

BAPE report echoes city position on Turcot project

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount residents near the Ville Marie Expressway may have earned a delay from the planned rebuilding of the highway following last week's environmental report advising Quebec's transport ministry to revisit the Turcot Interchange project.

Recommendations by the government's Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) reinforced the need for a more sustainable approach as presented in Westmount's brief revealed June 16 at public hearings that called for a more sustainable approach to the \$1.5-billion project.

"I'm very encouraged by the direction the BAPE has taken," said
Councillor Cynthia Lul-

continued on p. 7

In November, we remember



Remembrance Day was not lost on the youngest generation. For more photos, see p. 22.

Photo: Judith Henderson




PSOs won't respond to panhandling

Westmount Public Security officials confirmed last week they will no longer dispatch officers to calls concerning panhandlers. The decision has sparked an outcry from some merchants.

For the story behind the decision, please see p. 25.

La Cache is back!

La Cache will be re-opening on November 23 at 1353 Greene Ave., after the company underwent restructuring. April Cornell will be managing both the company and her foundation The Giving World.



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Fall flower show opens November 19



Head city gardner Melanie Barringer arranges some of the many chrysanthemums in time for the opening of the Fall Flower Show at the Conservatory. It is open to the public from Thursday, November 19 until blooms fade; the hours are weekdays 10 am to 9 pm, and weekends 10 am to 5 pm.

Guard rail added to snow trucks this winter



Westmount labourer Marco Ciavaglia (standing) and driver Frank Caucci display the experimental bright yellow safety rails on this city dump truck.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Bright yellow safety guards are being fitted onto Westmount's three Public Works dump trucks on a trial basis just in time for snow removal duty. Specially made as a prototype, the guards are a safety measure to prevent pedestrians slipping between the wheels.

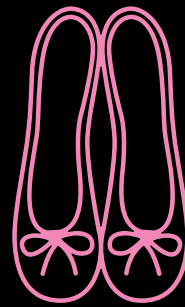
"A simple thing like this can save lives," said Councillor Cynthia Lulham who championed the local initiative as part of a national crusade to require mandatory installation of such guards. "I'm proud of our Public Works and happy we're setting an example."

The Jessica Campaign was launched by

Jeannette Holman-Price, whose daughter, Jessica, lost her life December 19, 2005 falling beneath a contractor's truck during snow removal operations at Sherbrooke and Strathcona.

The campaign to lobby Transport Canada to require the safety guards has been taken up by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. (See the *Independent*, February 10, 2009, p. 1.)

"We're hoping we'll be a model for others in reducing risks," said Public Works director Marianne Zalzal. Already, the guard rails have required some height adjustment and other fine tuning is expected, she said.



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From the Pub

Freeloading is fun, but (Rotary) fundraising is important

I'm just the businessman here, but I do have to do double duty as a reporter from time to time. One thing I've discovered about being a part of the press is that freeloading goes hand in hand with the job. At fundraisers and schmoozers around town, the press is always welcome. And the drinks and canapés flow. (Beer isn't always available, but I digress...)

One of my most frequent freeloading targets is the Rotary Club of Westmount, whose members have fed me at their weekly meetings more times than I can easily count. Even when I arrive after lunch in order to cover their speaker, they make a point of serving me dessert. And

because they are such friendly people, they keep inviting me back.

Welcoming ersatz journalists is far from Rotary's most important work. Each year Rotarians raise money and give it to targeted recipients in Montreal, Canada and abroad. Recent projects include \$100,000 in support of a new respite home in Beaconsfield for the families of mentally disabled Montrealers and money for wells in Ghana, Africa.

To finance their gifts, Rotarians have different fundraising ventures each year. (Westmounters know them best from their annual garage sale, which is on hiatus for the moment.)



Erin Hogg of Hogg Hardware poses in front of the store's Rotary calendar display.



Anna Charbonneau of Westmount Stationery with Rotary's 2010 calendars.

This year, one of their money-making projects is a 2010 calendar of Westmount, with photographs by Westmounter Ralph Thompson.

Hogg Hardware, Westmount Stationery, Manoir Westmount and Scotia Bank on Greene Ave. are selling the calendar and remitting the entire retail price

back to Rotary.

The *Independent* is proud to be the calendar's sponsor. I encourage you to buy one and support a generous and giving group.

David Price is the publisher of the Westmount Independent. He enjoys almost all desserts.

New police chief already at home in Westmount

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

It's been two weeks since the change of command at Westmount's community police station 12 on Stanton St., but already the new chief wants to stay here a long time.

"I'm very, very happy to be here," Commander Stéphane Plourde told the *Independent*. His appointment to replace Commander Michel Wilson comes after four years as a duty commander in charge of police operations for major island-wide incidents. This includes being part of the command team at the Dawson College shooting three years ago.

That day, one of the community's darkest hours, was Plourde's initiation to Westmount as one of the first commanders to arrive on the scene. "I just saw a wave of people coming at me," he recalls. "It was the biggest incident of my career."

At age 43, Plourde, who speaks fluent English, is a 21-year veteran of the force who has served in a variety of roles at suburban stations, headquarters and with the UN police training mission in Haiti. He has also been in charge of the cavalry and canine units, and worked with the traffic squad.

Interestingly, he was recruited to the six-month tour of duty in Haiti by then director Pierre Vézina, who was the MUC police chief at the Stanton St. station (formerly Station 23).

And for Plourde, every day on the job since then reminds him how lucky he is to work in Montreal with a well-equipped police force, which, in contrast to police from some other countries, he found, was able to "connect" with the people.

In Haiti, he was most struck by the number of homeless children in parks and streets day and night. "But as a police offi-



Commander Stéphane Plourde (left), the newly appointed chief of local police station 12, with his predecessor, Commander Michel Wilson, who returned for a visit November 11 after taking over the helm of station 3 in Pierrefonds.

cer it really also makes you appreciate what you have here. The police didn't even have pens. One time I walked into a station and asked why someone was in the cells and the officer couldn't tell me. He had nothing on his desk. No records, no supplies." As well, those in custody had to depend on their families to bring them food.

Serving in Haiti, "was a personal achievement I was very proud of," Plourde adds. He volunteered for the mission "as an adventure and to make a difference." And in turn, it has changed his own views.

He returned just before the ice storm in 1998. "But coming back from such misery, the impact of the storm didn't make such a difference to me," he recalls. "And I was living in the heart of it – in the Black Triangle." *continued on p. 29*

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SEE P. 8 FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

‘No regrets’ say election’s defeated candidates

Gated communities

The election is over and the new council has already started work, but two weeks later what are the feelings of those who lost? After all the work, trudging door to door, answering questionnaires, designing advertisements and flyers, organizing supporters – and then to lose – it must be tough, to say the least.

After a recount, Montreal East mayor Yves Labrosse, a good friend and merger ally of Westmount, lost by three votes to Robert Coutu. Labrosse had been on council for 40 years and mayor since 1982. It must have been devastating for him. “Things could be better,” he admitted to *La Presse*.

No Westmount races were that close. Some elections can be cruel, however. Gary Ikeman (District 5) won with 40 percent of the vote, while John de Castell got 47 percent in District 8 and lost to Theodora Samiotis. Similarly, Mavis Young gained 46 percent while losing to incumbent Cynthia Lulham in bitterly fought District 7.

Yet no regrets for trying seemed to be the conclusion of all the defeated newcomers I spoke to. Even so, no one committed either to run again or never to do so.



Civic Alert

DON WEDGE

“But for the election I would never have met such interesting people,” said Young. Georges Hébert, Douglas Leahey and René Pelletier, who competed with Ikeman in District 5, said much the same thing, as did the youngest candidate, Phil Cutler, in District 2.

(Claire Kruyt and John de Castell were



Ikeman and Pelletier posters ripped down on Sherbrooke St.

contacted but did not reply by press time.)

All were competing in their first municipal election, although Pelletier had campaigned for Brian Mulroney in 1984 and at other times in Westmount for the Conservative Party. If he were to run again, he would change his strategy.

“I was too much the nice guy,” he said. “So were two of my opponents. The three of us ran straight contests, but the fourth candidate was too American.”

Asked if he thought winning at all costs in a municipal poll was acceptable, Pelletier replied that he was unsure “of what is right” but thought a gentlemen’s agreement would apply. “For instance, we were blocked from entering 200 Lansdowne where there were a lot of votes,” he added.

Pelletier, an investment advisor at CIBC Wood Gundy, claimed a client had put up a poster for him in that building, but that it had been taken down immediately.

He – and others – complained about their street posters being removed. Poster vandalism, whatever the motive, was fairly universal, but of dubious value to candidates. The *Independent* observed Pelletier’s posters ripped up alongside those of election winner Gary Ikeman (see photo to the left).

continued on p. 10

Apartment blocks presented their own problems. “Westmount Estates (4800 de Maisonneuve) were very cooperative, but 4998 de Maisonneuve just wanted me to leave my flyers at the door,” Douglas Leahey recalled. “Most buildings took that position.”

René Pelletier found that after about 7 pm, women, if they were alone, would be reluctant to open their doors. “It was different if a woman was campaigning with me,” he noted. “Of course, I met a lot who were not

continued on p. 10

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No request for recounts

Elected councillors sworn in at city hall

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's newly elected council members joined their already acclaimed colleagues at the council table during an official swearing-in ceremony on November 9, shortly after the deadline for judicial recounts passed without requests.

