

Author profile **Louise Penny**

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Newsflash

Second Bellevue lawsuit filed See p. 4

Power demand hits new record

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmounters' electricity use reached a record peak Jan. 16, contributing to an expected surcharge of some \$200,000 to the city's purchase of power from Hydro Quebec. This occurs when accumulated demands exceed the contract maximum.

The record of 85.5 megawatts was attained on the third day of a cold spell over the 5-6 pm supper hour, said Hydro Westmount director Pierre Dubé. It was a Friday, typically a low-consumption day.

"In the face of rising demands, we're looking at new approaches to reducing these cold weather peaks for next year," he explained.

One out-of-the box measure being explored is to establish partnerships with some of Westmount's large institutions and commercial customers whose generators could provide an auxiliary source of energy during extreme cold. Since generators require regular maintenance, the measure would serve both purposes.

The new record of 85.5 MW only slightly exceeded last year's peak of 85 MW.

Surrey Gardens woods up for development



Now up for development after years of belonging to the foundation of St. Joseph's Oratory, this tract of virgin land on the east side of Surrey Gardens has been staked out in six building lots (see inset). Lying in the shadow of the shrine, the woods back onto houses on Oakland and have formed part of the oratory's other holdings located to the west along Devon. See related letter to the editor p. 5.

Arena wish list downsized, sustainability vision presented

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council has reined in some of its wish list for the arena/pool renewal project, Mayor Karin Marks revealed as the project moves into the final design phase.

The project was one of two priority projects listed on the council agenda for the February 2 meeting. The other was approval of the vision statement for creating a sustainable community.

Based on findings from a preliminary arena design report, Marks told the *Westmount Independent* at press time that the site is unable to accommodate all the requested features. The cost of the wish list also was well over the targeted budget of \$25 million. "As a result, we'll have one NHL [standard] size rink as we now have and a second full-size rink that is not as large."

Clearly, she added, *continued on p. 4*

"Some people are ordinary, but Bunny is extraordinary."
—Gladys and Tony Del Corpo (clients)
Please see my listings on page 11

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Westmount duo qualifies



From left: Xavier Lindley-Megias and Alec Johnson practise their starting technique. Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

Westmounters and Centennial Academy students Xavier Lindley-Megias

(grade 11) and Alec Johnson (grade 10) excelled at the GMAA Indoor Track and Field Meet #1, held January 23 at the Complexe Claude Robillard.

In the Juvenile category, Lindley-Megias qualified for the 200m and the men's 4x200m Juvenile relay finals. In the Midget category, Johnson qualified in the 800m and the 4x200m relay finals.

Qualifications #2 take place February 6 and the two students will try to advance in other events as well.

Centennial started its track program last year with 15 students. This year's team has doubled to 30.

Last year, the Centennial team won the GMAA banner for points overall in the Midget category, and during the Quebec Provincials, held at McGill, it came second in the 4x200m relay.

Meet the new mayoral assistant Marie Forget Getting to know residents

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Marie Forget, the new executive assistant to Mayor Karin Marks, is an accomplished painter and former art teacher who learned firsthand how to manage change in the face of recession.

When teaching positions and art grants were cut during the economic downturn of the 1980s, she knew she had business skills and used her resourcefulness to forge a new career as an administrative assistant.

Now she is being introduced to working in Westmount.

"I'm pleased to have been selected," she said, "and hope that my past experience contributes to helping the council, administration and citizens."

Forget, who has been settling into her new position at city hall since January 12, is getting to know frequent callers and the schedule facing the mayor. It's a challenge she assumed with the recent retirement of Marie José Aubertin.

She has held many positions, including that of agenda person for Michel Chrétien, then scientific director of the Clinical Research Institute of Montreal (IRCM). She has also worked at the Collège des médecins du Québec and National Bank Financial.

With a master's degree in visual arts



Marie Forget on the job. She was scheduled to be officially appointed at the February 2 city council meeting.

(painting) from Concordia, Forget taught at the university as well as the Visual Arts Centre and Collège Jean de Brébeuf. She was awarded a Canada Council grant to pursue her art, some of which has been purchased by the Council's art bank.

Relax! Two taxes, one bill

At least one Westmounter had a shock when she opened her 2009 municipal tax bill.

