

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 3 No. 12a

We are Westmount

December 1-2, 2009

City stops park patrols at night

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount Public Security has suspended its patrol of city parks after dark as well as answering calls involving certain inside noise complaints, rowdy parties, intoxication or other incidents having potential risk for aggression, the *Independent* learned last week.

The decision will remain in effect until the city council adopts measures regarding the safety of officers, said Alan Kulaga, the city's Human Resources director and interim director general.

The new procedures came to light following a story two weeks ago stating the



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Westmount High paints for Kenyan art school



Westmount High grade 10 and 11 students at work painting a mural whose sale will raise funds for an art program in a Kenyan secondary school. Clockwise from lower left: Olivia Gilbey, Lianne Stepanian, Nicholas Cole, Sabrina Bourque, Nikka Lamport-Varga, Connie Lafferty, and Krista Lyn Panti. See p. 14 for story.

Photo: Erin Stropes

force had curbed response to calls dealing with panhandling, though the scope of the change turns out to be much broader (see *Independent*, November 17, p. 1).

As well, officers have not been approaching or ticketing cars or groups at the Summit lookout or in similar situations.

The changes were implemented at the end of October following discussions with personnel from the CSST, Quebec's occupational health and safety board, Kulaga explained. "They have not opened an inquiry but we are cooperating with them as we usually do."

Officers had been patrolling since March without their only means of self-defence, the PR-24 stick, which also acts as a deterrent in cases of aggressive behaviour. This baton, he said, was removed until officers could be recertified.

"The city expects to
present a resolution to city continued on p. 3

Reprieve for 5 Saisons

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Efforts to save Les 5 Saisons have resulted in a six-month reprieve. It was slated to close at the end of its lease this Saturday, December 5, to make way for redevelopment of the Greene Ave. site.

Mayor Peter Trent told the *Independent* the "stay of execution" would allow time for the city and property owner Jacob Attias to work out an agreement. This could lead to finding a way to incorporate the retailer into the proposed development.

"I've been acting as an honest broker, trying to apply common sense and arrive at a way to save the store," Trent stated.

Westmounters who shop at the Metro-owned store have been calling for the city to find a way to keep the
landmark on the street. continued on p. 22



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Ruminations BY GEORGE BOWSER p. 27



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The Hockey Sweater turning 30



Westmounter Philip Cutler (left) discusses hockey with his grandmother, May Cutler, and his mother, Marina Cutler (right), while *The Hockey Sweater*'s illustrator, Sheldon Cohen, stands between them.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

The film *The Hockey Sweater* will be 30 years old in 2010 and the Avenue Art gallery (owned by Westmounter Marina Cutler, located at 10 King St.) held the vernissage of "Hockey, Our Love Affair" on November 26 with that anniversary firmly in mind.

The exhibition features original "cels" from the animated movie and drawings from the book version, as well as (unrelated) paintings by Terry Tomalty, photo-

graphs by his son Mark Tomalty and a drawing by Janet Nash.

The Hockey Sweater has strong Westmount connections. Its author, Roch Carrier, is a longtime resident. The book version of *The Hockey Sweater* was published four years after the movie's release – by former mayor May Cutler's publishing house, Tundra. (Cutler sold Tundra to McLelland Stewart in 1996.

Dog owners to Westmount: 'Build up this wall'

Some of Westmount's dog owners staged a small demonstration at the Lansdowne dog run on November 27.

Their issue? The owners – led by Paul Creighton, who has attended several city council meetings on the same issue – would like to see two feet of fence added

to the current barrier, given that some dogs have escaped in the past, including Creighton's dog Chaucer.

As shown in the photograph, some dogs can easily look over the fence, even when there is no snow. Chaucer was guided to *continued on p. 26*



From left, Paul Creighton with Chaucer, Cathy Blundell with Murdoch, and Sherril with Pici. Not pictured: Mike Haimes with Buster.

Security: Mayor didn't know

continued from p. 1

council at its meeting in December or January authorizing the use of a night stick. In parallel, it will conduct specialized training to certify officers in whatever model of night stick is chosen."

After that, Kulaga added, regular operations will be resumed. He said he did not know why the recertification training had taken so long. Officers had forwarded a CSST complaint.

Public Security director, Richard Blondin, said he had removed the baton from service in March following an order by the CSST pending a resolution of council authorizing its use and training by personnel from the Nicolet police academy.

Asked why residents had not been informed about the lack of night-time security in the parks or that many of their usual calls would be referred to police, Mayor Peter Trent said: "I can't believe that. This is the first I'm aware of it. I was just given to understand that our officers had stopped asking panhandlers to move on, and that we would be passing a resolution about PR-24 sticks on December 7, and that would be that."

Councillor Patrick Martin, whose Pub-

lic Works commissionership includes parks, said he was "surprised" to learn of the lack of park coverage at night. "I would think that councillors and citizens would be informed." Both he and Trent said they would look into it.

The issue of potential risk faced by municipal safety officers who are not armed as are police, has resulted in a recent CSST ruling requiring officers in the Town of Mount Royal to be equipped with bullet-proof vests.

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From the Pub

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But it is not the time to rest on our laurels – and we are not doing so.

Media is a quickly changing business. Not so long ago there was no *Independent*. Even though Westmounters had a choice of three or four publications at that time, none of them were locally owned, created by locals or focused on the news that Westmounters wanted to read about.

I have yet to meet someone who wants the Westmount media scene to go back to the way it was. To help us make sure of that, we need *your help* to keep going strong into 2010 and beyond.

If you like what we're doing

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and focus them into one or two issues a year.

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(We are also always open to critical comments, for publication or not.)

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And we're always looking for new clients: if you have a shop, or you're selling your house (and local advertising is a part of your agent's strategy), or you have an event that needs publicity, we'd love to be your advertising venue. We will work to bring readers' eyeballs to your ads.

I also want to make an appeal to the many media buyers, marketers, advertising executives, and heads of large and small companies who live in Westmount. If your firm targets the Westmount demographic (for its own purposes or for clients), please consider us as an advertising vehicle. We connect to this community

Father/daughter team Bob Gainey and daughter Anna speak about...just that



Bob Gainey and his daughter Anna spoke at ECS's Father-Daughter Breakfast for grades 6, 7, 8 on November 25. Breakfast participants raised \$1,500 for the Gainey Foundation, which is committed to supporting charitable organizations that offer environmental and arts education programs for youth, in memory of the late Cathy and Laura Gainey. ECS students, from left, Chloe Harrison-Steward, Sidney Smith-Lopez and Josephine White gather around Gainey for some autographs.

in a way that no other media outlet does – and we can prove it. If you do push some ads our way, you will be helping your firm and this enterprise.

The equation is relatively simple: more ads means more pages of content. More ads means a healthier *Independent*. More ads pushes those pre-*Indie* days further and further into a not-to-be-repeated past.

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Thank you for your support to date. It is exciting to work on a project that has gotten such widespread support.

And this party is just getting started.

David Price is the publisher of the *Independent*. He prefers parties to selling ads.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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Schweitzer marks 15 years of helping artists with AIDS

The renter of Westmount's smallest commercial space is set to announce grants totalling \$150,000 to artists whose names won't be disclosed.

Is there something secretive going on? No, it's just that the John A. Schweitzer Foundation is not your normal charity.

From a post-office box "headquarters" at the Prince Albert and Sherbrooke St. post office, the foundation runs a competition every year that results in 10 winners getting \$15,000 each. All recipients have "full-blown AIDS," a term that founder and former Westmounter John Schweitzer dislikes for its negativity. He does, however, note that things have improved greatly since 1994 when he started the private trust that bears his name, and since

1985 when he hosted the first Canadian AIDS benefit at his Montreal gallery. "It was a fatal disease then, but now it is being described as a chronic condition."

Past grant winners – all visual artists – have come from all the world's continents and have been a mix of men and women, straight and gay. Schweitzer describes them as "a wonderful demographic" before catching himself, "because AIDS is a disease that is still very much with us."

2009's winners were to be announced (to the recipients) on December 1, World AIDS Day. No past winners have wanted to be identified.

The John A. Schweitzer Foundation can be reached at its postal address: PO Box 336, Westmount, QC, H3Z 2T5.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, p. 10

Faulty water deal to cost Westmount at least \$76,000

The short-lived contract for industrial water metering and control that caused Gérard Tremblay so much anguish in the Big Montreal elections seemed far from our doors. But it is about to hit Westmount taxpayers and cost at least \$76,000.

It is perhaps the most controversial episode we have been forced into following Louise Harel's mergers and Jean Charest's broken promise to undo them.

At \$356 million, it was the largest-ever contract awarded by the Big City. There was a narrow list of suppliers and, afterwards, the successful company hired one of the civil servants who had put together the amended specifications.

It was hurried through the Montreal system before being brought to the agglom council on November 29, 2007. Every suburban mayor, led by Westmount's Karin Marks, voted against it!

Agglom resumes

After a brief hiatus for the island-wide elections, the agglom council meets on Thursday evening for the first time since September. Item 20.11 on the agenda is to approve cancellation of the contract. If someone says "told you so," they can be excused.