Such recounts can incur costly legal fees and are not usually sought unless prompted by sufficient confusion over the clarity of voters' intentions, city clerk Mario Gerbeau told the *Independent*. The type of ballot used by Westmount discouraged this and resulted in few rejections, he continued.

"I don't think anyone is as surprised as I am to be on council," said first-time councillor Tim Price, as each was asked by Mayor Peter Trent to say a few words. Elected in District 2, Price went on to thank family and others as did most others in Oscar or Emmy-style acceptance speeches.

Gary Ikeman, another new councillor and the winner over three other contestants in a hot District 5 race, said his election was an opportunity to contribute to the city. He would do "everything in my power to improve it," and would serve the city with "the honesty, sincerity and dignity that goes with this office."

Newcomer Theodora Samiotis, councillor for District 8, said the campaign had

been an extraordinary experience that provided a privilege and an opportunity to meet many of the residents in that district, including three former councillors. She also made mention of the work of her predecessor and election opponent John de Castell.

District 1 incumbent Patrick Martin said he looked forward to working with this council – "a wonderful group."

Kathleen Duncan, returning in District 4, said how much she looked forward to continuing her work in areas such as the

bike path and merchants' issues. She also mentioned the civility of her opponent Nicholas Smith.

Incumbent Nicole Forbes in District 6 said she wanted to continue working in the same vein as she had been doing with volunteers and artists.

In her fifth term, Cynthia Lulham in District 7, referred to a number of big projects ahead and announced her intention to hold a series of "kitchen meetings" to start building consensus on the arena/pool.

"I think we're going to work so well together," said Trent speaking last. He identified the arena project and Westmount's tax burden as the main challenges. With taxes up 66 percent since 2001 (before the merger) – or 42 percent factoring in inflation, he said he would try to reduce taxes and hold the line on expenses.

Victor Drury, who was elected by acclamation in District 3, was out of town and unable to attend.

New candidates take oath of office



Theodora Samiotis



Gary Ikeman, left, and city clerk Mario Gerbeau.



Tim Price

If there's a whisper of WAG...

In appointing members of the newly created Arena/Pool Building Committee on November 9, Mayor Peter Trent added a potential name not previously mentioned.

"If there's a whisper of the word WAG," he stated, "Theodora Samiotis will be added as the District 8 representative." A number of District 8 residents have voiced opposition to the use of the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) as a site for the project.

Regular councillor members of the committee are chair Patrick Martin (an engineer and project planner by profession), Cynthia Lulham (Urban Planning commissioner who represents the district where the current site and WAG are located) and Gary Ikeman (an advocate of project moderation and commissioner of Public Security). Kathleen Duncan (commissioner of Sports and Recreation) will be included regarding a needs assessment.

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Local philanthropy recognizes past and present Study students

BY ISAAC OLSON

The local chapter of an international association of fundraisers recognized two Westmount residents involved with The Study – one of whom is a student – during an annual award ceremony at Hôtel Place D'Armes on November 12.

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), globally representing approximately 30,000 members in over 200 chapters, strives to advance philanthropy through education, advocacy and mentoring. First held in 1986, the National Philanthropy Day ceremony recognizes contributions of individuals and organizations.

One alumna, Erika Ludwick, and one current student, Sofia Essayan-Perez, took home awards in their respective categories. Westmounter William Molson, co-

chair of The Study School Foundation Trustees, was nominated for, but did not win this year's Philanthropist of the Year award.

Named Volunteer of the Year, Ludwick, who graduated from The Study in 1988 and now serves as co-chair of the parents' association, has been busy fundraising for her alma mater. Most recently, she co-chaired the first Drive for Our Girls Golf Tournament on October 5. The event netted \$123,000 for The Study's athletics and wellness programs.

Taking the Youth in Philanthropy award, 15-year-old Sofia Essayan-Perez, a US-born Westmounter who once lived in Nicaragua, has coordinated science-related workshops for Nicaraguan girls since grade 6.

Despite an eagerness to learn, Essayan-Perez, now in grade 10, noticed the girls

were financially unable to continue their education, so she initiated a scholarship fund through her school to give one hand-picked student a chance at higher learning.

"Basically, I'm giving a small amount of money so they can pursue their dreams by

obtaining a university education and a degree, get better jobs in the future and give back to their communities," said Essayan-Perez. "It's very touching to see how people are so willing to help – especially in my school."



Erika Ludwick (left) stands with Sofia Essayan-Perez at Hôtel Place D'Armes on November 12 just before accepting their respective Association of Fundraising Professionals awards.

Photo: Isaac Olson

Derek Covington carries the Olympic torch

Former Westmounter Derek Covington carried the Olympic torch in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland on November 16.

Covington was raised in Westmount and attended Roslyn, LCC and McGill. He now lives in Ottawa where he works for the Olympic committee. His mother, Westmounter Barbara Covington, explained to the Independent that committee workers were able to enter a draw for a chance to carry the torch. Covington entered and won.

In an email to friends, Covington wrote "It is a great honour for me to have been given this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. ... The torch relay, in particular, represents a summons to the world that the games are coming; for nations to join in a sacred truce, for the world's athletes to come together to compete in a spirit of fair play, friendship and respect."

Westmount 'made an impact'

continued from p. 1

ham who was part of the city delegation and vowed to lead a citizen protest if the BAPE's report endorsed the Turcot plan. "The report mentioned Westmount and showed that our brief made an impact."

The BAPE report's recommendations incorporated those made by the city, which called for integration of public transit systems, reduction of traffic and pollution and creation of a road network for the future rather than one replicating what had been built in the mid-1960s.

"For a \$1.5-billion project that can affect lives in Westmount and in some parts of Montreal, we must take time to thoroughly study the report and all it entails," said Mayor Peter Trent.

He did not expect the new council to adopt a position in time for its meeting Monday, November 16.

Beware the spilled liquid scam

The latest version of an old pickpocket scam resurfaced recently in Westmount.

After leaving one of the banks at Sherbrooke and Victoria, a man went south on Victoria at the end of the afternoon November 2 when he was suddenly splashed by a nauseating liquid, police said. At that very moment, a so-called Good Samaritan appeared to help him wipe off his coat. When the victim put it back on after the cleaning, the pickpocket fled in an un-

known direction. He was described as a white man in his 40s wearing dark clothes.

"We're encouraging people to be vigilant," said community relations officer Alain Diallo. "Confronted by such a situation, go immediately to a safe place such as a busy store and seek help from the manager. In particular, keep a close eye on the people around you when withdrawing money."



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VACCINATION NECESSARY

I am writing in response to Sophie Tarnowska last parenting column “A flu by any other name is just as vexing” (November 3, p. 19).

Most of us have never been exposed to the H1N1 virus, in the Westmount community or in the rest of Canada. Few of us have any immunity to it; there is no rapid, reliable way to sort out who does and who does not. Infectious disease and epidemiology experts predict a 30 percent rate of H1N1 infection among the general population without discrimination for age, health status or gender.

Given the current rate of infections in the province, we may reach this 30-percent infection rate over the next six weeks. Across countries and continents, the mortality rate for this virus is 0.5 percent, and this is also the mortality rate experts predict for the current Canadian wave.

Concomitantly to the rise in infections in the general population, our hospitals have started to fill up. Sixteen percent of all hospital beds in Montreal are currently occupied with severely ill H1N1 cases. Forty percent of them are under the age of ten. The Montreal Children’s Hospital closed its operating room last Thursday.

In our health care system, this adds

strain to already understaffed emergency rooms and intensive care units.

Any complication of any vaccination (in rate or in severity) pales in comparison to the risks of the H1N1 virus. I am lucky to have been vaccinated; I am distraught that my children cannot be vaccinated sooner.

When one considers parenting, some of the decisions we make are based on feeling, but big decisions about potentially life-threatening infections should incorporate the facts. No mushroom extract or yoga technique has changed the course of lethal infectious diseases the way vaccinations can. Few circumstances are as clear as the current H1N1 crisis. Everyone should get vaccinated, adults and children alike.

DR. YOANNA SKROBIK, INTENSIVE CARE SPECIALIST, HÔPITAL MAISONNEUVE ROSEMONT AND REDFERN AVE. RESIDENT

MORE TO THE 4300 STORY

I attended, as a tenant, the annual meeting of the 4300 de Maisonneuve Tenants’ Association to which your article “Tenants, management face off at the 4300” (November 3, p. 5) referred. It was, indeed, a sad and angry meeting as people expressed their frustration at living, endlessly, in the middle of a construction site.

I refer to the exterior of the building, surrounded by scaffolding and piles of construction material, which has been the case during most, or all, of 2009. However, I think your reporter missed the real story. This is the way I see it:

The owner of this building, BC Investment Management Corp., one of whose principal clients is the BC teachers’ union, hoped to sell the building, and the would-be buyers seemed to drag on the “due diligence” part for months before deciding not to go through with the sale. The union seemed to intend to sell it “as is” and puttered around with a skeleton workforce.

At the October 26 meeting, in addition to a representative from Realstar (the management company), there were also present the contractor’s representative and the foreman of the job. These two men told us that they were not being issued the necessary money to do the work.

Now that the would-be sale is dead, and since the meeting, I believe I have noticed a difference, namely more men on the job. The trouble now is that it is late in the season to do exterior work. We were told by Realstar that the work would be completed “at the end of 2010,” including new windows. We’ll see.

This wonderful old prestigious building is actually a great place. The location is

priceless – near shopping, Westmount Park, the library, schools, churches and synagogues. It is on a quiet residential street and still has a lot of grandeur. But management, instead of spending money to attract new tenants, should be concerned with the comfort of the existing ones.

