

Bike path to close for winter later than planned

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount’s bike path will remain open later than usual this year – until the snow flies or it becomes too icy, according to city director general Duncan Campbell. Only then will its delineation poles be removed – despite the posting of signage indicating November 15.

Cyclist Daniel Lambert, a Lansdowne Ave. resident, asked city council at its meeting November 16 to declare the bike path on de Maisonneuve a year-round one, disallow parking on the street and make snow-clearing a priority.

He offered to work with the city to make it happen.

“We’re going to take a look at it,” replied Mayor Peter Trent, adding that the principle of maintaining it all year was different from being able to do it. “The devil is in the details,” he explained. He noted that Montreal’s bike path to the west in

NDG also is a three-season route.

The new council would be considering the possible “reorientation” of the bike path, he said.

In fact, Westmount hosted a meeting November 10 between municipalities and Vélo Québec personnel to discuss cycling issues.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, a bike path user, said she was open to the idea of year-round use but pointed out that cyclists’ behaviour needs to change. “People can’t get in and out of their drive- ways” for the constant flow *continued on p. 16*

Westmount wins Cape Ann tourney

Westmount hosted the Sal Grasso Memorial Trophy the weekend of November 21. Cape Ann, a community in Massachusetts, sent nine teams this year, each of which com- *continued on p. 16*

Study honours Judy Berlyn



Winner of The Study’s Judy Elder Alumna Award Judy Berlyn (’53), centre, is flanked by, from left, her cousin Mary Sambrook (’54), her daughter Anna Berlyn (former Study student, ’88), her cousin Ann (Barclay) Power, and to the right by her cousins Susan Sambrook (Study parent), Samantha Sambrook (class of 2015) and Carley Sambrook (class of 2012.) For story, see p. 8.

Debt nearly \$40 million

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

While the city is forecasting a possible \$700,000 budget surplus at year end, Westmount’s accumulated debt will have reached \$39.8 million, and the expected impact of agglomeration shared costs is not “good news” for 2010.

These were some of the highlights from the state of the union address read by Mayor Peter Trent at the November 16 council meeting, the first business session

of the new council.

“Circumstances outside Westmount may have some influence on our plans,” he said, “as we are not expecting good news from the agгло.”

He also explained that the current debt results mainly from the “forced” demerger purchase of the water network plus annual capital expenditures for 2002 through 2008, most of which occurred during the merger years related to Montreal’s borrowing practices. *continued on p. 6*



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SWAT tournament, auction set for Dec. 3

The Senior Westmount All Star Team (“SWAT”) will hold its 21st annual hockey tournament at the Westmount arena starting on Thursday, December 3. The event, which includes an auction, supports brain tumour research and neuro-surgery conducted at the Montreal Children’s and St. Justine hospitals.

The late Nicolas W. Matossian was the inspiration for the SWAT players to initiate the tournament. At 16, he was diagnosed with *continued on p. 6*

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Councillor Theodora Samiotis with daughter Nicole, age 4.

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Westmount’s annual fall flower show at the conservatory was officially opened with a reception November 18, honouring community volunteers and new residents.

Held at Victoria Hall adjoining the city greenhouses, the event was the first large gathering held by the new council. The show features many varieties of chrysanthemums while poinsettias can also be viewed in greenhouses. The show is open weekdays 10 am to 9 pm and weekends 10 am to 5 pm.

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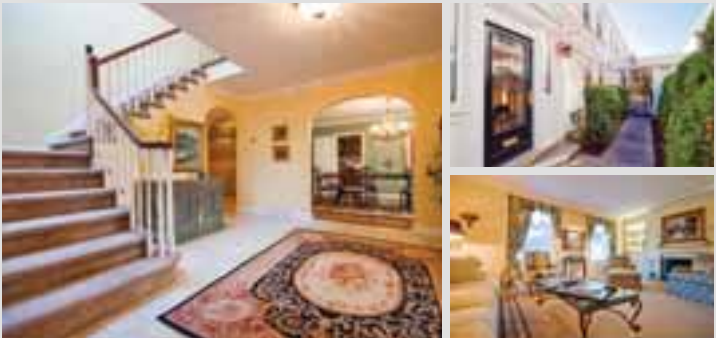
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New globes, prototype streetlight cited for sustainability

City moves to curb light pollution

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount city council took its first baby steps toward curbing what some see as streetlight pollution November 16 by approving the purchase of new luminaries with a device to divert light downward rather than into the sky or nearby homes.

The acquisition of these 15 new Washingtonian poles and luminaries at a cost of some \$53,000 highlighted efforts by Hydro Westmount to move in this direction.

It also brought to light the utility's continued effort to win approval for its prototype of a tall hybrid cobra/Washingtonian light standard. Hydro Westmount developed this model as an inexpensive and more aesthetic replacement for the overhead cobra until the more costly Washingtonian can be phased in throughout the city (See the *Independent*, July 15, 2008, p. 17).

Coincidentally, council also heard a plea by astrophysicist Tony Moffat, a member of Westmount's Healthy City Environment Committee, for darkening night-time skies starting with street lighting. "Can we count on all of you on council to work on this?" he asked.

"We're still feeling our way but are quite sensitive to what you're saying," Mayor Peter Trent replied. "Hydro Westmount is looking at a new light and will get back to us. We also hope to hire a professional on lighting."

