over the holidays?

I would suggest that if Paul Anthony would like to find a room where he can warm up, he might consider volunteering over the holidays – perhaps serving dinner at a shelter, spending time reading to a shut-in or cancer patient, playing cards with a lonely resident at one of the city's senior residences, or reading or singing with children at the Children's Hospital.

The holidays are set up so we can take some time apart from our regular routines and spend some quality time with families and friends... time that has become the real currency of this generation. It is a time of thanksgiving and celebration. It is something we must hold near and dear to, not lobby our city administrators to adjust to.

MARILYNN VANDERSTAAY St. Catherine St.

Correction: The owner of the house at 310 Côte St. Antoine Rd., Yury Arutyunov, did, in fact, attend the demolition appeal hearing at city hall whose proceedings were described in the January 20 issue ("Rules are rules p. 1). The Westmount Independent regrets the error.

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### Resolutions for 2009

BY FVF ASPINALL MEMBER OF THE HEALTHY CITY PROJECT

We are now into 2009 and many of our good intentions for the New Year are slipping out of our grasp, but it is not too late to start some new ones that will benefit not only us but our planet.

Westmount's footprint is abysmally high with our extravagant lifestyle, our overuse of resources such as light and power, too little re-use of goods and too great a dependency on our cars, particularly the gas-guzzling SUVs. Individuals may be able to afford them, but the planet cannot.

If we are to be responsible citizens, we must change our ways. We have to think less about our own wishes and more about the next generation. There are many little things that take very little effort that, if we all do them, will help reduce the damage we are currently inflicting on the environment.

#### Less electricity

Simply turning off lights where they are not needed is a start. Using the new LED lights is not only very cost effective, but greatly reduces power consumption. They use one quarter of the energy the incandescents use and last at least five years.

When the temperature drops below minus 18°C, it is especially important to reduce power consumption in the morning between 7:30 am and 9:30 am and in the evening between 4:30 pm and 7:00

Westmount Hydro pays a heavy premium for the extra power required for these peak periods when the cold weather increases the demand.

Either forego that early morning shower, or have it the night before. Do the laundry at another time. Use your microwave for cooking. Try to use as few burners as possible. Turn off your outdoor lights. While Christmas tree lights do not use that much electricity, turning them off may remind neighbours of the need to reduce their own power consumption.

To reduce the amount of water we waste, try having shorter showers and use the new shower heads. Turn off the tap when you are brushing your teeth. Rinsing dishes before putting them in the dishwasher is seldom necessary.

If you have to replace a toilet, consider a new low-consumption one. There are now toilets with a two-flush system, which allows you to choose whether you want a low or heavier flush.

#### Use less, reuse more

Rethink your purchases. Are you really filling a need or a whim? What is being replaced? What will you do with the old one? Landfill does not need it; consider a sec-

Clothes can go to charities, or to second-hand shops; books are welcomed in libraries, hospitals, seniors' residences, as are magazines (perhaps your doctor or dentist would welcome them for their waiting rooms); DVDs and videos can go to schools and other institutions.

There are all kinds of enterprises that would take your old appliances. Take your own cup to the coffee shop for your morning takeout. How many alternatives can you dream up?

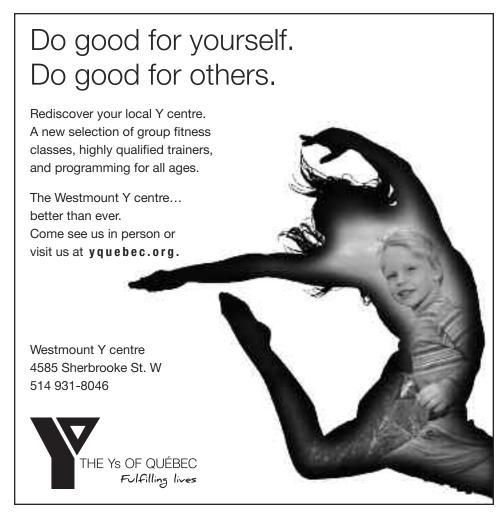
How about your driving habits? Did you know that driving at 120 km per hour burns 20 percent more gas than driving at 100 km per hour? When approaching a stop sign or a red light, take your foot off the gas pedal and avoid the brake pedal as much as possible.

Do you check your tire pressure frequently? One under-inflated tire (by as little as 2 lbs.) increases fuel consumption by 15 percent. There is no need to run your engine for a few minutes before starting it up; cars today warm up more efficiently by driving them at a moderate speed.

Please do not idle your engine for more than three minutes, if at all - your exhaust is poisonous.

Can you incorporate these ideas into your New Year's resolutions? You could be doing some very good deeds.





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### Turcot project detailed

continued from p. 1

be selected to undertake the work.

The plan calls for the expropriation of two non-residential buildings on Richelieu St. in Westmount's industrial zone (east of the Home Depot) as well as a triplex on Selby St., where city councillor John de Castell and several other families live.

