

On your marks

Get Set

GO!



At left, Olympic torch bearer David Cape awaits the flame December 10 on the steps of city hall. To his left, Westmounter and former IOC vice president Richard Pound; to his right former summer Olympian and former Westmounter Andréanne Morin. For more photos, see p. 24-25.

Photos: Robert J. Galbraith

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 3 No. 12c

We are Westmount

December 15-16, 2009

Indie's last 2009 issue

Lulham: 'Streamlining' building permits in the works

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Changes are on the way to "streamline" the city's building permit process and provide consultation regarding new buildings and additions, Councillor Cynthia Lulham announced at the council meeting Dec. 7.

Coming only a couple of hours after the city's annual tree lighting party, the news could be considered by some as Santa bearing gifts for residents, who have long complained about delays for routine renovations and the impact of major projects.

"We're looking at streamlining the pro-

cedure if work is simple and straight forward," as in the case of windows.

On the other hand, she said, "we're studying ways to set up a public consultation process for new buildings or additions, and to help people work more closely with the city's Planning Advisory Committee so they can move forward together." Demolition procedures are also under review.

The project is just getting underway, and changes should be ready within the year, she said.

First Indie of 2010: Jan. 12

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Council meeting reports

FROM DECEMBER 7 COUNCIL MEETING

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Public Security gets new batons

It will be business as usual for Westmount's Public Security Unit once officers are trained in the use of new telescopic night sticks.

The measure was announced by city council when the acquisition of 25 new batons was approved along with training in their use from the provincial police academy, all at a cost of some \$19,000. Council also authorized the use of the batons.

Officers had been equipped for many years with defence batons called PR-24 sticks. In March, however, they were removed from service (see the *Independent*, December 1, 2009, p. 1).

The city was advised that its PSOs were not authorized to carry the PR-24 stick because "they were for the exclusive use of police in crowd control," explained Councillor Gary Ikeman, commissioner of Public Security.

As a result, and following discussions in October with the CSST (Quebec's occupational health and safety board), officers were given new interim directives. These included not patrolling parks after dark or responding to calls involving panhandlers or posing potential risk.

The complex issue of dealing with panhandlers was also raised at the meeting and was explained as more of a social issue than one of enforcing Westmount's existing nuisance by-law governing panhandling (see also the *Independent*, November 17, p. 1.)

All citizens to be polled on arena

Come spring – as early as March – all Westmounters can expect to receive a mailing to explain the latest plan and cost analysis of the arena/pool project, Mayor Peter Trent told the council meeting.

"It will contain a coupon to get feed-in from all Westmounters," Trent said.

The strategy echoes one followed for the refurbishment of the Westmount Public Library 15 years ago during Trent's first mayoral term. But it differs from one adopted by the former council which intended to commission a company to conduct a telephone poll of some 800 residents on the project.

The latest arena update included the announcement by Trent that over the next few months, the city would be undertak-

Parking changes at four spots

Watch out for new parking restrictions at five locations.

City council has banned parking entirely on the west side of Academy Rd. north of the arena to allow easier passage for emergency vehicles. "This is being done on a permanent basis," said Councillor Patrick Martin in moving the resolution. Overnight parking between 11 pm and 9 am had been permitted.

Changes at three other spots will be implemented on a six-month trial.

These include the creation of a 10-minute drop-off area for Roslyn School on the east side of Grosvenor Ave., weekdays from 7:30 am to 4 pm. Parking is prohibited at all other times.

Another new 10-minute drop-off point is outside Narnia preschool on the west side of Melville Ave. at Academy Rd. This goes into effect on weekdays from 8:15 to 8:45 am and 5:15 to 5:45 pm. Otherwise, parking is prohibited.

The existing no-parking regulation on the west side of Clarke Ave. between St. Catherine and de Maisonneuve is to be relaxed on weekends from 9 am to 7 pm. This follows a request from St. Léon church. A similar request from the Ascension of Our Lord Church further north remains under inspection.

As well, parking is to be limited to permit holders on the east side of Redfern Ave., between St. Catherine and de Maisonneuve, north from civic number 234. This results from a large amount of commercial traffic.

ing "a needs assessment, traffic/parking study and an operational cost projection."

The new council was "changing the project" while "making sure we don't let the grant slip through our fingers," he said, "We're trying to do both." Details would come later. The city is receiving a \$20-million federal-provincial grant for the projects estimated at a cost of more than \$30 million.

This gave rise to questions from one resident concerning the amount of debt load the city could shoulder over the arena – ranging from \$10 million to \$20 million. He likened the per capita debt to approaching Montreal's, a claim disputed by the mayor because this does not take actuarial deficit into consideration, he said.

City names library trustees

Westmount's Public Library Committee has a new member who was appointed by city council.

She is Janet Boeckh, who chairs the city's McEntyre Creative Writing Competition, and will assume a three-year term. The trustee positions are open to interested local residents.

Boeckh was selected from four other applicants to fill the position of outgoing trustee, Jean Williams. In the meantime, Williams will remain on the committee in an interim capacity until the return of member Lily Lam, who is out of town.

Council also re-appointed the committee's chair and longtime trustee, Marjorie Gawley, to a one-year term.

The committee meets once a month to help the library and liaise with the Friends of the Library group, explained Councillor Nicole Forbes, city council's commissioner of Culture and Library Services. Forbes, Kathleen Duncan and Cynthia Lulham are the three councillor trustees.

Dec. 21 budget?

Westmount taxpayers may be finding out just before the holidays how much they'll be paying the city in 2010.

As long as Westmount can obtain its "quote-part" for shared agglomeration expenses in time, it may be able to present the new budget December 21, Mayor Peter Trent said at the council meeting. Laying the groundwork, Councillor Tim Price served notice of motion for the levying of taxes "at a subsequent meeting."

Trent said the city would be able to unveil its budget even though he would be sitting on an *ad hoc* agglomeration budget committee in early January to help finalize island-wide expenses. (See *Independent*, Dec. 1, p. 1).

This December timeframe, he later explained, would prevent the city having to delay collection of its first installment of taxes and meet its own agglomeration payments. The city collects Westmount's taxes as well as the portion going to the agglomeration council, typically a 50-50 breakdown of some \$40 million each, he said.

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Hearing back

Public Security and parks

In “City stops park patrols at night” (December 1, p. 1), we wrote that Westmount’s Public Security Unit had stopped patrolling parks at the end of October.

City director general Duncan Campbell has since stated to the *Independent* that some officers have been entering parks at night, but the choice to do so or not has been left to their discretion, given their lack of a nightstick or a replacement.

When the new telescopic sticks are issued to officers (see “Public Security gets new batons”, p. 3), regular park patrols will resume.

It is our understanding that Public Security issued a directive at the end of October to all its officers, which stated that foot patrols in parks should only be undertaken during daylight.

While the fact that some individual officers have been entering parks of their own accord is newsworthy (and thus reproduced here), reporter Laureen Sweeney and I feel that it does not change the fact that “patrols” in the normal sense of the word stopped in October.

In reference to the final paragraph of the same story, Campbell pointed out to the *Independent* that TMR and its security

sub-contractor were required by the CSST to make bulletproof vests available to their officers, but have not *equipped* officers with such protection.

We have since confirmed with TMR that its vests are normally kept at the station, and are not regularly worn or carried in officers’ cars.

While the details of TMR’s practices add to our understanding of that city’s practices (and are thus reproduced here), Laureen and I stand by her use of the word “equip,” using it in the same sense as “equipping” firefighters with fire boots, helmets and other specialized paraphernalia, which firefighters do not necessarily wear all the time, but have available to them.

It also noteworthy that our story described the CSST ruling and not the facts on the ground in TMR., “The issue ... has resulted in a recent CSST ruling requiring officers in the Town of Mount Royal to be equipped with bulletproof vests.”

The CSST ruling, written in French, uses the verb “fournir” to describe what TMR’s subcontractor must do, which would usually be translated as “furnish,” or “equip.” DP

Demolition hearings: 20 Aberdeen and 68 Summit Circle

Sustainability, heritage at issue

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two demolition hearings December 8 revolved around very different scenarios, one of which was a request to tear down a category II heritage-rated house at 20 Aberdeen to create a side garden for an adjacent property.

The other concerned a home under approved renovation at 68 Summit Circle which needed a demolition permit after city inspectors found that 50 percent of the masonry had been removed or crumbled.

City council’s Demolition Committee ruled in favour of the request concerning 68 Summit Circle, chairman Patrick Martin told the *Independent* at press time Monday. No decision has yet been reached in the other case, he said.

While no objections had been filed by interested parties, it was the request to demolish 20 Aberdeen that generated lengthy discussion. This was based largely on issues presented by the city’s Planning

Advisory Committee (PAC), which recommended against the demolition.

These focused on sustainability and heritage as well as the “gap” that would be left in current streetscape.

Fits well with streetscape

Presenting the concerns of PAC, chair Carole Scheffer said the 1932 house reflects the simple style of the Depression. “It fits well in the streetscape and rhythm of the street.” The house does not require demolition which “goes against the spirit of sustainable design.”

Scheffer later added that it was still viable and re-usable, “which is the first tenet of sustainability.”

Theodora Samiotis, one of three councillors on the demolition committee, pressed for more answers to the sustainability issue “because there’s nothing wrong with the house.” On the other hand, she pointed out, new green space would be cre-

continued on p. 7

Cutler, council take aim at gun registry critics

The current council and former mayor May Cutler are on the same page when it comes to gun control. Both support the current federal gun registry, and see a link between the 20th anniversary of the École Polytechnique massacre and its continuation.

Cutler was the mayor of Westmount when Marc Lépine killed 14 women at the University of Montreal’s engineering school on December 6, 1989. In the wake of the slayings, she discontinued the leasing of the Westmount arena to a gun show.

Cutler is now advocating that Montreal have a permanent park and museum dedicated to the problem of violence against women. She is suggesting Île Notre Dame as the site. In a statement circulated to both French and English local media, she wrote, “Montreal is the most natural place for such a centre because ... it is in Montreal that the most singular incident occurred: 14 young women were murdered in 20 minutes simply because they were women.”

According to Cutler, the installation would be unique too: “There are many major world organizations fighting

against violence towards women, but there is no great *visual* centre to dramatize it or a place where access to information is available.”

Cutler attended an event on December 6 at Parc Émilie Gamelin, near Berri Square, that commemorated the massacre, but was disappointed by what she perceived as a lack of anglos in attendance.

Westmount’s current council agrees that gun control should play a part in commemorating the tragedy. On December 7, it voted unanimously to support the Quebec government’s opposition to private member’s bill C-391, a federal parliamentarian’s initiative to repeal the registry.

Councillor Victor Drury, speaking before the Westmount resolution’s passage, explained that the high initial costs of setting up the database have already been incurred and that it is now relatively inexpensive to maintain. Other arguments for keeping it include the reduction in long-gun violence since its inauguration and its popularity with chiefs of police.

