

Trent makes first move toward ‘lean management’

Standing committees gone, commissioners named

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council’s standing committees are being abolished as Mayor Peter Trent takes his first steps to implement his vision of a leaner city structure with less red tape.

This change, along with the naming of the traditional councillor commissioners and appointments, was to be announced Monday, November 9, at council’s ceremonial inaugural meeting and swearing in (after press time). All are expected to be ratified at the first business meeting next Monday, November 16.

“Eliminating the standing committees will reduce the time it takes to turn decisions around,” Trent told the *Independent*. “It will also free up staff time and help build a team feeling on council.”

Trent said the only standing committee he proposes to have is a new one on the arena/pool project to be chaired by Coun-

cillor Patrick Martin. Those to be abolished are Finance & Administration, Urban Planning, Recreation & Culture, and Safety, Utilities & Environment.

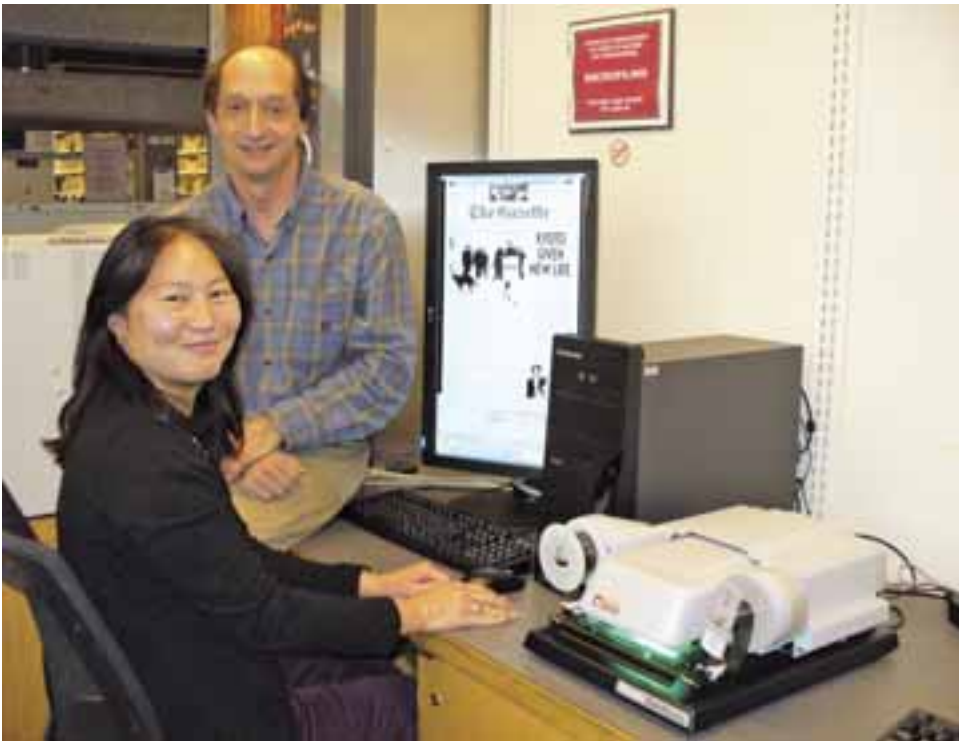
“There are a plethora of other committees on which councillors sit.”

While the commissioners structure has long been used in Westmount, the standing committees were added in 1990 by then Mayor May Cutler to make recommendations to the council. These have led to more meetings, minutes and work than needed in a small city, Trent said.

“I’m a great believer in lean management,” he said, pointing out how he had cut out the two positions of assistant director general in 1993 during his first term in office.

Without standing committees, and given past experience, more responsibility will be vested in each commissioner. See appointments, p. 2.

New life for microfilms



Reference librarians Mai Jay and Benoit Morin demonstrate the new digital microfilm reader at the Westmount Public Library. For story, see p. 4.

City outlines H1N1 plan

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount’s H1N1 pandemic preparedness plan is geared to maintaining essential services, forging a network of contacts with the area’s health agency and operating as a pipeline to citizen information services.

City director general Duncan Campbell outlined these priorities November 6 at a press briefing one day after Alexis Nihon Plaza opened as the vaccination centre for the CSSS de la Montagne, which oversees

three CLSC territories including the Guy Metro office serving Westmount.

“Because this is a health emergency,” he said, “it’s not a spontaneous one in the traditional sense. But it is an emergency measures situation, and we decided early in the game to get the word out to citizens concerning our level of preparedness.”

A key concern, Campbell said, was “how do we manage our own city operations should we be stricken by a wave of H1N1.”

He singled out water, *continued on p. 17*

See our listings p.15

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City council appointments

Commissionerships and Committees

The newly elected city councillors have been assigned to the following responsibilities by Mayor Peter Trent:

- Arena/pool Building Committee**
(Patrick Martin, chair. Victor Drury, Gary Ikeman, Cynthia Lulham, and mayor. For needs analysis study, Kathleen Duncan)
- Commissioner of Utilities and Public Works – Patrick Martin**
- Commissioner of Finance – Tim Price**
Pension Plan Committees – Price, Ikeman, Drury
- Commissioner of Administration – Victor Drury**
Including Human Resources, City Clerk, Communications, and Information Technology
- Commissioner of the Environment – Theodora Samiotis**
Healthy City Project (Samiotis, chair. Drury, Forbes)
Railway Advisory Panel (Samiotis, chair. Lulham, Ikeman)
- Commissioner of Urban Planning – Cynthia Lulham**
Demolition Committee (Samiotis, Duncan, Martin)
Planning Advisory Committee (Lulham)
Horticultural Advisory Committee (Lulham)
- Commissioner of Sports and Recreation – Kathleen Duncan**
- Commissioner of Cultural and Community Services – Nicole Forbes**
Public Library Committee (Forbes, Duncan, Lulham)
Community Events Advisory Committee (Forbes, chair. Duncan)
- Commissioner of Public Security – Gary Ikeman**
CLD Committee (Ikeman, Drury).

Looking for a city treasurer

With Westmount’s 2010 budget yet to be finalized, the city finds itself looking for a new treasurer.