It also would eliminate the Greene Ave. access to the eastbound expressway, close off Selby, eliminate parking beneath the highway and create two-way traffic on the section of Greene immediately north of St. Antoine

Project director Alain Dubé, who presented a detailed description of the work on behalf of the transport ministry, explained how it was aimed at rebuilding the crumbling infrastructure while allowing for the future development of the Turcot Yards.

The solution chosen reduces the number of elevated roadways and buildings, and places as many sections as possible at ground level or on embankments.

The evolving project would improve the quality of life of the surrounding environment while maintaining all functions of the existing infrastructure, improving safety and taking into consideration other transportation corridors. These include a proposed rail line to the airport which, he pointed out, had not yet been chosen.

Measures would be taken to mitigate the impact on residents, users and the environment.

To maintain traffic flow during the work, Dubé said, one direction of the highway would be demolished and rebuilt at a

time, while traffic was transferred to the other span. Construction would start with the eastbound direction. The westbound span would move closer to the escarpment.

During the question period, Mayor Marks told one resident that a decision on Westmount's long-discussed sound barrier would be delayed for further consideration and testing of new sound levels after completion of the work.

It would appear, she said, that these levels would be worse for some, unchanged for others and improved for those where the highway was significantly lowered.

Addressing various concerns, Dubé said that vehicle emissions would not increase because newer cars pollute less. While sound barriers and screens would be placed in certain places where noise levels exceed 65 decibels, he doubted this would be required through Westmount.

#### Shoulders coming

He also noted that the new structure would not increase the number of traffic lanes, but would include shoulders.

Asked about other options, such as emulating the Boston tunnel, he said various ideas had been considered but, "we don't have the luxury of time." Further repairs were out of the question because of technical issues, such as meeting today's earthquake standards.

Tunnels, he said, presented complicated issues related to cost, water infiltration, ventilation, fire, and in the present case, two north-south metro lines and the proximity of a cliff.



Information on the urban renewal project was provided to all attending the public meeting at Victoria Hall.

Slopes of the embankment on which the highway would be built would be planted in steps "and people will be permitted to access these." Existing bike paths and sidewalks would be maintained "and we'll try to widen underpasses and improve lighting."

#### Up to the contractor

When Councillor Cynthia Lulham asked "will you work 24/7?" Dubé replied, "I can't answer for the contractor." When asked if the work would respect municipal bylaws, he answered "Yes." (Westmount by-laws do not permit construction work at night except in emergency situations.)

Later, however, he told the West-mount Independent that typically much highway work can only be done at night. And new measures for masking noise include the use of huge loud speakers to blast out soothing sounds of water.

#### A war zone

Recalling the unbearable noise and dust created during repair work to the Ville Marie near Greene Ave. a few years ago, de Castell, who represents the district, said, "It was a war zone."

Transport Quebec was invited by the city to present the plan directly to Westmount



Residents asking questions on Jan. 19. City councillor John de Castell stands behind the questioner at the microphone.

residents at a public meeting rather than only at a presentation held at Alexis Nihon Plaza January 22.

The \$1.5 billion budget also includes the reconfiguration of interchanges at Angrignon, de la Vérendrye and Montreal West

Further information about part of the project is available at www.mtq.gouv. qc.ca/turcot. Citizens can express concerns and share comments by phone at 511 or email at dtim.commentaires@mtc. gouv.qc.ca or at www.westmount.org.

## Elementary School Registration

February 2-6, 2009

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For more information about which school your child can attend or whether he or she qualifies for English education, please call the Board at 514-483-7200 or log on to:

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### Squirrelgate legalities confusing

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The saga continues of a Westmount man choosing to contest a simple squirrel-feeding ticket from more than two years ago. He says the effort has turned into a confusing fiasco – that of an ordinary person trying to navigate the legal system over a relatively minor by-law infraction.

Bruce Kert, who claims never to have been informed of an original trial date, had paid \$40 to obtain a stay of conviction from a judge and was given a new date (see the *Westmount Independent*, November 18, 2008, p. 1).

But on January 21, all set for what he thought was the new trial, Kert found himself in the same court room at the Palais de Justice before another judge who gave him another stay of conviction until May 4. "I found her very difficult to under-

### Garneau to be Science critic in shadow cabinet

Westmount-Ville Marie MP Marc Garneau has been named Industry, Science & Technology critic in the shadow cabinet of Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff.

The news caught up to Garneau on January 23 at an open house he was holding at his Westmount office, "Canada can become a leader in several sectors if we establish the appropriate conditions for the promotion of scientific research and the development of innovative technologies by our industries. It is my intention to fully engage myself in support of this task."

stand," he said.

Bewildered, he returned home citing "inefficiency and a waste of everyone's time."