Undaunted by news from Councillor Cynthia Lulham that the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) had rejected

the utility's prototype in June, Hydro Westmount director Pierre Dubé told the *Independent* he still believed it provided a sustainable solution because it reused existing equipment.

Installed experimentally on Glen Rd. some 18 months ago, the light standard uses a truncated version of the tall, still-functional cobra light standards but incorporates the Washingtonian globe.

This would provide an economic solution to providing a more aesthetically appealing light post until the Washingtonians can entirely replace the overhead cobras over the next 20 to 30 years, explained city director general Duncan Campbell.

There are now supply problems related to obtaining new heads for the old cobras, he said.

In the meantime, Dubé considers the hybrid to be a good alternative. As he put it: "Of course, I would like to drive a Ferrari. But until I can afford one, what do I do? Walk?"

Explaining the PAC opinion, city Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier said the advisory body of professionals felt the hybrid did not provide an integrated approach. Until the cobra could be replaced by Washingtonians, it wanted to see other light-head options

more in keeping with the sleeker style of the cobra.

"The committee realized that modifying the cobra into a quasi-Washingtonian made sense, but was not coherent from a design point of view."

Interestingly, it was Mayor Trent as a councillor who introduced the more clas-

sical Washingtonian and a softer peach-colour light more than 20 years ago as being more appropriate to Westmount's heritage. The Washingtonian has been slowly phased in whenever the city reconstructs a street.

Councillor Patrick Martin, commissioner of Utilities, said he has taken another look at the prototype on Glen Rd. and was of the opinion it merited further consideration "as it seems quite effective in reducing skyward light emission while providing appropriate lighting of streets and sidewalks."



Prototype of hybrid cobra/Washingtonian light standard on Glen.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HISTORY TRIVIA

While this [centennial] milestone is indeed a memorable one (see “Westmounters, queen celebrate Chest’s 100th”, October 27, p. 18), few may know that the Chest Institute’s historical opening on October 21, 1909 by King Edward VII created a sensation. Why? Because this undertaking had been achieved – electronically – through the first underground cable transmission to link the two sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

When the doors of the Royal Edward Institute for Tuberculosis “flew open as if by magic,” a collective gasp went up from the assembled crowd. All it had taken was a stroll from the red-damasked dining room in West Dean Park, Sussex, England, for the bon-vivant King Edward to press a bell-push on a white marble tablet, thus sending the “magical” electrical current to Montreal.

A plaque commemorating this is still there. I remember it well, for during the early 1960s, West Dean was my boarding school, a house frozen in time. Opulently renovated in the late 1890s by William Dodge James who had inherited a North American fortune created by copper and railroads, and the site of massive shooting parties during the gilded Edwardian era, it was chosen as the perfect setting for this occasion.

Now, 100 years later, you can easily visit

the website at www.westdean.org.uk. It became part of the Edward James Foundation’s college for traditional arts and crafts, and is also known for its wonderful gardens.

I do enjoy getting the *Indie* every week. Where else can Westmounters share such odd little snippets of history?

NAUSHABA HASNAIN, SHERBROOKE ST.

NOTHING ENCOURAGING ABOUT BAPE REPORT

Last week’s front page article on the report of the Bureau d’audiences publiques sur l’environnement (November 17, p. 1) gives a naively misleading impression about the BAPE assessment of the Quebec government’s proposed reconstruction of the Turcot interchange. Particularly misplaced is Councillor Cynthia Lulham’s well-intentioned but wrong view: “I am very encouraged by the direction BAPE has taken.”

There is nothing really encouraging about the BAPE report. Its key judgment is on p. 127: “le complexe routier devrait conserver sa capacité actuelle.” That statement (“the highway system must maintain its present capacity”) echoes not the Westmount position, but the dangerous 1950s vision of the Quebec Ministry of Transport. Choice of the specialist word “capacity” rather than “volume” hides the fact that the Ministry actually plans an in-

crease in automobile volume of at least 10 percent, and 20 percent wider roads, when Montreal’s Direction de Santé Publique insists we need to *decrease* volume by at least 20 percent to save the extra 1,500 Montrealers dying unnecessarily from highway car traffic.

The BAPE commissioners have fearfully endorsed the ministry’s blind rejection of a mass transit solution to the Turcot dilemma.

This week I posted a report on YouTube – “The Pimento Report/Le Piment#14 The Turcot Challenge”. It concludes with the ringing condemnation of architect Pierre Brisset whose Turcot alternative costs 50 percent less than the present Quebec plan: “To me, it’s unbelievable. The whole project is grown out of greed.”

PATRICK BARNARD, MELVILLE AVE.

DISTRICT 5 STANDS WITH IKEMAN

The Civic Alert column was rather disturbing last week (November 17, p. 5), and I was surprised to read Mr. Pelletier’s comments, which alluded to Gary Ikeman.

There were many apartment buildings that would not allow Gary Ikeman to enter or put up signs or leave pamphlets. I know because I went to these buildings with him. As well, I went out one morning and put up many pamphlets on posts on Winchester Ave. and Burton Ave., and every one was gone by the next day. Not torn, just removed.

Gary Ikeman’s race was cruel? I take umbrage at that statement. It was fair and honest. At no time did Gary ever mention anything negative about any of his oppo-

nents. It was too American? I think it was extremely well run. Gary did not have the support of any of the council members, nor of the mayor, nor of the previous mayor.