Speaking to the *Independent* after the council meeting, Cutler agreed. “There is absolutely no reason for not registering a gun.”

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, p. 12

A lighter look at the year just closing

Goodbye 2009! Changes and trends from the year gone by

For all the respect paid to its heritage, Westmount still is an evolving community. Life more than goes on – it develops. As 2009 ends, how are things changing? Let's take a lighter look as the year is finishing.

For instance, gardeners tell me it was remarkable for the number of weekends lost to **rain**. Nonetheless, city parks suffered little, according to horticulturist Claudette Savaria. "There was less watering to do, though," she admitted.

"New generations of aphids appeared and the black spots on leaves were more prolific."

There was a lot of interest in making a Sustainable Development Action Plan. It is so large and comprehensive that setting achievable priorities has become a task in itself.

On the other hand, the Teen Centre scored by taking on distribution of a farmer's produce to support local agriculture. Thus it was in the forefront of volunteer responses toward creating a sustainable community.

Politically, it was an election year and residents brought back Peter Trent as **mayor**; he had held office for 10 years before taking an eight-year time-out. There were also four new councillors.

They promptly found themselves deluged in old problems for which there are no ready answers: parking, panhandlers, bike paths, dogs, pedestrian crossings, street lights and a huge Montreal-arranged debt, among them.

Meantime, the population quietly waits for new proposals for the arena/pool project, which was headed towards an unwellcome \$40-million estimate when last presented.

On the other hand, there was joy when the new mayor seemed to have brokered a deal, so that instead of having to close, the **5 Saisons** supermarket on Greene Ave. might be re-born as part of a new development.

The emotions generated over the potential closing of the store and its plaza – the nearest thing to a town square – were amazing. The word is that the developer, a local man, was pressured by neighbours to reconsider his plans. Power of the people!

Change can occur everywhere. For residents of 4,724 homes, garbage collection was reduced to once a week to make way for a kitchen waste collection. As a result, 392 tonnes was sent for **composting** rather than to landfill by the end of November.

Up on the Summit, an **owl** has made its



Civic Alert

DON WEDGE

nest on an old oak tree on the west side. In 2008, it moved elsewhere, but has now returned to its original home – this time with a mate.

"We're hoping for a family next year," said noted Westmount bird-watcher Kyra Emo, of Bird Protection Quebec.

She reported that the number of migratory birds was about the same as in recent years, but notes that 2009 saw an increase in the number of paliated woodpeckers in the area.

"It's the bird Woody Woodpecker was based on – blasé about people, bigger than a crow, with a red head and black and white feathers," Emo informed me. She followed with the warning: "We mustn't keep cutting down trees that provide birds' habitat."

Migratory habits belong to many human residents, too. "People are mainly going south again for their winter escapes," reported Maria Alpomare, manager of Voyages Westmount on Victoria Ave.

"Perhaps they are not staying as long as in previous years, but they are definitely thinking of travel again after holding back following the economic situation. Cruises are popular, particularly for the younger market.

"Not so many are going to Europe; that may be because of the **H1N1** scare, but that seems to be clearing up now."

Of course, the swine flu was a concern in every area. Because it has not been as bad as some feared, it doesn't mean that the concern has totally disappeared.

The health authority established a clinic in Alexis Nihon Plaza where 68,049 people had been vaccinated by December 9. The slick operation received a 90 percent satisfaction rating from those surveyed.

The special clinics will close on December 18, but the vaccine will still be available through conventional medical channels. Last week, our CLSC-Metro began visits to house-bound people, as well as setting up for residents of Château Westmount.

The clinic has now vaccinated students and staff from most local public and private schools.

But we don't always recognize the part

youth plays in community life. Over 10,000 people – mainly young – attend classes at Dawson College. There are 2,500 evening students, but day attendance is capped by the province at 7,500.

Leading the province

Nevertheless the CEGEP is booming: it had 12,000 applicants for the places available in the 2009-10 academic year. This is 12 percent more than last year and made the college the leader in Quebec.

Westmount's private CEGEP, Marianopolis, is now celebrating its centennial and the second year of its return to the Westmount Ave. location. The college's pre-university subjects have been supplemented by its first jazz diploma program.

The October lecture, in the centennial series, by General Romeo Dallaire drew a large audience, including many local residents, and enabled Marianopolis to demonstrate its emergence as a community resource.

Another 100-year-old institution is not about to be celebrated! Yet the **water** network still makes its essential deliveries. Most of the 63.4 km network now belongs to the city, and even the 12.7 km of pipes owned by Montreal are maintained by Westmount.

This city took over the distribution of water in 2006. The following year, there were 27 leaks, but this has steadily fallen and there have been only 20, up until December 10 this year.

Unlike the water, the 59.1 km sewage system has belonged to Westmount since its installation. Problems are fewer as

maintenance has been a higher priority. Also pipes have been lined to give them a new life-span.

But whatever trends establish themselves, we have to face winter. It's back, as we found out last week. That means **snow** has to be moved from our 51 km of streets and 103 km of sidewalks.

Although 2009 began with a 72 cm snow challenge (January average 53 cm), it was an almost snowless spring with only 3.8 cm in March and April combined (average 39 cm).

The normal year brings 225 cm, but until the end of November, the total was only 116 cm. Even with about 23 cm last week, it will take some large snowfalls in the final few days of December to maintain the average.

Perhaps we are already into the effects of global warming. Thoughts of the dramatic changes that it could bring can wait till **2010**.

Citizen activist Don Wedge thanks all the busy Westmounters who helped compile this report and contributed to the columns throughout the year.

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Second coming? Unmanned recycling truck slams into St. Matthias

By Isaac Olson, with staff files

During December 9's snowstorm, an unmanned recycling truck careened down Church Hill and, after destroying a lamp-post and slamming into St. Matthias Anglican Church, landed on top of a parked car that had been vacated only moments before.

No one was injured in the accident, but plenty of hairs were raised as the potential for catastrophe left some people counting their blessings this holiday season.

According to police, who cannot name those involved, the driver set the freight truck's brakes at about 5:40 pm and got out of the vehicle to collect recycling. That's when things went awry.

Adelbert Pimentel, police station 12's community officer, said evidence indicates the truck slid down the steep hill made slippery by the weather. Upon interrogation of the driver, who had a valid license and insurance, the investigating officer determined the brakes were locked and there was no sign of criminal negligence or other violations, Pimentel said.

To determine if it was a brake failure,

the truck would need to be inspected by mechanics and, at this point, police have no reason to take the investigation to that level, he said.

Too close for comfort

"There was this horrific sound," recounts Reverend Kenneth Near, who was working in the church's administrative office when the truck hit. "I didn't know what it was. I thought for sure the second coming was coming early."

The truck jumped the curb and thread the small sidewalk space between the parked car and the church before slamming into its northeast wall, said Near. It hit with such force, he continued, the backend of the truck lifted off the ground, shifted over and landed on top of the car.

When Near opened the door onto Church Hill, the truck was a few feet from his nose. With red hydraulic fluid splat-

tered across the white snow like blood and a large recycling truck perched on top of a car, Near said he was immediately concerned.

"I thought someone might be hurt," said Near. "I ran, looked in the cab and there was nobody there. I was shocked."

About a minute before the accident happened, Near said a woman who cleans part of the church facility was arguing with her young son. The boy wanted to stay in the car and play video games. She told him it was too cold and brought him inside.

Moments later, said Near, her Honda was underneath the recycling truck.

"It was a remarkable thing in every way," he observed. "If it had been a half a meter over, it would have come into my office."

The damage

Near, who has already *continued on p. 29*

The truck and the car meet.

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.....
continued from p. 4

ated by the demolition.

The PAC had approved the replacement landscaping plan presented by architect Bruce Anderson.

On the issue of sustainability, the owner of 68 Summit Circle, Jay Bassila, appealed to the assembly to be allowed to carry out work to more fully protect the exterior of the home so it would not deteriorate until a demolition permit might be issued – and the 30-day appeal process exhausted. He was told he could do so.

Concerning 20 Aberdeen, Scott Jones, who already owned and was extensively renovating the house next door at 26 Aberdeen, said he had seized the opportunity to purchase 20 Aberdeen in July to create a garden. It would allow for unblocking windows on the south side of his house which now open onto the brick wall of 20 Aberdeen.

Demolition Committee member Kathleen Duncan asked if the house were allowed to be demolished, could the vacant lot then be used to build another home or for adding an extension to the one next door. “It would have to be approved, but it is possible,” replied Joanne Poirier, the city’s Urban Planning director.

In presenting a comprehensive case for demolition, architect Anderson pointed to a precedent-setting example on upper Argyle in 2002. He also presented seven letters from neighbours supporting the demolition.

He pointed out that the loss of the house was not likely to lower the city’s tax revenue because extensive renovations from 26 Aberdeen would probably increase the combined valuation.

“We’re going to have to wrestle with all this,” stated Councillor Patrick Martin, who chairs the Demolition Committee, as the three retreated behind closed doors for initial deliberation.

Interestingly, historical research on the property by the city showed it had once belonged to 18 Aberdeen, the house to the south.

Decisions pending in demolitions



20 Aberdeen Ave., with 26 Aberdeen next door to the north.



68 Summit Circle under renovation.



Rendering of 68 Summit Circle showing the new facade after the construction.

Campbell Cohen Worsoff

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Ushering in the yuletide



Mayor Peter Trent threw the switch to light the Christmas tree outside city hall December 7.

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Longstanding tradition: This was the scene in the council chamber two hours before the regular meeting.

The city council chamber was overflowing with children and parents as well as others at the indoor start to the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Party on December 7. After a number of seasonal games,

the group moved outside to watch the lights turn on and sing carols with the Harmonia Westmount choir. A party followed at the adjacent Lawn Bowling Clubhouse.

Horticultural society gets decorating tips



At the Christmas meeting of the Westmount Horticultural Society, December 8, Denis D'Etcheverry of Flore demonstrates the art of creating topiary and decorating for Christmas. The event took place at the Westmount Lawn Bowling Clubhouse.

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lautrechoixminimarche@gmail.com
December Holiday Hours
24th 10am - 5pm
25th 12pm - 5pm
26th CLOSED
27th 10am - 5pm
Jan. 1st CLOSED

Les Viandes Bio Charlevoix is now available!

You may be looking for tokens of your appreciation for loved ones & significant others... whether it be for a foodie, a carb-o-holic or a chocolate addict; whether you have a small budget or not, I've got you covered!

*Westmount
426 Wood Ave.*



\$1,425,000 – “On the flat”

*Westmount
492 Strathcona Ave.*



\$2,455,000 – “At the park”

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of my dear clients, friends & family a most joyous & relaxing & healthy holiday season!

I thank you all for making 2009 a special year for me!

For those of you who have not yet joined my family of very satisfied clients, you are invited to do so.