Ads have been posted in professional journals to find a replacement for Claude Lachance, who is leaving at month’s end to go to another job, city director general Duncan Campbell has confirmed. Lachance had been with the city since 2006.

“The budget process is carrying on,” Campbell said. “We’ve been working on it since June.” The big issue, he added, is waiting for the budget of the Agglomeration Council which affects the city’s shared costs.

The city’s budget also has to be reviewed by the new council.

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New parking meters in 2010

Westmount's parking meters will soon be a lot smarter, and some merchants are already concerned.

City director general Duncan Campbell explained to the *Independent* that Westmount is looking at a number of new designs, from the one used by Montreal to what he described "Stars Wars-type" technologies.

No new concept has been chosen yet, and "the new council will have a word to say," said Campbell.

One new type allows each parking

space to identify itself as full or empty to a remote, or even mobile, monitoring station. Also, some third-party suppliers are willing to take over the entire administration of a jurisdiction's parking.

Campbell is looking to refine the possibilities into specifications for a tender call some time in 2010.

The impetus for the search is the state of the current meters, "many of which are out of service at one time." The goal would also be to improve service, which he sees as a tightrope walk between allowing shop-

pers to park, while making sure there is turnover in commercial districts. Meters' ability to take credit cards is one area where improvements could be made. He sees aesthetics as important too.

The aim is not to make money, said Campbell, or all streets would be metered.

All of the city's meters would eventually be redone.

Campbell has already talked to some merchants, but there will be a "fair amount of consultation" in future as well.

continued on p. 16

Duffield new Royal Vic Foundation chair

Westmounter and former city councillor Peter Duffield has been chosen by the Royal Victoria Hospital Foundation to be its chairman. He has been a director since 2003.

"We're extraordinarily pleased that Peter has accepted this leadership position at such a critical time in the Royal Victoria Hospital's development," said Paulanne Jushkevich, the foundation's president. "Peter's experience, dynamism and deep

roots in our city and our hospital will be invaluable as we continue to raise funds to build the new Royal Victoria Hospital on the Glen as part of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC)."

Duffield is a chemical engineer and consultant. He has been a member of the MUHC Foundation since 2006 and is currently chair of its human resources committee.



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The decision of whether to remodel an existing home or buy another one has become more difficult because real estate prices have levelled off in many areas and the costs of renovations are always increasing.

The following are some things to think about when deciding whether to remodel or purchase a new property:

Lifestyle: Does your home continue to reflect your lifestyle? Experts agree the home should reflect anticipated lifestyle changes for the next five to seven years. If not, it might be a good idea to consider purchasing a new property.

Maintenance: Does your home require more maintenance and upkeep than desired, especially compared to newer homes and condos?

Cost and Value: There are many factors that can weigh into the cost and value of a given property, including tax credits/write-offs, long-term appreciation, current level of depreciation, access to amenities, property taxes and insurance, utilities, maintenance, and much more. If you are not sure how to properly evaluate the true cost and value of your current property compared to a prospective property, ask your agent to provide estimates of principal, interest, taxes and insurance for comparable properties in the same neighborhood.

Community: Access and affiliation with friends, family and the local community are important when deciding whether or not to remodel or buy new, yet they are easily overlooked by many homeowners.

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Library rolls out pain collection

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The unveiling by the Westmount Public Library of an extensive collection on pain management took place last week November 1 to 7, coinciding with National Pain Awareness Week. A special display will also run for several weeks.

More than four dozen books, audio-visual material and periodicals have been purchased to provide resources for those living with chronic pain due to illness, injury or other reasons, such as arthritis, other musculoskeletal disorders, and mental health issues.

The new collection was made possible by a \$4,000 grant over three years from the Louise and Alan Edwards Foundation. This is a private non-profit organization established in 2000 to help fund basic and clinical research into chronic pain.

“We requested the grant because pain crosses all health disciplines,” said library board member Jean Williams, a psychiatric nurse.

Williams, who has been instrumental in helping the library develop its information centre on health, spearheaded the pain management initiative last April with committee colleague and former city councillor Tom Thompson, along with now retired library director Ann Moffat.

“A public library with knowledgeable and experienced professionals is a trusted place for members of the public to seek re-

liable information to help them maintain control of their lives,” Williams explained.

As part of the collected material, the library has taken out a subscription to the monthly magazine *Arthritis Today*.

Specialist to speak Nov. 26

The launch includes a lecture on November 26 by psychologist Dr. Jeffrey Mogil of the MUHC, who will speak at 7 pm at the library on “Genes and Friends: The Emerging Science of Pain Control”.

Mogil, a specialist in the genetics of pain, has been quoted as stating that “pain is the granddaddy of all health concerns” and “the number one reason that people go to the medical doctor in the first place.”

Based on figures from the Edwards Foundation that one in five Canadian adults is afflicted by pain on a regular basis, this would suggest that close to 1,000 Westmounters might be affected.

“As our population ages, pain and more complex chronic pain become part of many of our lives,” Williams states in the library’s grant application.

“It is not easy for most adults with pain to learn to manage it, physically and emotionally, to communicate clearly with health professionals and to maintain a high quality of life. This is also true, of course, for adolescents and young children.”

The \$4,000 grant has enabled the library to assemble start-up materials and

will cover continued expansion of the collection over the next two years. The library has undertaken thereafter to maintain the currency of materials and the level of excellence.

Figures released by the foundation state that of the Canadian adults living with daily pain, one third with moderate or severe pain have lost a job or had to reduce

More databases accessible from home

Library acquires microfilm reader, expands remote access

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A new state-of-the-art microfilm reader at the Westmount Public Library enables users to sharpen images, select particular photos or news items, and then copy them onto a memory stick, print them to a regular printer or email them.

The library believes it to be one of the only such digital machines available in public libraries. It forms part of the library’s drive to provide new electronic resources, including a long list of databases that can also be accessed remotely through the library website.

The digital microfilm machine brings new life to the library’s sizeable collection of more than 2,000 reels of newspapers and old magazines. It replaces the 20-year-old model that has simply “expired” after having had extensive use.