This building deserves whatever it takes to be spent on it to maintain its previous enviable reputation. Its “highest and best” use demands the highest standard of upkeep and renovations. It’s simply good business, and it’s the right thing to do.

SHEILA WHITZMAN, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

VACCINATION PROCESS SURPRISINGLY SMOOTH

I would like to congratulate the staff of the CSSS de la Montagne for their work in organizing the H1N1 vaccination drive at Alexis Nihon. As the mother of a three-month-old, I was part of a priority group to receive the vaccination. In all honesty, I was anticipating long line-ups and frustrating disorganization one would usually expect with an undertaking of this magnitude.

In the various baby-related activities I do, parents were speaking of rumours of inadequate quantities of vaccine, long queues and various queue-jumping manoeuvres. The general sense was definitely one of pessimistic preparation.

However, I went to Alexis Nihon on the first day of my group’s vaccination at 11 am, hoping to get an appointment slot for the next day or at least get a sense of when I should plan to return. Imagine my surprise at being sent through immediately for my vaccine. I was out by 11:30 am! I was also able to pick up an appointment card which allowed my husband to show up after work and be out 45 minutes later.

I am delighted to eat humble pie; the entire process was one of the most efficient and well-organized experiences I have had dealing with any government agency. The staff was knowledgeable, courteous and efficient, the location was clean, comfortable and well-equipped. I raise a slice of pie – a big congratulations to the staff of the CSSS de la Montagne for a huge job well done.

LAURA BUTLER, GROSVENOR AVE.

GETTING ALONG SWIMMINGLY (NOT)

In your November 10 issue, reader Barbara Houghton deplores the \$80 after-the-fact surcharge for Masters swimmers in her letter *continued on p. 9*



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Letters cont'd...

continued from p. 8

(November 10, p. 7). I fully agree with her.

Any change of contract conditions after the fact is unacceptable. I also agree with reader Kimberley Lapenson (p. 6 of the same issue) who deplores the poor air and water quality at the Y swimming pool and offer my congratulations to this Masters swimmer who just turned 84.

Unfortunately, most of us are not Masters swimmers and merely want to keep fit, but have seen our lane time severely reduced by the special requirements of the Masters. Whereas ordinary swimmers cannot use the pool during the designated Masters times, Masters can and do use our lanes during our designated times, often intimidating us with their fast and aggressive swimming, further reducing pool availability for us.

Shouldn't we have a discount for loss of lane time? Now, if Westmount had a year-round pool (poorer municipalities in Montreal do) everybody would get along swimmingly!

MAYA KHANKHOJE, KENSINGTON AVE.

Editor's note: It is my understanding that the new fee did not come about "after the fact," but was previewed and discussed long before the start of the fall 2009 season.

PARANOID MOTHERS UNITE

Thank you for reintroducing your new writer, SophieTarnowska. I've enjoyed reading her last few witty articles on motherhood and can't wait to see and hear more of her in the future. Sophie, I'm thrilled to know I'm not the only paranoid mother around!

JOELLE AZOUZ PISCOPOS, UPPER BELMONT AVE.

'TEAR DOWN THIS FENCE'

Mayor Trent: One of your first tasks should be to unravel the financial mess left to you by the previous council, which has been so divisive for the citizenry.

Some tasks:

1. Why was a contract for \$1.3 million (\$850,000 already spent) given to the architects Lemay & Associates, and why was it given without seeking proper consensus from the people living in the surrounding neighbourhoods? Please let us know if any lobbyists or paid consultants were involved, apart from Lemay and the soil testing firms.

2. An enormous amount of city employee time and money were wasted on the cancelled synthetic turf boondoggle and the citizens have never been given a proper financial accounting. Again, other than the

landscape architects and the playing fields specialist were any lobbyists or consultants involved and, if so, how much were they paid?

3. Why was \$905,000 spent on landscaping and all of the other work that was involved on the Academy Rd. soccer fields only to have them iron gated as if it were a private estate? Mayor Trent, "please tear down this fence."

These are just a few of the serious and costly financial blunders that await your study and for which the citizens deserve an honest and complete accounting.

Mayor Trent, all of the above is about a council which forgot sound business principles and had "no skin in the game" but more important, it is about financially strapped taxpayers who have been hurt by the ineptitude that went on around them, and who trusted that their money would be used wisely and prudently during these difficult financial times.

LARRY KLEPPER, ST. CATHERINE ST.

Please write to us!

For consideration, letters to the editor must identify them as "for publication" and have authors' customary first and last names, and street names, all of which will be published. Please also include contact information (for follow-up purposes only). We do not publish letters regarding consumer complaints or inter-neighbour disputes. Letters will be edited for length, content and style.

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Toile's used bedding initiative helps local women's shelter



Suzie Legg and Toile owner Ingrid Bryson, November 12.

The Victoria Ave. exchange started off with "You're great!" from Toile owner Ingrid Bryson, thanking Westmounter Suzie Legg, November 12, for dropping off her used duvets to donate to a local women's shelter. Legg retorted "No, you're great!" to Bryson, who was collecting donations of used bedding from Westmounters to donate to Chez Doris, a day shelter for troubled women at 1430 Chomedey St., just east of Atwater. The initiative started in her

own store when Bryson set aside non-matching sets of pillow cases and duvet covers to give away to the shelter which used the bedding "to help get the women back on their feet."

This year, Bryson offered a discount on new merchandise for bedding donations and hopes it will become an annual event "to help communities within the Westmount area in need."

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Candidates: ‘No regrets’

.....
continued from p. 5

Complaints of the same sort came out of the races in Districts 7 and 8, but Pelletier may taken the most proactive stance in combating the problem. He told me he rose at 5 am to go out and replace the posters torn down over night. One of them had to be renewed 16 times.

Leahey said he had put up “about 100 posters, but there were very few left to take down after Election Day.”

All candidates went door to door throughout their district. “Discovering what residents were dissatisfied with was very informative. Of course, I wanted to win in order to help the community, not be opportunistic. I found it hard to campaign positively as people wanted to talk about their dissatisfactions.

“On the other hand, the weather was great most of the time. But even on the rainy Saturday, some people in their gardens cleaning up still found time to stop and talk about my campaign.”

Phil Cutler, who turned 21 years old during the campaign, found the most interesting part was going door to door and “talking to people I’d heard about, but never expected to meet,” he said. “Hardly anyone slammed the door in my face and, when they did, it was because they thought I was there to sell something.”

“I had a pleasant experience with my competitors in District 2. I didn’t fight them – just ran against them. There is no reason to be uncivil. They were both very

professional. I certainly didn’t want a bad taste left. It is the pettiness in politics that has turned young people away.”

Also noting his opponent’s civility was Michael Osterland who tried to unseat Nicole Forbes in District 6. “We had no incidents of posters being torn down, although in hindsight I think I saw something like that in District 5.”

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

Gated cont’d.

.....
continued from p. 5

interested – foreigners and short-term residents.”

District 6 includes 4300 de Maison-neuve where many of the occupants are retired long-time residents. Michael Osterland was able to make visits but they were not very profitable. “If there is a next time, I would try to have an inside contact and organize a town hall-type meeting in each big building.”

For Mavis Young, many multi-dwelling buildings were “the equivalent of a gated compound, cut off from the rest of society with the occupants disenfranchised. It denies them the opportunity to meet candidates.

“We were able to go into some buildings and found residents happy to see us. One person did ask threateningly: ‘How did you get in?’ Basically, we only called on those registered to vote.” DW

Community involvement

Douglas Leahey will continue his community activities, which include the Scouts and the Community Events Advisory Committee (CEAC), and he hopes to further the new arena/pool and Sustainable Development Action Plan.

Georges Hébert plans to continue with the Healthy City’s environment committee, which is expected to have a role in the plan’s implementation. Phil Cutler wants to see the arena renewal move forward but has also just joined the environment committee. Though now in the education dept. at McGill, he completed two years in human environment studies at Concordia.

“The city’s sustainable plan is a focus of mine,” he said. “It is very important to the young people who voted for me.”

Michael Osterland said the experience had “spawned a wish to become more involved in the community besides the sports and recreation volunteer I was.” He has contacted Jenny Patton, the environment committee chair, as a step to participating in the sustainability action. “It was worthwhile in widening my interests in this way.”

René Pelletier is considering joining the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA). Mavis Young has already done so. “But I’d like to see some younger people join,” she added. “The association needs new voices that recognize that the environment and sustainability are important issues.” DW

Suggestions

René Pelletier: “The Westmount Municipal Association’s Meet the Candidate night was a good idea. But someone should think of a second meeting. A debate just between the four candidates in District 5 would have been very interesting.”

Mavis Young: “Access for people with reduced mobility was restricted at my polling station, Westmount High School. When I raised it, the electoral officer said the city was not obliged to provide such a facility. They opened one [such station] late, but it was poorly sign posted. Even if the law does not require it, which is surprising, surely Westmount has the moral obligation to look after all residents, mobile or not?”