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Update on SWAT tournament

The winner of the SWAT charity tournament that took place between December 3 and 6 at the Westmount arena was *The Gazette* team which beat Lasalle 5-0. The semi-finals had Lasalle beat Pointe Claire 3-1, and *The Gazette* beat Kirkland 1-0.

The annual Ken Sinclair Sportsmanship Trophy was presented to Karin Marks, former Westmount mayor and former chair of the suburban mayors, after the tournament. She was recognized for her continued support of SWAT's efforts and for securing a \$20 million grant for a new recreation centre.

"She was always a good supporter of the tournament while she was there," said Howard Hoppenheim, SWAT trustee.

Fundraising efforts included soliciting Westmount retailers, professionals and other corporate sponsors to purchase ads in the SWAT program brochure. There

was also a silent auction and raffle.

The raffle for Montréal Canadiens Michael Cammalleri's hockey sweater raised over \$1,000, said Hoppenheim, but the total amount raised from the tournament is still being calculated.

"It's always tough in a tournament with eight teams because there's only one winner and everybody else who doesn't win," said Jim West, SWAT co-chair. "But the bottom line is, the hospitals won from this one. That's all it is. It's about the fundraiser and having fun. So, it worked out really well."



Westmount Park United Church

4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
corner Lansdowne
(514) 937-1146

Christmas Service -
Saturday, December 19th
4:30 at p.m.

Christmas Eve Carol
Service - Thursday,
December 24th
at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Frank Giffen, Minister
Children welcome
Come relax and enjoy
worship & warm fellowship
at WPUC.

Check out our website at:
www.westmountparkuc.org

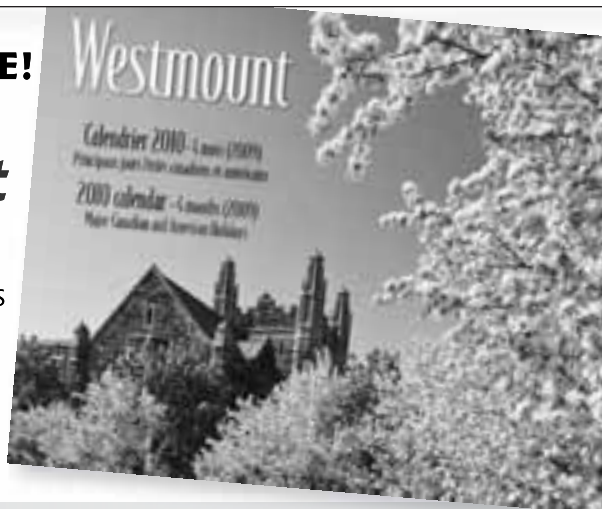
We wish our very good friends,
the residents at The 4300, a
Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas
and a great New Year!

Nancy & Jack Cooperberg
Email: ja.na.coop@sympatico.ca

NOW AVAILABLE! 2010 Westmount Calendar

12 unique colour photos
of Westmount scenes

**An ideal holiday
gift for family
or friends**



\$15 This is a fundraising project of The Rotary Club of Westmount.
All proceeds go to its projects – here and around the world...

AVAILABLE AT:

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Westmount YMCA, 4585 Sherbrooke St. W.
Manoir Westmount, 4646 Sherbrooke St. W.
Scotia Bank, 1326 Greene Avenue
Westmount Stationery, 4887 Sherbrooke St. W.
Westmount Independent, 310 Victoria Ave., #105



Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

• **Community Chanukah Celebration** candle lighting at city hall, 5:30 pm, then at the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim (450 Kensington Ave.) at 6 pm. All welcome.

• **Mary Soderstrom** leads the **Atwater Book Club** in a discussion of *Lives of the Saints* by Nino Ricci. Atwater Library (1200 Atwater Ave.), 7:30 pm. Free, everyone welcome.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

The **Robert Harvie** photographic album presented by Doreen Lindsay of the Westmount Historical Association, 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Library. Free for members; \$5 for non-members at the door. Info: 514.989.5510.

Idling is illegal except...

Marilynn Vanderstaay was working in her home office on December 10, until fumes from an idling truck outside made it impossible to do so.

The fourth-floor apartment dweller told the *Independent* that the offending vehicle

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

• **TGIF at Centre Greene**, 6 pm to 8:30 pm. Dinner, games and fun. Cost: \$12 drop in or \$70 for the season. Ages 6 to 12 years. Info: www.centregreene.com or call 514.931.6202.

• **Chanukah** at Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom, family dinner, 6 pm. Cost: \$25, adult temple members, \$36 non members; \$20, university students with ID (up to 22 yrs); \$12 children (under 12). Bring your own wine. Reserve: Anita at 514.937.3575, ext. 212.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

• **Pre-holiday mini camp** at Centre Greene for ages 5-12. Also on December 22 and 23. Cost: \$25 per day. Register: 514.931.6202. Info: www.centregreene.org.

• **Council meeting**, 8 pm at city hall.

was outside her St. Catherine St. building for over an hour. She contacted Public Security, but reports that she was told that there is "no law that can stop [vehicles] from idling in winter."

Another resident of lower Westmount, who didn't wish to be identified, was told the same thing last month.

The *Independent* contacted Public Security director Richard Blondin, who explained that there is an exception to Westmount anti-idling law that allows the practice when it is colder than -10°C. (Other exceptions include emergency vehicles and the idling of taxis in the winter-time.)

According to the National Climate Data and Information Archive's website, the coldest temperature in Montreal on December 10 was -4.3°C.

Regarding the apparent confusion in his department over when the exception applies, Blondin said "We'll correct it."

Come and Worship

Christmas at St. Matthias' Anglican Church

Sunday December 20
Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Sung Eucharist

Thursday December 24
Christmas Eve
5:00pm Children & Family Pageant
with Jazz Ensemble
10:00pm Candlelight Christmas Eve
Service with Traditional Carols

Friday December 25
Christmas Day
10:30am Christmas Day Eucharist
with Chamber Orchestra

St. Matthias' Anglican Church
131 Cote St. Antoine Rd.
(corner Metcalfe in Westmount)
Bus 24, 104, 138 to Sherbrooke & Metcalfe stop –
walk one block North
514-933-4295
Rector: The Reverend Kenneth M. Near
Music Director: John Wiens

AUDITIONS TO BE HELD IN JANUARY

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Artistic Director • Tiphaine Legrand

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► Interesting, challenging and diverse musical education
► Concert season includes appearances with the OSIM (Feb-March 2010)

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Junior Choir : 6 to 9 years Wednesdays 4:15 - 5:30 pm
Senior Choir : 9 to 17 years Mondays and Thursdays 4:15 - 6 pm

For information: **450-458-7129**
www.choeurdesenfantsdemontreal.com

THANK YOU

FOR A RECORD-BREAKING 2009

SOLD heather, danny, suny & henry leave the burbs to buy the naudie's big abode on belmont **SOLD** the martz's make major plans to make over merton **SOLD** lucy, kim callum & lizzie pack up pronto & wonder "have we been punk'd?" **SOLD** david, carole & the kids see their way out of cedar into something super snazzy **SOLD** kate peter & the kids camp out before completing claremont **SOLD** gloria & jean bash big walls making marlowe magnificent **SOLD** the rolphs bail out of upper belmont & roll into rockin' residence on redfern **SOLD** the ayoub's bid adieu to argyle for awesome adventure on atwater **SOLD** the rosenheks ditch draper (taking along diapers) to residence on upper roslyn **SOLD** joanne, geoff & the juniors prepare to bust out of belfrage **SOLD** cathy & the kids remove themselves from roslyn to make memories on murray hill **SOLD** the woolgars wave bye bye to westmount & blast off to BC **SOLD** mark, helen & their merry young men manage their next move **SOLD** bibo manages mambo move to montreal for 3 musketeers from distant dubai. **SOLD** the hengen/davies wander into wood with twins in mommy's womb **SOLD** after 30 years the nayars leave lovely lansdowne to live near their lovelies **SOLD** the coté/fortins forge into the future without going far **SOLD** the hagartys hang tight down under **SOLD** karina & paul fly away to france footloose & fancy free **SOLD** the wonderful walsh's waltz outta' campbell moving the family to fenwick **SOLD** jay & sandra head out of highland & into ontario leaving the gallery behind **SOLD** the bahs are very victorious on victoria **SOLD** catherine & josephine wind things up on winchester **SOLD** allowing jeanie, barry & gypsie to take over the torch **SOLD** the maroufs lovingly leave lewis legacy behind **SOLD** luca & his mom move into manageable maison **SOLD** bernard & eve cut the cord on their beloved crescent **SOLD** christiane picks up the pieces & packs up on pine **SOLD** the basu/jacobs move out of marlowe & take off for texas **SOLD** the lewis' are called to quebec by concordia & create cocoon on argyle **SOLD** heather & bob leave behind their belmont beauty **SOLD** the elkins & their teens transfer from toronto & make their move to demaisonneuve **SOLD** the seiffedines settle into sunset with spectacular success **SOLD** hal & monika move the munchkins to montreal west **SOLD** rachel & daniel buy a bargain on the boulevard **SOLD** bill & melanie retreat from their rental to relocate on roslyn **SOLD** the carrolls cut their ties to canada & stick with the UK **SOLD** lys & dajan make a miracle out of melbourne **SOLD** the miller/leaheys pack up on prince-albert **SOLD** trevor purchases perfect pad close to the park **SOLD** cynthia & susan simultaneously say see 'ya to their home sweet home **SOLD** jennifer lands a large unit with lovely layout on lansdowne **SOLD** the porritts pour into mount pleasant with plenty of prams **SOLD** nicky & john cash out of clark & do a number on their new nest **SOLD** the goyettes of grosvenor move to their lovely lodging on Lansdowne **SOLD** the harmans return home to roost & deal with drastic downsize **SOLD** david susan & sarah pack up for pennsylvania **SOLD** charming churchill gets passed on by the schaffers **SOLD** the ross sisters mark the bittersweet sale of their beloved burton **SOLD** laura & jonah prepare to pack up for their new pad **ALSO THIS YEAR** carl & louise call on christie's great estates & put forth **PROFUSION** christina hits the books & becomes a broker **SPECIAL THANKS** to my buyers whose perfect pad has yet to be picked, to my sellers whose homes are still to be sold, to my classy colleagues who offer consistent capable collaboration **AND** finally to elizabeth, macy & ginny for being the team that tames every tangle.

CONGRATULATIONS to all my kind clients & **THANK YOU AGAIN** for your continued confidence!



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LIKING IT UNCENSORED

Ms. Tarnowska, the neighbourhood squirrels can rest assured that your bedroom curtains will go up eventually, once you've scratched most things off your to-do-list. (Most of us use them for decorative purposes anyway.) They should only be so lucky you're wearing underwear, even if they're on inside out!

Looking forward to reading your next uncensored article.

PEGGY CHELHOT, SUMMIT CIRCLE

VACCINE MEGA MARKETING

In Dr. Yoanna Skrobik's letter (November 17, p. 8), her uncalled-for remarks concerning "yoga techniques or mushroom extract" having never changed the course of lethal, infectious disease is, of course, unfounded.