The contractor, Genleau – a consortium formed by Simard-Baudry Construction and the Dessau Group – is entitled to \$3.2 million in compensation for termination of the deal. Originally intended to be capitalized and paid back over up to 20 years, the contract is now worthless. Big City treasurer Robert Lamontagne has ruled that the reimbursement must be paid from current taxes.

Westmount's share will be about \$76,000 – for nothing! It may be much more. In the September report that led Tremblay to want to cancel the deal, Montreal auditor-general Jacques Bergeron said the projected cost was not just the



Civic Alert

DON WEDGE

\$356-million contract but an anticipated total of about \$600 million.

One wonders if the contract with Genleau should ever have been concluded. Awkward questions continued to be asked, especially in the media. Sammy Forcillo, Tremblay's executive committee member responsible for the file, admitted to *Le Devoir* that Montreal had not analyzed the return on investment of the contract. There would be short and long-term savings, he claimed, but did not have exact figures.

Meantime, both Beaconsfield and TMR, which already meter water, wrote to the Municipal Affairs minister Nathalie Normandeau asking her to intervene.

Nevertheless, it was not until April 8, 2009, that Tremblay suspended the deal with the auditor-general being brought in the same month.

The whole affair is touched with the smell of a greater scandal. The construction industry boosted its charges to the Big City by as much as 35 percent, it is said, to provide funds for its political favourites.

Trent's first agglom

Jean Charest is again at fault by not heeding calls for a commission to get to the bottom of these allegations.

Meantime, the idea that part of our municipal tax bill is inflated to line the pockets of the construction industry and its political friends is repugnant. We should make it clear it is unacceptable and look for financial redress. Montrealers may accept it; we should not.

In the front line will be Peter Trent,

who will be attending his first agglom meeting on Thursday. It is a relatively light meeting with Montreal providing only 640 pages of documentation (at my deadline) with more to come!

Even before it had swollen to that amount, Trent told me that it was impossible to see how any one person could master it all. "It's at least a full-time job and I have the arena, our budgets and a few other things to worry about."

Ungovernable

When fighting the forced merger, Trent frequently made the point that the old Montreal was ungovernable. Harel and Charest contrived to create something even bigger, and Tremblay has done even more by giving himself five jobs: mayors of both Montreal city and Ville Marie borough, chair of the executive committee and president of both the agglom and the Communauté Métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM).

Last week, members of the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM) spent November 24 strategizing on the group's future. Bill McMurchie (Pointe Claire) has been interim president since Marks re-

signed, and they continue to rely on Westmount's former director general Bruce St. Louis for support.

There will be a new ASM executive and appointments to the agglom committees in place before Thursday's agglom council meeting.

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

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Wins accolades for forestry and sustainability

City rates four blooms

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount has been cited in this year's Fleurons du Quebec competition as "without doubt" the municipality doing the most in the area of landscaping and urban forestry.

It also won kudos for its sustainable development vision and related communications efforts.

In explaining the results, city horticulturist Claudette Savaria said the city retained its rating of "four blooms" in the August evaluation. The top five-bloom level was not given to any participating municipality.

The event takes place every three years to encourage municipal attention to overall horticultural and environmental aspects.

This year's results were announced at a special event in St. Hyacinthe on November 18.

The four blooms means the city will be able to keep its four blooms on the sign at the island at Claremont and NDG Ave." (See *Independent*, June 22, p. 3.)

"We had a slightly higher mark than last time, in 2006, so the effort put into beautifying various institutional areas shows we're on the right track," Savaria said. "But we need to continue to improve the entrances to the city, land around the fire and police stations, and work with schools, churches and the commercial sector."

Special mention of the attention to trees underlines the continued recognition given to Westmount over the years in a succession of similar provincial competitions, which once designated the city as Ville Verte du Québec in its population category.

Savaria and her Public Works team were also singled out for the cleanliness of the city.

Westmount's new library director looks ahead

Cardella brings 'fresh eyes'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The future challenge for the Westmount Public Library is finding a balance between the explosion of information available through new technologies and the preservation of its role as the cradle of the written word.

So says Julie-Anne Cardella, the city's new director of library services, who assumed the position October 5 following the retirement June 30 of Ann Moffat.

"Librarians have been called the best human search engines," she says. "I like that. It's the way we need to think of ourselves. As a librarian, I need to ask how I can help users reach out for the information."

The parallel between finding reliable information on the web is the same as in books, she points out. "At the library we always check our sources because it's especially important to know who wrote that material. Before buying our books, for instance, we are always checking sources."

Now that information-gathering has changed with the proliferation of material available in various formats, one has to be even more critical, especially on the web.

Changing signage

With Cardella's arrival in Westmount, she almost immediately identified with a project to improve signage that was started earlier in the year. Her fresh pair of eyes led her to discover that – like many library users – she had difficulty finding directions to various types of material. "I still need to learn more about the collection," she admits.

"We need bigger, more colourful and consistent signage," she explains, embracing the project. "No more beige on beige, and signage above eye level."

Cardella's experience in municipal libraries for more than two decades has enabled her to step into her new role in what appears to the visitor as a seamless transition.

She spent 18 years at the Town of Mount Royal Library and was latterly in charge of the Verdun and Nuns' Island libraries.

Fortunately, she says, Westmount's 2010 budget was well underway when she arrived. But one of her challenges has been learning about the community organizations and the many people who have come in to introduce themselves.

Having to compile the monthly report for September was also a major learning experience. "I quickly found out so much

about the library operation, but I struggled to find out where to get the numbers and information I needed!"

And some of the data amazed her. The library recorded 1,021 visitors a day in September. "Ann had told me it was a busy place but I have only now realized to what extent it is! Imagine, 28,588 items circulated that month. That same month, the website recorded 18,484 visits – that's a lot!"



Julie-Anne Cardella

Having spent many years as the children's librarian at TMR, Cardella has special appreciation for Westmount's children's programs and department, which she described as "a very lively place." She surprised the staff by turning up in costume at the children's Halloween Extravaganza.

"It was just amazing," she explains. "I know what it's like to participate in these events." Cardella is also mother to a teenaged daughter and son.

Her arrival came at a particularly busy time of the year, just before activities associated with Public Library Week.

One meaningful meeting she attended was held by the Bibliothèques des Banlieues de l'Île de Montréal (BBIM). This is the association of librarians from the demerged municipalities. "I was so pleased to see so many of the people I used to work with," she said, "and I was very proud to represent Westmount."

An avid reader of non-fiction, Cardella says people seem surprised to learn of this passion. Perhaps, it has something to do with her thirst for knowledge and the amount of information she can absorb.

"I'm a quick learner, and I have a good memory," she adds.



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Selwyn students participate in Empty Bowls project

The grade 10 students of Selwyn House are participating in a community service art project called Empty Bowls. Working under the tutelage of guest artist Daphna Lewinshtein and art teachers Venessa Jothy and Lindsay Foran, the students' self-designed, hand-made bowls will be

sold at the Besuto Craft Show to benefit the Flying Kites orphanage in Uttarakhand, India. The craft sale takes place at the Trinity Memorial Church Hall (5220 Sherbrooke St. W.) on December 4 (12 pm - 8 pm), December 5 (10 am - 7 pm) and December 6 (12:30 pm - 6 pm).

Metro awards two local-area schools

The local Metro grocery store on Sherbrooke and Victoria recently awarded two area schools for their winning "green ideas," reported store manager Graham Fletcher.

James Lyng High School and École St. Léon each received a grant of \$1,000 to bring their project to life.

The James Lyng project called "Community Clean!" entailed a tour around the

local community in St. Henri before recycling pick-up and giving residents a checklist indicating whether or not items were properly separated and if some items were not recyclable, and a tip sheet.

The Metro-sponsored initiative is called The Green Apple School Program. Schools and their winning ideas can be found on www.fonds-eco-ecole.ca.

Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

- The Westmount Y free public lectures present **David Reich** on "Alternative Strategies for Coping with the World: Crying or Laughing," 7 pm. Donations to the Y welcomed.

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.
- The Atwater Library Lunchtime Series presents **John Hallward** on encouraging Canadians to be more philanthropic. Atwater Library (1200 Atwater Ave.), 12:30 pm. Free, donations welcome.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

Christmas concert featuring **The Anima Musica Choir**. St. Matthias Church, 10 Church Hill, 8 pm. Tickets: \$20, seniors & students \$15. Info: 514.489.1552.

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.
- **Jeri Brown and Lydia Lockett** perform jazz and poetry at London Bus Café (4126 St. Catherine St., corner Gladstone), 6 pm. Cost: \$12. Info: 438.886.0967.
- Women of Action Brunch with **Leslie**

Morgan Steiner (author of *Crazy Love*) at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 11:30 am. Tickets: \$150 (pick up your tickets at the event). To reserve: Arlene Silver at 514.481.2723 or montreal@icrfonline.org.

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.
- **Mini-Bazaar at Contactivity Centre** (4695 de Maisonneuve West, corner Lansdowne), 10 am to 2:30 pm. Handknits and unique gifts. info: 514.932.2326. Also on Wednesday, December 9.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

The **UN Refugee Agency** presents "Celebrating Human Rights Day" at the Westmount YMCA, 7:15 pm. Info: 514.962.8705.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

The Montreal Press Club presents "**Reporters without Borders**" with speaker **Dennis Trudeau** at Atwater Library auditorium (1200 Atwater Ave.), 7 pm. Free. Info: 514.875.0964.