He was on a difficult road, and he knew he had to work diligently if he wanted to be elected. It was not going to happen because he has a warm smile! He won because he was the most informed and the most articulate. He researched everything on his platform. He had been to a number of council meetings in the past.

The turning point for Gary was the night of the candidate’s meeting at Victoria Hall. Of all the new people running, Gary was the only candidate with so much knowledge about the issues. Many people came up to me after to say that they either had changed their mind and would vote for Gary, or that they had just decided to vote for him.

He won because people believe in what Gary Ikeman stands for.

BRYNA COHEN, ST. CATHERINE ST.

TOASTMASTERS TOAST TRENT

On November 17, Mayor Peter Trent came to visit our Toastmasters’ Club at Victoria Hall. As our guest speaker in that meeting, he was enthusiastic and very kind to give us his words of wisdom. He gave us a lot to think about, and we were grateful that he took time out of his busy schedule to meet with each member.

We would like to ask that you kindly publish our thanks to the mayor in the well regarded *Westmount Independent*.

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Night rider



Public Safety Unit captain Richard Bourdon noted that overnight on November 15, a car was driven in circles on Westmount Park’s main field and “left a significant amount of damage.” A report has been made by the department.

From another point of view – how a sampling of winners see their jobs

Montreal, following a controversy-filled campaign prompted Gérald Tremblay's to make huge changes. In Westmount, there was a more peaceful transition, although a fundamental one. Peter Trent's return as mayor accompanied by four new councillors is also bound to produce differences throughout this city – even if less dramatic.

Last week, I sampled some of the candidates who ran – and lost – in the election to paint a picture of that experience, and possible outcomes for them and the community. This week, I wanted to discover some of the victors' expectations and how they may shape the coming years.

Already, they have met formally as a council and appointed themselves to the various committees – some of which have begun to meet.

The newcomers are enthused, of course, by their victories, and are now coming to grips with the huge dossiers for which they have become responsible.

Gary Ikeman

Gary Ikeman (District 5) found his first electoral attempt, at 65, brought "huge pressure – 10 votes may decide the winner. You are under the gun and can't afford to miss any opportunity."

While the arena was a particular issue for him, Ikeman found himself being drawn into topics that "had been around a long time." New was the interest in sustainability, "But we must set attainable ob-

"Public Security's role is not understood enough by citizens and this should be clarified." – Gary Ikeman

jectives. They are worldwide problems that cannot be solved by a local bylaw.

"It may take generations for people to change their habits."

Now elected, Ikeman is reorganizing his computer and physical files. Like the other new councillors, he has been issued with his own laptop "mainly for use at council meetings" and is being briefed by the directors on their departments' work and objectives.

Confirmed as Public Security commissioner at the November 16 council meeting, two days later he met the department and was "very impressed at the level of expertise. I feel that their role is not understood enough by citizens and this should be clarified."

Commissioner Ikeman thinks monthly statistics of the demands on the depart-



Civic Alert

DON WEDGE

ment should be made public. "Citizens should know about the nuisance calls, traffic incidents and other matters dealt with by the officers," he said.

Theodora Samiotis

Theodora Samiotis ran for office once before – in high school. She lost "which taught me that, as well as being popular, you need credentials!" Samiotis seems to have got both right this fall, winning District 8.

"It's about the streets we walk on, the houses we live in and the air we breathe." – Theodora Samiotis

Between those elections, she has been an organizer of half a dozen federal and provincial campaigns and taught at Concordia's School of Community and Public Affairs. She recognizes local government as the most direct form of participation – "it's about the streets we walk on, the houses we live in and the air we breathe."

The Turcot autoroute rebuilding was, for her voters, "a bigger priority than the arena unless it involved the WAG," so she is excited to have this dossier as well as the Healthy City Project and sustainability.

In her first two weeks on council, she has met AMT officials to hear their plans for changes next year, read the BAPE report on Turcot, been briefed on the province's newly announced solid waste policy, had a swing mended and been asked to look at a broken gate in Stayner Park.

Tim Price

For Tim Price, campaigning in District 2 was a "novel experience, which I had not anticipated. I've never had any political aspirations and really ran to give back to the community."

He knocked on the doors "of at least half the houses" in the district and was surprised how enjoyable he found the experience – a comment most candidates made. "Many were anxious to talk," he said.

The arena was an issue with some families, but there was more interest in the

parking problems caused by Marianopolis "for which there are no easy solutions." He also heard many complaints about speeding traffic, particularly on the streets linking Côte St. Antoine, Westmount Ave. and The Boulevard.

He'll be supporting the review of procedures for planning permits – another frequently raised issue in his district and

"It will be a challenge to keep taxes reasonable." – Tim Price

most others.

Now elected, Price has been appointed Finance commissioner. "It will be a challenge to keep taxes reasonable, particularly with the increase we are expecting in agglom charges."

In that respect, life goes on. New or old, councillors have to accept that there's nothing more inevitable than taxes – particularly when set by Big Montreal!

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



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Budget planned for year end

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“Note the debt incurred before 2002 [’s merger with Montreal], which includes the debt related to the library [refurbishing project] has been completely reimbursed,” he said.

“The only positive statement I can make is that we have been extremely fortunate with the interest rates that are being charged for our long-term borrowing thus far, which are in the range of 4.5 percent.”