“Our new one provides much higher performance and is a vast improvement,” said reference librarian Benoit Morin.

Installed without fanfare over the summer, the \$10,000 unit comes with a large vertical monitor for easy viewing of a standard newspaper page. It also has enhancement functions and is proving especially useful in genealogical research through obituaries, he said.

Users can also view their own reels, including those they have obtained from other sources such as inter-library loans from the National Archives of Canada.

The library’s own microfilm collection provides updated copies of *The Gazette* dating back to 1987 and copies of Westmount newspapers back to 1907. It includes old copies of magazines such as *Time*, *Maclean’s*, *Newsweek*, *Life* and *Scientific American*.

Databases for remote access

While the library continues to expand its wide variety of databases, “a lot of peo-

ple don’t know they have remote access to them from home from the website, 24 hours a day,” explained reference librarian Mai Jay.

Users must enter the number of their membership card, though the new Tumble Book Library collection does not require a card.

Other recent acquisitions include Grove Art and Consumer Health Complete that has full text content for more than 1,000 health-related magazines.

Among the more popular databases is the ProQuest Canadian Newsstand that provides full-text articles from *The Globe & Mail*, *The Gazette*, *National Post* and others. “This way, we are paying the fee and our members can access these papers without paying,” explained Jay.

A separate *Globe & Mail* historical database (Canadian Heritage from 1844) provides digitized full-image versions of the newspaper back to its inception.

Other database topics include the arts, dictionaries and encyclopedias, literature and science.

Among new databases coming in 2010, is Eureka with full-text articles from 1985 onwards from *La Presse*, *Le Soleil*, *Le Devoir*, *Le Droit* and *L’Actualité*, as well as several magazines.

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Correction

In “Upsets, nail-biters and landslides” (November 3, p. 1), we incorrectly identified the number of women councillors in the new city council. There are in fact (a non-record breaking) four.

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All Westmounters will determine this council's environmental legacy

The 2009 municipal election, besides marking the return of Peter Trent to the mayoralty, will be remembered for its arena/pool project aspect. It will probably still be a background factor for the 2013 election. But what will we think of it in 2029 when we look back 20 years?

I predict it will have been eclipsed by steps taken towards a sustainable society.

Trent and the new council have been presented with an opportunity to transform Westmount into a sustainable community, extending the natural instinct for environmental protection, conservation, volunteering and social awareness.

Former mayor Karin Marks and her council prepared the way with a Sustainability Development Action Plan hastily presented on the eve of the election. Trent, who accepts the overall concept, wants to refine it into achievable goals.

John de Castell, Marks' close colleague on the plan, failed in his re-election bid (versus Theodora Samiotis) in District 8. And Georges Hébert, Trent's intended Environment commissioner, lost to Gary Ike-man in District 5. It will be interesting to see how this environmental knowledge will be replaced.

However, it may not be an issue. Trent has a strong green track record, particularly from the earlier pre-merger days. Recycling, the eventual end of the mega-incinerator plan, pesticide controls, building conservation, idling engines and public smoking were all features of that period.

They were innovatory, to a greater or lesser extent, and have been followed by Montreal, other municipalities and the Quebec government.

Best inhouseformed

Trent's term on the Montreal Urban Community's (MUC) environment commission revealed him as the best-informed mayor and won him much support among the island's activists – and put Westmount in a different light.

(Incidentally, Trent first met Hébert, a lifelong resident and president of environment group STOP, through downtown MUC work.)

While the interest has not gone away, Trent won't be his own Environment commissioner. Besides, the job really needs to be done by everyone. Within city hall, all departments should by now have realized what the objectives are.

Although Public Works is the main agent, every department has its part to



Civic Alert

DON WEDGE

play: Urban Planning, Purchasing, Public Security, Finance, and so on. It is up to director general Duncan Campbell to ensure that council policy is followed in this area, as in all others.

That policy now has to be re-defined. Trent wants to set new priorities. "The present plan is too far-reaching, and I think we will have to narrow it down to achievable targets," he said. "If we don't, then there is the risk that nothing will get done."

"We have another opportunity to lead Montreal and the government in showing how a small municipality can become sustainable."

As well as expecting all commissioners to have responsibilities for environmental issues in their department, Trent has asked Samiotis to take on the coordinating role for a number of linked traffic and transit issues.

Samiotis' dossier

As chair of the Healthy City Project's steering committee, she will become part of much wider issues than recycling and composting. It was the social concerns of the HCP's Community Life section that opened up the arena debate by suggesting that the site might one day house a senior centre.

Sustainability can only be partly achieved by the city as a corporation. It must come about by lifestyle change. That is widely accepted, but only lightly adhered to. At least half of the action plan is only possible by individual action.

Fortunately, there are some very encouraging signs. Remember the enthusiastic turnout for Earth Hour? Or, more recently, the overflow crowd at the prioritizing of the sustainability plan itself?

Westmount has a record of volunteer action. But as the work force changed, the Community Events Office was established to give support.

Some kind of similar assistance is needed for all the voluntary sustainability actions that are essential but outside the city's services. Who will organize car pools, encourage walking to school, locally-grown food, reward successes, pro-

vide social needs for the aging, and so on?

The city must not just look inwards. It will be successful only if the obligation to assist residents make lifestyle changes is accepted.

Citizen activist Don Wedge's email address is dwedge@sympatico.ca.



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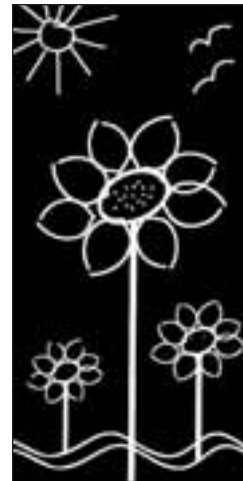
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Letters cont'd...

continued from p. 6

Association (NRA) would ever wish to print an article or an opinion that supported gun control. Similarly, the pro-life lobby would probably never wish to print an article or opinion supporting abortion, and the environmental lobby would probably never want to print an article or an opinion that encouraged continued, unrestricted use of Styrofoam.

This said, I think that the WAMCAM website should not have been required to print any article or any opinion that was contrary to its stated objectives, despite the protestations of Mr. Naylor.