Kert says the court stated that two notices of the original date had been placed in his apartment building mailbox, but that he never received them. He



Bruce Kert

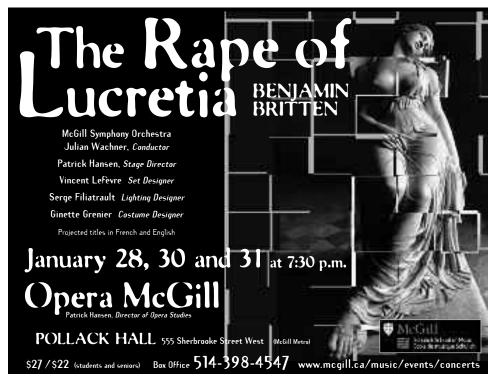
was under the belief that they should have been sent by registered mail.

Pleading guilty with explanation, he said, all he wanted was an opportunity to say he should have been given a warning for a first offence – since no signs in Westmount Park stated that feeding squirrels was prohibited.

He also wanted to quash the fine, which, with escalating court costs, had reached \$455 along with a warrant for his arrest.

Kert was issued the ticket by Public Security on September 14, 2006 while walking in front of the pool/arena building near Westmount Park. He later learned from Public Security that the trial, which he missed, had already taken place.

Kert is a singer/songwriter. His song "Squirrelgate" can be found on You Tube, www.youtube.com. Search under "Bruce Kert."



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### Hockey stars visit The Claremont

By Isaac Olson

A couple of rising hockey stars visited The Claremont restaurant recently, where they signed autographs and posed for pictures with some young fans.

On January 19, Westmount and NDG families had a chance to meet Jake Allen and Angelo Esposito, both members of the Montreal Junior Hockey Club. Aaron Fraser, Westmount resident and owner of The Claremont (located on Sherbrooke St. a stone's throw from the Westmount border) arranged for young Westmount and NDG skaters, mostly ages 7 and 8, to meet the champions.

Gathering at the restaurant, the kids, all smiles, were bubbling over with excitement as players signed jerseys, hockey sticks and photos.

With notable records in junior hockey, Allen, goal tender, led Team Canada to a gold medal at the 2008 Under-18 IIHF World Championship and, in 2006, Esposito, centre, captured the gold while competing as captain of Team Quebec in the World U-17 Hockey Challenge.

Tickets for the Montreal Juniors vs. Halifax Mooseheads game of Monday, February 2 at 7 pm (Verdun Auditorium) are for sale at The Claremont (\$15).

www.fitnessdavid.com

Free informative consultation with this ad.



From left, back row: Jake Allen (goal tender), Gabrielle Dupuis, Aaron Fraser (Claremont owner) with Anna Fraser, and Angelo Esposito (centre); second row: Liam McGregor, Luke Dupuis (in Canadiens toque), Severn Swift (blue sweater); third row: Colin McGregor, Luke Avedesian, Gabriel Fraser, Luka Hollinger (red toque); front row: Antoine Lavoie, Matt Avedesian.



FILESSDAVID



#### CHATEAU BONAVISTA

4555 Bonavista Prime location adjacent Westmount Bachelor Suites, 31/2's, 41/2's, 51/2's from \$745 - 2,195 4½ available immediately at \$1545.00. One month free.

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### Westmount vous informe...

### Westmount Page



www.westmount.org info: 514 989-5200



Vol. 3/02

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### \$

#### **FINANCES**

#### Comptes de taxes foncières

Les comptes de taxes foncières 2009 seront livrés aux contribuables de Westmount cette semaine. Veuillez noter que le premier versement est exigible le lundi 2 mars. Info: 514 989-5234.

#### Taxes d'agglomération

Cette année, les contribuables de la ville de Westmount recevront une seule facture d'impôt foncier, incluant les taxes locales et celles relatives aux services rendus par l'agglomération. En raison de ce changement, les factures de taxes d'agglomération des années antérieures, incluant l'année 2008, NE POURRONT PLUS être acquittées à l'hôtel de ville de Westmount. Vous devrez vous présenter à un comptoir de service de la Ville de Montréal, ou payer par Internet via votre institution financière préférée.



#### TRAVAUX PUBLICS

#### Déneigement

Westmount demande votre collaboration pour assurer l'entretien sécuritaire de nos rues et trottoirs en hiver. Il est interdit d'entasser sur les voies et trottoirs publics la neige retirée des entrées privées. On peut seulement ajouter de la neige aux amas avant leur enlèvement.

#### **Cueillette des arbres de Noël**

Participez à la cueillette des arbres de Noël en plaçant votre arbre sur votre terrain à l'arrière du trottoir les jours de semaine jusqu'à la fin du mois. Assurez-vous de dépouiller l'arbre de TOUTE décoration et emballage (aucun sac de plastique). Info: 514 989-5311.



#### ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

#### **Galerie: appel de propositions**

La galerie du Victoria Hall lance un appel de propositions pour sa programmation de la saison 2009-2010 (septembre 2009 à août 2010). Cet appel s'adresse aux artistes et artisans qui habitent à Westmount. Les propositions doivent être transmises au plus tard le lundi 2 mars. Pour des renseignements détaillés, veuillez consulter notre site Web. Info: 514 989-5226.

#### DATES À RETENIR

#### Le 31 janvier - 19 h

Soirée de jeux pour toute la famille Bibliothèque

#### Le 2 février - 20 h

Séance du conseil Hôtel de ville

#### Jusqu'au 7 février

Anne Fish - une rétrospective La galerie du Victoria Hall

#### Le 10 février - 19 h

Société d'horticulture de Westmount Les fleurs sauvages du Québec (Dr. Rick Fraser) Bibliothèque

#### Carnaval d'hiver 2009

L'hiver annonce la tenue de la 26<sup>e</sup> édition annuelle du Carnaval d'hiver ponctué d'événements ayant lieu aux quatre coins de la ville.

#### Le jeudi 5 février

- Toboggan en famille au parc King George
- Soirée Casino « Speakeasy » au Victoria Hall

#### Le vendredi 6 février

- Odyssée spatiale du Carnaval au Victoria Hall Le samedi 7 février
  - Plaisirs givrés au parc Westmount et à l'Aréna

Les billets pour les activités au Victoria Hall sont maintenant disponibles au bureau des événements communautaires. Info: 514 989-5353. \*\*



#### SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

#### Dommages aux clôtures du CP

Les résidents demeurant le long du chemin de fer peuvent contacter directement la police du CP afin de rapporter tout dommage aux clôtures ou des graffiti en composant le 1 800 716-9132.



#### BIBLIOTHÈQUE

#### Soirée de jeux pour toute la famille

Vous aimez les jeux de société ? Joignez-vous à d'autres passionnés dans la salle Westmount le samedi 31 janvier à 19 h. Info: 514 989-5229. W

### **\$**

#### **FINANCE**

#### **Property Tax Bills**

The 2009 property tax bills are being delivered to Westmount taxpayers this week. Please note that the deadline for payment of the first installment is Monday, March 2. Info: 514-989-5234.

#### **Agglomeration Taxes**

This year, Westmount taxpayers will only receive one property tax bill, which includes both Westmount and agglomeration tax amounts. Because of this change, agglomeration tax bills from 2008 and previous years can NO LONGER be paid at Westmount City Hall. To pay these older bills, please visit a City of Montreal service counter, or pay by Internet through your preferred financial institution.



### PUBLIC WORKS **Snow Removal**

Westmount relies on your cooperation to help keep our streets and sidewalks safe during the winter. Snow from private driveways and walkways must NOT be placed on public sidewalks, lanes or streets. During snow loading, snow may be added to the existing snowbanks prior to removal.

#### **Christmas Tree Collection**

Christmas tree collection continues through the end of the month. Make sure your tree gets composted by placing it right behind the sidewalk at the front of your property at anytime. You must remove ALL decorations and wrapping (no plastic bags). Info: 514 989-5311.



#### COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### **Gallery Call for Submissions**

The Gallery at Victoria Hall announces a call for submissions for its 2009-2010 exhibition season (September 2009 to August 2010). Artists and artisans who are residents of Westmount are invited to apply. The deadline for submissions is Monday, March 2. For complete details, please consult our Web site. Info: 514 989-5226.

#### DATEBOOK

#### January 31 - 7 p.m.

Family Games Night Library

#### February 2 – 8 p.m.

Council Meeting City Hall

#### **Until February 7**

Anne Fish: a retrospective The Gallery at Victoria Hall

#### February 10 - 7 p.m.

Westmount Horticultural Society Quebec Wildflowers (Dr. Rick Fraser) Library

#### Winter Carnival 2009

Winter is here, and with it, Westmount's 26<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Carnival, with events across the city, including:

#### Thursday, February 5

- Family Tobogganing at King George Park
- Speakeasy Casino Night at Victoria Hall

#### Friday, February 6

- Carnival Space Odyssey at Victoria Hall Saturday, February 7
  - Frosty Fun at Westmount Park and the Arena

Tickets for events at Victoria Hall are available at the Community Events office. Info: 514 989-5353.



#### PUBLIC SECURITY

#### **Damages to CP Railway Fences**

Residents living alongside the CP Railway line should take note that you may report any damages to railway fences, including graffiti, directly to CP Police at any time by calling 1-800-716-9132.



#### LIBRARY

#### **Family Games Night**

Do you like to play board games? Join other game enthusiasts in the Westmount Room on Saturday, January 31 at 7 p.m. Info: 514 989-5229.