Westmount will take “the measures necessary to ensure its contested claim of \$21.9 million against Montreal over de-merger costs is returned as quickly as possible,” Trent said.

While the completion of the 2010

budget is contingent on knowing the city’s agglomeration apportionment, the city hopes to be able to adopt the budget by the end of December.

Year-end results for 2008 confirmed a net operating surplus of \$672,804 after expenditures and appropriations of \$40.8 million.

Reporting on the remuneration of council members for 2009 as set by the old council, Trent listed the mayor’s salary as \$43,934 per year plus \$14,584 in expense allowance and \$10,160 as a member of the agglomeration council. The salary of each councillor is \$14,645 plus \$7,322 of expense allowance.

“The new council will be reviewing these amounts,” Trent said.



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EMPLOIS D'ÉTÉ 2010

Soyez avisés que les formulaires pour les emplois d’été 2010 seront disponibles sur le site Web de la Ville ainsi qu’à la réception de l’Hôtel de ville de Westmount à compter du mardi 1^{er} décembre 2009, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

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SUMMER EMPLOYMENT 2010

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4333 Sherbrooke Street West
Westmount, Quebec H3Z 1E2

Please note that the deadline to submit your application is Friday, January 29, 2010.

The positions will be awarded to candidates with the appropriate qualifications and experience and only those selected will be interviewed.

The people’s pick



12 Aberdeen Ave.

This 1895 house at 12 Aberdeen Ave. won the public’s heart in “La Maison coup de coeur” popular vote among five finalists in the 2009 Architectural Heritage Campaign (Opération Patrimoine Architectural de Montréal) of the city of Montreal.

This is the first time a Westmount house has made it to the finals in the competition “and the first time we won,” said Councillor Cynthia Lulham at the city council meeting November 16. The city began submitting entries to the competition in 2002 when it was a borough of Montreal.

The house is one of many acclaimed homes and public buildings – including city hall and the library – designed by Westmount architect Robert Findlay.

It was recently restored by its owners, Anna-Maria Griffin and her husband, Richard Pinchuk, and was one of 22 houses on Montreal island pre-chosen by a jury to win Heritage Emeritus Awards in this year’s architectural competition.

Apartment building also wins

A second submission from Westmount carried off one of eight heritage awards in the commercial category. The apartment building at 357-361 Victoria Ave., beside the Metro parking lot, has been carefully preserved by owner Letizia Randaccio, according to the award citation. It includes two storefronts: Vie de Campagne and Café Crème.

Every year, Westmount submits the name of restoration projects to the competition that “reflect the defining character of the building,” explained city Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier. These are selected by a jury of urban planning directors to advance in the competition.

SWAT

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continued from p. 2

brain cancer but nevertheless proceeded to organize numerous fundraisers for the two hospitals so that other children would benefit from improving medical care. His father Nicolas is a major tournament contributor, together with his mother Martha and his brother Christian.

Eight adult teams will vie for the principal trophy, but Termite-level players will also compete for one of their own.

A silent auction will be conducted from December 4 to December 6 at 11 am at the arena (under the auspices of head auctioneer Claude Bismuth) at which participants will be able to place their bids on various items, including cosmetic gift baskets, winter outerwear, golf rounds, women’s apparel, and live and recorded music.

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Scouts mark 100 years with dinner Nov. 28

The Westmount Scouts Centennial Dinner takes place Saturday, November 28 at 6 pm at Victoria Hall. Current and former Scouting members and friends will celebrate the founding of the first troop in Westmount in 1910 with activities for all and musical entertainment by the North-brooke Nine. Guests include Mayor Peter Trent, MP Marc Garneau and MNA Jacques Chagnon. Tickets are available at the door: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under. For information: 514.937.5527.

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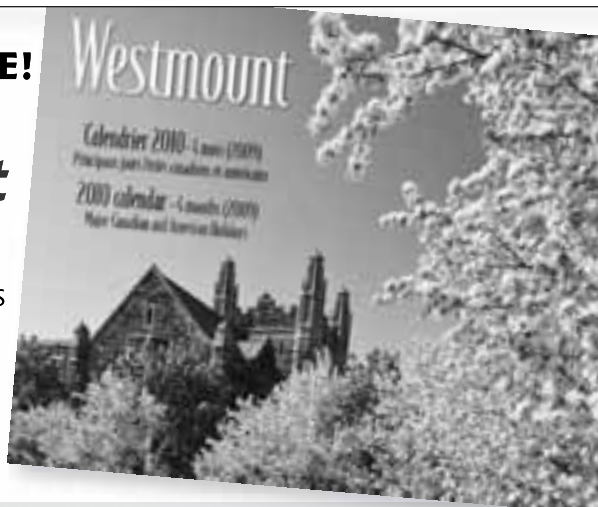
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Lessons learned from November's by-elections



Our Man in Ottawa

MARC GARNEAU, MP
FOR WESTMOUNT-VILLE
MARIE

Conventional wisdom is that by-elections, especially those with low voter turnout, do not provide an accurate portrait of the political landscape. While this may true in some instances, I believe the four recent federal by-elections held on the 9th of November did send some clear messages to my party, the Liberal Party of Canada.

The most important message in my opinion has to do with clarity. Canadians want to know in very clear terms where the party stands on a number of key issues affecting their lives. That's a legitimate expectation and we must respond to it.