She "almost fainted at the huge tax increase with no change to [her] home's evaluation."

As previously reported ("One tax bill, less money to agglom", June 17, 2008, p. 1), Westmount will now bill residents for the Montreal "Agglom" portion of municipal taxes, so taxpayers have to compare

two bills from last year to this year's single statement.

For an itemization of what is covered by this year's bill, look at the "Taxe" box, located under the "Détail des taxes" heading, which itself is just under the proprietor's address.

The new, unified Westmount bill is payable in two installments on Monday, March 2 and Monday, June 1.

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At Second Glance
Who's auditing the auditor?

BY HEATHER BLACK

That's the question raised by Auditor General Sheila Fraser at a recent Women's Canadian Club of Montreal, held on January 19 at the Unitarian Church on de Maisonneuve at Claremont. The answer is – surprisingly – the international community.

This practice of peer review of national agencies is just one of several initiatives instituted in recent years to maximize government accountability.

World accountability

The next peer review of Canada's Office of the Auditor General will be led by Australia. This review, known as a "value-for money audit," will focus on the office's products and services – financial statements, quality-management systems, as well as service-delivery mechanisms.

The practice started in 2003, when Fraser asked the international audit community to evaluate Canada's methods. The first review was led by the UK's National Audit Office and included representatives from the national audit offices of Norway, The Netherlands and France. The US participated as an observer.

Since then, Canada has joined other national audit offices to conduct external reviews for other countries. In 2004, Canada led the peer review of the US Government Accountability Office, as well as the European Court of Auditors.

In Canada, one of the office's tasks is to ensure that citizens obtain answers to environmental questions within federal jurisdiction through a petition process. For instance, Petition 152 requested information regarding government decisions on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and called for them to be banned.

The office also examines environmental management tools. In December 2008, the report on "Managing Air Emissions" reviewed government pollution-prevention plans, regulations, economic measures and voluntary agreements with industry. Another, "Managing Severe Weather Warnings", audited Environment Canada's systems and procedures to protect Canadians.

In 2001, a review of the Export Development Corporation – the first environmental review of a crown corporation – found that as "potential environmental risks were not identified," decisions were made on incomplete information. A 2004 review, however, reported: "major improvements."



Auditor General Sheila Fraser

Independence

But the principle of auditor independence (in place in Canada since 1878) is one that must be protected – a point that Fraser reiterated when one listener brought up a communiqué regarding government approval of media releases.

Without independence, many irregularities and illegalities would not be made public. For instance, the of-

fice has taken officials to task for adding a \$25 consular service fee to the cost of a passport, questioned the whereabouts of 41,000 individuals scheduled for deportation and called for the RCMP investigation of \$1.6 million worth of contracts to Groupaction. But while scandals alarm citizens, the good news is that so many are exposed by the government, the opposition or the press.

As a result, Canada is well regarded by the business community and country ana-

lysts. In Transparency International's 2007 "Corruption Perception Index", Canada tied with Norway for ninth best.

Fraser commented that there are no headlines "Government department does great job!" Perhaps not, but those words do apply to the Office of the Auditor General.

In these troubling economic times, it is good to know that taxpayers' money is being watched. The next "Report of the Auditor General" will be tabled on Thursday, February 5.

Final design to be public

continued from p. 1

"There's no time like right now to be pursuing a project like this," she said. With low interest rates, the likelihood of obtaining good tender results and the potential for infrastructural grants, "we want to be shovel-ready."

The final design and costs could be ready in 10 weeks. These would be sent to residents and presented at a public information meeting before taxpayers are polled on whether or not they want the project to proceed, she explained.

Council was expected to approve \$271,000 for the LeMay architectural and

engineering consortium to prepare "final design development drawings."

The initial LeMay report, commissioned at a cost of \$150,000, would not be made public at this time, according to city director general Duncan Campbell. Ultimately, its findings would be incorporated in the final design.

The draft vision statement for sustainability (see text in box, below) follows the creation of three draft vision statements submitted for public consultation and comes eight months after the start of the process by city sustainable development coordinator Joshua Wolfe.

Sustainable Westmount vision draft

Westmount strives for sustainable development, which relates to the fabric of our community, the natural environment, the economy, public health and our heritage.

Community vision: We build a sense of responsibility and engagement – toward each other, other communities, and the peoples of the rest of the world.