Twilight falls over Centennial



A star of the movie series *Twilight* and graduate of Centennial Academy's class of '96, *Rachelle Lefevre* paid her alma mater a visit in mid November during general assembly. Pictured here with editors of Centennial student newspaper, *The Prowl*, *Alex Juneau*, grade 8 and Westmounter *Harley Nadler*, grade 11, who interviewed her for their newspaper. Lefevre also posed for photos, signed autographs and her yearbook.

Choeurs des enfants performs Dec. 5



Chœur des enfants de Montréal, conducted by artistic director *Tiphaine Legrand*, presents its holiday concert "Noëls du monde" on Saturday, December 5, with performances by the 65 children of the CEM, including the Senior Choir, the Junior Choir and the Chamber Choir. The concert starts at 7 pm and will take place at the *Oscar Peterson Concert Hall* (7141 Sherbrooke St. W.). Singing a cappella and at times with piano, the children will perform festive works from around the world, including songs in French, English, Hebrew, German, Spanish and Latin. Pictured above are Westmounters *Loïc Bellemare-Alford*, *Andrey Zhitenev*, *Amanda Youssefi*, *Dominique Gravel*, *Claire Brillon* and *Hannah Lazare*, taken at the dress rehearsal for the OSM concert in which the choir participated November 24 and 25 (*Bach's St. Matthew Passion*) under the direction of *Kent Nagano*.

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Hogg Hardware gets ready to move



Some of the Hogg team on November 23: from left, top row: Alan Hogg and Russel Tisshaw; bottom row: George Hogg, Wilder Wall and A. J. Mueggler.

Hogg Hardware will be moving twice in the next six months, but the product line won't change much.

As previously reported, the hardware store will switch places with its near-neighbour the SAQ next year. (See *Independent*, May 19, p. 1.)

Owner George Hogg explained to the *Independent* that the current store will remain open until December 24.

An interim outlet will be open at 5128 Sherbrooke St. (corner Vendôme) from December 28 until mid-May, when the new permanent home on the northwest corner of Victoria and Sherbrooke will be ready.

Hogg explained that very few product categories, such as molding, quarter-round and curtains, will be dropped. Some slow-moving items will be eliminated, such as a type of screws that has been on the shelf "for 10 years."

Store mainstays will remain the same, such as paint, keys, tools, screws and nails, household items, salt and firewood.

Hogg estimates that he currently uses 9,000 square feet of his current location as floor space, which will shrink to 6,000 at the final site. Taller shelves will help offset the loss of area, but the storeroom will be much smaller. Unlike the current SAQ, both floors of the final Hogg location will be accessible to the public.

The interim site is much smaller, but will still be a "dépanneur" for customers needing items like paint and hard-to-find humidifiers filters.

The bottom line, according to Hogg? "Customers won't notice much of a difference."

Hogg Hardware was founded in 1992 at its current location. It also has a location on Nuns' Island.



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The *Indie's* Self-Promotion Issue

WHAT ARE SOME OF WESTMOUNT'S CIVIC LEADERS SAYING?

"I'm absolutely delighted at the success of the *Westmount Independent*. To have a paper owned and run by a Westmouter is exactly what we need, and we can feel assured that it will continue. Congratulations on your success. All Westmounters can be very pleased with what you've achieved."

– MAY CUTLER, Mayor of Westmount (1987-91)

"The *Independent* is a newspaper for the community – that has served, and will serve, the needs of the community."

– CYNTHIA CAMPBELL, past-president
(Rotary Club of Westmount) and
current chair (YMCA local advisory committee)

"As a member of the Auxiliary of the Montreal General Hospital, I feel very indebted to David Price and his staff at the *Westmount Independent*. We are dedicated to raising money for the hospital and its patients, and need good publicity for our events in order to succeed in this mission.

David continues to provide us with excellent coverage for each and every event we have.

We know how effective he is because so many attendees at these events report that they learned of them via the *Independent*. It is always a pleasure to work with such an intelligent and creative person who has such a great sense of humour. Congratulations for a job so well done and thank you."

– YVONNE MASS, Auxiliary of the Montreal General Hospital

"I look forward to receiving the *Westmount Independent* in my mail every Wednesday and appreciate its timely, thorough coverage of local events. Keep up the good work!"

– BARBARA MOORE, former city councillor (District 4)

"Place ad. Phone rings. Clients result. As in Hemingway's 6 word "novel," our story is being told through our ads in the *Independent*. We now look forward to expanding our reach even more in your new publication the *NDG Free Press*. Congratulations."

– DEIRDRE MCILWRAITH, NOVA Montreal

"I think the *Independent* is a breath of FRESH AIR for those of us with our roots in the community. I welcome its coverage of the council and its business as well as the artistic and cultural activities of our citizens. I think there is room for a bi-weekly feature of "get-to-know your fellow Westmounters" – which would feature a short article on our citizens from all walks of life in the community. Keep the standards up and continued good reporting."

– JOHN BRIDGMAN, lifelong Westmount resident and
former city councillor (District 8)

"The *Westmount Independent* has brought a refreshing new perspective to our community with its energetic and thorough coverage of our local politics, community affairs, arts and sporting activities."

– JOHN SHINGLER, former city councillor (District 5)

"Across North America, many big-city dailies are under threat or have already closed. Community papers offer information that is not available from other sources, and have a relationship with their readers that is unmatched. Westmount is fortunate to have both the *Independent* and its competitor."

– SALLY, former city councillor (District 4),
& ALLAN AITKEN

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A COMPOSTING LEADER

When Westmount adopted their compost program earlier this year, the city was taking an environmental initiative to help reduce organic waste in our landfills.

Quebec environment minister Line Beauchamp recently outlined her plan to ban paper and cardboard as well as organic waste in our garbage. Her plan expressed the desire to have municipal composting around the province, partly funded by the municipality, and by the provincial and federal governments.

Westmount, being one of the few to have city-wide composting, will be a step ahead of the rest of the province. Hopefully this may entice those who have been neglecting the compost program to start using the green bins Westmount has supplied. If Westmount wants to stay a step ahead in terms of environmental sustainability, it will take a community-wide effort. In any case, Westmount is moving towards a greener city, and setting the bar for the province.

PHILIP CUTLER, WESTMOUNT AVE.

CLEAN STAIRS – YAY!

Practically every day, I walk or run up to the Summit on the concrete public stairs that start at the corner of Renfrew Ave. and the Boulevard.

This fall, most of the gardening contractors have been blowing leaves off the adjacent properties onto the stairs. When wet, the leaves get very slippery, and a couple of weeks ago I slipped and fell on my wrist – luckily just bruising it.

Realizing that Westmount's Public Works department is very busy, I shoveled the leaves off to the sides of the stairs, but either the contractors or the wind would just blow them right back. So, I politely asked the adjacent residents if they could do me a big favour and have their contractors remove the leaves. Almost without exception, they apologized, saying they were not aware of the problem and that they

would have their contractor remove the leaves.

Within a week almost all the leaves were gone. I was so impressed by their expression of civic responsibility and courtesy that I feel they deserve mention.

DANIEL LAMBERT, LANSDOWNE AVE.

FENCE PREVENTS FREE PLAY

At the last council meeting, Anna O'Connor asked if the new council would remove the permanent fence surrounding two thirds of the Westmount Park southern playing area. She said correctly, that it is mostly used by birds. No one is allowed to freely play there.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham responded by saying that the fence protected the grass in its early stage, that it needed a slight resting period after the soccer season and that summer availability was planned for sports as a soccer field – an eventuality that did not occur. Lulham said that there was a lot of space on the north field and in front of the school for people to use.

With two thirds fenced off, remaining areas, north and south, will deteriorate more quickly.

Unfortunately, Councillor Lulham gave the impression that the fenced area was for soccer. When was the decision taken that this area be non-public and for soccer or programmed sports only? If that is the case, more than half of the playing field is no longer available for free public use, which was its original vocation. Have we allowed our taxes to be used to build an area that most of the public cannot use?

I agree with Anna O'Connor that the area has a very "keep out feel to it" and I hope that the fence will be taken down. At the very least, leave the gates open and allow the public to use it.

MARILYNN GILLIES, MELVILLE AVE.

Ed.'s note: In answer to your question, it is my understanding that the current soccer field south of the bike path in Westmount Park was agreed to as a compromise between artificial turf and the (then) status quo (see "Solution found for renewal of playing fields – Work to start

next summer", December 19, 2007, p. 1).

Without endorsing the process or substance of this compromise, it did seem to have the assent of the residents' committee struck to look at the question, "On December 13, a new proposal for the Westmount Park playing fields was unveiled to the citizens' workgroup, and ... it looks good! ... On the lower fields, the proposal involves a single senior soccer pitch that would occupy half of the space and be enclosed by a four-foot fence and hedge. Although the fence was a surprise, it was balanced by a nice proposal to leave the eastern 40 percent of the field open to Westmount Park School, Narnia and the community at large" (letter by Gillian O'Driscoll, a residents' committee member, in the same issue, p. 4).