He gets it right when he states “Let’s build two hockey surfaces in a cost-effective manner with the least impact on the environment.” Sounds exactly like the moderation that Mr Ikeman and WAMCAM were preaching all along. But, unlike Mr. Naylor’s final thought that “our children and their grandparents will thank us in the long run,” I contend that our children and their children will, like the generations before them, be less than thankful while they are still servicing the debt 25 years down the road.

How soon we forget Jean Drapeau and the Olympic stadium!

ALLEN RUBIN, LEXINGTON AVE.

DEAR DISTRICT 4

Just a brief note to thank the *Indie* for its comprehensive election coverage and to express my sincere gratitude to all those in District 4 who showed their civic mindedness to vote on election day.

I also wanted to acknowledge Nicholas Smith who helped wage an honorable campaign.

KATHLEEN DUNCAN, COUNCILLOR,
DISTRICT 4

A HANDS-OFF ELECTION RACE

An account of the refusal of Councillor Lulham to shake my hand when I went to city hall to congratulate her following the municipal election appeared in the *Independent* last week (“Upsets, nail-biters and landslides”, p. 1).

This would be a private matter were it not an affront to all those electors who voted for the principles that I represented: transparency, enhancement of civic discourse and engagement, and financial responsibility.

Writing on my website, former mayor Karin Marks states that it was Ms. Lulham who actually brought to council the plan for synthetic turf and pushed for its adoption, “elle a donc proposé l’utilisation de gazon artificiel pour ces terrains. Tout au

long de ce processus de consultation Mme Lulham était en faveur d’une surface artificielle.”

It is my opinion, if this is true, that Ms. Lulham’s campaign literature, which implied that she fought for the natural turf option, was insulting to all those voters in District 7 who were influenced by it.

Ms. Lulham had the opportunity to help heal some of the divisions in our community by shaking my hand following her election win. It is regrettable that she chose not to be a gracious winner.

MAVIS YOUNG, MELVILLE AVE.

Ed.’s note: In fact checking the identity of the blogger on Mavis Young’s website and the quotation, the Independent spoke with former mayor Marks who confirmed the statement but clarified “tout au long” to mean “in the initial stages” of the discussions.

IF YOU’D LIKE A PET, RESCUE IT

I would like to compliment the *Independent* for the Underdog columns.

I am not a dog person, much as I love them, due to my work-related travels. I am a cat person, and I adopted a cat through an article in the *Independent* several months ago. He is a wonderful cat, who may not have had a loving home if it weren’t for your article.

I urge everybody who is looking for a pet to skip the pet stores and go to the local rescue organizations or the SPCA. As winter approaches, abandoned animals need to find homes. Speaking as someone whose cats (for the past 35 years) have all been rescue cats, it not only keeps these abandoned animals from dying, it also gives those of us who adopt them a warm, purring and loving companion.

LYNN PECKNOLD, GROSVENOR AVE.

NOT CHEAP TO SWIM AT Y

I wish to add some facts to your article about the new fees at the Westmount Y masters program.

Gary White has stated “in comparing the Y to these other clubs, we found that our prices were at least competitive.”

Pointe Claire charges \$480, including taxes, affiliation fees, use of weight room, and public swim membership. The Westmount Y charges \$585, plus tax, plus affiliation fee, and now, an \$80 surcharge. That’s a total of \$795, significantly more.

For a senior, the rate almost doubles: \$350 at Pointe Claire, \$642 at the Y with fewer lanes and less practice time.

But it is more than a matter of money. Fees for the current session had already been announced, and paid by members.

Then, after the session was underway, members were told to pay a surcharge.

There has been no guarantee in writing that the surcharge would be used specifically for pool-related expenses. Not to mention that there is no transparency, nor an independent assessment of air and water quality, which is a long-standing issue.

Other municipalities of our size have indoor swimming facilities. I hope that Westmount will give serious consideration to building its own, so that citizens will be better served.

BARBARA HOUGHTON, CÔTE ST. ANTOINE RD.



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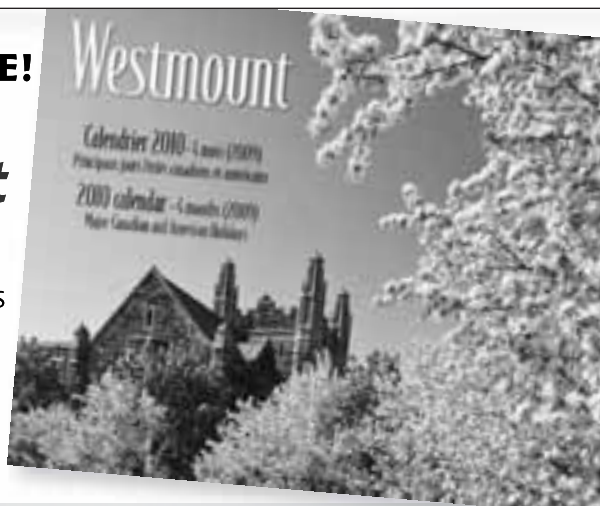
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Chest honours 4 for 100th



From left, Westmounters Shelley Kaulbach, Ian and Helgi Soutar, Gary and Valerie Aitken.

Westmounters were among those at the McCord Museum November 2 to continue the centenary celebrations of the Montreal Chest Institute. The event honoured Dr. Margaret Becklake, Dr. Peter Macklem, former Westmounter Dr. Darrell (Dag) Munro and Dr. Peter Paré.

"It is important to celebrate the excellence of our institute's leadership – to ho-

nour those who have put us in the forefront of our field of respiratory medicine, and to hold them up as examples to the great doctors who will lead us into the future," said Westmounter Susan Curry, chairman of the MCI Foundation.

The institute turned 100 on October 21. See "Westmounters, queen celebrate Chest's 100th", October 27, p. 18.

Travaux de réfection

Reconstruction de la conduite d'eau principale

Rue Sainte-Catherine, entre les avenues Greene et Clarke

Veillez noter que les travaux de remplacement de la conduite d'eau principale sous la rue Sainte-Catherine se poursuivront jusqu'au début du mois de décembre. Ce projet est géré par le Service des infrastructures, transport et environnement de la Ville de Montréal.