Environmental vision: We are stewards of the natural environment – locally, regionally and globally. We acknowledge the need to work creatively to balance human needs with those of the Earth's ecosystems.

Economic vision: We are part of an environmentally and socially conscious economy based on the prudent and socially responsible use of natural and human resources.

Public health vision: We provide mutual respect, and support human health and dignity in all of its aspects: physical, mental and social.

Heritage vision: We appreciate a strong sense of place and history, and work to preserve our distinctive landscape and built environment so they can endure over time.

To realize this vision, our elected officials and city employees collaborate with all the people who live, work, and learn in Westmount in order to meet our present needs without compromising the future.

New Bellevue lawsuit launched

Unsuccessful efforts by neighbours to quash a city permit allowing for the addition of another storey at 27 Bellevue have taken a new legal twist.

The Westmount Independent learned at press time that Steven Goldberg, owner of the category 1 heritage home, had launched a lawsuit January 23 against the owner of the home at 20 Sunnyside who had petitioned Superior Court for a permanent halt to the project.

Details of the suit were not immediately available although the new action claims damages of \$211,073 against Mireille Raymond.

Wife of John Keyserlyngk, Raymond's high-profile court fight against Goldberg and the city of Westmount culminated in a ruling December 12 that allowed the project to proceed.

Keyserlyngk chose not to comment on the new action scheduled for December 3.

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Letters to the Editor

NO FOUNTAIN OF WISDOM

In his letter to you ("Fountains for Westmount", January 13, p. 10), Stephen Chin writes "Could Westmount be nudged to install a fountain in front of city hall?" He mentions Geneva's striking 140-meter 1891 fountain.

May I respectfully disagree with him? It is not a good idea.

There are installation costs (approximately \$100,000),



but, worse than that, a lot of water would be wasted each hour! (Forever!)

Gravitation would not get the water in to the air. Therefore, power would have to be used. Mr. Chin has had many good ideas. This is not one of them.

GERALD GLASS, METCALFE AVE.

The Jet d'Eau, in Lake Geneva installed in 1951, reaches a maximum height of 140 metres and a speed of 200 km/h, according to a Swiss tourism website.

WESTMOUNT SHOULD MEAN TREES

Westmount has long had a reputation for being pro-environment and committed to preserving trees. I am, like others, quite shocked to discover this is false.

Recently, anyone walking around Westmount has witnessed trees being destroyed in the name of home renovation. And we have found out that a permit is not required to destroy trees as long as they are not in the front of a house.

Now I am seeing two other issues. Walk along Devon Ave. heading from Lexington Ave. to Oakland Ave., and see the new surveyors' stakes. (See also p. 1 of this *Independent*.)

I always thought this was preserved oratory property, but apparently it is fair game for development, so you know what will happen to this precious forest, not to forget about the birds, owls and red foxes.

Then on to the Summit Park, where again this year the snow removal includes blowing – with huge force – the snow and ice chunks into the park, with the result being grey "snow" that is shot at the trees. Walk in there and witness the destruction to those trees. Branches are broken and litter the forest floor.

Some municipalities have strict by-laws. Trees draw people to become part of those communities. Trees have been documented to increase property values. Some cities require permits to do anything to them. These same communities will

only allow a tree to be cut down in the event it is dangerous. Then a replanting is required.

A tree takes a lifetime to grow. It is time Westmount lived up to its perceived reputation. Imagine our small community devoid of trees.

We may not be able to do anything to stop some fungal diseases like tar spot, but we can preserve whatever we do have.

LESLEY AITON, LEXINGTON AVE.

FREE CAN BE COSTLY

Re: "Resolutions for 2009" by Eve Aspinall (January 27, p. 5).

While on the theme of admitting our lack of instinct for sustainability, I'd like to point out that garbage removal for businesses in Westmount is free (did anyone else notice the garbage that piled up outside Marc Garneau's headquarters after election night?), but recycling is not.

Businesses and corporations are by definition self-interested. They have to be when profits are calculated to the decimal point. And being a bargain-oriented society only encourages this kind of behaviour.

But, most often, saving a buck costs us in other ways and it's becoming apparent that these are the costs we can't afford. The resolutions for 2009 listed in the article are all good examples, but in my opinion these points were left out: taking responsibility for what our consumer dollars are supporting and acknowledging that our systems don't make sense.