**Westmount, à votre portée.** Pour toute question ou commentaire, veuillez nous contacter : **Westmount at your fingertips.** Contact us with any comment or question:

www.westmount.org assistance@westmount.org

### "I actually received two calls before I realized my Westmount Independent ad was out!"

 David, Fitness David www.fitnessdavid.com

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Advertising works™ Call David: 514.935.4537 Christie's comes to Westmount



Some of Profusion's agents, from left: top row, Christina Miller, Josianne Diniakos (office coordinator), Louise Rémillard (owner of Profusion and agent), Tina Baer, Suzanne Chernin, Louise Jackson and Brian Grant; foreground, Carl Rémillard-Fontaine and Diane Stelmashuk.

A capacity crowd showed up to inaugurate Westmount's newest real estate brokerage – Profusion, an exclusive affiliate of Christie's Great Estates – on January 22. Both floors of the group's 1361 Greene Ave. office were packed with clients and well-wishers.

### Westmount's adult hockey standings

Executive A	GP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PTS	Senior B	GP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PTS
C.E.O. (Grey)	13	6	2	5	17	<b>PREDATORS</b>	20	16	2	2	34
M.D. (Yellow)	13	4	3	6	14	CANADIENS	19	12	4	3	27
P.H.D. (Blue)	13	4	7	2	10	SENATORS	19	9	7	3	21
C.A. (Green)	13	5	7	1	11	SHARKS	19	9	9	1	19
Executive B	GP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PTS	NORDIQUES	18	8	7	3	19
M.B.A. (White)	13	8	4	1	17	HAWKS	20	6	9	5	17
BROKERS (Blue	13	6	6	1	13	FLYERS	17	6	9	2	14
LAW (Black)	13	6	7	0	12			•	-	_	
ENGINEERS (Red	13	5	8	0	10	FATHERS	19	4	9	6	14
	,	•		•	. •	OILERS	18	5	11	2	12
Senior A	GP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PTS	DEVILS	19	5	13	1	11
KINGS	22	19	2	1	39				Best inf	o as of	`lan. 24
BLUES	23	11	11	1	23						J

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Info: (514) 788-1884, ext. 23 sguillot@oldbrewerymission.ca www.oldbrewerymission.ca Wine: What's In Store...

### Wines to match winter fare

By Carola Price



So resolutions time is upon us. Whether or not we keep them is another story. I resolved to sip more and drink less this year. It remains to be seen if I can keep that going through the spring, but for

the moment I sip away trying to match the hearty and delicious pies, stews, chili and soups that grace our table throughout our hideously cold winter. Stay warm, and enjoy some of these affordable and interesting wines.

### Casa Ramos, Duas Quintas, Portugal. SAQ#10237458. \$17.80

This producer has been around forever and has blended some wonderful everyday wines that are paired beautifully with lamb tangine, beef stew and cassoulet.

Grilled pork chops with Tomme de Savoie and *herbes de provence* was my match. Look for dark berry and some baking spice in the nose and a medium body with great acidity in the mouth.

Available at press time: Pepsi Forum, Westmount Square, Victoria, across from Atwater Market, Atwater Market.

#### Sandalford, Element Classic White, Australia SAQ#10340842. \$16.25

This white was screaming for tropical textures like grapefruit and avocado salad with baked trout or bass. Pop it open when you need a little vacation from the cold and are busy grilling shrimps with your gloves on.

Available at press time: across from Atwater Market.

### Borgogno, Barbera d'Alba, Italy SAQ#10388088. \$19.20

Barbera is generally quite acidic and therefore pairs with red meat and buttery textures, like gooey cheese. I love it with berry pie because of the acidity of each element and the sweetness off-setting the richness of the wine. Bring it out for the Sunday roast beef with gravy or a tourtière from the Atwater Market.

Available at press time: across from Atwater Market, Atwater Market.

"After a tough start in December,

I paid for my Westmount

Independent advertisement
the first day after its publication."

-Wayne, Art Rebel - Custom Framing 318A Victoria Ave.

### Colourfully Yours:

### Using colour to trompe les yeux

BY AURELIEN GUILLORY & GRETA VON SCHMEDLAPP



When Aurel and I are working with a new project, we evaluate the space carefully. Last week, we helped visually shorten and widen a long, narrow hallway with a colour choice that, if you saw it elsewhere, you would be certain

that we were crazy!

First, we decided that both the ceiling and the long walls should be painted the same colour to eliminate the vertical and horizontal surfaces. Usually people paint all ceilings matte white, but, with the ninefoot height, that would have further emphasized the narrowness of the space.

The warm, mocha-taupe tone we chose allowed the two, very contrasting, colour schemes at either end of the hall to coexist, as the medium-dark neutral went with both.

The end of the hall jogged in a dog-leg

to allow privacy for the two bedroom-andbathroom suites.

For that end wall, we selected a strong red called "Salsa Dancing" from the super colours of the new Affinity collection from Benjamin Moore.

As you might suspect, it is a rich red tomato, with burnt orange overtones.

Colour theory says that all warm colours visually appear closer, so, conversely, if we had painted that same end wall a watery aqua, or a light grey-blue, the hall would have appeared almost three feet longer.