METERS VS. BIKE PATH?

In the *Independent's* November 24 issue (p. 1), councillor Cynthia Lullham mentioned that she had heard complaints from residents on de Maisonneuve Blvd. who said they cannot get in or out of their driveways for the bike traffic, that the cyclists aren't respecting the stop signs and they tend to speed.

In the winter, the number of cyclists is down dramatically. On the stretch from Atwater to Greene, the one stop sign at Greene and de Maisonneuve does not affect the driveway of residents on de Maisonneuve. And who has heard of cyclists speeding on a slippery path in winter?

The collapsible posts do not make a distinction between a car or a snow plough. They will collapse when hit by either. In any case, they are completely unnecessary. Montreal had none on its bikepaths. In fact they could be dangerous. Not all drivers know they are collapsible and one could swerve to avoid it, hitting an unlucky pedestrian.

The only reason the previous administration closed it is financial. Parking income for a hundred cars for six months is formidable.

STEPHEN CHIN, SHERBROOKE ST.

Gossip

Former mayor May Cutler is just back from a trip to South America and Antarctica, where she actually set foot on the most inaccessible continent and was so close to penguins she could have touched them. "The most amazing thing is the lighting," Cutler told the *Independent*, "and the icebergs, which are chiselled in all sorts of way by the wind."

Have some gossip? Email Kristin at indie@westmountindependent.com.

Leonard Cohen's Diamond

Westmount-adjacent Diamond Bookstore (5035 Sherbrooke St.) has a new owner, Westmounter Emma Sindell, and is honouring former Westmounter Leonard Cohen with its first reading. The event takes place December 8 at 7:30 pm and will feature readings by Michael

Mirolla, Jeffrey Mackie and Meredith Darling from Leonard Cohen You're Our Man, which includes the work of 75 poets from 12 countries. Net proceeds from the book will go to the Leonard Cohen Poet-In-Residence program at Westmount High (Cohen's alma mater). The residency program is a joint effort between the Foundation for Public Poetry, Westmount High and the Westmount High Alumni Association (WHOB.A.)

The *Indie's* Self-Promotion Issue

WHAT ARE THE REAL ESTATE AGENTS SAYING?

“Passion and professionalism are evident in the ever-growing *Westmount Independent*. David Price and his team provide not only their readers with a wealth and variety of current local news, but as one of their original advertisers, McGuigan Pepin benefits from the respect and courtesy that is their trademark.”

– JOAN MCGUIGAN, McGuigan Pepin Inc.

“The *Independent* has been invaluable in helping getting my advertising and message out to the community. I very much appreciate the reliable door-to-door delivery via Canada Post. Its well structured layout, informative articles and strong dedication to our neighborhood ensure its readers a clear picture of what’s going on in Westmount. I am proud to have been one of the founding advertisers of this great little paper, a paper I believe in. My congratulations to David Price and his team for their tireless efforts and commitment. Continued success!”

– BRIAN DUTCH, RE/MAX Westmount Inc.

“As a real estate agent focused on a premium and demanding marketplace like Westmount, I have always considered advertising to be an important part of reaching my clients and promoting their houses. With the *Independent*, I have found a publication that is well read, well written, reliably distributed and filled with local flavour.”

– MARTIN ROULEAU, Groupe Sutton Centre-Ouest Inc.

“The *Westmount Independent* has been great for my business.”

– JOSEPH MONTANARO,
Sotheby’s International Realty Québec

“Westmount offers some of the best quality of life in Canada. I am a lifelong Westmouter who makes his living selling homes here. Those wishing to experience the best of the city need to read the *Westmount Independent*.”

– CHRIS GARDINER,
Groupe Sutton Centre-Ouest Inc.

“As the year comes to a close we want to commend the *Westmount Independent* for being a great local paper that really connects us to our community. Our whole family, aged 10 to 43, look forward to every issue! We wish you continued success!

– CHRISTINA MILLER, Profusion Realty Inc.,
and CRAIG MILLER

“Your hands-on approach makes the *Independent* reader-friendly. What a bonus to have a Westmount-based paper!”

– TERRY EVANS, Groupe Sutton Centre-Ouest Inc.

“I think that your paper is the best. I am proud to advertise in your rag. The service is impeccable and we value your creative input.”

– BUNNY BERKE, RE/MAX Westmount Inc.

“Thank you for another year of great reading! The *Indie* is read by Westmouters and non-Westmouters alike, evidenced by the response to my ads. Looking forward to next year and seeing what new ideas your creative mind comes up with!”

– TANIA KALECHEFF, RE/MAX Westmount Inc.

WE ARE WESTMOUNT – AND WE THANK ALL OUR ADVERTISERS AND READERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT.



Westmount vous informe...

Westmount Page



www.westmount.org
info : 514 989-5200

Vol. 3/23
Publié par Westmount • Published by Westmount



PANDÉMIE - GRIPPE A(H1N1)

Vaccination - Place Alexis-Nihon

Le centre de vaccination contre la grippe A(H1N1) à la Place Alexis-Nihon (1500, avenue Atwater) est ouvert de 8 h à 20 h, sept jours par semaine. Pour les informations les plus récentes, veuillez appeler au 811 ou consulter le site www.santemontreal.qc.ca. 🌿



RELAIS DE LA FLAMME OLYMPIQUE

Arrivée de la flamme à Westmount

Le 10 décembre de 16 h à 18 h 30, joignez-vous aux célébrations du relais de la flamme olympique devant l'Hôtel de ville pour assister à l'arrivée de la flamme à Westmount. De plus amples renseignements à propos de ces activités se trouvent sur le site de la Ville. On invite en outre les résidents à se joindre au groupe Facebook en tapant les mots-clés « flamme Westmount » sur www.facebook.com. Il n'y a pas de doute, ce sera un événement à ne pas manquer ! 🌿



SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Collecte annuelle de denrées non-périssables

Vous pouvez apporter votre soutien à la campagne annuelle de la Sécurité publique en donnant des denrées non périssables au profit des personnes dans le besoin. Des contenants prévus à cet effet sont disponibles dans tous les édifices municipaux, ainsi qu'au Centre Greene situé au 1090, avenue Greene. Les dons en argent sont également acceptés de même que les jouets neufs dans leur emballage d'origine. Soyez généreux.

Les familles démunies qui désirent recevoir un panier de nourriture doivent s'inscrire auprès du bureau d'admission des services sociaux du CLSC Métro en composant le 514 934-0354, poste 348 ou 352. Les paniers seront distribués durant la semaine du 14 décembre. 🌿



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 jusqu'au 12 décembre. Info : 514 989-5521.

DATES À RETENIR

Jusqu'au 12 décembre
Exposition : oeuvres d'Anna Gedalof, de Teresa Maglietta et de Paola Ridolfi
Galerie du Victoria Hall

Le 4 décembre – 14 h
Club d'échecs et de jeux de société
Bibliothèque

Le 7 décembre - 20 h 30
Séance ordinaire du conseil
Hôtel de ville

Le 8 décembre – 10 h 15
Club de lecture *Readers to Readers*
Bibliothèque

Le 10 décembre – 16 h à 18 h 30
Célébration du relais de la flamme olympique
Arrivée prévue de la flamme : 17 h 47
Hôtel de ville

Illumination du sapin de Noël
Venez en famille à la fête de l'illumination du sapin de Noël le lundi 7 décembre à 18 h 30 pour y écouter des contes et des chants de Noël et couronner le tout d'une tasse de chocolat chaud. L'entrée est gratuite. Cependant les dons de denrées non périssables au profit de la Collecte annuelle de denrées non-périssables de Westmount seraient grandement appréciés. Info : 514 989-5265.

Illumination des chandelles de la Hannoukah
La Ville de Westmount, le Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom et la Congrégation Shaar Hashomayim désirent inviter la communauté à la fête de la Hannoukah le mercredi 16 décembre. Joignez-vous à nous pour la cérémonie de l'illumination des chandelles à l'Hôtel de ville de Westmount à 17 h 30 suivie d'une fête communautaire au Shaar Hashomayim, 450, rue Kensington à compter de 18 h. Info : 514 989-5265. 🌿



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. 🌿



PANDEMIC - INFLUENZA A(H1N1)

Vaccination - Alexis-Nihon Plaza

The vaccination centre against the A(H1N1) flu virus is open in Alexis-Nihon Plaza (1500 Atwater Avenue) from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. For up-to-date information, please call 811 or consult www.santemontreal.qc.ca. 🌿



OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

Welcome the flame to Westmount!

On December 10 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in front of City Hall, join the celebration of the Olympic Torch relay as the flame arrives in Westmount. Further information on activities can be found on our Web site. Residents are also invited to join our Facebook group at www.facebook.com, keywords "Westmount torch". Rest assured, this is an event you will not want to miss! 🌿



PUBLIC SECURITY

Annual Food Drive

Anyone wishing to contribute to Public Security's annual food drive may do so by depositing non-perishable food items in bins found at any Westmount municipal building or Centre Greene (1090 Greene Avenue). Cash donations and new toys in original packaging are also welcome. Please be generous.