Mavis Young: “I’d like the city to run an education campaign aimed at residents of multi-occupant buildings showing how they could play a role in the community. At election time there should be a ‘registered candidate’ icon issued to candidates indicating that they have a special requirement to be visiting door to door.” DW

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Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount



AVIS PUBLIC DU RÉSULTAT DE L'ÉLECTION

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné que, après avoir pris connaissance des résultats complets de l'élection, les personnes suivantes ont été proclamées élues aux postes ci-après mentionnés :

- ➔ maire : **Peter F. TRENT**
- ➔ conseiller du district n° 1 : **Patrick MARTIN**
- ➔ conseiller du district n° 2 : **Timothy PRICE**
- ➔ conseiller du district n° 3 : **Victor M. DRURY**
- ➔ conseiller du district n° 4 : **Kathleen WARNER DUNCAN**
- ➔ conseiller du district n° 5 : **Gary IKEMAN**
- ➔ conseiller du district n° 6 : **Nicole FORBES**
- ➔ conseiller du district n° 7 : **Cynthia LULHAM**
- ➔ conseiller du district n° 8 : **Theodora SAMIOTIS**

DONNÉ à Westmount, le 17 novembre 2009.

Mario GERBEAU
Président d'élection

PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE RESULT OF THE ELECTION

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that, after having examined the complete results of the election, the following persons were declared elected to the offices mentioned below:

- ➔ Mayor: **Peter F. TRENT**
- ➔ Councillor of district No. 1: **Patrick MARTIN**
- ➔ Councillor of district No. 2: **Timothy PRICE**
- ➔ Councillor of district No. 3: **Victor M. DRURY**
- ➔ Councillor of district No. 4: **Kathleen WARNER DUNCAN**
- ➔ Councillor of district No. 5: **Gary IKEMAN**
- ➔ Councillor of district No. 6: **Nicole FORBES**
- ➔ Councillor of district No. 7: **Cynthia LULHAM**
- ➔ Councillor of district No. 8: **Theodora SAMIOTIS**

ISSUED in Westmount, on November 17, 2009.

Mario GERBEAU
Returning Officer

Bon Appétit

BY ETTY B.

Comfort food doesn't get any better than this wonderful meal. Start with soup, then serve the shepherd's pie with a side of roasted or steamed broccoli. Finish with

fresh fruit and biscotti for dessert.

Shepherds pie

3 tbsp oil
2 med. Onions, diced small
2 cloves garlic, chopped
2 lbs minced beef or minced turkey
2 eggs
¼ c. ketchup
3 tbsp soy sauce
Salt and pepper
2 cans corn nibblets
Purée cauliflower or mashed potatoes (see below)

Heat oil in sauté pan, add onion, cook on medium until translucent (about 5 minutes).

Add chopped garlic, cook 1 minute.

Add meat, break it up and cook until it loses its colour and all liquids are evaporated. Remove from heat, make sure to cool for a few minutes. (If using turkey, drain most of the liquids with a spoon after the meat has lost its raw colour, otherwise it will be too dry).

otherwise it will be too dry).

Add 2 beaten eggs, ketchup, soy sauce, salt and pepper. Mix well, pour into a 9 x 13" Pyrex dish.

Cover with corn nibblets.

Cover with mashed cauliflower or mashed potatoes.

Sprinkle with paprika.

Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

Can be frozen before or after baking.

Mashed potatoes topping

5 potatoes, cut up in chunks.

Pot should contain enough water to cover Salt and pepper

Place potatoes and spices in pot cover and bring to a boil. Reduce to medium heat and boil until soft.

Mash with potato masher, add canola oil, 2 eggs, lightly beaten, salt and pepper to taste. Combine.

Cauliflower purée topping

1 large head cauliflower

Cover with cold water, add 2 tsp salt Bring to boil, simmer until very soft Drain, place over medium heat to dry a bit.

Place in processor with 2 tbsp canola oil. Purée until smooth. Add 2 eggs, salt and pepper.

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Alexander Bernadine (1880) (1890) "The Sailing Ship" (1890) (1890) (1890)

Selected Works from 1935-1980 November 14 – 25

Sylvia Ary, Jack Beder, Alexander Bercovitch,
Sam Borenstein, Rita Briansky,
Ghitta Caiserman-Roth, Eric Goldberg,
Harry Mayerovitch, Jan Menses,
Louis Muhlstock, Ernst Neumann,
Jack Nichols, Moe Reinblatt, Regina Seiden,
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PANDÉMIE - GRIPPE A(H1N1)

Vaccination - Place Alexis-Nihon

Santé Montréal annonce que le centre de vaccination contre la grippe A(H1N1) à la Place Alexis-Nihon (1500, avenue Atwater) est maintenant ouvert de 8 h à 20 h. Veuillez noter que cette période de vaccination est destinée aux femmes enceintes (le vaccin sans adjuvant est disponible), aux personnes de 65 ans et moins atteintes d'une maladie chronique (diabétiques, asthmatiques, bronchitiques, insuffisants cardiaques, etc.), aux jeunes de 6 mois à 19 ans, aux personnes immunosupprimés et leurs proches, aux parents, frères et sœurs des enfants de moins de 5 ans et aux travailleurs de la santé. Pour les informations les plus récentes, veuillez appeler au 811 ou consulter le site www.santemontreal.qc.ca.



PANDEMIC - INFLUENZA A(H1N1)

Vaccination - Alexis-Nihon Plaza

Santé Montréal has announced that a vaccination centre against the A(H1N1) flu virus is now open in Alexis-Nihon Plaza (1500 Atwater Avenue) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Please note that this period of vaccination is intended for pregnant women (the vaccine without adjuvant is available), people under the age of 65 with a chronic disease (diabetes, asthma, bronchitis, heart failure, etc.), all children 6 months to 19 years of age, immunosuppressed people and their families, parents, brothers and sisters of children less than 5 years of age and healthcare workers. For up-to-date information, please call 811 or consult www.santemontreal.qc.ca.



DATEBOOK

Begins November 20

Exhibition: works of Anna Gedalof, Teresa Maglietta and Paola Ridolfi
Gallery at Victoria Hall

November 18 - 7 p.m.

Author Lecture Series
Barbara Meadowcroft
Library

November 25 - 12 p.m.

Special Council Meeting
City Hall



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

La galerie du Victoria Hall

La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les oeuvres de Anna Gedalof, Teresa Maglietta et Paola Ridolfi du 20 novembre au 12 décembre 2009. Info : 514 989-5521.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Gallery at Victoria Hall

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present the paintings of Anna Gedalof, Teresa Maglietta and Paola Ridolfi from November 20 to December 12. Info: 514 989-5521.



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Club de lecture française

Joignez-vous au club de lecture française le 18 novembre de 18 h 30 à 21 h pour discuter des oeuvres d'Henry James. Info : 514 989-5386.

Conférences d'automne

Veuillez-vous joindre à nous pour une soirée avec l'écrivaine Barbara Meadowcroft, le 18 novembre à 19 h. Mme Meadowcroft lira des passages de son livre *Gwethalyn Graham: a liberated woman in a conventional age*. Info : 514 989-5386.

Cercle de lecture – Pour ados !

Aucune liste de lecture imposée et aucune date limite, seulement des discussions au sujet des livres que tu as lus ! Notre prochaine rencontre aura lieu le 19 novembre à 16 h. Info : 514 989-5357

Gender, Genes and Friends: The Emerging Science of Pain Control

Le Dr. Jeffrey Mogil discutera du sujet de la douleur, problème primaire de la santé, le jeudi 26 novembre à 19 h. Info: 514 989-5386.



LIBRARY

French Book Club

Join the French Book Club from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on November 18 as they discuss books written by Henry James. Info: 514 989-5386.

Author Lecture Series

Join us for an evening with author Barbara Meadowcroft on November 18 at 7 p.m. as she reads from her book, *Gwethalyn Graham: a liberated woman in a conventional age*. Info: 514 989-5386.

Readers to Readers Book Club for Teens

No set list and no deadlines, just talking about the books you're reading and comparing notes with other teen readers! We will meet on November 19 at 4 p.m. Info: 514 989-5229.

Gender, Genes and Friends: The Emerging Science of Pain Control

Dr. Jeffrey Mogil will discuss pain, the primary human health problem on Thursday, November 26 at 7 p.m. Info: 514 989-5386.



TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Floralies d'automne

Venez visiter les Floralies d'automne à partir du 19 novembre. Le Conservatoire est ouvert de 10 h à 20 h sur semaine et de 10 h à 17 h la fin de semaine et les jours fériés.

Collecte de feuilles mortes

Veuillez noter que le personnel des Travaux publics ne ramassera que les feuilles et autres résidus de jardin qui auront été mis dans des sacs COMPOSTABLES ou des sacs en PAPIER destinés à cette fin. Les feuilles entassées en vrac derrière le trottoir NE SERONT PAS ramassées. Info : 514 989-5390.



SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Inscription aux activités d'hiver

Des places sont encore disponibles pour plusieurs activités de sports et loisirs pour la session d'hiver. Consultez notre site Web pour accéder à la liste complète des activités ainsi que les modalités d'inscription. Info : 514 989-5353.



Chess and Scrabble Club

Do you enjoy playing chess and/or Scrabble? Our games club will meet on November 27 at 2 p.m. Drop by for a friendly game, as we look forward to meeting new players. Info: 514 989-5386.



PUBLIC WORKS

Fall Flower Show

The Fall Flower Show will open on November 19. Conservatory hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends and holidays.

Autumn Leaf Collection

Please note that all leaves and other similar yard waste must be bagged in either COMPOSTABLE or PAPER yard waste bags for collection by Public Works crews. Leaves piled loose behind the sidewalk WILL NOT be picked up. Info: 514 989-5390.