Un texte précisant les étapes du projet, les impacts pour la circulation et le stationnement, l'installation d'un réseau temporaire d'eau, et le remplacement des services d'eau est disponible à www.westmount.org.

Pour toute information supplémentaire, veuillez communiquer avec la Ville de Montréal au 514 872-3777 (8 h à 17 h). Pour connaître l'avancement du projet, consultez le site Internet ville.montreal.qc.ca/chantiers.



Infrastructure Renewal

Reconstruction of the Water Main

St. Catherine Street, from Greene Avenue to Clarke Avenue

Work is currently underway to reconstruct the water main on St. Catherine Street, and will continue until early December. This project is managed by the *Service des infrastructures, transport et environnement* of the City of Montreal.

Information outlining the project phases, the impact on traffic and parking, the installation of a temporary water main, and the replacement of the water services is available at www.westmount.org.

For additional information on this project, please contact the City of Montreal at 514 872-3777 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.). For project updates, consult the Web site at ville.montreal.qc.ca/chantiers.



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Akiva enjoys healthy day off



Joanna Berman Mandel, a recent transfer to Montreal from the San Francisco Ballet, practices the arabesque with a group of grade 4 girls from Akiva School, October 27.

By ERIN STROPES

Students at Akiva School enjoyed a special day of no classes on October 27 when parents and professionals from around Montreal took over the school from the teachers. Instead, the children participated in a wide range of activities focussing on this year's theme – health and fitness.

Almost 100 parents, mostly mothers, participated in everything from serving lunch to conducting workshops. Teachers were away on an annual two-day professional development and team-building retreat. "Parent involvement is a regular feature at the school, where a majority of parents engage in volunteer activities," said head of the school Cooki Levy.

The *Independent* witnessed firsthand the school's 350 kindergarten to grade 6 students enjoying themselves as they participated in activities ranging from hip-hop dancing, to learning the arabesque in ballet class, to racing around in a scavenger hunt.

The workshops were selected to broaden the students' experience of the various physical activities available to them, and eschewed more traditional team sports to focus on unusual or lesser-known activities.

Athletes from the Special Olympics spoke to the children about overcoming limitations, and members of the McGill chapter of the international humanitarian

organization Right to Play discussed their work, bringing sports and play into underdeveloped countries.

Westmount gym and spa Victoria Park sent a delegation of fitness instructors to the school to teach classes in yoga and budokan, a martial art discipline.

Several workshops were led by the Akiva parents themselves, including a creative dance instructor, a personal trainer, and a ballerina from the San Francisco Ballet.

In keeping with last year's theme of community and "acts of loving kindness," students started their day with a cereal drive benefiting Montreal kosher food bank MADA.

"The day has been a great success," said parent coordinator and Westmounter Samantha Mintz Vineberg, who has organized this event all four years. "All the students are having fun and participating in everything. And everyone has tried something new. And that's exactly what we want – for everyone to come away feeling good about being fit."

This is the fourth year Akiva has conducted a parent-run theme day. Previous years had safety, environment, and "acts of loving kindness" themes.

"We try to find a theme that's meaningful and goes beyond the regular curriculum," says Eada Rubinger, the mother of two Akiva students.

Bathing in colours



Colourfully Yours

GRETA VON
SCHMEDLAPP,
MUSE TO AURÉLIEN
GUILLORY

Hello design friends! Let me tell you about a sensuous experience we had recently. Aurelien was sent to speak about chromotherapy at the Bain Ultra's information sessions at the lovely Château Bonne Entente in Quebec City, and I begged to tag along. (I had heard marvelous things about the hotel in the past, and believe me, they are all true!)

As you might already know by now, Aurel is slightly obsessed with colour in all of its manifestations. Over 20 years ago, (when it was considered very flakey) Aurel attended a year of workshops hosted by a parapsychology group, certified by the instructor from England's The White Lodge, near the famous Stonehenge. The workshops focused on several aspects of holistic healing, including work with the Chakras, aromatherapy and colour therapy.

Back then, it was all very strange and suspect, but now these ideas are more mainstream, and Aurel is proud that he was onto something those years ago. He continues to use the knowledge and experience he collected at those workshops for the benefit of his clients.

For example, for clients who are more depressive in nature, we avoid black, and most grey or "muddy" colours are wrong for them. They need clear or pastel colours, and light or white colours, rather than dark, shadowy ones. On the other hand, for one high-energy executive, we would look to cool his office with grey blues, creams, and grey mauve, and stay away from the fiery colours.

Aromatherapy

Today, companies making soaps, cleaning products, and all sorts of lighting elements are using aromatherapy concepts that include essential oils to market their products. For example, 25-year-old Bain Ultra, based in St. Nicolas just outside of Quebec City, is very avant-garde in its approach. Management regularly hosts four-day seminars with experts in aromatherapy and Aruyvedic healing for their sales people across North America.

Aurel is creating a new spa here in his super downtown condo for a jet-set textile magnate to help alleviate his jet lag. The idea is that the blue and violet LED lights in the Bain Ultra massage jet bathtub,

along with the essential oils of lavender, will induce sleep more easily. When he enters the ultra shower system called Vendana, he will program the full-spectrum lighting to help adjust him to our time zone, rather than the Middle East one. In the morning, using yellow and orange light, along with oils of geranium and citrus, will help him feel prepared for his meetings and conferences.

Now my dear design friends, there is so much more to these concepts than I have space for here. Aurel hopes I piqued your curiosity to explore all aspects of colour therapy whenever you have the chance. He and I are waiting to hear about your experiences about how colour affects you, your friends and families. Please take a moment to tell us!

We are happy to award the Golden Martini award to Château Bonne Entente. These martinis were some of the best I ever tasted. Watch for our future reports on the horror stories of bad framing and some spicy stories from our visit to the Big Apple.

Hugs and kisses, your Greta.

PS: Aurelien's email is aurelien@colorsbyaurelien.com



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Westmounter welcomes guests to heritage mansion

The Mount Stephen Club hosted International Flavours, its annual gala, on October 17.