As the official opposition in parliament, the Liberal Party has two primary responsibilities: first, to oppose government decisions or actions when these are not in the best interests of Canadians and second, to propose an alternative in each case. It is not sufficient to say that something is wrong, it is also necessary to propose a better solution.

The Liberal Party has in fact been thinking for some time about how it will deal

with the many challenges that we now face as a country as we move from recession to fragile recovery. We have been thinking about our responsibilities as a country with respect to climate change and about the large number of retired or retiring Canadians who are concerned about their pensions. We have been thinking about the effects of globalization on our traditional manufacturing sector. We have been thinking about measures that will improve our industrial productivity and our capacity to innovate. I can assure readers that we have been thinking about these important issues and many others in order to

elaborate a coherent election platform.

However, Canadians have also told us in no uncertain terms that they don't want an election at this time as we navigate through a fragile economic recovery. That message has been understood.

As we move forward and consider our challenges with respect to the economy, the environment, our competitiveness and other issues, the Liberal Party of Canada must now present Canadians with policies that are specific, unambiguous and clearly stated. This is the message I received on November 9. If we do this properly, Canadians will then be left with a clear choice.

Berlyn recognized for pursuit of peace

The Study celebrated its 94th birthday and Founder's Day on November 23.

The school took the opportunity to present its Judy Elder Alumna Award to Westmounter Judy Berlyn (née Dobell), a graduate of 1953. Berlyn has devoted her life to the peace movement, including advocating environmental sustainability and social change, and the abolition of nuclear weapons. She has championed lobbying efforts that are fact-based, rigorously researched and professionally presented – not surprisingly given her postgraduate work and professional background in library science.

Berlyn has served on the Steering Committee of the Canadian Peace Alliance and attended the parallel NGO conference at

the 1992 Rio Summit, where she was instrumental in drafting two highly regarded "people's treaties."

According to the school, "Her leadership ... has contributed significantly to the integrity and esteem of the peace movement in Canada."

The award citation also singled out her mentorship approach. "Judy has taken many young women under her wing over the years, sharing her wisdom about key issues and strategies to influence politicians, the media and the general public; thereby providing generations of young women with tools to engage in the delicate art of political persuasion."

See photo, p. 1

It's a torch, it's a flag ... it's an Olympic torch flag



Spirits soared as Westmount raised the flag of the 2010 Olympic torch run at the flag pole in front of city hall on November 18. Mayor Peter Trent points to the finished "product" to Westmount torch committee members, Elliot Grenier (left) and Andrew Macdougall. The breeze was not initially strong enough to unfurl the flag, causing Trent to say, "We need more politicians. One is not enough." The torch run takes place Thursday, December 10.





Un patrimoine à conserver

Westmount



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Professeur de géographie urbaine, UQÀM
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Tuesday, December 1 at 7 p.m.
Researching your house
David Hanna
Professor of Urban Geography, UQÀM
When was your house built? Who built it? How to find out the history of your house, including a look into Westmount's archives.

Cette soirée causerie aura lieu à la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount (4574, rue Sherbrooke O.).

This evening seminar will take place at the Westmount Public Library (4574 Sherbrooke Street W.).

Billets : 5 \$
Disponible à l'Hôtel de ville ou à la Bibliothèque de Westmount.
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Westmounters have a roaring good time at LCC gala



Social Notes from Westmount and beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Heels were high and skirts were short at LCC's centenary celebration, The LCC Roar, held on October 24 at the Windsor.

In keeping with the school motto *Non Nobis Solum* (Not for ourselves alone), the funds raised at the gala of more than \$500,000 were donated to the LCC Student Bursary Fund, staff professional development, the Montreal Canadiens' Children's Foundation and the NDG Food Depot.

Nannette and Philippe de Gaspé Beaubien were the gala's honourable chairs. Co-chairs Olga Assaly and Donna Fraser worked with 20 committed committee members, including Westmounters Brigitte Roy, Cathy Richards, Erika Ludwick, Julie Kaplin, Lissy Kates, and Theodora Brinckman, as well as Anna Santache, Catherine Turner, Elyse Rowen, Jennifer Roman, Katherine Velan, Kimmy

Chedel, Louise Mills, Lynn Aziz, Peggy Arditi, Pina Cammalleri, Priscilla Whitehead, Ross Fraser, Shaun Morehouse and Teresa Fata.

The "lion tamer" for the fundraiser was the ever-popular **Ross Paperman**, a Westmounter who acted as emcee and auctioneer.

Tartan-draped tables were named after headmasters at LCC since the school opened: Fosbury, Wansbrough, Penton, Merrill, Staunton, Bennett and Shannon. In the packed room, Westmounters noted enjoying the festivities included **Anna and Phil Belec**, **Josée and Eric Dedekam**, **Anne-Marie Boucher** and **Mitch Garber**, **Vanessa and Guy Laframboise** and **Eileen and Joel Segal**. Other Westmounters were **Evelyn and Richard Black**, **Willamina and Nicholas Martire**, **Claudia and Brian Cytrynbaum**, **Chilion and Ginny Heward**, and **Margarita and Christopher Gardiner**, co-chair LCC Centenary Celebrations Committee.

In spite of the hockey hordes in the neighbourhood, Bob Perras' valet team managed cars quickly.

Dancing was, of course, 'til dawn.