RECREATION

Registration for Winter Activities

Spaces are still available for the winter sessions of many of our sports and recreation activities. Consult our Web site for a complete list of open programmes and for details on how to register. Info: 514 989-5353.

Shaar Hashomayim's secret history

BY EIRAN HARRIS, ARCHIVIST EMERITUS
OF THE JEWISH PUBLIC LIBRARY ARCHIVES
OF MONTREAL

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the construction of the first Ashkenazi synagogue in British North America.

However, many years of heedless research resulted in much inaccurate information being written about the early history of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. Such a pillar of the Jewish community deserves a better fate.

Historians perpetuated the myth that Ashkenazi Jews residing in Montreal petitioned the legislative assembly of the province of Canada in 1846 to pass an act enabling them to establish a congregation of English, German and Polish Jews, which eventually evolved into the present Congregation Shaar Hashomayim.

In fact, the 1846 act, which did not address English Jews, was requested by the congregation of the Portuguese Jews that is now known as the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation. The purpose of the act was to prevent the growing number of Ashkenazi Jews in Montreal who had joined the Portuguese congregation from taking it over.

German and Polish congregation

Actually, a German and Polish congregation already existed in Montreal. It was organized on the 24th day of September 1843, and was the second Jewish congregation in Canada and the first to conduct its services according to the Ashkenazi ritual. It received a donation of £10 towards the construction of a synagogue from His Excellency Sir Charles Metcalfe, governor general of British North America. Metcalfe Ave. on which the Shaar Hashomayim building is now located, was named after him.

The German and Polish congregation lasted only a couple of years due to an insufficient number of Ashkenazi Jews in Montreal. It was more economical for them to join the Portuguese congregation. As well, there was always the possibility of fomenting an anti-Portuguese putsch thereby acquiring an existing synagogue. In fact, this tactic was attempted in 1847.

A permanent Ashkenazi congregation

It was not until September 1858 that the Ashkenazi community was sufficiently large and financially able to establish a permanent orthodox congregation which still exists to this day. Utilizing the act of 1846, they organized a new congregation of German and Polish Jews by compromising on the minor differences between

the German and Polish liturgy. The vast majority of local Ashkenazim were of German and Prussian Polish origins.

Historians have also perpetuated the confusion pertaining to the official names of the congregation, which began with the earliest minutes. According to the act of 1846 the official name was the Corporation of the German and Polish Jews of Montreal. However, early minutes referred to it as English, German, and Polish Jews. The error was corrected beginning with the minutes of October 23, 1858.

Historians were not the only ones who were confused. But sadly they were insufficiently diligent in their research. The congregation's own publications used the term English, German and Polish Jews prior to 1902. Finally, in March 1902 the Quebec Legislature amended the corporation's charter to read "The Corporation of English, German and Polish Jews of Montreal." The reason for the continuous use of the term "English Jews" since 1858 was quite logical: several of the prominent members who originated in Germany and Prussian Poland spent several years in England where they attended Ashkenazi synagogues. As well, they established friendships there that were useful when organizing the Montreal congregation. The term also indicated that prayer books contained English translations for better comprehension. Lastly, patriotism was a relevant reason.

Although one confusion was eliminated another remained. When the new synagogue on McGill College Ave. was consecrated in 1886, it was named Shaar Hashomayim (Gate of Heaven). Only the building was so named, not the congregation. But the name became so popular that it appeared both in the minutes and in publications as the congregation's name. To add to the confusion several publications contained the term McGill College Avenue Synagogue (Shaar Hashomayim). The confusion ceased in 1918 when Shaar Hashomayim became the officially incorporated name of the congregation.

The move to Westmount

Prior to the World War I, members of the congregation realized that the existing synagogue was much too small to accommodate the growing community, and land was purchased at the corner of St. Luke St. and Atwater Ave. Before construction commenced, it was decided to return the land as the character of the neighbourhood was not considered to be sufficiently desirable. The war delayed further plans for a new synagogue, but with the cessation of hostilities the planning was re-

Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
Marionopolis Centennial Speaker Series presents **Suzanne Lalonde**, International Law Professor: "On Thin Ice: Canadian sovereignty in the changing Arctic". Marionopolis College Auditorium, 4873 Westmount Ave. 6.30 pm. www.marionopolis.edu.

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.

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.

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 com-

munity programs. Info: 514.931.6202, or www.centregreene.org

nnewed. By then, the centre of Jewish population had moved westward. In June 1920, a more suitable site was acquired at the corner of Côte St. Antoine Rd. and Kensington Ave. The site was ideally situated in the heart of the most exclusive residential district on the island. The cornerstone of the new Westmount synagogue was laid on November 10, 1921, and its opening dedication was celebrated on September 17, 1922.

Shaar Hashomayim's renowned rabbi, Herman Abramowitz, was an enthusiastic supporter of the Westmount site which was within walking distance of his home at 507 Argyle Ave.

community programs. Info: 514.931.6202, or www.centregreene.org

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23
Peter Brown, director, McGill School of Environment will speak on "Environmental Moral Challenges in a Growth-Driven Economy," 8 pm, at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim (425 Metcalfe Ave.) Free. info: 514.937.9471.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
Manoir Westmount's handicrafts group's annual bazaar, selling Christmas crafts, knitted goods, nearly new items, jewellery, baked goods, and more, to benefit Montreal charities. 4646 Sherbrooke St. W., from 12 to 2 pm. Info: 514.937.3943.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27
Harmonia Westmount presents "Festival of Lights" – works by Benjamin Britten, Grundahl, and more. 7 pm at Victoria Hall.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29
Bazaar at **Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom** (4100 Sherbrooke St. W.), 9 am to 5 pm. New merchandise, clothing, kitchen ware and more. Info: 514.937.3575 or info@templemontreal.ca.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2
St. Patrick Society Annual Christmas Concert at St. Patrick's Basilica (454 René Levesques W.) 7.30 pm. Cost: \$16/person in advance, \$18/person at the door. Info: Erin Matheson 514.481.1346 or Carol McCormick 514.386.8082.

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Mazon organizers get geared up for their major fundraiser at the Shaar



From left, Mazon Quebec chapter head Dodo Heppner, and several of its Westmount volunteers Therese Attias, Harriet Muroff and Beverly Rudolph.

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The Quebec chapter of Mazon, a non-profit that provides for people who are hungry and advocates ways to end hunger, is holding its annual Food Fest fundraiser at Shaar Hashomayim, Thursday, November 26. The chapter's founder, Dodo Heppner, who has worked for the organization since 1987, said despite her years of involvement, she is still upset at the problem of hunger in Canada. And she said, the problem is getting worse.

Mazon raises money and distributes the funds to organizations which provide food for people in need. Among the local

organizations Mazon has supported are the Open Door program based out of St. Stephen's Church on Atwater and Dorchester, the Westmount High breakfast program, NDG Food Depot, Share the Warmth, Elizabeth Ballantyne School and local collective kitchens. It also provides funds for Meals on Wheels and other programs for seniors with limited access.

The Kosher Food Fest is in its 15th year and is Mazon's main fundraiser. Tickets cost \$100. For more information on the event or to learn about volunteering opportunities, call 514.483.6234.

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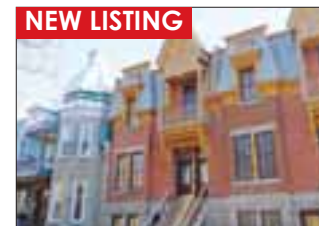
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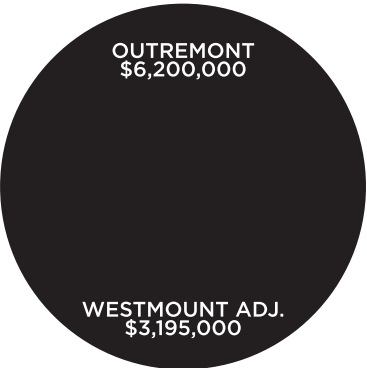
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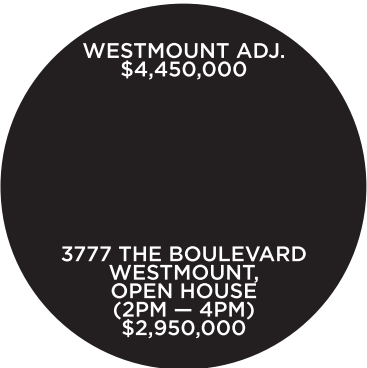


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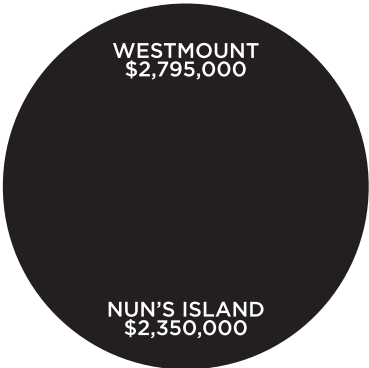
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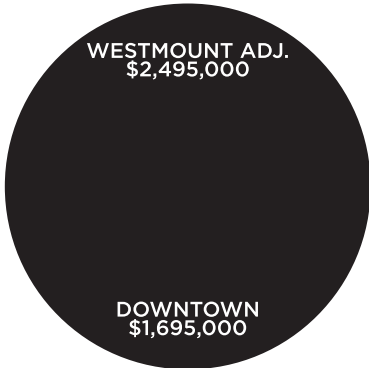
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PSOs' annual food drive launched during Artisans' Festival

Public safety officer Mario Testa was manning the start of the annual Westmount food drive at Victoria Hall, November 14. Visitors to the Westmount Artisans' Festival exhibition were invited to leave food items or pay \$2 admission. Starting the first week of December, residents can drop off non-perishable food at various city buildings. Baskets will be delivered to residents in need just before Christmas. For information: 514.989.5309.