Needy Westmount families who would like to receive food baskets should contact the CLSC Métro Social Services Department at 514 934-0354, ext. 348 or 352. Baskets are distributed the week of December 14. 🌿



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 until December 12. Info: 514 989-5521.

Christmas Tree Lighting
Bring the family to this year's Christmas Tree Lighting Party at City Hall, Monday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy Christmas stories and carols along with a cup of hot chocolate. The party is free, but donations of non-perishable food items for the Westmount's Holiday Food Drive are welcome. Info: 514 989-5265.

DATEBOOK

Until December 12
Exhibition: works of Anna Gedalof, Teresa Maglietta and Paola Ridolfi
Gallery at Victoria Hall

December 4 – 2 p.m.
Chess and Scrabble Club
Library

December 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Regular Council Meeting
City Hall

December 8 – 10:15 a.m.
Readers to Readers Book Club
Library

December 10 – 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Olympic Torch Relay Celebration
Tentative Torch Arrival: 5:47 p.m.
City Hall

Chanukah Celebration
The City of Westmount, Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom and Congregation Shaar Hashomayim invite the Westmount community to a celebration of Chanukah on Wednesday, December 16. Join us for the candle-lighting at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall followed by traditional Chanukah activities, music and treats, at the Shaar Hashomayim, 450 Kensington Avenue as of 6 p.m. Info: 514 989-5265. 🌿



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. 🌿

Mitchell awarded the Speirs



Nearly 250 members of the Selwyn House community gathered at the school, November 26, to celebrate the 101st anniversary of its founding and to honour Will Mitchell (left), who retired on December 31, 2008, after having served as headmaster for 24 years. Above, Mitchell receives the school's highest honour, the Speirs Medal, from Ted Claxton, chairman, board of directors. The Speirs Medal (named for Dr. Robert Speirs, headmaster 1945-71) is awarded to a member of the Selwyn House community who is deemed to have given exemplary service to the school.

Hogg Hardware is moving, not changing

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Paint • Keys • Tools • Screws & Nails
• Stationery • Salt • Firewood •
Kitchenware & Household items
• Batteries, flashlights & more!

YES, we will be open to serve you:

- Until Dec. 24: 4833 Sherbrooke St. W. (current location)
- Interim (Dec. 28 to mid-May): 5128 Sherbrooke St. W. (corner Vendôme, near À Votre Santé)
- New (grand opening in May 2009): 4855 Sherbrooke St. W. (corner Victoria, old SAQ location)

Same telephone number throughout: (514) 934-4644

No change to our Nuns' Island location: 7 Place du Commerce – (514) 761 4441

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Elegant Retreat on Hudson
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\$1,275,000



Pristine Setting on the River
Habitat 67: 2 renov. units to choose from. 3 bdrm + den, rooms wrap around terrace like a house on the river. 2 bdrm, city & river views, terrace onto the city. Shuttle bus to downtown, adj. gorgeous park. Experience the views, fresh air & bird song.
\$469,000 - \$697,000



Jewel in Little Italy
Le Sophia: Luxurious pied-à-terre w/SW exposure, one bedrm w/balcony & floor to ceiling windows overlooking large courtyard garden. 9 ft. ceilings, elevator, concrete structure. Steps to Milano's, restos, metros & Jean Talon market. Be a tourist in your own city!
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Harmony in Home Sales

Scouts celebrate 100 years



Westmount Scouting celebrated its centennial on November 28, accompanied by a veritable who's who of Westmount dignitaries who turned up to support a celebration of 100 years of Scouting in Westmount. A spaghetti dinner, live music, learning the knots, science tricks and other activities ran from 6 pm to 9 pm in Victoria Hall. Shown above are the Scouts singing the "Superman Grace".

Photo: Ralph Thompson, PhotoImagerie

Westmount High students paint for a better world

BY ERIN STROPES

Students at Westmount High are using their artistic talents in a pilot project for a program that will build art schools in Africa. Under the supervision of art teacher Sylvana Anania, they are painting a mural on the topic of "human rights" for international humanitarian organization Free the Children.

The mural project is the initiative of Montreal artists Agnes Jorgensen and André Chatelain. The couple, both painters by profession, are active in fostering cross-cultural relations with African artists. Through their nonprofit organization Painting a New World, they send art supply kits to "emerging artists" in African countries, then arrange the sale of the finished products on their behalf.

A chance encounter with one of the co-founders of Free the Children led Jorgensen and Chatelain to develop the Westmount High mural project that the students are now helping to turn into a reality. According to Chatelain, sale of the murals will help to fund the creation of an art program for a secondary school located in the community of Enelera in the Masai Mara region of Kenya. Student interest so far has been high. Anania says that many

more hopeful student painters have approached her than they have room for this year, but that she plans to participate again next year.

The 18 participating Westmount High students, chosen from the school's advanced placement art classes, have designed their mural in three parts to reflect "the harsh realities that some children deal with every day, the actions people everywhere are taking to help them, and the dream of what the future could be like." The "dream future" incorporates such elements as access to education and, appropriately, freedom of artistic expression.

Their mural will be on display December 5 and 6 at the Besuto craft show at Trinity Memorial Church (5220 Sherbrooke St. W.) Students will be there to discuss the project. See p. 1 for photo.

Fifteen Montreal schools are currently creating murals for the pilot project. Possibilities are still being explored for displaying their finished pieces, but Chatelain hopes to hold a public exhibition this winter.

To communicate suggestions or to offer donations of space, contact andre.chatelain@videotron.ca, 514.902.1219.



SOLD

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\$1,585,000



Westmount – 461 Mount Pleasant
\$989,000



Westmount – 457 Mount Pleasant
\$1,475,000



**O.H.
SUN 2-4 PM**

Westmount – 641 Grosvenor
\$1,075,000



Westmount – 4302 Montrose
\$2,895,000



**JUST
LISTED**

Westmount – 399 Clarke #5C
\$489,000



**JUST
LISTED**

Downtown – 441 President Kennedy #1402
\$2,150/month



**JUST
LISTED**

Old Montreal – 430 McGill #201
\$429,000

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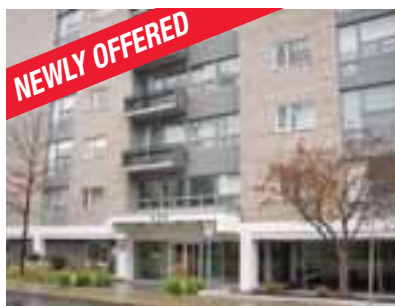
Bought & Sold: Real estate transferred since October 1, 2009

Address	Price	Evaluation	Buyer	Seller	Date
109 Upper Bellevue Ave.	\$2,810,000	\$1,800,000	Morris Kertzer	Heja Moon & Roger Miller	4-Nov
3710 The Boulevard	\$1,739,000	\$1,999,900	Cong Nguyen & Diem Thuy Bui	Teresa Igrejas Lopes	2-Nov
1 Wood Ave. #706 & 2 pkg.	\$1,500,000	\$1,158,700	Sarah Schnarch	Judy Stotland	1-Oct
659 Belmont Ave.	\$1,275,000	\$1,065,800	Samar Rouabhia & Monica Maynard	Punam Khanna	29-Oct
3249 Cedar Ave.	\$1,250,000	\$1,105,000	Jean-Pascal Ouellet & Lucy Gilbert	C. LeDez & D. Nonnenman	5-Nov
557 Grosvenor Ave	\$1,150,000	\$1,087,400	Denise Arab	Pierrette Quesnel	22-Oct
739 Upper Roslyn Ave.	\$1,055,000	\$872,900	Audrey Lovett & Sebastian Demyttenaere	Marie-Josée Bonneville	23-Nov
3664 The Boulevard	\$1,002,000	\$897,100	Denis Soulières & Martyn Dupuis	Richard Guay	3-Nov
4700 St. Catherine St. #512 & 2 pkg.	\$970,000	\$769,300	Joseph de Jocas	Estate of Philip Chiarella	27-Oct
53 Holton Ave.	\$950,000	\$707,100	Mimi Laroche & Martin Charbonneau	Martin Rouleau	13-Oct
441 Lansdowne Ave.	\$755,000	\$588,100	Sara Lydiatt & Robert Vanier	Baldev Raj Nayar	29-Oct
4299 de Maisonneuve Blvd.	\$750,000	\$691,200	Mathieu Castonguay	Bernard Ragueneau	2-Nov
395 Clarke Ave.	\$699,000	\$498,500	Jaswant & Jahangir Guzder	D. Hadjopoulos & M. Zannis	9-Nov
4628 St. Catherine St.	\$660,000	\$493,800	Andrea Peplow & Robert Rahal	Julie Brown & Jonathan Frankel	19-Oct
556 Grosvenor Ave.	\$590,000	\$459,500	Manon Pepin	B. Vauclair & S. Des Groseillers	16-Oct
4160 Sherbrooke St. #501	\$580,000	\$580,900	Zepon Immobilier Inc.	Salim Hassan	18-Nov
4637 Sherbrooke St.	\$550,000	\$484,400	Abdolmajid Tandel & Joseph Kholam	Arlington Lane Corp. Ltd.	13-Nov
36 York St.	\$532,000	\$526,500	Marielle Beauchemin & Michael Arscott	Gordon Frost & Heather McKay	27-Oct
466 Wood Ave.	\$503,000	\$382,700	Anne Hengen & Alexander Davies	Les Films Solitaire Inc.	30-Oct
50% of 41 & 43 York St.	\$442,000	100% = \$466,300	Jonathan Frankel	Kaleem Siddiqi	23-Oct
50 Bruce Ave.	\$421,000	\$450,400	Jacqueline Iny	L. Philip Phillips	2-Nov
31.5% of 15, 15A & 17 York St.	\$410,000	100% = \$625,100	Fernando Reyes & Cynthia Dubois	Christine Anderson	22-Oct
4855 de Maisonneuve Blvd. #402	\$350,000	\$312,400	Milagros Amoros	Arthur McFarland	20-Nov
399 Clarke Ave. #1C	\$250,000	\$266,100	Antonio Colalillo & Vittoria Condemi	Alexandra Gardner	5-Oct