The compression, expansion and darklight contrast will make the rooms appear lighter and more airy.

Also, while on the topic of hallways, please realize that you do not need to have them so brightly lit. After all, you are not reading the paper or doing your taxes there

Please send your ideas and thoughts to us at aurelien@colorsbyaurelien.com.

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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Call David: 514.935.4537

### Comin' Up...

Wednesday, Jan. 28: Seniors' Luncheon at Centre Greene at 12:15 pm which includes a three-course, home-cooked meal, served in a friendly environment. \$5.514.931.6202.

Thursday, Jan. 29: Public meeting on the status and developments on MUHC Glen Project, sponsored by The Interquartier Coalition (St. Henri, NDG and Westmount community groups) at St. Raymond's Community Centre (5600 Upper Lachine Rd.) at 7 pm.

Monday, Feb. 2: Council meeting at 8 pm at city hall.

THURSDAY, FEB. 5: Marianopolis College Alumni Association hosts Groundhog Day

reunion and annual silent auction fundraiser from 6 to 9 pm at Marianopolis College (4873 Westmount Ave.). Of special interest to graduates as former profs will attend, but event is open to all. Beer and pizza. No cost. 514.931.8792. ■ To mark the Chinese New Year, a talk on China by Johanna Ransmeier, historian of modern China, Assistant Professor of History, McGill University at 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre. Free. 514.935.7344.

SATURDAY, FEB. 7: Atwater Library and Computer Centre clearance book sale of quality used books and magazines in the Atwater Library Reading Room from 10 am to 2 pm. 514.935.7344.

### WINTER CARNIVAL 2009

THURSDAY, FEB. 5

- Tobogganing, bonfire, skating and free hot chocolate and cookies at Murray Park from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Helmets recommended.
- 'Speakeasy' Casino Night in the Lodge Room at Victoria Hall, starting at 8 pm. Roulette, blackjack, poker, cash bar and entertainers Team Burlesque. For 18 years and over. Tickets on sale at Victoria Hall during regular office hours (Mon. to Fri., from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.) \$15 includes gaming chips. 514. 989.5265.

FRIDAY, FEB. 6

• Carnival Space Odyssey, a family evening with dinner, dancing, and activities on board the spaceship *Westmount of the Stars*, at Victoria Hall from 5:30 to 9:30 pm. Dress code: extraterrestrial. Tickets on sale at Victoria Hall during regular office hours (Mon. to Fri., from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.) Cost: Adults \$10; youth aged 12 and under \$5.

SATURDAY, FEB. 7

10 to 11 am	Termite mini	
	hockey tournament	arena
10 am to 12:00 p.m.	face painting	arena
10:45 am to 4 pm	old-fashioned	
	sleigh rides	main field in Westmount Park
11 am to 3 pm	sugar shack	main field in Westmount Park
11:15 am to 12 pm	kid's figure	
	skating show	arena
12 pm to 12:30 pm	general skating	arena
12 to 1:30 pm	free hot dogs	arena
12:30 to 1 pm	puck-shooting contest	arena
1 to 2:15 pm	fun races and	
	games on ice	arena
2:30 to 9:45 pm	family skating	arena
2:30 to 3 p.m.	tug of war	in front of arena

For information on: outdoor activities, 514.989.5353

activities at Victoria Hall, 514.989.5226



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

#### Magazines

"The Hundred Years' War: Why Arabs and Jews Still Fight in Palestine" in *The Economist*, Jan. 10, 2009, p. 9.

"Gaza: Israël, le Hamas et l'Iran" in Courrier international, 8-14 janvier 2009.

#### Books on CD

The Host by Stephenie Meyer. In this tantalizing sci-fi thriller, planet-hopping parasites are inserting their silvery centipede selves into human brains, curing cancer, eliminating war and turning Earth into paradise. But some people want Earth back, warts and all, especially Melanie Stryder, who refuses to surrender her mind to the aliens.

The Gargoyle by Andrew Davidson. This compelling debut novel follows the painful recovery of a crash survivor as he plots to end his life after his release from the hospital. When a schizophrenic fellow begins to visit him and describe her memories of their love affair in medieval Germany, he is at first skeptical, but grows less so as he envisions a life with her.

### Guides to hours of pleasure – for every mood, moment or reason

1001 Books For Every Mood by Hallie Ephron. A very eclectic list to guide you to your next read, "for a good laugh, for a wallow in the slough of despond, or to laugh and cry at the same time, to get philosophical, for a good shot in the arm or for a kick in the pants ..."

Between the Covers: The Book Babes' guide to a Woman's Reading Pleasures by Margo Hammond and Ellen Heltzel. Two veteran book critics recommend more than 500 fiction and non-fiction books about what women care about, "other babes we care about, the babe inside, family and friends, love, sex and second chances, home, work and taking care, babes in the world and babes without borders."