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C.A. (Green)	14	5	7	2	12
Executive B	GP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PTS
M.B.A. (White)	14	8	5	1	17
BROKERS (Blue)	14	7	6	1	15
LAW (Black)	14	7	7	0	14
ENGINEERS (Red)	14	5	9	0	10
Senior A	GP	WIN	LOSS	TIE	PTS
KINGS	24	21	2	1	43
BLUES	24	11	12	1	23
RED WINGS	24	8	16	0	16
BRUINS	24	6	16	2	14
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FATHERS	21	4	11	6	14
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Best info as of Jan. 31

Going up!



This crane was photographed in front of the Château Westmount Square condominiums (St. Catherine St. at Greene) on February 1. New air conditioning coils were being installed.

You and the Law

BY BARBARA NOETZEL, LAWYER

Children will make war with second wife

Harold is a 72-year-old retired engineer who has been married to Shirley for almost a year. This is his second marriage; his first wife, Elizabeth, died in 1993 after a long illness. They had three children, who are now grown up with careers and families of their own.

Harold met Shirley, a secretary in her late forties, a year after his wife's death. She left her job and moved into his house a short while later.

Harold is thinking of making a new will. Although he wants his children (and his grandchildren) to inherit his estate, he also wants to make sure that Shirley is provided for after his death. He'd like her to continue living in the family home for the rest of her life, with the house going to his children afterwards. Harold doesn't think his children would object to his plan, since they've accepted Shirley and get along well with her.

Is there a legal way for him to do this?

Yes, there is - but Harold really should find another way to provide for Shirley.

Harold's plan sounds reasonable in theory: his wife will have a rent-free place to live for the rest of her life, but since she doesn't inherit the house outright, she can't sell it or otherwise dispose of it. Harold figures that since his children don't need the money, they wouldn't mind waiting for their inheritance.

However, you can bet this isn't the way his children will see it. Every lawyer and notary who practices estate law has seen children in this situation mount a full-scale harassment campaign, or worse, against their parent's second spouse to force in an effort to relinquish his or her rights.

Harold's plan means his children will have to wait for Shirley to die before they inherit their father's house. No matter how well they get along with her now, she isn't their mother - in their eyes, she's "only" their father's wife. It might be several decades before Harold's children come into their inheritance - and you can be certain they'll greatly resent seeing Shirley live in the house they feel is rightfully theirs.

Barbara Noetzel can be reached at 450-671-3305, or barbaranoetzel@yahoo.ca

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Westmount, NDG, St. Henri meet on superhospital

BY KRISTIN MCNEILL

Residents of Westmount, NDG and St. Henri gathered at St. Raymond's Community Centre on Upper Lachine Rd. on the evening of January 29 to hear from members of the Interquartier Coalition about recent developments regarding the MUHC superhospital to be built at Decarie and de Maisonneuve.

The group – known as the CIQ, from its French name, *La Concertation Inter-Quartiers* – is made up of nine community organizations, including the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA), represented at the meeting by Maureen Kiely, and the Contactivity Centre, represented by Bridget Blackader.

One hospital, many issues

Impacts to traffic flow, housing prices and health care for residents are among those issues CIQ takes to heart. Prior to



Dr. Maureen Kiely, member of the Westmount Municipal Association, second from left, speaks at a public information session on the impact of the MUHC superhospital on surrounding communities.

the public presentation, Blackader explained that a development of such mag-

nitude encourages gentrification, which can be both positive in terms of economic

growth and negative because it can be "disruptive to the current social fabric" of surrounding communities, especially those that are more economically depressed.

Kiely spoke first from the panel of three, followed by Gillian Keefe of the NDG Community Council and Pierre Richard of St. Henri's RESO.

She explained the make-up of the CIQ membership, followed by a summarized timeline of its actions to date, including the development of a "Community Benefits Agreement" with the MUHC, set to be finalized this year.

The key elements CIQ wants MUHC to address on behalf of its member communities are jobs (e.g. opportunities for local employment, training for unemployed residents); economic spin-offs (e.g. new local business opportunities); housing (e.g. impacts on prices and availability); traffic, transportation and environmental considerations.