Drummond St. was closed so that patrons could have finely tuned valet parking (VIP Valet) and arrive in perfect style. Lads in top hats and tails opened the club's heavy front doors to welcome the 350 glamorous guests.

Housed in the former home of George Stephen, Lord Mount Stephen, founder of CP Rail, the club is full of marble and rare exotic woods. The mansion was built in 1880 for \$600,000 – considered an exorbitant cost at the time! The building was



Social Notes from Westmount and beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

purchased in 2006 by the Tidan Group, which is carefully restoring the heritage property.

Tidan partners **Mike Yuval** and Westmounter **Jack Sofer**, along with **Silvio Sicoli**, executive director of the Mount Stephen Club, welcomed guests with

Pommery champagne. Then, the *elegantistas* made their way inside where, in each room, they were served food from a different top Montreal restaurant.

Guests enjoyed *délices* ranging from sushi and steak, to risotto, foie gras and mini hamburgers. For those hungry after disco dancing, dessert was served at 11 pm.

Noted amidst the revelers was Westmounter **Elspeth Angus**, whose great-great uncle was Lord Mount Stephen. Angus' niece, **Heather Campbell**, arrived from Toronto for the *soirée*. Other guests were **Karim Boulos** and his wife **Nathalie Allard**, **Sonia** and **George Hanna** with their son **Paul**. Also present were **Daniel Drapeau**, **Michael Downer** and his sister **Sarah**, **Hugh Cowans**, and club pres **Ré-jean LeBel** with his wife **Karen Hunter**.

The annual red carpet gala raises funds for the George Stephen House Trust Fund, which helps preserve this jewel of Montreal architecture for future generations.

The final, thoughtful touch? When party goers got into their cars to leave, they discovered a rose and a box of truffles – a parting gift reminiscent of the elegance of another era.

If you are interested in sponsoring this page, kindly contact Arleen Candiotti at 514.223.3567.



Silvio Sicoli, Mike and Monica Yuval, Anna Sicoli and Westmounter Jack Sofer.



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US Thanksgiving, Westmount-style



From left, Westmounters Janet Black, Aristia Scodras and club president Pennie Polak of the American Women's Club of Montreal were busy making plans last week for their annual (American) Thanksgiving luncheon on Wednesday, November 18. This year's event will be held at the Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club at 1350 Lakeshore Rd. in Dorval and will cost \$26 for a complete turkey dinner. A raffle and silent auction will help support local food banks. For more information, call 514.726.5813.

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Merchants advocate 'user-friendly' meters

continued from p. 3

When contacted by the *Independent*, Gerard Fellerath (of Folklore) and Shelley Kerman (of Lmnop) said that their group, the Sherbrooke/Victoria Merchant Association, has already been in contact with the city several times over the past few months, but has yet to hear back.

In March, they affirmed that their goal was for meters to be user-friendly for the shopping public and not "tax grabs, like the ones downtown."

Their specific suggestions take aim at the Montreal-style meters and include:

- Parking rates should remain the same (\$0.25 per 15 minutes),
- Meters should show the time available on the meter itself,
- Motorists should be able to top up meters and inherit time from the previous user.

It seems like the consultation process has already begun.

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Peter and Kornelia Brown.

Montreal native Peter Brown met his wife Kornelia when both were travelling in India. The two have been together ever since, blending their love of travel and their fascination with Asian jewelry, furniture and décor to create Woven Gardens. The shop, which has been a fixture on Sherbrooke for the last 12 years, sells an array of hand-picked antiques, furniture, tribal rugs, unique jewelry and decorative items.

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Public Security boosts numbers for H1N1

continued from p. 1

electricity, roads, and snow removal as essential services. The Public Security Unit has boosted its strength by keeping on seven officers hired for the summer.

No city employees, however, have received priority vaccination related to their work.

Underlining the fact that the situation falls under the control of government health authorities over which Westmount has no control, Campbell explained that the city was not providing advice to callers on whether or not to get vaccinated but referring them to relevant sources.

He also reiterated the work the city had been doing to liaise with health authorities to open up lines of communications.

In fact, he explained Alexis Nihon was one of three possible vaccination sites the city had suggested to the CSSS de la Montagne in June in the event the hockey season had already started at the Westmount arena, which had been requested as a site. The other two were Westmount High School and the RMR armoury.

It had obtained a supply of the Quebec government's *Self-care Guide to H1N1 influenza* in English to distribute to community groups and the public. The province sent out French versions to all citizens. Some may have received an English version with their copy of the *Gazette*.

Two one-day sessions on what to expect during a pandemic were given to city staff in June by specialized personnel from the Drummondville CEGEP.

City officials have also been drawing up minimum staffing requirements for each department based on "the worst case scenario" and a relief plan for management of resources. This is based on a staff absentee rate of 35 to 40 percent at any one

point in time either because they or family members were sick. "We probably wouldn't all be sick at the same time," Campbell said.

The city also had studied the impact of temporary closings of the arena or other facilities. "We want to be ready if we have to make a recommendation to the council."

Campbell also said that suppliers and contractors had been contacted and asked if they had contingency plans. "Many companies didn't start thinking about it until October."

Campbell was to meet Tuesday, November 10, with directors general from other suburbs to discuss common issues such as insurance and asking sick staff to stay away from the workplace. "We want to have a consistent policy."

The city was also making plans to hire a part-time nurse to triage possibly sick workers if required, he said.

Asked by the *Independent* whether the city was considering cancellation of city events such as the opening of the flower show, Campbell said it would follow national guidelines for the holding of large public meetings.

The number of hand sanitizers has been increased in city buildings. Public Security Captain Richard Bourdon reported that the unit had a supply of masks on hand.

The force has also increased patrols around Alexis Nihon to help control parking and traffic congestion related to the vaccination site. The clinic, however, is taking place wholly in Montreal on the Metro level where a line up forms at the tunnel to Cabot Square.

The city's role in part, Campbell said, was to keep citizens informed of the rapidly changing directives from health authorities. In this regard, it is posting regular updates on www.westmount.org.