'Austrian' deb's get ready



Westmounters Clara McGaughey and Courtney Brais are two of the 16 debutantes who will dance the night away at the Austrian Society of Montreal's annual ball, to be held at the Chateau Champlain on Saturday, November 21. The ball benefits SOS Children's Villages, Leave out Violence (LOVE) and the Schulich School of Music at McGill. Tickets are available by calling the Austrian Society at 514.369.2339. Further information can be found at www.balautrichiendemontreal.org.

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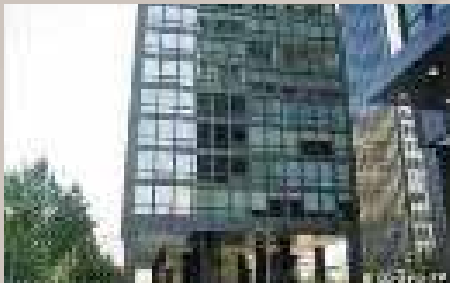


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Quebec's English publishers looking for new director

Goldik retires from mRb

Westmount's best-kept literary secret is looking for a new executive director as its longtime head looks towards retirement.

Unbeknownst to most Westmounters, the Atwater Library is the headquarters of the Association of English-Language Pub-

lishers of Quebec (AELAQ) and its thrice-yearly publication, the *Montreal Review of Books* (mRb). The AELAQ was founded in 1991 and the mRb in 1997.

For almost 10 years, Beaconsfielder Margaret Goldik has captained both ships, but she told the *Independent* that she is retiring in December to "spend more time with my husband, dogs and cat." She may yet reinvent herself in another career and will be taking an editing course in the new year.

Individuals interested in applying for the job of executive director should email Goldik at aelaq@bellnet.ca.



Margaret Goldik in front of past issues of the mRb.

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Felipe Morales stopped into Tango Martini on the afternoon of November 7 with his wife Liliana and son Nicholas. Felipe and Liliana were interested in the shop's collection of Chinese decorative items, furniture and antiques. Nicholas was much more intrigued by the Koi fish swimming in an urn by the door. Tango Martini was named in reference to the fact that owner Carol's husband used to sell martini bars when they were in China.



Visiting Tango Martini.

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Westmounter guest of honour at Feed a Child anniversary



Social Notes from Westmount and beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounter Michèle Dionne was the guest of honour on October 12 at a benefit marking the 10th anniversary of Feed a Child, an annual campaign to support Quebec community groups assisting children and families in need.

The event was held at Le Petit Opéra, a beautiful room that showcased the talents of students from the École des métiers de la construction de Montréal, L'ensemble Combo Jazz de l'école secondaire St. Luc and l'École des métiers de l'horticulture de Montréal.

The entire evening, from the music, décor, flower arrangements to the preparation and serving of the meal, was handled by the students.

For the menu of the evening, the students of the Centre de formation professionnelle Calixa-Lavallée outdid themselves serving a delicious four-course meal, which included a trilogy of salmon, an amazing cream soup duo of butternut squash and broccoli, a rack of lamb provençal and the pièce de résistance – homemade dégustation of sweet favourites.



Sitting, from left: Lucette Leclerc, Odette Basmaji, Westmounter Michèle Dionne, Jeanne-Marie Lynn. Standing, from left: Westmounter Claire Kruyt, Suzanne de Grandpré, Westmounter Bettina Terfloth and Marie Diane Ouimet.

Present at the event were sponsors RBC, Industries Lassonde, The Rosdev Group, Metro, Ultramar and KomunikIntramedia.

At the evening's close, Metro presented a cheque of \$230,000 to Feed a Child. The monies raised were from the campaign in their Metro and Super C stores.

With the support of L'Oeuvre Léger, Feed a Child distributes 100 percent of all donations to community groups around Quebec.

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



Westmounters Sylvie Chagnon (left) and Claire Kruyt (right) with Louise Courcy (centre).



Brunilda Reyes, director Les Fourchettes de l'espoir, Stéphanie Boudreau and Westmounter Michèle Dionne.



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Representatives of Westmount Scouts and Girl Guides were among those laying wreaths.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

Westmount marks Remembrance Day 2009



1 West Montreal Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron's Sergeant Ryan Henderson leads the flag party during the third annual Remembrance Day ceremony hosted by Place Kensington. Consisting of a flag party, invocation, poetry reading and peace candle lighting, Sergeant at Arms John Clendinneng was this year's guest speaker.

Photo: Isaac Olson



Mayor Peter Trent accompanied by Public Security sergeant Robert Forbes, who laid the Westmount wreath and the city's Remembrance Day service Sunday, November 8 at the cenotaph.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney



John Byers (right) addressed the Rotary Club of Westmount on Remembrance Day about the actions and sacrifices of the Merchant Marine, which had the task of transporting men and materials for Britain, Russia and troops in Italy throughout World War II. Richard Lord listens at left.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



Lest we forget: Remembering those who served.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

Marco Robertson of Royal West Academy Honour Band plays the "Last Post" at the Place Kensington Remembrance Day ceremony. From left, Lloyd MacIntyre (national governor), John Clendinneng (Sergeant at Arms, General Vanier Branch 234, Royal Canadian Legion), Della Robertson (chair person, 1 West Montreal Squadron Sponsoring Committee). In second row: From 1 West Montreal Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, Corporal Mikeal Giorgi, Flight Corporal Carl Bindman, Sergeant Ryan Henderson.

Photo: Isaac Olson



World War II veterans now living in Rotary's Manoir Westmount were invited to attend Rotary's weekly luncheon on Remembrance Day. Left to right, Hereward Senior, a corporal in the Stormont Dundas Glengarry Highlanders; Rotarian Mike Ellwood, Royal Canadian Navy; Rose Kisielewski, sergeant in the Polish army under the command of the Eighth British Army in the Middle East and Italy; Adam J Mercik, second lieutenant in the 12th Medium Artillery Regiment, 2nd Polish Corps 8th Army in Italy; Robert Morgan, corporal in the Canadian Army who served in the infantry, medical and education corps.; trumpeter Alex Low; John Byers, Merchant Marine; Rotarian George Campbell, US army; Stanley Frost, air raid precautions officer in London during the Nazi bombings; Stanley Baker; Phyllis Cumas Canadian Red Cross served in London; and Ron Jamieson, Royal Canadian Navy assigned to the corvette Chilliwack in the North Atlantic.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



Honorary Colonel David Hart and his wife Miriam.

Photo: Judith Henderson

Competition for the Vimy Prize gets underway

BY ISAAC OLSON

Fittingly commenced on Remembrance Day, the competition for this year's Vimy Prize has officially begun.

Founded in 2006, the Vimy Foundation aims to make young people more aware of the vital role Canadian soldiers played at Vimy Ridge – a landmark World War I battle. Inspired by the event, the foundation created the Vimy Prize, bringing teens from Canada, the United Kingdom and France to the historic battlefield and other European destinations so that they can better appreciate history and the trials of war.

The Vimy Prize is granted to only 12 Canadian high school students each year. Two students from France and two from England are also selected.

To be chosen, students must send a thoroughly researched essay on the Vimy Ridge battle, CVs, letters of reference and more, said Valerie Bince-Stuart, the foundation's executive director.

Officially launching this year's competition at LCC, local students and those from afar were invited to visit the website (vimyfoundation.ca) and apply. The foundation, currently sponsored by the Beaverbrook Canadian Foundation and private donations, has home offices at LCC and in France.



From left: Christopher Shannon (LCC's headmaster), Westmounter Andrew Powell (Vimy Foundation president and founder), Westmounter Christian Buchanan (Selwyn House student), Liane Bernstein (LCC student), Fabia Lisio (ECS student), Valerie Bince-Stuart (executive director of the Vimy Foundation) and Hal Hannaford (Selwyn House's headmaster).

Photo: Isaac Olson

Westmounter Christian Buchanan, currently a grade 11 student at Selwyn House, was one of the launch party speakers.

Living in Westmount, Buchanan explained to the crowd, makes it hard to fully fathom war. Having never experienced anything like the two world wars, talking with veterans while walking the battle-

fields fellow Canadians once bled upon was a life-changing experience, he said.

"I still have no idea what it would be like to be in the trenches with people shooting at me, but now I've grasped the concept by walking the same fields the soldiers had," said Buchanan.



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ON THE SHELVES

Among the new arrivals at the Westmount Public Library singled out by staff:

Adults – Are you the manager?...

The Management Myth: Why the Experts Keep Getting It Wrong by Matthew Stewart – A tell-all book about the management consulting industry from a former insider.

Managing by Henry Mintzberg – McGill University professor and management guru Mintzberg presents his findings after he interviewed 29 modern managers.

Adult French – And the winners are...

Un roman français by Frédéric Beigbeder – The "enfant terrible" of French literature bares his soul in his new book and is the winner of the Renaudot award this year. Inspired by time spent in a police station for drug possession, the author evokes his privileged childhood, his parents' divorce and the influence of his dashing older brother.

Trois femmes puissantes by Marie Ndiaye – The Goncourt winner for 2009 tells

the story of three African women who have emigrated to France. One is a lawyer who is called back to Senegal for the murder trial of her brother, while the others face severe hardships in their adoptive country.