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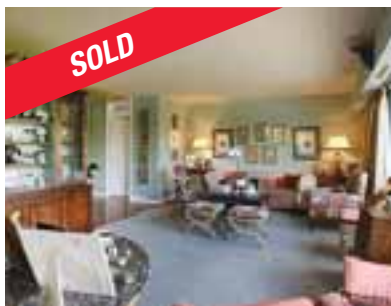
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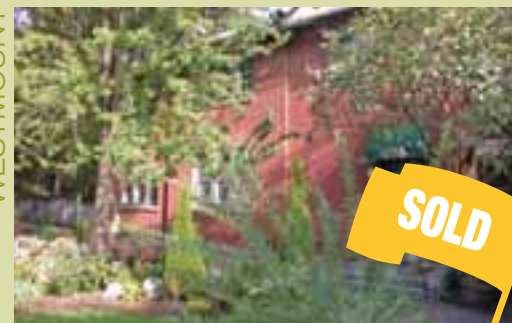
DOWN TOWN

**ST CHRISTOPHE**

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Celebrating Bach at the Lion d'Or

An elegant evening of music and dance celebrating the legacy of J.S. Bach took place at the Lion d'Or on October 29, where cocktail dresses ruled at this European-style gathering of BYT (Beautiful Young Things).

The gala was chaired by Westmounter **Arabella Decker**, daughter of conductor and former Montreal Symphony Orchestra (MSO) music director, Franz-Paul Decker. The honorary gala committee members were **Richard Brabander**, **Yolande Delauriers-Husaruk** and Westmounters **Dagmar** and **Ronald Guttman**.

The program featured the choreography of **Eddy Toussaint**, co-founder of Les Ballet Jazz de Montréal and who is now back in Montreal. His dance piece, created



Social Notes from Westmount and beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

to the music of Bach's *Erbarme Dich, Mein Gott*, had its world premiere at the event.

The dancers were **Klara Houdet** (National Ballet of Canada), **Timothy Tompkins** (Houston Ballet) and **François Richard** (the Royal Winnipeg Ballet). Introduced by emcee **Kelly Rice** of CBC Radio, MSO principal cellist **Brian Manker** awed the audience with his interpretation

of a Bach suite in G Major.

The sold-out, sit-down dinner launched the Montreal Bach Festival, whose artistic director is Westmounter **Alexandra Scheibler**.

During the champagne cocktail, guests noted included **Elisabeth** and **Max Hoyos** and Westmounters **Sandrine Duffar**, **Lorna** and **Michael Denham**, **Lisa** and **Martin Valasek**, **Michael Bucheit**, **Adrian Maas**, **Ginny Nelles** and **Rob Tetrault**, **Anthea** and **Jeremy Oldland**, **Elin** and **Chris Oldland**, **Ariadne Decker** and **John Elton**, and **Chris** and **Connie Dingle**.

The Festival is now on! Visit www.bach-academie-montreal.com.



Westmounters Arabella Decker (left) and Alexandra Scheibler (right) with emcee Kelly Rice of CBC Radio.



Marcel Brisebois, Westmounters Dagmar and Ronald Guttman.



Lawrence and François Duffar, Westmounters Alexandra Scheibler and Timon Deichmann.



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ARE YOU READY TO SELL?

Who knows whether it is the returning confidence in the economy, the low interest rates or a combination of factors, but October was one of the busiest real estate periods on record.* There is currently a shortage of homes for sale in Westmount creating opportunities for sellers. Please call me for a confidential discussion regarding potential buyers for your home.

*(Source – Andy Dodge & Associates)



SOLD

20 Arlington
Asked \$1,375,000



SOLD

35 Church Hill
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521 Lansdowne
Asked \$1,595,000



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Kay Smith launches McGill book



From left, Westmounter Graham Bagnall talks to author Kay Smith.

Author Mackay (“Kay”) Smith launched his fifth book, *Memories and Profiles of McGill University*, at Nicholas Hoare on November 26. The book is a non-specialist’s look at McGill’s buildings and history.

Smith is a retired laundryman and drycleaner with deep roots in Westmount. He grew up on Belvedere Rd., where his grandfather also lived, and lived many years on Renfrew. In addition, one of his “MacKay Smith” drycleaning stores was

located on Greene Ave.

Smith is a Montreal self-publishing phenomenon. His previous book, *Montreal’s Sherbrooke St.: The Spine of the City*, sold 3,000 copies, 2,000 English and 1,000 French. (A Canadian book is considered a bestseller at 10,000 or even 5,000 units).

How are sales going on this one? He had received the books only three days before, so it was too soon to tell, but “hopefully it will go.”

L. Ian Macdonald’s new book looks at the 3 Ps

Westmount writer, editor and columnist L. Ian MacDonald has just launched a new book, *Politics, People and Potpourri*.

This is his fifth book and a “personal project” which includes a collection of his columns, in areas extending from political profiles, Rocket Richard’s funeral, city columns, elections, the sponsorship scandal – as the two first Ps in the title suggests – to softer issues like cottage life, the “potpourri” in the alliteration of the book’s title.

An op-ed columnist, which he describes a “natural home,” MacDonald is also editor for the monthly *Policy Options* magazine, and a father to two daughters, one 19 years old and one 5 months old.

The toughest part about being a writer, according to MacDonald, is dealing with the supply chain management of Canadian retail books, as he related a few snafus at Indigo where his book is available for sale.


MacDonald lived in Westmount in the 1970s and, after a several-year stint in Washington, returned to Quebec and has



L. Ian Macdonald

lived in Westmount since 1996, when “people were moving away, he recalled. He grew up in NDG.

Five Icebergs, Weddell Sea, Antarctica, 2007



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Three-legged Noushka from Lebanon needs a foster home ASAP

BY JORDANA CORBER-TOVEL, GRADE 11, ECS

After a non-stop month of fundraising, supporters managed to raise over \$2,000 to bring over mistreated dogs from Lebanon.

With more donations than we anticipated, we were able to bring over eight more dogs. They are all very lucky – they all have foster homes lined up. All but one, that is...

Let me tell you about this dog, Noushka. She is a sweet 4-year old Ger-



man shepherd from Lebanon who was just very unlucky when it came to her owner. This person ran a garage, and one day Noushka found herself in the wrong place at the wrong time and was hit by a car.

Her owner seemed to find this hilarious, and apparently laughed it off, despite the fact that her terrible injuries included not being able to move one of her legs. Quite some time later, a Lebanese rescue



group came across her and convinced the owner to allow them to bring the dog to see a vet.

Along with other less serious injuries, her leg was in such bad shape that they had to amputate it. The shelter told Noushka's owner that she had died, and kept her hidden away so that he would never try to take her back.

Clearly she stands no chance of finding a new home in Lebanon, where not only is it impossible to promote her at the shelter (since she is a stolen doggy) but even were she to be pitched to a shelter, three-legged dogs don't stand a chance in hell.

Now, Noushka is coming to Montreal in hopes of finding a better life, which shouldn't be hard given what she has known.

She is in serious need of a foster home because she's arriving within the next couple of weeks and still has nowhere to go. We are gambling bringing her like this, but have little choice, as playing it safe is just not going to find her a home.

This dog has a strong character, like most shepherds and needs a strong person to follow. She's completely mobile on her three legs and is good with dogs. Noushka may be somewhat skeptical around strangers, but if you bring her home and take some time getting to know her, she'll warm up to you. Before you know it, she'll become part of the family.

As you can see, all Noushka needs right now is a capable family willing to foster her. Please help her find this foster home now; she's been through a lot. To find out more about Noushka, visit www.underdogclub.org or call 514.969.3376.

Henri Update

Henri appeared in this column a couple of weeks ago. We loved him, you loved him, people called ... it all looked good.

But last week he went to the vet along with his potential new family and never came out. He died of some kind of a blood clot, and we were all stunned.

It really is sad, but at least his last couple of weeks were filled with people who were there for him and made him feel like he was loved. It's far from perfect, but at least he didn't die alone in the corn field where he was found.