Henri: Poor little rich boy

BY ANNA PRINCE-FINKELSTEIN,
GRADE 7, ECS

You've heard the saying "Bad things happen to good people"? Well it's the same for dogs. Especially this one. His name is Henri, and once upon a time somebody paid very good money to get him from a breeder.

He is a registered chocolate brown standard poodle, a popular breed because these dogs are hypo allergenic and typically very smart. Henri was destined for a life of luxury. Unfortunately, you can tell just by looking at Henri that his past wasn't something to be thankful for.

He was found abandoned in a cornfield – and it wasn't a recent drop off either. Henri was left there for who knows how long. He was living off corn (the only thing he could possibly eat), thinking everyday that this would all be over, and his owner would come and pick him up. When he was finally found and taken in by Sophie's Dog Adoption, he suffered from a digestive malaise you can only imagine after eating only corn.

Once you get over how intensely malnourished he is, the first thing you notice



about Henri is the sad, droopy look on his face. The second thing you observe is that when he comes up to you, he doesn't snuggle or lick you, he just sniffs you, lets you pat him, and then walks away. This is because he doesn't trust people. He is clearly gentle and sweet but is very, very broken from what he has had to live through.

If you watch him, you will also notice that he never sits down and will do just about anything to avoid having to, which includes pacing back and forth for hours. This is because he basically lived for months sitting on cement (probably in a small area where he couldn't move) before so thoughtfully being dumped in the corn field. He now has wounds and growths all over his back side, which are like bedsores in humans...and patches of missing hair,

continued on p. 22

Volunteers needed at vaccination site

A call has gone out for volunteers to help at the vaccination site at Alexis Nihon Plaza. Among the work required is help at reception, orientation toward the designated nurses, staying with persons until their vaccination and other related activities. The site is open from 8 am to 8 pm until December 23

Those interested are asked by the CSSS de la Montagne to leave their name, phone numbers and availability at 514.731.1386, ext. 6978.

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Steve Martin's banjo playing is no joke



Ruminations

GEORGE BOWSER

Steve Martin is an author, a playwright, an actor and a stand-up comic. He also plays the banjo. A novice banjo player myself, I recently travelled to the ancient city of Troy, New York, to hear Steve Martin and his band in concert, performing music from his latest all-banjo album, *The Crow*.

It was a great show, which may surprise you. Banjo music, played as it is with metal finger picks on an instrument that resembles a cross between a snare drum and a badminton racket, is not dinner music. It has been said that the sweetest sound a banjo can make is when you throw it into a dumpster and it lands on a set of bagpipes. Question: what's the difference between a banjo and an onion? Answer: nobody cries when you cut up a banjo.

The sound of a banjo has become in-

delibly associated with Depression-era gangsters (Bonnie and Clyde), comedy (the Beverly Hillbillies), and half-wits (*Hee Haw*, *Deliverance*.) That's the style of banjo developed by Earl Scruggs, who performed the music for the first two items, and consequently it's called Scruggs-style picking. There are other ways to play the banjo, but that's the style we expect to hear. It's not only annoying to listen to; it's also wickedly difficult to play. Three fingers of the picking hand have to execute an infinite variety of combinations, called 'rolls', with metronomic precision, while the other hand finds the right notes. It takes years of practice. Introducing one of his songs, Steve Martin remarked: "My wife gave me the title of this song. She called it "Don't You Know How to Play Anything Else?"

Steve Martin's band was traditional bluegrass-style, with upright bass, a violin, another banjo (yikes!), mandolin and guitar. It's fun to watch traditional bluegrass bands perform, because the players, most of whom also sing very well, observe a strict microphone technique which amounts to a type of formal choreography as they harmonize or take "breaks" on

their instruments. There is one large microphone on a vertical stand at centre stage, and the singers and players approach it and lean in towards it when they sing, each giving way to another in turn as the musical arrangement requires. There is constant movement, perfect balance, and no "tap tap ... is this on?" moments. The audience can concentrate on listening to the music.

Bluegrass music is folk music, so every pause between songs is an opportunity for

story-telling, usually humorous. Songwriters often talk about the song they are about to play. For example, Steve Martin said: "I had this book of bad poetry, and I thought, I could do that. So I wrote a lot of bad poetry. Then I thought – hey, this would make a good country song."

Inspired, I have returned to my 10,000 hours of practice with renewed vigor, and next spring you may see me following leaf-blower guys around, playing my banjo. Revenge is sweet.



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Direct Access

In Conversation: Jeff Walker on the Duplessis art collection

BY HEATHER BLACK

Known for perfecting the “art of political patronage,” Maurice Duplessis (1890-1959) was also an astute art collector. Now, 20 paintings have left family hands for auction.

Consigned to Walker’s Fine Art and

Watson Art Galleries on Sherbrooke St., and many retain their label.

Watson Gallery was one of the first galleries to promote Canadian art, and its clientele was discerning but conservative. According to Walker, “Watson was Coburn’s dealer, so it is not surprising that he sold one to Duplessis.” Nor is his taste



Charles Huot “Gentleman's Tandem, Quebec”

Auctioneers, this collection is on view November 14 and 15 at Han Art Gallery (4209 St. Catherine). To learn more, I spoke with Jeff Walker, grandson of the company’s founder.

I asked him how he would characterize this collection. “Duplessis collected both Canadian and European art, but his taste was very conservative,” said Walker. Among Canadian artists, Duplessis chose works by Charles Huot (1855-1930) and Frederick Simpson Coburn, (1871-1960).

For Walker, Huot’s “Gentleman’s Tandem” is a “typical Quebec painting of the time”. Painted in 1873, the sleigh scene with Quebec City in the background, is expected to fetch between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

Coburn’s “Sleighting on a Winter Road” features the artist’s favourite theme of horses pulling red sleighs along snowy country roads. Painted in the Eastern Townships, it is evaluated between \$25,000 and \$35,000.

Duplessis’ collection also includes works by European artists Luigi Loir (1845-1916) and Felix Ziem (1821-1911). “Tending to the Fishing Boats” by Dutch artist Johan Scherrewitz (1868-1951) is estimated between \$18,000 and \$24,000.