Olga Assaly and Westmounter Ross Fraser



Ross Paperman and Westmounter Donna Fraser



Nannette and Philippe de Gaspé Beaubien



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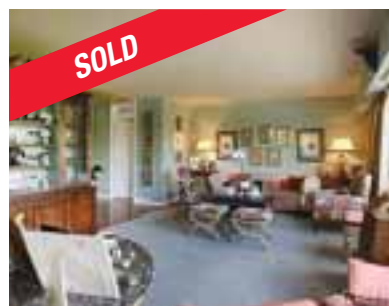
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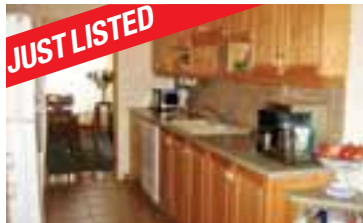
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Toy tea for Generations



From left: Westmount members Pennie Polak, Sandy Thomas, Janet Black and Aristia Scodras.

Members of the American Women's Club of Montreal are busy making plans for their annual Toy Tea to be held on Wednesday, December 2 from 10 am until noon in support of Generations Foundation and Project Chance. The event will be

held at the Generations office (4210 rue Notre Dame St. West). The entry fee is one unwrapped toy. Non-members are welcome, but are asked to RSVP to club president, Pennie Polak at 514.726.5813.

Harmonia Westmount performs this weekend

BY JOANNE PENHALE

Rooms will be filled with the voices of Westmount women this weekend at the Harmonia Westmount choir's three-day Festival of Lights.

"This is the first time we're doing this. We've never had five performances in one weekend," said Frédérique Petit-Homme, the choir's artistic director.

It's also the first time in the choir's 15-year history that it will be singing at the Chapelle Notre Dame de Bon Secours in Old Montreal. "It's kind of a big deal," Petit-Homme said.

Harmonia performs twice at the Old Montreal church, 400 St. Paul St. E., on Sunday, November 29 – at 1:30 and 3 pm. Their repertoire includes songs in Middle English from "A Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten, Hebrew Rounds for Peace by Launy Grøndahl, and Laudate Pueri Dominum by Felix Mendelssohn.

Also free and open to the public during the weekend festival is the Friday evening performance at Victoria Hall at 7 pm. The two-hour evening will include refreshments and the opportunity to mingle with choir's 32 members.

Le Centre Greene est un centre communautaire sans but lucratif qui se consacre à fournir des services récréatifs, sociaux et éducatifs aux personnes qui vivent dans le voisinage et aux membres de la collectivité d'une façon générale.

L'assemblée générale est une occasion pour tous de participer à la célébration de notre centre communautaire. Vous êtes invités à

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Please join us on Thursday, December 10th, 2009 at 7 p.m.

The Annual General meeting is an opportunity for us to celebrate our centre.

Please join us, we need all the community we can get!

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The walls come tumbling down



The demolition of this house at 310 Côte St. Antoine caused some controversy, but as previously reported ("Rules are rules": neighbours lose demolition appeal", January 20, p. 1) the city okayed the project. By the afternoon of November 18, about 80 percent of the house was gone. Photo: Ralph Thompson, PhotoImagerie


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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Cat & Kitten Adoption Day held by Moustache Rescue, 10:30 am to 4:30 pm at Naturalanimal & Pawtisserie (4932B Sherbrooke St.).

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Stephen Eze on "Biafra: Before, After and Now" and **Tadeusz Zylinski** on "The Jews of Poland, Past, Present and Future", 10 am, breakfast at 9 am. Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom. \$8 at door. 514.937.3575.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

ARTNOW speakers at Westmount Library: photographer Jackie Cytrynbaum, painter Varte and Alain Trimont of Galerie V. Trimont at 7 pm, free.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

• Local **Sherlock Holmes** groups' bi-monthly rendez-vous, 6:30 pm, Westmount Library. All welcome; voluntary quiz on The Boscombe Valley Mystery. 514.931.8690.

• **St. Leon's** of Westmount presents Marie Michele Desrosiers and "Chante Noël". 4311 de Maisonneuve, 7.30 pm. \$45. Info: 514.935.4950 or pec@bellnet.ca.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Christmas concert with The **Orpheus**

Singers at St. Matthias' Church (131 Côte St. Antoine), 8 pm. Adults: \$20 (\$18 in advance), seniors \$12 (\$10 in advance). Info: 514.846.8464.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

• **Christmas Tree Lighting Party**, 6:30 pm at city hall. Non-perishable food items welcomed.

• **City council meeting**, 8:30 pm at city hall.

• **Dramatis Personae's** "Heaven and Hell and 'Tails' Between", 8 pm, and Dec. 9, 8 pm at Victoria Hall. Info: 514.486.7423.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

Centre Greene's annual general meeting, 7 pm. 1090 Greene Ave. 514 931.6202.

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Dr. Stanislav Ponomarenko was an ophthalmologist (eye specialist for medical and surgical problems) in Volgograd, Russia, before moving to Montreal where he would study optometry at the Université de Montreal. He has operated the Centre Visuel on Sherbrooke since 2005, where in addition to fitting clients with glasses and contact lenses in English and French, he says he is well known as the only Russian-speaking optometrist in the city.



Dr. Stanislav Ponomarenko

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ECS celebrates centennial homecoming

BY ERIN STROPE

The world has come a long way since Maud Edgar and Mary Cramp founded their school for girls in 1909, and ECS has grown right along with it. The week of November 9 saw the school celebrating its centennial year, with alumnae coming in from across the country to join in the festivities.