Time and statistics of many countries have shown remarkable cures through naturopathy and yoga as a living science.

The *Glengarry News* of Alexandria, Ontario in its August 19 issue stated in a well-researched letter by Heidi Johl of the alarming side effects of the squalene adjuvant in most vaccines.

This is "side-stepped" purposely by medical reps speaking of the flu vaccine as a must for one and all.

Big pharma has, as per usual, enormous profits to glean.

It's mega marketing all the way. Heidi Johl lists much vital information on vaccines and side effects, which can be misdiagnosed when, months to several years after vaccination, serious symptoms emerge, but again, rarely are traced to vaccines and the squalene immune adjuvant.

These are: rheumatoid arthritis, autoimmune disorders, multiple sclerosis, lupus and others. A very sobering revelation.

Tracer techniques were used that showed the effects routinely entered the brain following vaccination.

"The squalene is a reckless experiment by public health officials, and the government funds it with a chunk of our tax dollars," to quote Johl in her letter.

DOUGLAS FALES, CLARKE AVE.

BEWARE OF 'TROJAN' GRANT

If it were not so tragic for the pocket-book of Westmount citizens, it could be written as a comedy.

Newly acclaimed Mayor Trent announced at a December 7 council meeting that a new series of studies would be undertaken to determine the city's needs for a Mega Sports Arena along with traffic and parking issues that will be created by such

a project.

Wow! All of this is being done (paid for by the taxpayers again) after the previous administration led by Karin Marks already committed to pay Lemay & Associates \$1.3 million of taxpayers' dollars for architectural plans for this project. We do not have to add in the other additional costs already incurred for soil testing, time spent by Public Works employees, etc. to call this double "backasswords." Sadly, Mayor Trent, I am sure you understand that proper feasibility and need studies should have been undertaken by the previous administration before they spent one dollar of taxpayers' money on this citizen-dividing, poorly-located ice palace project.

All of this should be considered together with the difficult financial times people are facing and with the recent report in the December 9 *The Suburban*, stating: "During last Monday's city council meeting, Westmount Mayor Peter Trent warned his city to get ready for a new tax."

The citizens of Westmount should know that the new tax* that Mayor Trent is talking about, scheduled for 2010, has nothing to do with the building of a new Mega Sports Arena, which will not be free. Do the math. Even with the government grants there will be an approximate additional \$20 million needed to pay for the Mega Sports Palace, which the taxpayers will have to come up with, and this can only lead to new tax increases in addition to the one that the mayor is referring to. In other words the government grants can be looked at as a "Trojan horse."

Mayor Trent, it is unfortunate that several members of the Marks council who have already approved many aspects of the proposed Mega Sports Project and who are presently serving on your council are involved in your new feasibility and need studies. As you are well aware these studies will require independent organizations and individuals in order to be considered valid and reliable.

The people of Westmount should not have their children and grandchildren paying for this very large potential debt, which will be with them for generations, and this is in addition to the many Westmount citizens who are presently struggling to make ends meet.

LARRY KLEPPER, ST. CATHERINE ST.

**Ed.'s note: To the best of my memory, and the memory of two other witnesses (one of whom is Mayor Trent himself), Trent said nothing at the December 7 council about municipal tax rates increasing in 2010. He has since stated that the Westmount portion of municipal taxes (about half) might increase*

by inflation (i.e. 1 to 2 percent). Regarding the agglom portion of municipal taxes (the other half), he had no information as of December 11, when I contacted him.

SPIN FOR TEENS RAISES \$

It was a sunny Sunday morning for a fall day, and although it was the type of day I would usually have been spending outside, I had actually been looking forward to spending it inside for many days leading up to it. Two fellow Westmount Masters swimmers, Ilka Lowensteyn and Mike McMurray, and I were joining over 300 enthusiastic spinners at the annual Spin for Teens fundraising event organized by the McGill Cardiovascular Health Improvement Program (CHIP).

The CHIP fundraising spinathon supports an intensive nine-week health and lifestyle comprehensive summer program for teenagers suffering from obesity and at risk of premature cardiovascular disease or diabetes. The program helps teens achieve a healthy weight, incorporate physical activity into daily living, improve body image, increase self-esteem and fitness and energy levels, and make healthier food choices.

To the beats and sounds of our own DJ, and with the cheers from participants and encouragement from our coaches, we each spun for a grueling one and a half to three hours.

Let's not forget the similar effort in putting together such an event; just imagine the logistics of gathering over 300 stationary bikes at the Mansfield Athletic Club (MAA)! These bikes came from various gyms around town, including some from our very own Westmount YMCA. Thankfully and to the pleasure of all, our sweaty efforts were rewarded by a warm shower and a nutritious meal sponsored and prepared by the staff at the MAA. Again this year, we can proudly boast that the event was sold out and raised a total of \$80,000!

So, if you don't want to miss out on the fun next year, hurry up and sign up at www.chiprehab.com.

GAËLLE DYÈVRE, GROSVENOR AVE.

ON BIKE PATHS, WESTMOUNT SHOULD CATCH UP WITH MONTREAL

Bicycling is part of the solution to combat climate change. Each person cycling rather than driving to work or school cuts emissions by nearly 1 tonne per year. Despite cycling's importance, Westmount city council decided to once again close the 2-km de Maisonneuve bike path for the winter and reinstate parking between At-

water and Greene. Ironically, the path closure on December 7 coincided with the start of the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change.

The Westmount bike path is a key link in the Montreal network and is the sole safe access to Montreal's network from boroughs to the west. Westmount is not only discouraging cycling but is also creating a safety hazard for cyclists who must now ride out into traffic to avoid parked cars as they leave the Ville Marie path at Atwater.

Council's justification* for closing the path is that past councils must have had a good reason for previous closures and the new council is too busy with more important issues to reconsider the question.

One councillor indicated that cycling without plastic posts along the path could be unsafe, however Montreal has similar layouts in parts of its 500 km of paths, which it considers safer for cyclists than no path at all.

Contrary to Westmount, neighbouring Montreal actively promotes winter cycling. In 2007, Montreal opened its winter network called the Réseau Blanc, which now totals 35 km. There are now an estimated 20,000 winter cyclists in Montreal.

Many major cities in North America and Europe have recognized the important contribution of cycling to reducing carbon emissions. Those cities have all invested significantly over the past 10 years, which has led to a rapid growth in cycling along with the associated environmental benefits. Unfortunately, Westmount has not promoted cycling since the de Maisonneuve path was opened 17 years ago.

Council should reconsider its decision to reinstate parking on the bike path, and should actively promote and invest in cycling during its mandate.

DANIEL LAMBERT, LANSDOWNE AVE.

**Ed.'s note: Without taking sides on the merits of his case, I think Councillor Patrick Martin did explain a reason at the December 7 council meeting for not having a winter bike path. According to him, the pylons used to demarcate the summer path are not designed for winter use and he considers having an un-demarcated, two-way path on a one-way street (de Maisonneuve) to be dangerous.*

PRO-KIELY, ANTI 'HUMMER HOUSE'

I would like to add my voice to that of my neighbour Maureen Kiely in her letter to the *Independent* last week ("City should scrutinize mega-houses", p. 4) protesting the proposal for construction of what amounts to a monster house (of a sort also

MORE LETTERS

referred to as a “Hummer” house) at 3283 Cedar Ave.

This proposed construction is in Sector 7 of the Westmount “Master Plan”, which was reaffirmed in 2007 after the demerger. Sector 7 has been designated to be of “Exceptional Value” within the northeast “Archaeological Heritage” area and 87 percent of the addresses within it qualify as Category I or Category II homes. Category I homes “doivent être conservé à perpétuité.” The current proposal is for the replacement of the Category I house at 3283 Cedar Ave. that was unlawfully demolished by the owners.

The same Westmount Master Plan states that “With growing development pressures, Westmount’s heritage buildings are threatened by demolition and inappropriate modifications as well as by new construction ... Westmount wants to ensure that heritage buildings are preserved from demolition and are not inappropriately modified, to prevent incoherent insertions in existing built-up areas ... To that effect, the City plans to: ... investigate the possibility of implementing a control on the maximum volume or floor area of a building to prevent additions or new buildings that are out of scale with the rest of the street.”

It seems to me that the Westmount has not lived up to its Master Plan in that (1) its oversight failed to prevent the wanton destruction of a Category I home and (2)

Why is public money and time being wasted on such a process? Is Westmount abandoning implementation of its Master Plan via the PIIA? Does the PIIA apply to my window replacements, but not to multi-million dollar construction projects? What do citizens have to do to make the city fulfill its responsibilities?

Gael Fraser-Tyler, The Boulevard
* Ed.’s note: It is not my understanding that, at this time, the city is “allowing” anything or “proceeding with” anything (other than a legally required review process). In most cases, the approval process in Westmount for a greenlighted building project will pass through four steps: review by the city’s Board of Inspections (for technical compliance), review by the city’s Planning Advisory Committee, or PAC, (for aesthetic compliance, including reference to Site Planning & Architectural Integration or PIIA), approval (or non-approval) by city council and issuance of a permit by the city administration. Given this project’s history, the review process will be more complex. It is our understanding that the building at 3283 Cedar Ave. is gone, but was not legally demolished. For this reason and unlike, say, a greenfields project, any proposed replacement building must also be approved by the Demolition Committee in law, even though the demolition has already taken place in fact. As part of a usual Demolition Committee process, the proposed replacement building will be reviewed by the Board of Inspections and PAC, and then by

law. While PAC has looked at the project (and, as reported in last week’s Independent, had not – as of that date – made a favourable recommendation), it is an advisory body and not a decision-making one. So, regardless of the merits or weaknesses of the proposed building, the city has only reacted to a resident’s request for a new permit and initiated its review process. Of course, the three letters we have received are still very welcome, as would letters be with different viewpoints. To dialogue with the actual decision-makers, though, interested parties should make their views known in writing to the Demolition Committee and/or attend the demolition meeting itself (the date of which has not yet been announced).

PRO-LULHAM, PRO-KIELY

Your lead letter (“City should scrutinize mega-houses”, p. 4) in the latest issue could have been written by me or many of my neighbours.

My sympathy and empathy to the writer, Maureen Kiely. The phrases refer to many places now apparent around Westmount which include massive reconstruction, demolition of Category I homes, devastating tree destruction and new gigantesque homes that dwarf the surrounding ones and obstruct

property-enhancing views and light. And she is correct in saying many Westmounters know the scrutiny of obtaining permits to replace windows, plumbing or fences, yet these mammoth extensions, or rebuilding that do not fit into the character of the areas, are granted permission to proceed.

On a more positive note, in the Civic Alert column of the same issue (“Consultation to be required before permits for new construction”), Councillor Lulham now agrees that neighbours need to know what will happen to their neighbourhood, so the past secrecy needs to be abolished.