Fiction for children

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days by Jeff Kinney – The long-awaited fourth book in the hilarious *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series has finally arrived! Summer vacation is just around the corner for middle-schooler Greg Heffley but he would rather be playing video games indoors than "frolicking" outside all day!

Un chien nommé Gruk by Josh Lacey – Tim finds a lost dog on his way to school one day. To find the owner, he must catch a helicopter to eastern Europe, break into a high-security prison and then make a run for the border in this fast-paced, humorous adventure story.

DVDs

Taking Root – This documentary tells

the dramatic story of Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai, whose simple act of planting trees grew into a nation-wide movement to safeguard the environment, protect human rights and defend democracy – a movement for which this charismatic woman became an iconic inspiration.

Katyn – The Academy award nominated film follows the story of four Polish families whose lives are torn apart when, at the outset of World War II, a great number of Polish soldiers fall into the hands of Soviet troops and later become victims of Stalinism.

Magazines

"It's China's world (we just live in it): The Chinese have long been on a shopping spree for natural resources. Now, with \$2 trillion in their pockets, they are aiming at automakers, high-tech firms, and real estate. Where will they strike next?" by Bill Powell in *Fortune*, Oct. 26, 2009, p. 86.

"Masters in deception? In the wake of

the financial crisis, some people are pointing fingers at MBA programs, claiming that business schools unleashed greed-fuelled rogues into the marketplace. As a result, business school administrators, professors and students are looking at ways to restore the reputation of the MBA degree" by Matthew McClearn in *Canadian Business*, Nov. 9, 2009, p. 38 (Special MBA guide 2009).

"Génération piton! Ils sont nés avec Internet. Ils ont grandi dans un monde sans fil...Pour eux, les universités se transforment. Voyage au cœur d'une révolution" by Isabelle Grégoire in *L'Actualité*, Nov. 15, 2009, p. 28.

Reference

Encyclopedia of Global Change: Environmental Change and Human Society – Examines how the interaction of human and natural forces impact the environment and what implications this has on the current and future outlook for global warming.



Gypsy



Hota



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Canada

Gypsy and Hota – witnesses to horrible crime – are willing to forgive

We aren't impressed.
It's typical for dogs who arrive at the Underdog Gallery to have a little celebratory moment – they run around, pee on everything and try to establish themselves as the very best of playthings.

But when Gypsy and Hota arrived last week none of this went down. While other dogs were battling it out for the best rubber chicken toy, these two wouldn't get out of the crouch position.

So, let's break it down. They were rescued from a home where there had been many more dogs just like them. Then, on one fine day their owner rounded up all the other dogs and shot them. They were all siblings, and these two watched as the family grew smaller and smaller.

For some unknown reason Gypsy and Hota were spared, but it certainly wasn't out of love. As the "lucky" two dogs left, Hota was forbidden to eat, and would be hit whenever he tried. Gypsy learned to share with her brother. Otherwise she would have starved.

They ate only at night when their owner went to bed and remain as far from dogs who beg for treats as you will ever find.

So it's a sob story. They have, however, been given a chance – unlike their sib-



Underdog

FERN BRESLAW

lings.
These two dogs are gentle and sweet and will like being petted if you go at it slowly. Over time, with trust and love and trust (did I mention trust?), they will both be amazing. But it needs to be earned.

They can be placed either separately or as a pair – the pair being our hope – the dream case scenario. Few people think to take in two dogs at once, but after everything they have gone through together, it makes us sort of sick thinking about them being broken up and having to make their way without each other.

These beautiful blond Lab/husky mix dogs are under a year old but are trained.

We may get in trouble for proposing this, but fostering these two as a set might be a very good idea. Two dogs sounds like a lot but fostering both may help give them a chance (without being locked in) if ever it proves to be too much dog for one person to handle.

We don't think it will however. But hey, that's us – ever optimistic.

If you would like to learn more about Gypsy and Hota, please call us at 514.969.3376 or visit them at underdog-club.org.

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Toby Update

A little update on Toby from his new owners.

"Toby's been here three hours, and it's impossible already to remember what 'Life Before Toby' was like – how empty it was, how vacant the house felt.

So far he has shown a liking for a bite of Second Cup cheese scone with cream cheese, several kinds of doggie treats and a chunk of regular cheddar (he clearly loves cheese!)

He is a good boy and has been drinking from his dog water bowl and not the cat bowl (after it was explained to him how it was going to work.) He is affectionate, non-vocal and unexcited but alert. Pretty ideal so far. I think this is going to prove to have been 'The Right Thing To Do.'"

KM



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Response to panhandling ‘delicate’

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount Public Security officials confirmed last week they will no longer dispatch officers to calls concerning panhandlers. The decision has sparked an outcry from some merchants while underlining a social issue for others that was raised during the municipal election campaign.

The policy change follows a late-night attack on an officer and damage to a patrol car October 22 by an intoxicated man found sleeping on a bench. The man was reported to have a fixed address and was not panhandling.

“The incident made us rethink our capabilities,” city director general Duncan Campbell told the *Independent*. The decision is under review, he said. Panhandling is a by-law offence in Westmount.

The change in policy was brought to light when merchants in the Sherbrooke/Victoria shopping district called the unit recently to complain about shop-

pers feeling harassed by panhandlers and were told to call police instead.

An increasing problem of panhandling, which police call “a delicate issue,” was also raised during the election campaign at the Meet the Candidates event.

“I think something needs to be done when it gets to the point where people tell me they’re afraid to walk past panhandlers to come into the store,” said Graham Fletcher, owner of the Metro at Sherbrooke and Victoria. “Forget calling the police,” he added. “They work on a priority basis.”

Local station 12 police commander Stéphane Plourde told the *Independent* that priority is given to calls involving life-threatening situations. He acknowledged that police may arrive later for such calls as panhandling. He also said they try to provide social service assistance to such persons though the CLSC.

“It’s a delicate issue,” he explained. “It’s no longer forbidden in Montreal. How can you expect someone to pay a fine if they’re asking for money? They’re like victims

themselves. Sometimes officers will ask the person to move along and generally they comply but it doesn’t solve the problem. I prefer a more humane solution instead of enforcing the law.”

In Westmount, loitering, begging and annoying people in the street and other public places contravene morals by-law 196.

Plourde said he had not heard about the damage to the Public Security vehicle that occurred at midnight on October 22 (see October 27, p. 11, “Patrol car attacked”). That began when a public safety officer went to check the sleeping man to determine whether or not he required help. He was neither homeless nor panhandling, according to Public Security officials.

With public safety officers armed only with a type of night stick called a PR-24, the use of which is under review, police were called to the scene after the man became aggressive and smashed the patrol vehicle’s windshield.

While the situation is slightly different from panhandling, Campbell said, the issue of potential risk to officers remains the same.

“I see more and more panhandlers as I

shop at Victoria and Sherbrooke,” said longtime resident Francie Montgomery on learning of the new Public Security policy. “There are also more on Greene Ave. It seems to be a problem right across Montreal and I don’t think the solution is for us to push our problem outside our borders. No, that isn’t right.”

Shelley Kerman, of the children’s clothing store Lmnop on Sherbrooke near Claremont, said she sees more panhandlers outside her store and agrees it’s not simple to solve.

“I appreciate that these are the walking wounded of our society and many have nowhere to go and some really do need the money. But I have parents with little kids coming in and out of my store and it’s very uncomfortable for them when people are hanging out on the bench outside.”

Nicholas Martire, president of Pretty Ballerinas, which has a shop on Victoria Ave., has a different view: “You have to take a mature approach, think out of the box and find a way to negotiate a solution, rather than trying to solve it by calling Public Security.”

Recently, resident William Graham came up with his own novel solution. As reported *continued on p. 29*

Adler serves up new catering venture

BY ERIN STROPES

There’s more to catering than just showing up with the food, and Asher Adler knows all about the little extras that make a catered event run smoothly.

Adler, a Westmount resident for the last 25 years, has been working with food for 14 years, having founded café/bistro chain Java U with a partner in 1996. He told the *Independent* that while he enjoyed creating the sandwiches and salads Java U is known for, he found his calling in the catering arm of the company.

He decided in May 2009 to sell the Westmount Java U franchise he held on Sherbrooke St. and concentrate on his new enterprise, District Catering.

“I’ve been in retail all my life,” said Adler, who caters everything from casual business lunches to large affairs like wedding receptions and corporate holiday parties. “But I love catering because it lets me really get to know my clients. When you cater a special event, you’re becoming a part of a person’s life for that brief time, and I try to make sure the experience is truly pleasant and memorable.”

To ensure that clients are able to “come to their own party,” District Catering takes care of staffing, dish rentals, drinks and even cleanup. “We’re not just the caterers, we’re also the hosts,” he said. “We take care of all the little details so our clients

can focus on their guests.”

Around 90 percent of District Catering’s customers come from Westmount, though the company handles events off island and as far away as Ottawa.

Many clients prefer standard fare. Lamb chops, French fries, and General Tao chicken are among the most common requests. For the more adventurous, Adler will gladly “play with presentation and taste, or put a new spin on old favourites.”



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Off-Sidel

Peewee A Preds look like the team to beat

BY NOAH SIDEL

After bursting out of the gates at 5-1-0 early in the season, it’s no wonder the Peewee A Westmount Wings have started the year with a bit of a swagger – not it’s a bad thing.