The Book Lover by Ali Smith. The young British author of the award-winning novels The Accidental and Hotel Room gives a personal glimpse into her library and the books that have been an influence on her writing and life – an intimate personal anthology which will encourage further reading or a closer look at the writers who mean most to you.

#### **Exotic adventures**

La beauté du monde by Michel Le Bris. Osa Johnson and her husband Martin were celebrated documentary filmmakers and authors in the 1920s and 1930s who captured the public's imagination with their movies featuring encounters with primitive people and exotic wildlife. This fictionalized account of their lives is told from the viewpoint of a young writer who is writing the biography of Osa, then an alcoholic widow, still haunted by the "beauty of the world."

Le roi de Kahel by Tierno Monénembo. The epic story of Aimé Olivier de Sanderval, a French viscount, who made plans to conquer an African kingdom. He was able to gain the trust of a local monarch who gave him rights to parts of Guinea. De Sanderval even had coins minted bearing his effigy. This historical novel, set in the 19th century, won the Renaudot prize.

#### For the youngest

Missuk's Snow Geese by Anne Renaud. Westmount author Anne Renaud and Montreal illustrator Geneviève Côté have created a wonderful picture book that captures the beauty of the north. Missuk dreams of being a great carver like her father but she grows frustrated when she realizes that it is more difficult than it looks.

Plumeneige by Cécile Gagnon. As Stéfanie puts the final touch on her snowman (a feather in his cap), he suddenly comes to life asking her for arms, legs, feet, etc. When she finally finishes, Plumeneige runs away! The next day Stéfanie decides to make a friend for him so that he will come back home.

#### Reference

Canadian Art Sales Index.

The Official Price Guide to Records by Jerry Osborne.

### Electronic Independents available

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

#### Quebec Classifieds

#### **Antiques**

ABRACADABRA turn your hidden treasures into ready cash. International buyer wants to purchase your antiques, paintings, china, crystal, silverware, jewellery, rare books, sports, movies, postcards, coins, stamps and records. 514-501-9072.

#### **Career Training**

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#### Companions

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#### **Financial Services**

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#### For Sale

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#### **Help Wanted**

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#### **Personals**

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DATING SERVICE. Long term / short term relationships, free calls! 1-877-297-9883. Exchange voice messages, voice mailboxes 1-888-534-6984. Live adult casual conversations 1 on 1, 1-866-311-9640, meet on chat lines. Local single ladies 1-877-804-5381

#### **Real Estate**

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#### Local Classifieds

Massotherapy for winter energy: 514-823-8855.

Office/studio sublet on Sherbrooke W. Rooftop spectacular view. Electricity and heat included. Minikitchen and bathroom. Call 514-484-

European cook for light cooking for elderly woman. Dr. Penfield 4 hrs per day, 4 days per week. 514-488-1451.

### Sustainable Westmount

continued from p. 4

chitectural preservation.

- Encourage a healthy lifestyle.
- Provide leadership.
- Manage the human-made environment.
- · Aim for energy-descent planning, recognizing that fossil fuels will become less available.

Once council has adopted a vision statement, we will once again meet with residents who are part of various elements of our community (students, seniors, business owners, Westmount organizations, etc.), followed by a general meeting to get ideas and input into developing a plan.

It is at that stage that we want to find concrete goals and ways to develop public policy and take actions that support the principles and move us forward toward achieving the vision we have agreed upon.

The draft vision statement is posted on the city's website - sustainabledevelopment.westmount.org - and at municipal buildings. Comments can be made online, or at the city council meeting, Monday, February 2 at 8 pm or emailed to assistance@westmount.org.

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## CATHERINE

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Shoppers: Watch this section for more of our fine neighbourhood stores. Enjoy the fresh air, leave your car at home and avoid parking hassles. Shop



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Happy Tree, happy practitioners



Instructors and student volunteers from Happy Tree Yoga put on a demonstration of yoga positions at Westmount Square on January 15. Happy Tree offers prenatal, corporate, Ashtanga and Hatha yoga courses. It also has free personal consultations to help new members find the course that best suits their needs. More information is available by calling 514.846.YOGA, or by visiting happytreeyoga.com.

### 4146A St-Catherine West, Westmount, H3Z 1P4 **CAMP OWNERS! COUNSELLORS!**

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## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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### Royal Bank group entertains its neighbours



From left: Willem Westenberg (RBC Dominion Securities), Maxwell and Thomas Castle and David Steinart (RBC Wealth Management). The Castles are real estate agents at Royal LePage Heritage, whose officers are at 4 Westmount Square.

The many divisions of 4 Westmount's Square's RBC group entertained and explained their services to neighbouring businesses on January 21. The event took place in the lobby of the I Westmount Square office tower. Among the RBC groups represented were RBC Dominion Securities, RBC Wealth Management, RBC Private Banking and the Royal Bank

#### Westmount Profile: Jeff and Ginette Steele

## 30 years on milk route

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

t's 2:30 am. Westmount is sleeping. And Jeff and Ginette Steele are starting their milk route, up and down the hills, over the snow banks. "We may be a little late when the weather's bad, but we're always here!" he says.