I applaud Ms. Lulham in saying that she wishes to “maintain the heritage values and quality of life.” Unfortunately, this is too late for Ms. Kiely’s neighbours, as well as many others in our city. But it is through communication such as these letters that we can help to ensure the protection of our neighbourhoods, environment and quality of life. As the saying goes, better late than never.

I trust the newly elected council will protect the environment, the neighbourhood character and the “feel” of our precious Westmount community.

LESLEY AITON SPEVACK, LEXINGTON AVE.



Looking west on de Maisonneuve, near the corner of Atwater.

in now allowing* an “incoherent insertion” into our building area to reach the stage of public hearings. It is my understanding that the Demolition Committee is proceeding* with public hearings despite the lack of a green light from the Planning Advisory Committee, which oversees the PIIA.

the Demolition Committee, which can decide to approve a proposal (or deny the request). I spoke to Councillor Patrick Martin, the Demolition Committee chairman, who points out that the city has in fact decided nothing regarding the proposed building as yet and has done nothing, except begin its review at the request of the owner, as it is required to do by

SMILE, YOU’RE ON GOOGLE STREET VIEW

A gander at the Westmount arena through the wonders of Google Street View would indicate that there’s nothing to do except hurry up and wait until a new arena is built.

Smoke break, anyone?

MATT CUNDILL, WINNIPEG



View of entrance into the arena, as captured by Google Street View.

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Traf sings for alumnae at Place K



Trafalgar's School's choir sang for the Trafalgar "Old Girls" (a term used to describe Traf's alumnae) who reside at Place Kensington. From left, Peggy-Jean (Ross) Thomas '44, Grace (Phillips) Hancock '41, Valerie (Ker) McRobie '37, Dorothy (Hunter) Weaver '38 and Jehanne (Languedoc) Warwick '33. The student choristers are in grades 8 to 11.

LCC shares with Share the Warmth



This year again, grade 9, 10 and 11 Lower Canada College (LCC) students held a food drive to support Share the Warmth. At press time, they had filled 70 boxes of food. Westmount Moving Company was slated to pick up and drop off the food the week of December 14. From left, Westmounters Jamie Rabinovitch, Francesca Calabrese, Reilly O'Connor, St. Lazare resident Marcia McCrudden and Westmounters Aidan Potter and Laurence Levy.

Winter
2009/10

Announcing
the Naot
winter/boxing
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Saturday
Dec 12th till
Thursday
Dec 31st 2009

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Vol. 3/24
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ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Floralies des Fêtes

Rendez-vous au Conservatoire pour l'exposition de poinsettias. Ces floralies se poursuivront pendant toute la période des Fêtes.

Fête de la Hannoukah

La Ville de Westmount, le Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom et la Congrégation Shaar Hashomayim désirent inviter toute la communauté à une 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.



TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Déneigement

Ne jamais placer la neige venant des entrées privées sur les rues, ruelles et trottoirs publics. Il est possible d'ajouter aux bancs de neige existants

avant les opérations de déneigement, mais il faut toujours s'assurer que les trottoirs et la voie publique ne sont pas obstrués. Autant les propriétaires que les entrepreneurs sont passibles d'amendes en cas de non respect du règlement. Info : 514 989-5311.

Collecte d'ordures

Veuillez noter qu'il n'y aura pas de collecte d'ordures les vendredis 25 décembre et 1^{er} janvier. Exceptionnellement, elle aura lieu **DEUX JOURS PLUS TÔT**, soit les mercredis 23 décembre et 30 décembre, à la même heure que d'habitude. L'horaire de collecte des matières recyclables, ainsi que des résidus alimentaires et de jardinage, demeure INCHANGÉ.

Arbres de Noël

Participez à la cueillette des arbres de Noël en le plaçant sur votre terrain à l'arrière du trottoir les jours de semaine à compter du 5 janvier. Assurez-vous de dépouiller l'arbre de TOUTES décorations, emballages ou sacs de plastique. Nous vous prions également de faire preuve de patience en raison du déneigement et des autres tâches pouvant retarder la cueillette. Info : 514 989-5311.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Holiday Flower Show

Enjoy the display of poinsettias in the Conservatory, continuing throughout the holiday season.

Chanukah Party

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



PUBLIC WORKS

Snow Removal

Snow from private driveways and walkways must never be placed on public sidewalks, lanes or streets. During snow loading, snow may be added to the existing snowbanks prior to removal, but this

snow must never obstruct the public roadways or sidewalks. Fines may be levied on home owners and/or contractors who violate these regulations. Info: 514 989-5311.

Garbage Collection

There will be no garbage collection on Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1. Exceptionally, garbage collection for affected streets will instead take place **TWO DAYS EARLIER** on the preceding Wednesdays, December 23 and December 30 at the same time of day. Please note that the dates and times for recycling and kitchen and garden waste collection remain UNCHANGED.

Christmas Trees

Christmas tree collection will begin on January 5. Make sure your tree gets composted by placing it right behind the sidewalk at the front of your property at any time. You must remove ALL decorations, wrapping or plastic bags. Please be patient, as collection is ongoing and it may take several days before the tree is picked up, especially during snow removal. Info: 514 989-5311.

Heures d'ouverture pendant le temps des Fêtes

Opening Hours during Holidays

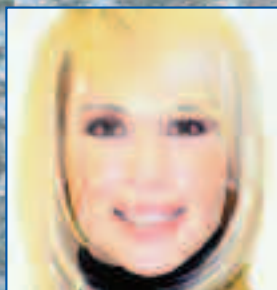
Décembre 2009 December 2009							Janvier 2010 January 2010								
	Lundi 21 Monday	Mardi 22 Tuesday	Mercredi 23 Wednesday	Jeudi 24 Thursday	Vendredi 25 Friday	Samedi 26 Saturday	Dimanche 27 Sunday	Lundi 28 Monday	Mardi 29 Tuesday	Mercredi 30 Wednesday	Jeudi 31 Thursday	Vendredi 01 Friday	Samedi 02 Saturday	Dimanche 03 Sunday	Lundi 04 Monday
Hôtel de ville et administration City Hall and administration	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	Fermé Closed				8 h 30 - 16 h 30	8 h 30 - 16 h 30	Fermé Closed					
Bibliothèque Library	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	Fermé Closed			10 h - 17 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	Fermé Closed			10 h - 17 h	10 h - 21 h
Conservatoire Conservatory	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 14 h 45	Fermé Closed	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 14 h 45	Fermé Closed	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 21 h
Aréna Arena	8 h - 21 h 45	12 h - 21 h 45	8 h - 21 h 45	8 h - 17 h	Fermé Closed	12 h - 20 h	8 h - 21 h 45	8 h - 21 h 45	12 h - 21 h 45	8 h - 21 h 45	8 h - 17 h	Fermé Closed	12 h - 20 h	8 h - 21 h 45	8 h - 21 h 45
Victoria Hall et la galerie Victoria Hall and The Gallery	Fermés Closed														
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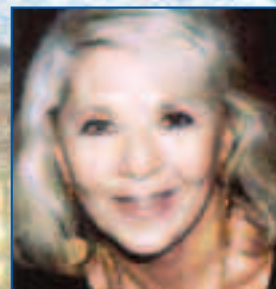
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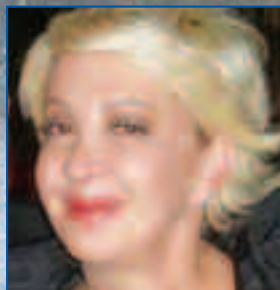
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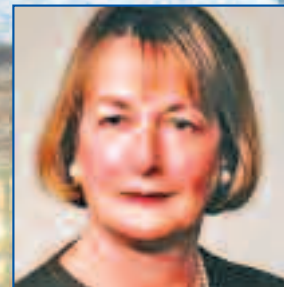
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‘Angels’ welcome Westmounters to Jewish General Hospital gala

The frocks were floor-length and fabulous at the Jewish General Hospital (JGH) Angel Ball held on November 5 at Marché Bonsecours. The event was created to celebrate the life of its namesake, **Natalie Ann Toussaint Angelopoulos**, who sadly lost her battle with breast cancer.

Established in 2005, the memorial fund was created to provide financial support and funding for cancer research and patient care. The gala honoured two-time cancer survivor **Susan Wener**, attending with hubby Jonathan. Susan looked sensational in a simple black gown.

Honorary co-chairs were **Denis Desautels**, **Michèle Dionne**, **Leo Kolber**, **Sheila Kussner**, **Jacques Ménard** and **Heather Munroe-Blum**. Guests included **Diane and Sal Guerrero**, **Barbara and Donald Seal**, **Dale and Nick Tedeschi**, **Rosie and Sal Parasuco**, **Carol and Elliott Lifson** and **Anik Bissonnette**. Attendees from the JGH included Foundation chair **Gary Wechsler**; CEO **Myer Bick**; executive director **Dr. Harley Stern**, and event coordinator **Annette Goldman**.

Westmounters amidst the gala black tie



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

crowd included **Clarence Epstein**, **Sara and Gene Reisman**, **Julia and Stephen Reisman**, and **Roni Gandell and Leo Kolber**. Noted amidst the evening’s elegance were **Alvin Segal**, **Susan and Steven Cummings**, **Elaine and Richard Dubrovsky** and **Lawrence Bergman**. A row of “angels” handed each guest a penny to drop in the wishing kettles placed on a huge weeping willow Tree of Life. On the branches, scrolls read *possibilité*, *amitié* and *santé*. Monies raised go to the Segal Cancer Centre. The invitation for this much-talked-about event read “Celebrate Life”. Indeed, this special soirée did just that.

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Westmounters Jean Charest and Michèle Dionne



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Westmounters Leo Kolber and Roni Gandell



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Marc Garneau & his family would like to wish all the residents of the riding a year full of health, happiness and success in 2010.

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*Joyeuses fêtes!
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Westmount's Verdun connection: Atom CC Leafs



Off-Sidel

NOAH SIDEL

Westmount and Verdun. To some that might sound like oil and water, but to the kids, coaches and parents of the Atom CC Verdun Leafs, the combination of cultures has been more like chocolate cake and a tall glass of milk.

“So far, after 10 games, we are proudly standing in first place with eight victories, including five shutouts, one loss and one tie,” boasted Leafs coach Mario Ouellon. “We will soon have some tough games, and we expect our opponents to become stronger at every game, just as we are. But we are doing very well so far.”

Ouellon's crew includes seven kids from Westmount.

“We have 15 talented kids with a very strong team spirit; whether the kids are from Westmount or Verdun, they've all become very good friends and teammates.”

Team manager Leslie Landsberger has enjoyed working with a mix of different

people.

“It's very inspiring to work with such a motivated group of coaches, players and parents, all united with common goals. The hockey itself is very fast and the standards are high, but the kids are up to the challenge,” he said.

Winger Nicolas Huot echoed his coach's sentiment, adding that one of the pleasures of playing double-letters is getting to see different parts of the hockey landscape.