The Predators have been fairly dominant so far, outscoring their competition 32-12 with just one close-scoring loss and a handful of lopsided wins; their most recent triumph a 4-2 win over their closest competitors, the Westmount Wings last Thursday night.

“The players have responded very well to their coaches, and they’re developing a nice sense of camaraderie and chemistry,” said Predators coach Sean Maislin.

“Our good start can be attributed to a strong work ethic and our players’ desire to keep trying their best. Paramount to the success of our team is our defence-first attitude, which led our team to the finals last year.

“However, there remains lots of room for growth as we believe that our team has great potential.”

Defenceman David Elbaz echoed his coach’s comments. “I think that what we do best is play as a team. Even though we

have some fantastic players, they are team players first,” he said.

“It’s great – our coaches really focus on each of us knowing and supporting our teammates, on and off the ice.”

Thursday night’s battle was a good reflection of the Preds’ overall team effort.

“We took a 1-0 lead 9:35 into the first period, and the Wings answered back with a goal 59 seconds into the second period,” recounted Maislin.

“[We] answered right back with a goal 37 seconds later, only to have the lead erased once again 4:59 into the second, but in the third [we] scored twice to finally persevere in the game.”

Maislin credited his team’s overall approach for its success so far.

“Our players have increased their desire to win the one-on-one battles – grinding it out on the boards, going to the net, blocking shots. They have improved tremendously in their technical skill and their positioning on the ice surface,” the coach said.

Another key element has been the Predators’ balanced attack.

“We believe in a real team effort. Every player on our team is instrumental in our success. In our first five games this sea-

son, every player on our team had at least one point,” Maislin said.

What are the Preds’ plans moving forward?

“Our biggest goal for the rest of the season is best described on the wall of the Canadiens locker room: ‘Working together, winning together, growing together.’ Our goal as a coaching staff is to make these kids better hockey players, better people, and instil character,” he said.

“Our philosophy as a team goes far beyond the ice surface and teaches our players how to win with dignity, lose with pride, play with heart, and have fun.”

You can always reach me at noah-sidel@gmail.com.

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Native footwear, native salesman



From left, retailer Tony Fagnoli, customer Sherry Katz and Greg Dreaver.

Tony Shoes of Greene Ave. welcomed representatives of Manitobah Mukluks to its store on November 7.

The two firms struck up a friendship at a trade show, which Tony principal Tony Fagnoli cemented when he offered the Manitobans cigars, which turned out to be in keeping with native tobacco-giving traditions.

A-list celebrities have taken an interest in Manitobah's products, including Oprah

and her magazine, O, which featured the footwear in November. Company representative and Northern Plains Cree Greg Dreaver seems to take it all in stride, "We are often asked, 'Who's your designer?' and we reply, 'Thousands of years of history.'"

How was the visit here? All right it seems: "Tony is our native guide to Westmount," said Dreaver.

Watch out Paris designers!

Place K's charity fashion show wows audience

The mood was electric at the Place Kensington seniors' residence on November 12 for the ninth edition of the Kensington Knitters fashion show.

The knitters of the "Maison Place Kensington" fashion label have spent the whole year creating shawls, capes, scarves and dog blankets for the street kids who rely on Dans La Rue for meals, shelter, clothing, education and counselling.

But before the serious business of giving and thanking took place, Place Kensington coordinator Doreen Friedman emceed a lively event complete with models – mainly residents – mascots and colourful commentary.

Blankets might look like blankets to the uninitiated, but Friedman expertly described the "Winter 2010" line as "exotic," "daring" and "avant-garde" before reaching a crescendo of fashion-speak and summing up one garment as a "decadent cake of fashion folly."

On a serious note, Place Kensington executive director Sylvia Zagury thanked the so-called "terrible twins" of Miriam Berger and Elinor continued on p. 29



Tilli Minkowski models a 2010 blanket.

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Westmount Art Scene

Out of the blue: Painters Ángel Mateo Charris and Donna Shvil

BY HEATHER BLACK

The colour blue evokes thought and emotion, imagination and dreams. In their paintings, Ángel Mateo Charris and Donna Shvil explore the heights and depths of human nature through dominating skies and seas.

Ángel Mateo Charris at Galerie D'Este

Charris' art evokes the subconscious and Freud's interpretation of dreams. In "L'amour fou", a leaping woman is sus-



Ángel Mateo Charris "Modern"

ended over a calm sea. In the harbour scene "Mientras la ciudad duerme", a man slides headfirst down a pole. Both have intriguing narratives, which play with ambiguity: Where will they land?

Charris' style – a combination of Dali surrealism with Colvillesque foreboding – reinforces the psychological nature of his art. Painting scenes in cool blues, grays and tans, this Spanish artist depicts subjects as participants or viewers relying on body language rather than facial expression to tell the story.

In "Modern", a water-logged car is tethered to a pier and a giant letter O, while two men test its strength. In this suggestive scene, is the artist trying to advance painting beyond modern art? Or perhaps the artist resents the use of the "modern" label for his art?

Encouraging the viewer to search for meaning, this is art that entertains and challenges. The exhibit continues until November 29 at Galerie D'Este on Greene Avenue.

Donna Shvil at Galerie de Bellefeuille

Shvil's new work suggests archetypal Jungian images. In "Book of Dreams: Swimming Song", a woman floats on a cobalt sea cradled by two figures and goldfish. Evoking Tennyson's allegory "The Lady of Shalott", this beautiful and en-

chanting image crosses culture and time.

In another, "Turbulent Comfort", a sleeping, cobalt-clad woman suggests the duality of dreams. Painting large with acrylics on panel, Shvil's realistic style allows her to tell stories and to explore emotions.

A balding subject in a long flowing robe personifies the spiritual "Illumination", yet his face is human and expressive. In "Dream Dolls", two Arbus-like sisters rise above a red quilt like a psychological riddle.

Shvil's most recent portraits also suggest Jung's psychological types – of feeling, thought, sensation or intuition, introvert or extrovert. Delicate strokes capture the calm rapture of "Solitude" while in "What was... What is..." the artist experiments with strong brush strokes.

Part diary, part dream, this Montrealer's work enchants. The exhibit runs from No-



Donna Shvil "Dream Dolls"

vember 19 to 30 at Galerie de Bellefeuille on Greene Ave.

Theatre of the unexpected

The works of Charris and Shvil both create visual theatre, yet the two treatments are very different. Charris sets scenes that evoke narrative while Shvil captures the emotional intensity of facial expression and pose.

Interesting work by both these thoughtful artists encourages viewers to search their own psyche.

New commander

continued from p. 4

The South Shore is where Plourde grew up and continues to live. He graduated from the police technology program at Ahuntsic College after a friend encouraged him to switch from administration at another CEGEP. "And it was the best decision I ever made," he said. "I'm so happy. I've always loved my job, even on night shift."

Father of two sons and a daughter aged 9, 6 and 3, Plourde is an avid hockey player and coaches his sons' teams.

He joined the MUC police in 1989, starting at the station in St. Laurent and serving in Outremont for seven years. On his return from Haiti, he was assigned as a newly promoted sergeant to the community station in St. Michel, followed by time at police headquarters as support to researchers.

After a stint in charge of programming for the traffic squad, he was appointed to the rank of commander during which he has had responsibility for the cavalry unit on Mount Royal and the canine squad, as well as major incidents on a rotating basis.

He requested a transfer to the south region and took over in Westmount on November 2 from Commander Michel Wilson, who now heads station 3 in Pierrefonds.



New police Commander Stéphane Plourde.

Message from outgoing chief

Commander Michel Wilson, the outgoing commandant of local police station 12, told the *Independent* he had mixed feelings about leaving Westmount where he felt "part of the family."

But transferring to station 3 in Pierrefonds was closer to his home and his "first" family which was important as the father of two young children. "Otherwise," he said, "I had no good reason to go."

Wilson said he enjoyed working with city officials, council members, the community and "a great team at station 12."

While he assumed his new position effective November 2, his first day on the job came a week later after recovering from a fall a month ago in which he broke a hip and wrist. "I'm getting back to work slowly," he said.

Panhandling

continued from p. 25

in the *Independent* (November 3, p. 3), he hired Tony Wallace, a familiar figure on Victoria, to slow speeders on Côte St. Antoine Rd.

Martire said he had developed a special relationship with Wallace, found out he had a fixed address and was trying to get ahead. "I know he sweeps the sidewalk for one store. I assist him and he looks out for the shops in the block. I'm not trying to encourage panhandling," he explained, "just saying we should try to find middle ground."

Knitters

continued from p. 28

Cohen for organizing the group nine years ago.

Father Emmett Johns of Dans La Rue thanked the knitters for their wares and described the work of the East End-headquartered charitable organization, which serves a hot meal to 100 young people daily. The number swells to 250 for Christmas dinner. Father John focused on the work done with pregnant women and babies, for whom the organization now provides housing.

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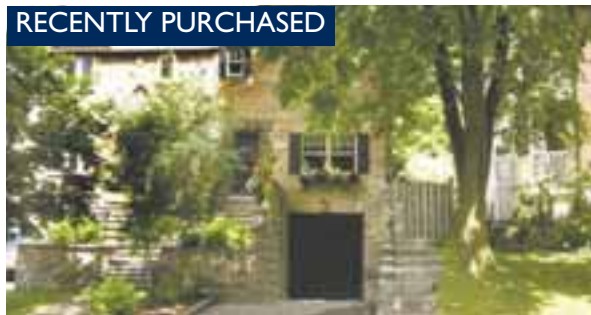


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