We hope he is happy in dog heaven. *FB*

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~ Marty Cooper

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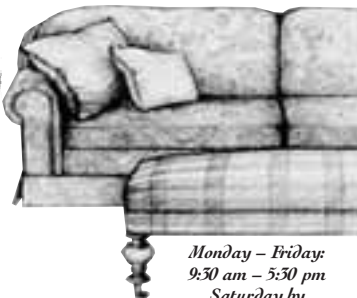
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Best wishes to you and your family for a happy holiday season and a prosperous 2010.

MAYOR PETER F. TRENT



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5 Saisons

continued from p. 1

Plans to redevelop the site are before the city's Urban Planning department. “I have met with Attias and the VP of Metro, and talked with the VP three times,” Trent said. “If the goodwill continues,” he added, “I’m hopeful we’ll be able to reach an agreement for a fairly small zoning change and ensure a long life for 5

Saisons.”

The current commercial zoning allows for erection of a building of three storeys or 35 feet in height. Trent said the city was also trying to retain the terrasse along the south side of de Maisonneuve. “This is very important to the ambiance of Greene. It’s where people meet and socialize, so this is one of the things we’re looking for.”

A press release issued November 27 by Metro Inc. and Ramco, of which Attias is president, stated that recent discussions between them and with the city had been

very productive. “The parties have agreed to evaluate different options to integrate a new 5 Saisons store in the proposed future Ramco development.”

The proposal application has already gone through the Board of Inspections, which checks plans for regulatory conformity, said Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier.

It has also been discussed by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). The role of PAC is to study the conformity of plans vis-à-vis the city's planning guide-

lines and ensure they integrate well with the streetscape and area character.

The site's commercial zoning defines minimum setbacks of five feet on Greene and 10 feet on de Maisonneuve behind the property lines. While the ground floor must be commercial in use, the upper floors may be residential. Some of the permitted commercial occupancies are retail, offices, health studios, cinemas, daycares, labs, and workshops such as a tailor's or cleaner. Attias, a longtime Westmounter, has owned the property some 20 years.

The *Indie's* Self-Promotion Issue

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The ‘working’ parent (know any other kind?)

Before I started my other full-time job (the one I get paid for, not the parenting one that gives me an excuse to watch the Bugs Bunny show and buy Nutella), my daughter and I attended a playgroup at the Westmount Baptist Church with 30 mothers (and a few fathers) and something like 263 kids. The kids bounced off the walls while we tried to chat over decibel levels that often reached the same pitch as a garbage truck when it turns on its mechanical maws and revs its engine. Loud.

I recently bumped into a woman who used to attend playgroup with us. “Zen-Mama” had a toddler and a 3-month old, and walked her child to playgroup at a dreamy pace I only use when I’m sleepwalking or have overdosed on Neo Citran (my standard pace looks like Steve Martin’s disjointed dance in *The Jerk*). She looked like the kind of mother who bought cookbooks of organic food recipes (and actually used them), while knitting socks made from homegrown hemp and singing traditional German lullabies.

She was the mother I wish I had time to be.

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Parenthood uncensored

SOPHIE TARNOWSKA

But something had changed in her: facial lines were deeper, features arranged into a frown – she looked haggard and frazzled. When I asked how she was, she told me she had recently gone back to work. Aha. Exit ZenMama.

A working parent has two full-time jobs – so much so that I urge all employers of said parents to hand out retinol and the number of a good hairdresser/therapist/butler with the first paycheque – or at least a hefty gift certificate for the SAQ.

There is one advantage: I regularly use one job to escape the other – the office is my caffeinated refuge on some days (where my skills acquired dealing with toddler tantrums often come in handy), while the opposite is true when the office gets to be too much – I’ll be in my pyjamas by 6 pm and curl up on the sofa with my daughter for a good dose of “ehhh – what’s up doc?”

The disadvantage to this dual life is that I’ve noticed that I’ve become more disorganized in my home life, simply because I am paid to pretend I’m organized at work. I sit at my desk juggling multiple projects,

budgets, and events all over the country, feeling ecstatically efficient...until I realize that in my haste that morning, I’ve put my underwear on inside out. And that my daughter is one year past due on her immunizations. That the neighbourhood squirrels are practically begging me to put up the bedroom curtains I bought a year ago. That no child can and should live by frozen foods alone.

But if I’m a “working” mother, what are my friends who are full-time mothers? Non-Working Mothers? The term “working parent” is redundant – whether you receive a salary or not, being a parent means walking around with a permanent to-do list in your head, and a large mental clock ticking away the minutes until it rings for the next thing to get done. Add to that a dash of guilt, a large dose of fatigue, a simmering sense of failure seasoned with an occasional sense of accomplishment, and there you are...a parent. One who secretly wonders why multi-tasking isn’t an Olympic event, along with its partner, multi-forgetting – because you’re pretty sure you would place in the top three. In fact, you wonder whether never ever finishing anything could be a form of art – in which case we are all prizewinners.

Please stay tuned to my bi-monthly blog at: www.thekidscoop.com/blog/

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Obesity drugs – panacea or fool’s paradise



**Health
round-up**
BARRY NASHEN

Despite years of research effort, the pharmaceutical industry has not made meaningful progress in combating obesity, arguably one of Canada’s biggest and costliest health problems.

The two existing obesity drugs, Meridia and Xenical, have had limited success, with combined worldwide sales of under \$1 billion. Compare this with the annual sales of the statin drug, Lipitor, at \$13 billion.

Obesity in Canada is a growing health concern as it is one of the leading causes of preventable deaths. Canada ranks 35th on a 2008 list of fattest countries with 61 percent of its citizens having an unhealthy weight.

In the last few weeks, three small American companies have completed clinical trials of the next wave of obesity drugs, which will be considered for approval by the US Food and Drug Administration. If approved, Canada will surely follow. These

new drugs are called Contrave, lorcaserin and Qnexa.

In the last wave, when fen-phen drugs hit the market in 1994, prescriptions soared to 20 million in the US alone, but by 1997 deadly side effects (to the heart) surfaced and the drugs were retired by their manufacturers in the face of huge lawsuits.

Clearly, both Canadians and Americans want a quick fix for losing weight. Is this possible? Will there soon be a free lunch?

Here’s my take: The human body has evolved over hundreds of thousands of years in an environment somewhat different from the one in which we live today. Up until a hundred years ago, with the exception of pharaohs and kings, humans had no alternative but to be physically active on a daily basis, just to survive. More recently, on the whole, we have become much more sedentary, and therefore many of us have thus become overweight, or so the statistics say.

Drugs have side effects

But here’s the problem with all drugs, including past obesity drugs and future ones, too. They introduce chemical formulations into the body that are foreign to

us. Did you ever wonder why all drugs have side effects? It is because our bodies are very finely tuned organisms. While that foreign substance wrapped in a pill may result in one positive effect that we seek, it will surely affect something else inside us that may be dangerous or at least disruptive to our good health.

Let’s look at the situation another way. After thousands of generations of unmitigated success as a species, our bodies expect the following ingredients to remain healthy, be strong to fight off germs and live a long life: Fresh air, pure water, natural fruits and vegetables, whole grains and nuts, and cooked fish, poultry and meat. Most everything else has the opposite effect, robbing us of our good health and destroying our immune system.

No free lunch

In conclusion, there is no free lunch. Next time I will discuss a recent study that has surprising and counterintuitive conclusions that support my own beliefs: The only successful formula for losing weight and regaining strength is a change in lifestyle that promotes healthy habits, including physical activities, a proper diet and a positive mental attitude.

Barry Nashen is a Westmount IT consultant who is interested in health issues and shares his personal experiences in this column. He is not a health professional and his comments should be read in that light. Medical problems should be discussed with a doctor or appropriate health professional.

For comments: barry@nashen.com, or <http://goodhealthguru.blogspot.com/>

Dogs

continued from p. 3

mount the fence, but Murdoch needed no encouragement. Despite the Independent’s suggestion, no dog was allowed to attempt a fence-jump because they are being trained by their owners not to do so.

Creighton’s daughter, Amy Creighton, contends that most North American dog fences are four to five feet high and Westmount’s are in the two feet to three-and-half feet range.

The owners are also interested in the idea of adding hedge height or depth (including an inside hedge), but other people see a higher hedge as a public safety issue.

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Communication and transparency



Ruminations

GEORGE BOWSER

"Communication is everyone's fault." My daughter, who studied and works in this relatively new academic field, told me this. It's funny, so it's probably true.

Some citizens say they want government to be more transparent, meaning that they want to be able to witness the policy-making process, and to see and hear the same information that is available to elected officials, and at the same time. The newer information technologies – the internet, video and audio capture, data compression, fibre-optic and wireless transmission – make total transparency a theoretical possibility, at least for those who can receive and decode the data.

Assume (even though it makes an ass out of you and me) that governments will not filter, or edit, anything that they say or do before they are broadcast. Assume, instead, that there are web-cams at every meeting, that the data is streamed (not recorded or buffered) and that all reports are available in electronic form.

The web-cams will require a very expensive system that will, based on my experience, be constantly in need of upgrades, re-boots, repair and maintenance. Much of the time, they won't work. I can't imagine that there are more than a dozen citizens who would actually watch council meetings on-line, but there's no reason why it shouldn't be possible. On other nights, they could watch the weather channel.