“We're having success because we play together as a team, and it's fun to visit and play in new places. Some are quite far,” he said.

While giving credit to his whole roster for the team's good fortune so far, Ouellon noted that his Westmount-based players have all made major contributions so far this season.

“All seven players bring their own exceptional skills and personalities to their team. They all support each other and cheer together whenever they have the chance. After all, respect is our very first team value,” the coach said.

Indeed, Ouellon named Westmounter Johnathan Carr captain of the Leafs, and one of his three alternates is also a local

player, centre Olaf Schöningh. Wingers Charles Culver and Henry Molson also make up part of the nucleus of the team.

“We train hard and play hard, but the other teams are not as strong as we thought they would be so far,” said Schöningh, indicating that his team will surely face more adversity as the season moves along.

It is just that, Ouellon said, that the Leafs have been preparing for.

“At the beginning of the season, we as coaches had the objective to have all our kids sweating after each practice and smiling after each game. So far, this is working very well,” he said. “They all take their duties seriously with pride and pleasure. We also had the aggressive target to finish among the top five, and with 14 games left we are standing in very good position to achieve that goal.”

Winger Brendan Markland said teamwork has been and will continue to be the key to the Leafs winning.

“Why are we successful? Because we make smart passes and we play as a team,



Atom CC Leafs in action earlier this season.

not as a group of individuals,” he said.

And of course, with five shut-outs in 10 games, goaltending has been and will continue to be key.

“The forwards do their job of keeping the puck in the other team's end and backchecking a lot, and the defencemen do their job of defending me and taking away rebounds,” said goalie Bryan Landsberger. “All I have to take care of are the shots and dekes.”

*You can always reach me at
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ON THE SHELVES

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

Adult English – Notable women

Ayn Rand and the World She Made by Anne Conover Heller – An extensively researched and riveting biography of the best-selling author, who was a principal libertarian founder and one of the most significant figures of the 20th century.

Grace Hopper and the Invention of the Information Age by Kurt W. Beyer – An intriguing and complex story of a mathematics professor who excelled in the male-dominated world of the navy where he became a rear admiral, and later in the computer industry by developing the COBOL language.

Adult French – Interiors

Histoire de chambres by Michelle Perrot – Winner of a Femina award, this erudite but highly readable piece of non-fiction is about the importance of the bedroom in occidental civilization. Amongst other delectable stories, it recounts the elaborate bedtime rituals of Louis XIV and describes how many of the great authors wrote their books in bed.

Visites privées: intérieurs québécois d'exception by Marie-France Léger – Fifteen homes with highly distinctive decoration and architecture are showcased.

Ados & déco: idées et conseils pour aménager leur espace by Judith Wilson.

Picture books

Have I Got a Book for You! by Mélanie Watt – If you loved *Chester*, you will enjoy this hilarious new picture book. Salesman of the month, Mr. Al Foxword, will do anything to sell you this book. Trust me – he will try every trick in the trade to get you interested!

La Reine des neiges retold by Lucy M. George – A delightful retelling of this clas-

sic winter fairy tale.

Books on CD

Her Fearful Symmetry by Audrey Niffenegger – After their English aunt dies, American twins Julia and Valentina travel to London to live in their aunt's now empty flat overlooking Highgate Cemetery. Soon they discover that something is alive in Highgate.

Rough Country by John Sanford – After a call from Lucas Davenport, the always amorous Virgil Flowers investigates the death of a woman at a female-only resort and finds that there's more than one murder to keep him occupied.

Magazines – Smart cities...

"Smart Cities: Canada is a nation of cities that are dispersed, diverse and unique. But there's one theme that links the best of them – creativity. Whether the issue is urban planning, economic development or community involvement, Canadian cities are known for their imaginative and innovative thinking. Examples abound, but even a short look at just two – Vancouver and Saskatoon – shows why" by Diane Francis in *Financial Post Magazine*, November 2009, p. 34.

"Copenhagen: Tidings of good cheer: The Danish capital is in the vanguard of eco-aware cities" by Raphael Kadushin in *National Geographic Traveler*, Nov/Dec 2009, p. 38.

"Gérer sa ville comme une entreprise: Les maires de Québec et de Vancouver gèrent leurs villes comme des entreprises. Et ça marche. Le prochain maire de Montréal devrait-il s'inspirer d'eux?" by Francis Plourde in *Commerce*, Novembre 2009, p. 25.

Reference

Canadian Art Sales Index
Parker's Wine Buying Guide

Bear, the dog

BY JESSICA GHERSI

Yslane M'Sahi started volunteering at the Underdog Gallery a while ago. During one of her Saturday shifts, she saw a picture of Bear in the book of dogs for adoption. He'd been available there for over a year, partly due to his hip condition.


Yslane told Sophie (*the* Sophie of Sophie's Dog Adoption) they should bring him to the gallery so people could meet him. Problem is he's too far away, which makes his transport complicated. But, she says to herself, he's so cute and she really



Bear

wants him to find his forever home, plus she likes listening to the radio, so she decides to pick him up and bring him into town herself.

St. Jerome is really far. Like stop-for-beef-jerky-along-the-way-there far. But Yslane does get to Lianne's house, where he's being fostered. No one is around. She goes around to the backyard and finds an entire forest – heaven on earth for dogs. Suddenly this enormously gigantic St.

	<h2>Underdog</h2> <p>FERN BRESLAW</p>
---	---------------------------------------

Bernard spots her and comes running happily towards her. Best greeting ever. He starts rubbing his adorable little (term of endearment, not actual size) head on her. Following closely behind is Lianne and her brother Pierre.

Lianne works at a nursing home. She lives in a house she inherited, where she takes care of Pierrot who had a stroke and spinal cord injury at the same time. At 47 years of age, he's super sweet and a miracle survivor. And he absolutely loves Bear. Bear's good therapy for him. They even sleep on the same bed.

At the end of her visit, Yslane asks Lianne why she doesn't just take Bear herself. Lianne says that she would if she had the money. Yslane then asks if she would take him if enough money could be raised. A look through misty eyes delivers the message of a resounding yes.

In the end, Yslane drove three hours to play fetch with a St. Bernard. She realized Bear didn't need to find a home; he has one. He just needs your money. \$325 to be exact. If you're interested in coughing it up for Bear and his family, please call 514.939.3092.

We'll give you a bear hug.

Update

Don't forget to bring your pooch to get his holiday portrait taken at the "Did Somebody Say Cheese?" event at the gallery, Sunday, December 20, from 11 am to 5 pm.

Finally, please note, the gallery we will be closed from December 21 to January 8.

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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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Tali Hazan had a degree in radiology and was working at the Children's Hospital when she had her second child and decided to make a career change. She now owns Elite Laser, which in 2010 will be celebrating its 9th year on Greene Ave. Hazan loves bringing the “red carpet treatment” to Westmount's laser hair removal scene with medical-grade equipment and the latest technology.



Tali Hazan

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Hello, Westmount

COIFFURE JEAN JOHN



Coiffure Jean John hair stylists ham it up under the hair dryers for the photographer. From left: Mirella De Rose, Marc Toporowski (owner), Line Michaud and Gordana Konsal.

PHOTO & STORY BY ROBERT J. GALBRAITH

This well-known Westmount hair salon has been an institution in Victoria village for 35 years.

The salon, with a staff of ten, has been at its present location on Sherbrooke for the last 26 years. Before that, it was located for nine years at the corner of Sherbrooke and Victoria, next to the CIBC. “My father loved this job!” said Toporowski. “Oh boy,

did he. I think he lived for his inspiration of hair dressing.”

The vibrant and smiling 47-year-old owner took over the business ten years ago after the passing of his father, Jean, from cancer. Married and the father of two children, the Laval resident who has been styling hair at Jean John since he was 18, will someday pass the torch to his son, James, who at 20 has completed his hair-dressing course and started working at the salon just two weekends ago. His daughter, 18-year-old Katherine, is currently taking a business course at Vanier College.

“The busiest times of year are during the holidays and at the end of May and June when graduations start happening. We have some slow days during the week but usually make up for that closer to the weekend. Even in this recession, business is very stable and we’re still busy. We are lucky that hair keeps growing,” commented Toporowski, with a wide smile.

“Our name changed from John Coiffure to Coiffure Jean John in the 1970s after the language laws came in and when we moved to this location. We have had numerous offers to sell the shop but want

to keep my father’s dream alive.”

Toporowski says that hair fashion changes like any other, and every couple of years a new trend sweeps through the industry. “Now, a lot of use of flatirons is common. But it is starting to move more to that 70s look, more loose and wavy. Every year and a half, styles change, just like shoes or other fashions,” he explained.

“People are very kind in Westmount. It has a real village feel. Our clientele keeps coming back. They become friends and we age together,” he says. “Generations of families have had their hair styled or cut here. They keep returning, and that is why we are still alive and prospering after all these years.”

Toporowski said that they take a lot of walk-in clients, but at this time of year it is best to make an appointment.

Coiffure Jean John is located at 4897 Sherbrooke St. Its hours are from 9 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday, and 8:30 am to 5 pm, Saturdays. 514.486.6261.

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Westmount Art Scene

Visual explorations: Varese, Varte and Simrit

BY HEATHER BLACK

“A work of art is above all an adventure of the mind.”

Written by playwright Eugene Ionesco, these words capture the spirit of exploration, evident at two Westmount galleries.

Oscar Varese at the McClure Gallery

Montreal artist Oscar Varese creates colourful wood reliefs. Well-crafted and graphic, these 3-D sculptures are experiments in form and colour. One, “Untitled #29,” is a green, chartreuse and white stylized “A” – similar to Alcan’s former logo.

Painted in enamel, this abstract art also recalls the geometric forms of Quebec plasticien Jean-Paul Jérôme. “Dyptych 1, Untitled #33,” is composed of two mirrored shapes. The asymmetrical colouring is interesting with glossy red and black, and cream with grey.

Another, “Untitled #20,” is a white and green asymmetric composition. Here, an elegant yet tenuous shape conveys a fragile balance. These works have an architectural edge reflecting Varese’s studio and design studies, as well as his work experience at the Canadian Centre for Architec-

ture (CCA).

Sophisticated, yet fun, the artist – and each individual work – invites the viewer to delight in visual language. Entitled “Feedback,” the exhibit continues until December 23 at the Visual Arts Centre on Victoria Ave.

Varte, Simrit at Galerie V. Trimont

Varte colours dance, shimmer and explode. Bold and expressive, the artist’s palette of black, red and metallic gold creates a strong dynamic. One “Envoutement” is a particularly dynamic. Move to the left, and red is predominate; to the right, and the glistening gold is more pronounced.

Black and gold also dominate “Trocadéro,” where a stallion is drawn with exuberant gold. Recalling Dominic Besner’s stylized art, Varte’s mix of swirls and lines convey energy and stillness, life and death.

The artist’s sense of adventure allows colour, technique and even subject matter to evolve. “Horizon sans fin” is inspired by the colours of the Mediterranean. Here cyan, yellow and white stucco-like swirls recreate the magic of sun on sparkling sea.