They've been up for the day since 11:15 pm, fed all the animals on their hobby farm in Ormstown, driven to Laval to load the truck at 1:30 am and headed into Westmount. Now they are delivering fresh dairy products, juices, variety breads or other special orders to some 500 homes and offices.

By the time they return home – having stopped off to visit Jeff's mother, Shirley, who lives in Westmount - it's the afternoon and almost time for bed at 4:30 pm.

"It's a lifestyle," Jeff explains.

And while the day is lengthened by stopping to chat with people, including seniors living alone, "that's the most rewarding part of the job," he says.

That's how it's been for 30 years since Jeff, now 51, acquired the route and began building it up from 100 customers, focusing on service and meeting people's individual needs.

For the past 10 years, he has been joined on the road by his wife, Ginette, a legal secretary. Together, they do their Westmount territory on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On Tuesday, they repeat the process in Dollard des Ormeaux. Thursday, they cover Ormstown, Howick and Franklin Centre.

#### Helped Caza at age 6

Jeff began delivering milk in Westmount in 1964 on Saturdays and school holidays as a helper for André Caza. He was a 6-year-old student at Roslyn and living on Windsor. In those days, milk was delivered six days a week and the trucks were refrigerated by ice.

"At first I got paid with a pint of chocolate milk," he recalls. "Then I got chocolate milk and 25 cents. And 25 cents could go a long way at Fry's." (The former stationery store on Sherbrooke was a local landmark).

He continued working for Caza through school even after the family moved to Montreal West. Coincidentally, they lived right near Elmhurst Dairy which evolved into Dominion. Sealtest and now

After a year at St. Mary's University in

Halifax and another at Concordia, Jeff's dreams of playing professional football evaporated through numerous injuries. "My body was finished," he says, adding with a smile: "In retrospect, this work is just as taxing!"

Caza persuaded the dairy to let Jeff acquire the route that had been allowed to dwindle after the death of longtime milkman John Lalonde.

#### Many changes

There have been many changes since then. Traffic congestion is a huge problem. New processing techniques have eliminated a lot of milk

spoilage, reducing the need to receive fresh milk daily. As well, lifestyles have changed.

Customers who leave the house early in the morning want their products on the doorstep when they awake. Others want deliveries timed to the arrival of nannies at 9 am. Retirees and seniors may want to chat or place special orders later in the morning. Someone else wants delivery within a 15-minute time period, an almost impossible challenge to meet.

But Jeff and Ginette pride themselves on trying to meet individual requirements. One customer wants one fresh egg every week; another, very thinly sliced bread. For her, they stop at a bakery on the way in to have it done. They've put out garbage, changed light bulbs and even looked after a cat for a hospitalized senior.

"It's customer service and it's what we've built the business on," Jeff says. "When it comes down it, we're a nonprofit organization! But it's fun."

#### Befriending the dogs

Delivering to homes with dogs is Ginette's specialty. "For me, all dogs are good dogs. And all get fed." Her pockets bulge with dog biscuits. Some she shoves through mail slots to keep the dogs from barking.

An animal lover himself, Jeff acquired his hobby farm before meeting Ginette, initially with the aim of raising race horses. Their animals are pets with names "who have adapted to our hours," Ginette points out. They include a horse, donkey, goat, dogs, cats, ducks and a dozen chick-

The milk run is tough physically and



Ginette and Jeff Steele in front of their truck.

of the street while he does the other. Taking a day off, like Christmas, means working twice as hard the day before. "On Christmas Eve, we didn't get home until 7

#### Healthy lifestyle

too much for one person, Jeff explains.

That's why he needs Ginette to do one side

But it's a healthy lifestyle, he says. "We just don't get sick. We're outside. And I keep a big bottle of hand sanitizer in the truck."

Once, when he hurt his ankle, Ginette had to do all the walking but he could still drive – a lucky thing since she refuses to drive in Westmount.

"The traffic is exhausting," he says. "People are in so much of a rush all the time that even at 4 am they're honking if the truck blocks the way.

And there is so much congestion around the schools that we can't go anywhere near them after 7 am."

Left turns off Sherbrooke should either be eliminated or given priority, he says. This would prevent traffic backing up and spinning off to the side streets that can't handle it. Clarke is the worst turn, even at St. Catherine where changes a year ago made it worse than before.

While Jeff is one of four milkmen in Westmount, he and Ginette find many people think door-to-door delivery no longer exists. He tells them it provides the advantage of not loading up the fridge, and it gives them "fresh milk at competitive prices."

While shoppers may notice long expiry dates, he says, "the irony is that the milk may not be fresh." He knows his is.

He and Ginette drive a long way to bring it to Westmount.





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