Sir Wilfred Laurier was the prime min-

ister when Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramp's School (ECS) was founded with just 70 students. The school was originally located on Guy before relocating to Cedar Ave. and then to its current location on Mount Pleasant in 1964. There are currently about 350 girls enrolled, from kindergarten to grade 11.

"What's amazing are not the differences between ECS then and now, but the similari- *continued on p. 18*



ECS grade 11 students at the Old Girls' Tea. Clockwise from top left: Centennial prefect Samantha Walsh, Sarah Kitner, Andrée Claude LaRocque, Alex Speak, Susanna Beaudin and Katie Webb.



Counterclockwise from bottom right: Lucy Riddell-Ferrier ('81) with her aunt Lucy Webster Hensel ('65), mother Susan Webster Fitzpatrick ('56), and grandmother Gregory Webster ('34). Riddell-Ferrier's daughter Tadhg Ferrier (not pictured) is in the ECS class of 2013.

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The Olympic Flame is coming to
Westmount on December 10. **Are you ready?**
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Canada



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20 years ago today, an unwitting witness to history

Veuilleux witnessed last day of Berlin Wall

BY DOREEN LINDSAY

Westmounter Charlotte Picard Veuilleux stood beside the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989 – just one day before it came down. She and her travelling companions had no idea that their visit would be particularly



significant. “We did not know the wall would be demolished the next day – we just went to see it,” she said.

Veuilleux was travelling for a month in Europe with a group of people from Canada, Germany, Russia, England and the US.

She was also photographed at the Checkpoint Charlie entry into East Germany. “There were no soldiers there,” she said, “It was quiet, no excitement.”

Veuilleux has been nicknamed “Le Globe Trotter” by relatives and friends, and has been to both the Arctic circle and Antarctica.

Nowadays, she satisfies her wanderlust by joining the monthly trips of Westmount’s Contactivity seniors’ centre.

Veuilleux is also active at St. Léon church, where she and her husband Guy were married. They recently donated funds for a much appreciated access ramp.

Overing celebrates 100th



Ivy Overing receives a corsage from Tom Thompson.

Ivy Overing’s 100th birthday was celebrated by her Manoir Westmount co-residents on November 18. The seniors’ residence hosts regular teas for people having birthdays that month. Overing moved in on May 1, 1987, after having put her name on the waiting list three years earlier. She is both the oldest and longest-residing Manoir-ite.

Manoir Westmount manager Tom

Thompson explained to those attending that Overing shares a birth year with the American constitution’s 16th amendment. This meant little initially to the gathering, until he explained that it gave the US federal government the right to tax incomes directly.

The crowd’s groans showed that the group had at least a passing acquaintance with income tax.

Bike path created for 3 seasons

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of bicycle traffic, speeding and going through red lights.

She later told the *Independent* that while campaigning door-to-door, residents on the south side of de Maisonneuve complained about this and feared hitting a cyclist one day. Winter hazards could add to this risk.

A number of other bike path models around the world – even in snowy cli-

mates, she said, don’t apply here where crusty surfaces and black ice are particularly dangerous. The Westmount path was created for three-season use, but has become a thoroughfare to downtown’s four-season path.

“That’s been our orientation since 1992, and it’s not changed yet,” Campbell pointed out. “It’s always been closed in winter, as is the one in NDG.” Once the poles are removed for snow clearing, it leads to the question of the safety of cy-

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Cape Ann

continued from p. 1

peted against the same-level Westmount team. Amazingly, after 18 games the score was identical: 7 wins, 7 losses and 4 ties.

As a result, the goals-scored total was computed to determine the winner, and Westmount came out ahead: 66-63.

clists traveling against traffic on the one-way street.

He said he plans to follow up with recommendations from experts to present to the council.





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Bronfman launches peace network

BY ISAAC OLSON

Hoping to create a non-violent, peaceful Quebec society, a collaboration of six philanthropic foundations, led by a long-time Westmouter, officially launched the Canadian Peace Grantmakers Network (CPGN).

With 67 representatives from 24 different peace-oriented organizations and about 140 supporters in attendance, the Peace Soirée held at McGill University on November 18 was not a fundraiser but an “awareness raiser,” said founder Brian Bronfman.

Describing the extended pre-dinner cocktail party as an informational session, he said guests were served a lavish meal, watched a video, heard only one speech (by Bronfman himself) and enjoyed live music – all to help promote the idea behind CPGN.

“The idea is to make peace a more effective area of philanthropy and a more effective field in general,” said Bronfman.

“What I feel is most exciting and interesting – with the most potential for support – are the practical aspects of peace.”

Not interested in street protests or political lobbying, he said CPGN advocates a constructive approach to creating a more peaceful society through the three pillars of peace: the positive, the practical and the productive. Bronfman cited conflict resolution training for children and adults as an example.

“We’re hoping that when people think of peace they think of these really concrete, constructive approaches to creating a more peaceful and non-violent society,” he said.

Bronfman is the president of the Brian Bronfman Family Foundation, which, now part of CPGN, is dedicated to peace and conflict resolution.

Already, he said, the budding CPGN is moving along quickly, and organizers are now looking to build on the excitement the soirée generated. For more information, visit www.cpgn.ca.