In contrast, artist Simrit’s stylized real-

ism reference the colours and themes of India. In the oil painting “Festival,” colourfully-clothed women create a strong graphic. And painted with their eyes veiled by draped headcoverings, a sense of mystery prevails.

In the charcoal drawing “For luck,” three moving fishes create an elegant and lyrical composition. Punctuated by a small metallic-gold spiral, the sunlight adds vitality to the otherwise monochromatic rendering. One of several in a series, these drawings emit a soulfulness reserved for sacred objects.

The exhibit, which also includes Simrit’s elegant jewellery, continues to December 19 at Galerie V. Trimont on St. Catherine, east of Clarke.

Visual exploration

All three of these artists – Varese, Varte and Simrit – convey a sense of playful inventiveness. Referencing both familiar and unknown subjects, colour, form and texture are conveyed in a unique and individual manner.

And with all “adventures of the mind,” this is work that compels viewers to return to the galleries, again and again.



“Trocadéro” (detail) by Varte.

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Olympic torch fever hits Westmount

A large crowd gathers in front of city hall to wait for the arrival of the Olympic torch.



Photo: Ralph Thompson, PhotoImagerie



Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

Security incident



Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

Westmounter and *Indie* contributor Ralph Thompson (left) was knocked down and dragged away by Olympic security as he took a photo of the torch bearer leaving Westmount. Thompson admits that he was in the closed-off part of the road and “that someone said ‘get out of the way,’” but went on to say, “before I could get out of the way, I was assaulted.” Luc Bessette, a spokesman for the RCMP, confirmed that the RCMP was in charge of security and of the officer photographed here, but could not say whether he was an RCMP or

other type of police officer. He also explained that the Olympic flame and its bearer are protected by international treaties, and that officers have a duty to protect it. This duty is made more difficult by the fact that the crowds through which they pass are unverified and that attempts have been made in the past to extinguish the flame for protest purposes. For this reason, no one, including someone holding a camera, is allowed within close proximity of the flame.



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ECS grad and soon-to-be Westmounter Sarah Cook carried the Olympic torch December 10 and was seen with it near the corner of St. Denis and Mount Royal. Cook was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma at age 8 and founded The Sarah Cook Fund, which initially aimed to buy new pillows for the children on her floor. The fund has raised \$4.5 million since 2001.

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Carrier reads his classic tale at Westmounter-owner art gallery



Westmount author Roch Carrier stands over Chaz Presser (left), 6, and Jonah Presser, 9, while Sheldon Cohen signs a copy of “The Hockey Sweater.”

BY ISAAC OLSON

Three decades since *The Hockey Sweater* was first published, Roch Carrier fans were given a special treat when the 72-year-old Westmounter read his famous piece to them on December 12.

“After so many years, it’s a privilege that a little short story that I wrote in such a simple way has been found by so many people to read and hear again and again,” said Carrier in a brief interview before reading to a small group of kids and adults at Galerie Avenue Art on King St. in Old Montreal, owned by Westmounter Marina Cutler.

Carrier said it’s exceptional to have watched the story, which is an excerpt from his life, be passed down through generations of Canadians.

The originally French tale was first published in 1979 in a compilation of short stories by the author. The tale was animated by Sheldon Cohen in a 1980 movie produced by the National Film Board of

Canada. The first version of the Cohen-illustrated book, which is quoted on Canada’s five-dollar bill, was published in 1984 by former mayor May Cutler’s firm, Tundra.

Excited fans got a chance to meet Carrier and Cohen prior to the reading. Proudly wearing the number nine Habs sweater with his own last name on the back, 9-year-old Jonah Presser, from TMR said it was “really cool” to get the two autographs but “I felt a little nervous because I was meeting someone famous.”

The gallery’s current exhibition titled, “Hockey, Our Love Affair” includes Cohen’s original animation cels and other hockey-related art by a range of Canadian artists in celebration of both the city’s love of hockey and the Montreal Canadiens centennial season. The exhibition benefits, in part, the Montreal Canadiens Children’s Foundation.

“It’s wonderful to have the two together here,” said Cutler. “This book has been so iconic and so magical for so many years.”



BY ETTY B.

The story of Hanukkah tells us that 2,000 years ago, an oil candle was lit in the temple, and while the oil was supposed to last for one day, it burned for eight days and nights. Potato pancakes and doughnuts are some traditional foods cooked in oil to symbolize the miracle of the oil lamp. This is the easy and classic recipe.

Traditional Potato Latkes

6 medium potatoes, peeled and quartered
1 medium onion, peeled and quartered
2 eggs
1/3 cup all purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
Freshly ground pepper
Vegetable oil for frying

In a food processor, mix the onions and potatoes in batche, transferring to a bowl after each batch. Add eggs and salt to processor, process for a few seconds. Add to bowl. Add remaining ingredients and combine well by hand.

Heat oil in a large skillet (fill to about 1/2 inch). When the oil is hot, drop dollops of the batter in the hot oil. Brown well on each side, turning once. Drain on paper towels. Make small cakes – they’re crisper.

Serve with sour cream and apple sauce.

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Picks of the year and some holiday advice

Wine: What's in Store...

CAROLA PRICE

How is it possible that a year goes by in the blink of an eye? It's probably because I spend my days amidst freshly opened bottles, taking copious notes, spitting into a giant silver Champagne bucket, laughing at myself for drinking alone at ten in the morning, computer screen at my side filled with the latest wine news. Don't get me wrong – I love my job! Who else gets to drink in pyjamas first thing in the morning without raised eyebrows and silent judgement?

As a new year approaches, I tend to think of all the wines I wrote about and try to come up with the top performers for you to try. My list is really long but I have condensed it somewhat, mostly because the editor might think I'd want to write this many words every week. The reason these wines made my list is for the simple fact that they represent drinkability, ageing potential, bang for the buck and ease

in food pairing.

While you may not agree with some of my choices, remember that wine tasting is always biased to what you may or may not like. I have tried to include some Old World selections but it is the New World that still has my heart when seeking out new wines. These wines are also in no particular order, mainly because I can't come up with just one favourite.

Enjoy your holiday, drink a lot but not too much, eat well but always leave a little room and remember to have fun. This season is always related to stress, but if you simplify you'll be able to sit and enjoy that glass of bubbly much more. Cheers!

Gruner Veltliner, Brundlmayer, Kamptaler Terrassen, Austria. SAQ#10707069. \$22.25

Fresh peaches, some lime and lemon peel, apricot in the mouth with an almost bitter mineral flavour in the background. Austrian white is awesome, and this producer has a wine that remains crisp yet delicate. Super well-balanced and a delight to pair with acidic cheeses of medium body and poached or grilled fish with delicate greens. Available at press time: Pepsi Forum, 155 Atwater Ave.

Viognier, Bellingham Coastal Region, South Africa. SAQ# 10703308. \$21.00

I love the way Viognier makes me feel like summer is around the corner. Peaches and apricots and a full-bodied flavour make this wine easy to pair with rich white meat in sauce or steak tartare. Not only can this wine age for a while, it comes with a screwcap – perfect for impromptu picnics. Take along a couple of heavier flavoured Charlevoix cheeses, and you're set. Available at press time: 155 Atwater.

Riesling, Eroica, Chat. Ste. Michelle and Dr. Loosen, Washington. SAQ#10749681. \$30.50

You try this wine to see how Old and New World blends together to make a superb example of Riesling. Minerals are everywhere in the nose and mouth along with classic flavours from the US like peach and grapefruit. Cheeses of course, but salads, focusing on lightly flavoured fish or chicken, will do wonders for this crisp white. You can cellar this baby for up to seven years to see what develops. Available at press time: 155 Atwater.

Sangiovese/Merlot/Cab. Sauvignon, Brancaia, Il Blu, Toscana. SAQ#10769622. \$82.25

I know this is a lot to spend but hey, it's half the price of a top end Amarone or Barolo and will not take as long to age. This Super Tuscan is a keeper for 10 years plus and will not disappoint. The flavour and nose of black cherry, freshly cut herbs and ripe plum with a slight mineral finish of a hint of lead and ink (supposed to be good) and a nice shot of alcohol all the way down the throat, this super tannic dry red will lend itself well to roasted beef and lamb as well as heavier pastas and Osso Bucco. Available at press time: Westmount Square, Pepsi Forum.

Carmenère, Luis Felipe Edwards, Chile. SAQ# 11133079. \$13.25

It's not all expensive folks! This dry full bodied red really screams BBQ to me. Flavours like dried cherry and blackberry come to mind with a finish that is more refined than the nose. While this is an everyday wine it does have a lot of flavour and will match with meals like pasta with meat sauce, steaks, hamburgers and grilled chicken. Cheese should be medium to full bodied. This red would benefit from a few swirls in a decanter, if handy. Available at press time: Pepsi Forum, Westmount Square, Victoria, 155 Atwater, Atwater Market.

continued on p. 28

Happy Holidays to our Clients and Friends!

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Bad manners: The new black?

The other day as I was driving down Victoria Ave. on my way to work, I witnessed a car being spanked. The driver had cut off a pedestrian as she was crossing the road, so she reached out and spanked it as it drove away. Car spanking: the pedestrian's last weapon of defense.

She had the same grim look I get when I've had enough of my daughter's tantrums (which are usually caused by my forcing her to wear a skirt over her leggings, to avoid going to school looking like a shrunk Britney Spears). It's a look that says, "I've had it! I didn't want to have to do this, but I'm going to have to spank you, you bad, bad car." (Or, in my daughter's case, "I'm sending you to the naughty corner until your vocal chords give out!")

This got me thinking about manners – but first allow me put in my dentures and grab my Zimmer frame. I'm (only) 30-something, and yet I sometimes wonder if I'm the only one who's noticed that bad manners seem to be the new black: rudeness is in.

My biggest issue is with language. I've seen strangers segue from yes-I-too-enjoyed-that-fundraiser-for-cross-eyed-pygmy-with-cleft-palates-and-no-I-cannot-believe-the-plight-of-the-triple-thorned-cacti,



Parenthood uncensored

SOPHIE TARNOWSKA

to language that would put even the most profoundly afflicted Tourette's sufferer to shame – without blinking an eye. It's not that I never swear, but I'd have to watch someone take part in a drive-by shooting or at least watch them cheer one on before I'd allow myself to swear at a stranger.

And what about shoppers who become apoplectic if another person mistakenly takes seven items to the six-items-or-less cashier at the supermarket? You'd think someone had just beaten a kitten with a three-day-old baguette, judging by the enraged reactions I've seen.

It only gets worse when people are protected by the steel bubble of their cars (pass the Bengay please, because I'm just getting started).