But did Duplessis collect the paintings himself? According to Walker, the answer is “most likely, yes.” Most were bought at

surprising given the conservative nature of his premiership from 1936 to 1939 and 1944 to 1959.

During this time, abstract figures were associated with socialism; and books on contemporary art were banned from public libraries. In the 1948 manifesto “Le Refus Global” (Total Refusal), Paul-Émile Borduas and others called for “freedom from convention,” criticizing Quebec society “huddled to the skirts of a priesthood.”

Walker’s auctioneers

Located in Ottawa since 1937, Walker’s specializes in both fine and decorative arts. For Walker, bidding on Duplessis’ paintings provides an opportunity to collect “many valuable works in the \$30,000 to \$80,000 range.”

And the collection is expected to do well at auction. “The market for Canadian art has been largely unaffected by the current downturn...This suggests that the demand far outweighs the supply,” he said.

But for those who prefer contemporary art, the November auction of “18th to 20th Century Fine Art & Objects” includes works by Jean-Paul Lemieux, Jean-Paul Riopelle and others. Paintings from the estates of G. Hamilton Southam, O.J. Firestone, and former governor of the Bank of Canada J.R. Beattie, are also on

the block.

Although the Han Art preview will feature the Duplessis Collection, Walker is “happy to bring, if possible, other works upon request.” To view the complete selection, view the online catalogue at www.walkersauctions.com.

Rare opportunity

Release of the Duplessis Collection provides an opportunity to view and collect Quebec heritage. While the auction takes



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Place Kensington (4430 St. Catherine St.) hosts a **Remembrance Day ceremony**, 2 pm in the Winter Garden. Info: 514.935.1212.

- SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
- The Rotary Club of Westmount’s **used bicycle collection**, 10 am to 3 pm at Victoria Hall (4626 Sherbrooke St.) Donation of \$12 per bicycle required to cover shipping. Tax receipt will be issued. Rotary will pick up bikes in Westmount on evening of Thursday, November 12 and morning of Saturday, November 14. Contact: 514.935.3344 or email info@rotarywestmount.org.
 - St. Matthias’ Church (10 Church Hill) **Christmas Fair** from 10 am to 2 pm. Baked goods, jams, gifts, jewellery, books. Lunch available. 514.933.4295.
 - **Westmount Artisans’ Festival**, Nov. 14 and 15 at Victoria Hall (4626 Sherbrooke St.), 10 am to 6 pm. Entry fee \$2, or non-perishable food donation.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Sundays at the Shaar Hashomayim (425 Metcalfe Ave.) presents **Beryl Wajzman**, editor of the *Suburban* newspaper on

“Truth or Consequences”. Lunch at 12:00 noon, followed by the lecture. Cost: \$5. Reserve: 514.937.9474 ext. 139.

- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16
- Women’s Canadian Club of Montreal presents **Nancy Wood**, host of CBC’s Day-break, on “Experiencing the Broadcasting/Journalism Field as a Woman.” 12:30 pm at the Unitarian Church (5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd.) Guest fee \$10. Info: 514.488.7891.
 - The Montreal Camera Club presents photographer **Gabor Szilasi**, 7:30 pm at Westmount Park Church (4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd.), rear entrance. Info: johnzimmerman@videotron.ca or www.montrealcameraclub.com.
 - **Council meeting** at city hall, 8 pm.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17
Westmount **Toastmasters Club** 85th anniversary, with guest speaker Mayor Peter Trent. Open to all. 7 to 9 pm at Victoria Hall.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
The **Aron Museum** of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom presents an exhibition of antique menorahs from the private collection of guest speaker **Irwin Tauben**. Vernissage

7:30 pm. Exhibition ongoing from Nov. 18 to Dec. 31. Info: 514.937.3575 ext. 230 or alice@templemontreal.ca

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
Westmount Historical Association presents Nora Hague, photographic archivist, McCord Museum, on **William Notman “Photographer to the Queen”** 7 to 9 pm, 4574 Sherbrooke St. Free for members, non-members \$5 at door. Info: 514.989.5510 or 514.932.6688.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
Annual Treats and Treasures bazaar at Centre Greene (1090 Greene Ave.), 10 am to 3 pm. Crafts, bake sale, children’s activities, gifts and light lunch. Admission is free, and all proceeds go to support community programs. Info: 514.931.6202, or www.centregreene.org.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26
Lecture by psychologist **Dr. Jeffrey Mogil**, of the MUHC, on “Genes, Gender and Friends: The Emerging Science of Pain Control,” 7 pm, at Westmount Public Library. Register: 514.989.5299 or at Circulation Desk.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27
Harmonia Westmount presents “Festival

of Lights” – works by Benjamin Britten, Grundahl, and more. 7 pm at Victoria Hall.

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PAPARAZZI PAGE

The Atwater Library and Computer Centre held its Benefit Cocktail Party and Silent Auction November 4 on library premises. Jazz pianist Oliver Jones was the guest of honour. Funds raised will go towards the organization's programs and services, and for costs associated with the upgrading of the 89-year-old heritage building.



Ellen Bounsall, president of the board of directors, Atwater Library and Computer Centre; Peter McAuslan; Nikola Reford and John Burgess.



Dennis Trudeau and Westmount Mayor Peter Trent.

Atwater Library's annual fundraiser

PHOTOS BY ROBERT GALBRAITH



Guest of honour, pianist Oliver Jones and bassist, Eric Lagacé.



Dennis Trudeau, the evening's MC; Lynn Verge, executive director of the Atwater Library and Computer Centre; newly elected city councillor Theodora Samiotis and her husband, Michael McAdoo.



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continued from p. 17

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Henri

Photo: Sophia Mammias, Grade 8, ECS



Puff Update

In the issue of October 20, we wrote about Puff, the dog from Lebanon who has no back paws and needed to be rescued. An update for all of you who were so concerned and kind with your donations: Because of your help, we now have both the airfare and a home for Puff. In fact, we have lined up amazing foster homes for five other dogs as well. Just \$300 can bring one of these dogs to Montreal and give him or her the chance to have a great life, a right every living thing deserves.

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