McGuigan Pepin celebrates 15 years



The McGuigan Pepin Inc. crew celebrate with friends and clients at Galerie d'Este on November 19. From left: office manager Marianne Derjean, real estate agents Joan and Brian McGuigan, Reggie Robbins and (kneeling) Tim McGuigan.

Hunger exists: please give!



Eduardo Navarro of the NDG Food Depot in front the group's collection bin at the Victoria Ave. Metro store (parking lot entrance). What kind of food is in particular need? Powdered milk, tuna, pasta and beans. Westmouters will be able to give from home on Saturday, December 5 when the depot has its Annual Christmas Food Drive, which is sponsored by the Independent's sister publication, The NDG Free Press. If you get a donation bag in the mail this week, be sure to put it out before 10 am on December 5 so volunteers are sure to see it. If you don't get a bag in the mail, you may not be on a pick-up route, so please donate at the Metro. In order to make the event a success, 300 volunteers, including 60 drivers, are needed. Call Fiona at 514.483.4680 or email her admin@depotndg.org to sign up.

Siblin doubly awarded at literary gala



Westmount author Eric Siblin received two awards at the Quebec Writers' Federation's (QWF) Literary Awards gala ceremony, November 17: the McAuslan First Book Prize and the Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-fiction, for his book *The Cello Suites*. The book has been described as part biography, music history, and literary mystery, “which weaves together narratives about Johann Sebastian Bach, Pablo Casals and Siblin himself.” Siblin was also nominated for a Writers' Trust Award and a Governor General's Literary Award.

Photo: Monique Dykstra



From left, David Berger, Dorith Toledano (CPGN executive director), Henri Neufeld, Brian Bronfman, Howard Reitman, Elizabeth Chertkow and Ann Aldis.

Centre Greene's bazaar raises money for kids



Empty Bowls volunteers and a donating potter pose during Centre Greene's annual Treats & Treasures Bazaar and Craft Sale on November 21. The bazaar included more than 30 tables while offering a bake sale, children's activities, gifts and lunch. Admission was free, and all proceeds went to supporting the organization's community programs. In honour of Centre Greene's 20th anniversary, the bazaar featured the Empty Bowls project. For a \$20 donation, people were awarded homemade soup in their new handmade bowl donated by a Quebec potter. Funding raised went to Centre Greene's food programs for children. From left: Ellen Rubin, Shiela Caplan (potter) and Elizabeth Tsuk.

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ECS centennial

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ties,” says head of school Katherine Nikidis. “I think it becomes obvious 100 years later that Miss Edgar and Miss Cramp were true visionaries, because what they created is still so relevant in today’s world.”

An “old girls” reception on November 12 saw alumnae who had boarded at the Guy and Cedar locations mingling with daughters and granddaughters over tea and scones. Reverend Michael Hicks, nephew of Maud Edgar, regaled the group with stories of his aunt’s spirit and drive to make a better life for Canadian women.

The concept of an independent, non-denominational school for girls is still important, says grade 11 student Samantha Walsh, the school’s centennial prefect. “Going to this school means we don’t have to fight the stereotypes that still exist, so we know we’re free to accomplish anything we set our minds to.” A member of the school’s prize-winning robotics club, Walsh loves to see her team hold its own in competitions against co-ed and all-boys schools.

Other centennial homecoming week events included a cocktail reception featuring the school’s jazz band, a vernissage of art created by ECS students at the Just for Laughs Museum, and enough birthday cake with ECS-green frosting for the whole school.

Music marks MGH auxiliary’s 60 years



From left, former Westmounter Andrea Ritchie, Edna Ralston, Westmounters Michael Cooper and Nadine Tsoukas, Dr. Ante Padjen (a neuropharmacologist and the creator of the orchestra) and Westmounter Dr. Markus Martin (an obstetrician-gynecologist).

The Auxiliary of the Montreal General Hospital is celebrating its 60th anniversary with a concert featuring the I Medici di McGill Orchestra, which itself celebrates its 20th.

The concert takes place on Monday, November 30, 2009 at 8 pm at the Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul (Sherbrooke and Bishop), followed by a reception.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the

Montreal General Hospital cardiology department.

Tickets are \$125 for the concert and reception, or \$30 at the door for the concert portion only.

For tickets to the gala, contact the Montreal General Hospital Auxiliary office at 514.934.1934, ext. 43009 or send an email to mgh.auxiliary@muhc.mcgill.ca.

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I Love to Read Week (November 9 to 13) at The Priory had kids entertained by theatrical performances, animated presentations by children's authors and a day in Wonderland where they enjoyed activities based on Alice in Wonderland. The special week culminated with a Read-In. Shown above are Westmounters Lisa Sugimura and Kate MacKinnon, both in grade 2, who participated in a 30-minute reading session in their pyjamas. Children placed blankets over desks to create a cozy place where they read their favourite books.

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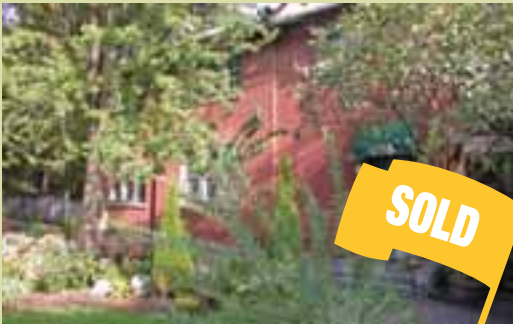
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