The written material is different. To put it on-line in any meaningful way, somebody has to do quite a lot of work, much of it technically demanding. Without careful packaging, sifting and sorting, the ma-

terial will be the equivalent of a pile of paper dumped on the office floor. Busy officials require staff members to deliver one-page memos, or executive summaries, of reports that are literally of biblical proportions.

Senior officials receive so many of these summaries that even the synthesized versions can add up to a formidable amount of reading material. That's why we elect, pay and trust other people to do it.

That said, all such material is available to the public, but only on request. Otherwise government would be totally paralyzed and all government buildings would be full of filing cabinets and overworked civil servants who constantly have to stop what they are doing in order to do something else. The way it is at my house, in other words.

We must continue to rely on the established forms of communication such as meetings, written minutes, newspapers and notice boards, if only because not everyone has the internet. In large organizations and institutions, there is always a notice board somewhere, and people are supposed to read it. There may even be a notice to that effect on the notice board.

We must gradually implement the newer technologies, without abandoning the old. Citizens deserve to see well-written, clearly presented ideas with organized supporting documents available on request. It's up to government to provide all that, and it's up to citizens to be aware of it. If citizens lose confidence in their elected officials, they can tell them to their faces.

Communication is everyone's fault.

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Sports

continued from p. 28

coordinator Andrew Maislin was ecstatic about the way the weekend turned out – and especially with the win. "We haven't won in five years, so it felt great. The tournament started in 1987, and we had a great run at first, but over the past few years we have been beaten by Cape Ann many times," Maislin explained.

"The tournament was put together for a way for individuals from Cape Ann to get out of town and experience other cultures.

The exchange also allows our players to meet players from other cities, countries, and towns, and explore the other side of the sport.

"Usually our players are of a competitive nature against other teams, however this tournament allows them to bond with the other team."

For players like Judd Garfield, however, it's just a simple matter of having fun. "I'm looking forward to winning the tournament and having a good time on our return to Cape Ann for a great rematch!"

December at the Art Galleries

Galerie de Bellefeuille – Bobbie Burgers: paintings. Vernissage: Dec. 10 at 5:30 pm. Exhibit continues to Dec. 21. 1367 Greene, 514.933.4406.

Galerie D'Este – Small works by 15 artists. Exhibit: Dec. 2 to Dec 24. 1329 Greene Ave., 514.846.1515.

Galerie V. Trimont – Varte & Simirit: drawings, paintings and jewellery. Vernissage: Dec. 3 at 5 pm. Exhibit continues to Dec. 19. 4259 St Catherine St., 514.658.7214.

Gallery at Victoria Hall – Anna Gedalof, Teresa Maglietta and Paola Ridolfi: paintings. Exhibit continues to Dec. 12. 4626 Sherbrooke, 514.989.5226.

La Galerie sur Greene –New works. 1368 Greene Ave., 514.938.3863.

McClure Gallery-Visual Arts Centre – Oscar Varese: 3d painting. Vernissage: Dec. 3 at 6 pm. Exhibit continues to Dec. 23. 350 Victoria Ave., 514.488.9558.

West End Gallery – Richard Long: small-format, still lifes. 1358 Greene Ave., 514.933.4314.



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Westmount wins home end of annual Cape Ann tourney



Off-Sidel

NOAH SIDEL

It might be about sportsmanship above all else in the world of minor hockey, but no one is about to pretend it doesn't feel good to win.

That was just the case for Westmount Hockey, November 20-22, as the organization hosted the Cape Ann, Massachusetts association for an all-out battle at the Westmount arena.

"Cape Ann brought nine teams, and each team at each level, from novice to midget, played two games. We awarded a trophy at the end to the community with the most points overall, and [we] ended up winning based on goals for because we were tied in terms of points," explained Westmount Recreation's Dave Lapointe.

"Overall, each community had seven wins and seven losses with four ties, giving 18 points each, and we came out on top with 66 total goals for against Cape Ann's 63."

Tom Price, who plays forward and defence for the Atom A Westmount Wings had a great weekend.

"I enjoyed playing against a competitive



team, which made us work hard and smart," Price said, looking ahead to the rematch in Massachusetts in early 2010. "I'm looking forward to becoming a stronger team, to be able to beat them during our next tournament as well. Also, it'll be fun getting another chance to play against a great team like the one from Cape Ann."

Atom A coach Bruce Garfield saw the weekend as a useful character-building experience for the players.

"The kids on our team had to deal with adversity for the first time this season. Having been undefeated all year, we played a very tough Cape Ann team. Although we lost the first game, we showed determination and were able to score a late third-period goal to get a tie in the second game. This was a great learning experi-

ence for the kids, and all them had fun," he said. "The Cape Ann tournament is important as it helps bring the whole community together. It's not just about one team winning, but rather it's the combined efforts of all the teams that helped win," he added.

Cape Ann representative Dan McMullen said his group had a positive experience in Montreal this year. "It was such a great tournament, and we were so evenly matched all the way down to the last game, which ended in a tie," McMullen said.

"Westmount scored a total of three goals more than us over an 18-game tournament – how awesome is that? The kids weren't overly disappointed because it was so much fun, but they can't wait for the rematch."

Westmount Recreation *continued on p. 27*

Anna Maria Ranieri

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TRENDSETTER

By VERONICA REDGRAVE

GWEN NACOS

Apart from being an avid tennis player and rower, Westmounter Gwen Nacos founded Cedars CanSupport. Whenever I see her, I always note her special style.

STYLE

How would you describe your personal style?

I guess I would call it modern couture with a touch of the whimsical. I always prefer dressing up more than down, wearing more rather than less, be it jewelry, colour, accessories. I am never uncomfortable being the most dressed up in a room.

What is your favourite way of dressing? Relaxed, black tie?

I love it all but rarely do I just throw something on. I always make a concerted effort to coordinate and accessorize and put my own special twist to everything I wear. I love to dress up as it gives me a chance to go into our factory and create a fur accent piece. (Gwen and her husband Tom manage Natural Furs.)

On weekends, do you wear trendy jeans or comfy jeans or both?

It depends where I'm going and what I plan to do during the day. If I'm downtown and shopping or eating at a special restaurant, I wear trendy. If I am staying local, it might be comfy jeans, but always with jewelry and accessories.

What is your favourite travelling outfit?

I always wear pants and a jacket or blazer to be warm, plus a shawl. I learned long ago to wear well broken-in shoes or boots, since my feet always seem to grow during a flight!

For the past 20 years, you have devoted time to Cedars CanSupport. What is this organization exactly?

After my own rough, personal experience with cancer, I felt I had an understanding of what cancer patients face and many of their concerns. I made a commitment to put that understanding into action. I started Cedars CanSupport to offer much needed services and programs to those facing a cancer diagnosis, and I have been fundraising to support our efforts.

With a cancer diagnosis and the roller coaster ride of surgery, treatments, good news, bad news and constant uncertainty, it is no time to be alone. Cedars CanSupport provides free, practical, educational, emotional and humanitarian support for cancer patients and their families. Our aim is to reach out to each and every cancer patient at their time of diagnosis and to be there for them each step along their cancer journey.

One annual social calendar fall event is the Dragon Boat Race. Where do the participants come from? What do people wear? Do they get wet?

I have chaired the annual Cedars Cancer Institute Fuller Landau "Rain or Shine" Dragon Boat Race & Festival for the past three years. It funds our work at Cedars CanSupport. This year we had 35

teams, with 21 members per team. You can imagine the size of the crowd and the excitement! The paddlers themselves come from all over Montreal and from as far away as Harrington and the Eastern Townships.

Yes, you can definitely get wet – especially when team members get carried away and start splashing their teammates! This year, shorts and team shirts were the standard, but I remember two years ago when we are bundled up in polar fleece and getting wet was no picnic!

LIVING

If you had a choice, where would you live in the world (money no object!)

No question – New York City.

Do you have flowers in your home?

Always. I like orchids most of the year, amaryllis over the Christmas/New Year period, and sunflowers and arrangements of vegetables in the fall.

Who would you invite to a dinner party if you could have anyone in the world, and from any era.

I think for the journey that was, Nelson Mandela, and for the journey that will be, Barack Obama.

FASHION

Today many stores such as Zara, H&M, Mango and Le Château offer the latest looks at an affordable price. Possibly, Armani is the last "old school design" to be still creating. What do you think of today's fashions?

I think the current crop of designers is as creative as ever. Part of loving fashion is



Gwen Nacos

enjoying the evolution and change. I think perhaps what is missing is the elegance of yesteryear. I remember my first opera at the old Metropolitan Opera House in New York City when I was 13 years old. The men wore opera capes and black ties; the women were dressed elegantly. That lifestyle has become rare.

Favourite designer?

I buy pieces I fall in love with, from my Jean-Paul Gaultier tunic, my over-the-top Dries van Noten bangle necklace, to my thigh-high Miu Miu leather boots. Canadian designers I like are Marie St. Pierre and Andy The-Anh.

Last word?

Despite my great love of fashion, who I am is the work I do.

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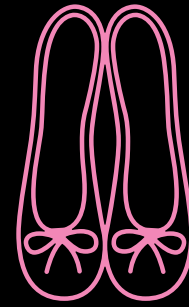
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