I once waited for a parking spot near Atwater market, which meant that the cars behind had go around me. Within three minutes and after much honking, a man

in his sixties pulled up alongside me in his Lexus, rolled down his window, and called me a four-letter word so crass it makes my hair crawl back into my head – a word that all women abhor but one that he felt perfectly comfortable throwing at a perfect stranger despite his well-dressed, pygmy-supporting, cactus-loving wife sitting right next to him, and in spite of the fact that he could see that my daughter next to me.

I was so shocked that I did what any mature person would do: I cried. Wherever you are, oh foul-mouthed Lexus driver, I curse you 'til your nostril hairs grow so long that they wrap around your ankles and trip you repeatedly.

Still, I know better than to cast stones from my glass condo. My childhood fantasy of becoming a high-ranking diplomat exploded after it became clear to me that due to my outspoken nature (and the fact that my own father called me "Mother Superior" during a particularly bossy phase of my adolescence), I would likely have to bite my tongue so much that it would fall off in order to achieve it. And I admit that if sticking my foot in my mouth were an accepted field of study, I'd have a university named after me.

And yet I refuse to accept that bad manners are the new black – they're more like the old acid-washed jeans we used to think were so cool – a trend we fervently regret and hope never to see again.

Wine picks

continued from p. 27

Shiraz Reserve, Mission Hill, Okanagan. SAQ#10960857. \$24.70

While their top tier Shiraz is simply amazing, this middle ground red gives you a taste of what the west coast can do in terms of Shiraz. I think it will only get better and the prices will match the quality. This is a dry and tannic wine that goes well with steak and dark game, lamb chops and hearty beef stew. I chose a Bleu Elizabeth and extra old cheddar from Ile des Grues for this bottle, with great results. Available at press time: Victoria, 155 Atwater.

Licence-plate reader IDs delinquent cars

A new licence-plate reading device acquired by Montreal police was demonstrated at Sherbrooke and Victoria recently to detect cars improperly registered or wanted for other vehicle violations. It does not record speeding or other such offences.

During the test in Westmount December 2, and another at René Lévesque and St. Marc the same day, a total of eight tickets were issued, reports commander Stéphane Plourde, of local station 12.

The device, a camera attached to a police car, immediately emits a sound when it detects a licence plate belonging to a "wanted" car. The unit demonstrated here between 7:30 and 9:30 am is one of seven in use by the island-wide force.

Christmas tree anyone?



Members of the 2nd Westmount Venturers company took part in the group's annual Christmas tree sale, which took place December 4 and 5 at Mountainside United Church. From left, Patrick Erskin, Trevor Juhl and Alex Lepanto.

Photo: Erin Stropes

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Recycling truck

continued from p. 6

had an architect verify the church is still structurally sound, said there is broken stone and a lot of green paint on the wall that will need to be professionally cleaned.

The reverend said a puddle of hydraulic fluid oozed into the church's basement, but the city was quick to clean up the mess.

Pierre Dubé, director of Hydro Westmount, said lampposts cost between \$2,000 and \$3,000. Crews still need to investigate the extent of the damage, he explained, because, if the concrete base is damaged, repairs could cost another \$1,000 or more.

Due to the church's proximity and weather complications, the lamppost will not be replaced until spring, he said.

Owners of the truck and Honda could not be reached for comment.

Pimentel said it's now up to insurance companies to sort out who is responsible.

Westmount's director of Public Works, Marianne Zalzal, said the city will be holding the recycling company responsible in the insurance claim. Dubé agreed with Zalzal, saying Hydro Westmount will not pay for the damage.

The recycling company is RCI Environnement, according to both Zalzal and Westmount's environmental coordinator Marina Peter.

RCI Environnement's spokesperson,

Elizabeth Baby, however, said she was instructed to direct accident inquiries to TIRU. She said it was TIRU's truck. When told city officials believe the contract is with RCI, she said "No, it's TIRU" and refused to comment further.

A February *Westmount Independent* article ("No more sorting", February 10, p. 1) states RCI signed a three-year contract with Westmount that started last April, taking over Col-Sel's trucking operations. According to the report, RCI is responsible for hauling co-mingled recyclables to Groupe TIRU's sorting plant — the largest in the province.

Col-Sel Transit Inc. is the trucking arm of Rebutis Solides Canadiens (RSC) — a subsidiary of TIRU. Col-Sel's name was printed on the side of the crashed truck.

As of press time, calls to Col-Sel and TIRU were not returned. TIRU's president, Pierre Lemoine, also failed to respond to a Saturday phone call and email.

"The emergency response from fire, Hydro, police and Public Security was excellent," said Church Hill resident Shelley Kerman, who witnessed the immediate aftermath of the incident, but the accident is an example of what she sees as perennial safety problems on her street.

Kerman recalled two similar incidents: a tar truck that lost control and rolled down Church Hill approximately 10 years ago and a car with failed brakes that came from Church Hill into the Côte St. Antoine intersection approximately seven years ago. With the private daycare and other programs at the church, she said

people are often double parking and jeopardizing the safety of themselves and their children.

"It goes on every day, a number of times a day," said Kerman. "The headline should read: 'Are we going to wait for a kid to get hurt?'"

Zalzal, who heads the city's administrative traffic committee, said she has not heard of double-parking complaints on Church Hill, though people do complain about blocked driveways. Illegal parking is an enforcement issue, she noted.

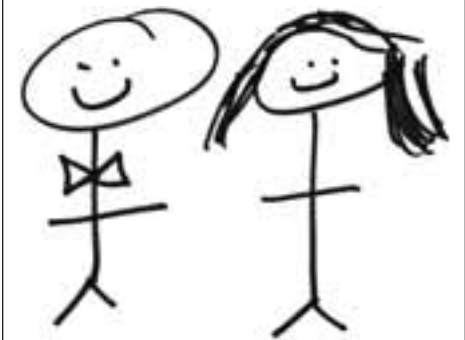
When it comes to winter conditions, she said salting routes are designed to pay more attention to the hills, which there are a lot of in Westmount.

Zalzal and Pimentel both pointed out drivers are legally required, when parking on an incline, to turn their wheels in toward the curb and set the emergency

brake.

"It's definitely something residents should not take lightly," Pimentel said. "If the car rolls, there's no stopping it."

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Light stolen from Victoria Ave.'s Mini Marché

By Don Wedge

An effort by a local food shop to use solar electricity was foiled in a few hours when the equipment was stolen soon after installation.

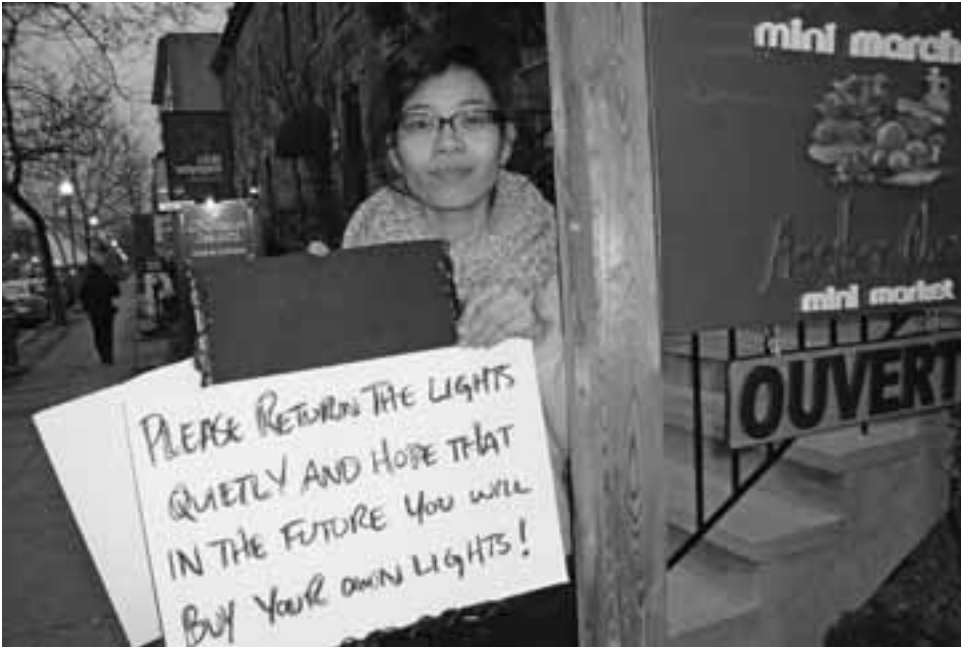
Clara Kwan, who operates Another Choice mini-market on Victoria Ave., says she purchased a lighting unit intended to illuminate her store sign on December 4.

“It was a first step towards saving energy, because it is difficult to run a food

store sustainably. I hoped other stores on the block would do the same for their signs.

“I left the solar panel outside to charge the battery, but was devastated when it was stolen after only two hours. I was brought up in Westmount and believed that such a thing could not happen here.”

Kwan put up a poster to vent her frustration but so far the equipment has not been returned.



Clara Kwan with the sign she made in the hope that her stolen solar store sign light would be returned.

Manoir choir rings in start of the holidays



Manoir Westmount's own choir performance entertained fellow residents at the Christmas dinner event with Westmount Rotary on Wednesday, December 9.

Photo: Ralph Thompson, PhotoImagerie

Westmounter hosts candlelight vigil for Copenhagen climate talks



A candlelight vigil led by Megan Durnford and her family in front of their Victoria Ave. home brought neighbours together on December 12.

By Isaac Olson

As more than 30,000 marched peacefully in Denmark, and nearly a thousand others were detained for being not so peaceful, a candlelight vigil in Westmount was one of thousands around the world aimed at encouraging decisive action from the Copenhagen climate talks.

“I’m here because I want to make a difference in the health of our planet,” said Pauline Ramsey, a 14-year-old Westmounter, in a post-vigil interview. “It felt really warm. Not too hot like the planet, but warm even though we were all standing out there in the winter with little candles.”

Led by Megan Durnford and her family, the vigil was held in front of their Victoria Ave. home. About 30 neighbours from near and far came together on December 12 to join what Avaaz.org describes as 3,000 candlelight vigils held in over 130 countries calling for a “real deal” from the climate talks.

News reports indicate there were over a dozen such vigils in Montreal and some 350 across Canada. Dubbed “The World Wants a Real Deal,” the campaign was coordinated by Tck Tck Tck – a coalition of global organizations that includes Avaaz.org.

“It’s an amazing show of solidarity not just across Canada, but around the world,” said Durnford.

Realizing the nearest vigil was located far enough away to be a hike for her family, she arranged, with the help of Avaaz.org, to have one right on her front steps, and getting the word out in a week’s time through the web and grapevine with hopes of inspiring the prime minister, Canadian representatives and other global delegates to “do the right thing.”

Durnford, who also a hosted an after-vigil holiday party, said she was happy there were a lot of children there because “at the end of the day, that’s what this is all about. It’s about them and the future they will have.”

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Lighting the way



Westmount's mayoral lamp posts are now illuminating the entrance to Peter Trent's house on Côte St. Antoine Rd., an outward symbol of change in the city's leadership. They were transferred from the Lansdowne Ave. home of former mayor Karin Marks.



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