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Victoria Park brings array of spa, health services to Victoria

NEWS & ANALYSIS BY ERIN STROPES

There's a new destination for West-mounters looking to relax, work out, get pampered or just get away from it all. The Victoria Park spa and health club is a freshly opened "urban retreat" with an integrated concept that unites a "village" of health and beauty services under one roof. The complex includes a health club, spa and medispa, with health counselors, private trainers and nutritionists on staff, as well as an exclusive cosmetics boutique and yet-to-be-opened gourmet health food services.

Occupying the third and fourth floor of an unassuming Victoria Ave. office building, the layout of the spa is in keeping with the principles of privacy and discretion. The entire complex is joined by internal hallways and staircases, with a private exit and indoor parking.

Even on a foggy winter day, a view of the mountain is visible from the spa waiting room, the gym and many of the treat-

ment rooms.

The founders and partners of Victoria Park – Jeff Hart, Jeff Baithowitz, Robert Hoppenheim, and David Lisbona – have worked with designers and artists to craft every aspect of the decor, from the striking health club reception desk to the peaceful cedar walls and the river rocks from around Canada that encircle the spa's private waiting room.

All of the complex's furnishings, designed by Montreal artist Mathieu Gaudet,

VICTORIA PARK

376 Victoria Ave. Westmount
Health club #300 514.488.5182
Spa & medispa #400 514.488.7722
www.vicpark.com

were constructed locally with materials from around Canada – including white oak, slate and maple – giving a uniquely tranquil, organic feel to the otherwise ultra-modern treatment rooms and facilities. Indeed, the modern and natural

components of the design blend in a surprisingly cohesive fashion, lending credence to the designers' belief in the "ultimate luxury of nature."

Spa and Medispa

Victoria Park offers a full range of spa services, including massage, exfoliation, waxing, and facials tailored for men and women. Couples, bridal and maternity packages are available as well. Prices range from the surprisingly reasonable (\$45 for a half-hour facial) to the extravagant (a "Diamond Peel" exfoliation, for example, will run you \$275 for the 75-minute treatment).

The medispa, staffed by some of the country's top names in plastic surgery and dermatology, offers skin rejuvenation, laser hair removal, deep exfoliation treatments and more, in a private environment that certainly feels more like a spa than a doctor's office.

The same principles of quality and aesthetics spill over into the cosmetics boutique, where a collection of health products from around the world, the majority made from organic ingredients, are artfully displayed in a stand-alone retail space flanking the spa area. Many of the product lines are exclusively available in Montreal through the boutique.

Clients who would like to get their hair done after their spa treatment or workout need look no further than the Giovanni Miloncini salon that shares the floor.

Health club

The gym component of Victoria Park centres around state-of-the-art fitness equipment, including iPod compatibility and stationary bicycles that use virtual reality to let users pedal and steer their way



Health club "Yoga barn."

through their choice of scenic routes. The health club, which already counts a range of elite sports professionals among its members, offers a highly qualified staff of trainers to help clients meet their fitness goals.

The attention to design continues here, with tasteful, framed individual mirrors in the place of the usual wall of oversized health-club mirrors, and private yoga and fitness rooms with peaceful outdoor views and a rugged character that's reinforced by actual barn-door facades.

The \$200-per-month membership fee includes access to the fitness classes, locker rooms, lounge area and the "thermal circuit": sauna, steam room and cold room. Classes include yoga, Budakon, TRX suspension training and spinning.

Mountainside Church presents first 2009 concert

Winners of the 2008 Lynnwood Farnam Organ Competition will perform a concert at the Mountainside United Church on Sunday, February 8 at 4 pm.

The event is a part of the church's Concerts Plus 2009 series and is being presented in collaboration with the Montreal Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

Nikolas Fehr and Leora Nauta will play works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Pärt and Sweelinck.

Tickets are \$15 (\$12 for students and seniors). The church is located at Lansdowne and The Boulevard.



Spa area waiting room.

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The Update Houses up for sale since January 20 Inventory

The Update is content provided by the Westmount Independent, and is compiled from public sources and parties that contact us. To find a brokered property's listing agent and additional information, please go to MLS.ca. Both listing agents and agents working with buyers have more information (including the address of all houses) available to them on a private network.
Houses in The Update are new listings, but may have been listed previously (as re-

cently as a month ago), by the same or different agents.

\$479,000	2 Prospect St.
\$529,000	109 Lewis Ave.*
\$579,000	Address unavailable (Victoria Village)
\$649,000	14 Springfield Ave.
\$900,000	434 Metcalfe Ave.
\$979,000	Address unavailable (Sunnyside/Upper Roslyn)



659 Belmont Ave.

\$995,000	Address unavailable (near Greene Ave.)
\$995,000	25 Renfrew Ave.
\$1,088,000	26 Thornhill Ave.
\$1,345,000	Address unavailable
\$1,349,000	Address unavailable
\$1,350,000	3249 Cedar Ave.
\$1,425,000	364 Kitchener Ave.
\$1,590,000	659 Belmont Ave.
\$1,650,000	Address unavailable
\$1,995,000	Address unavailable

*Also for rent.



2 Prospect St. is located on the southeast corner of Prospect and Clandeboye Ave., towards the end of a little walkway.

For a list of houses recently transferred in Westmount, please see p. 13.

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Spectacular-Semi  new price 644 av. Grosvenor asking \$995,000	Radiant Roslyn  716 av. Upper-Roslyn asking \$998,000	Superb Stone  just listed! 3249 av. Cedar asking \$1,350,000
Terrific Townhouse  481 av. Argyle asking \$829,000	Elegant Estate  4697 av. Westmount asking \$895,000	Handsome Home  3200 av. The Boulevard asking \$1,295,000
Reno'd Row-House  109 av Lewis Asking \$529,000 or \$3,500/mo	Convenient Condo  343 Clarke apt. 4 asking \$445,000	Super Semi  Coming Soon...

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Bought & Sold: Real estate transferred since December 2, 2008

Address	Price	Evaluation	Buyer	Seller	Date
4313 Montrose Ave.	\$2,850,000	\$2,500,000	Laurence Duguay	Royal Lepage Relocation Services Ltd.	16-Dec
14 Ramezay Rd.	\$1,975,000	\$1,595,800	Gilles Létourneau & Martine Hudon	6309348 Canada Inc.	9-Dec
68 Summit Circle	\$1,500,000	\$1,109,200	Sylvia Krauss & Jay Bassila	Anne Pâquet & Mathieu Tessier	17-Dec
3767 The Boulevard	\$1,443,500	\$1,063,300	Lise Otis & Benjamin Victor	Allan Kobelansky & Audrey Juras	4-Dec
22 Chesterfield Ave.	\$875,000	\$646,400	Willamina Leus & Nicolas Martire	Rebecca Streeter & Michel Tellier	16-Dec
486 Argyle Ave.	\$810,000	\$787,800	Michel Greiche & Alexandra Dawson	Sandrine Duffar	14-Jan
Address unknown	\$769,000	n.a.	Sylvain Deslauriers	Jacqueline Beaudoin	23-Jan
337 Metcalfe Ave.	\$732,000	\$932,700	Alan Pancer & Karen Grover	Estate of the Late Celia Lafleur	8-Dec
4614 & 4616 St. Catherine St.	\$650,000	\$549,400	Reza Somea & Mahdiah Zargar-Azad	David Bracco & Sandrine Bracco	15-Dec
724 Lexington Ave.	\$524,900	\$524,900	Graham Shaw	D.T. Shaw Company Limited	19-Dec
229 Melville Ave.	\$465,000	\$440,200	AnnMarie Adams & Peter Gossage	Frank Loverso & Susan Marcus	3-Dec
455 & 57 Grosvenor Ave.	\$402,000	\$453,000	David Anderson & Sophie Maheo	José Hack & Eva Niclevisch Hack	18-Dec
4700 St. Catherine St. #709 & parking space	\$395,000	\$378,500	Philippe Kattan	Estate of Antoine Tarazi	2-Dec
536 Lansdowne Ave.	\$385,000	\$456,900	Georges Policar	Ida Fabi	29-Dec
4700 St. Catherine St. #703	\$375,000	\$368,600	Hélène Lafleur	Gérald Katz	19-Jan
1 Wood Ave. Unit A-67	\$16,000	n.a.	Grigorios Efremidis & Kian Assadollah	Vittoria Ponari	16-Jan
379 Claremont & 33 Winchester	\$1	\$328,800	George Fourniotis	Vivian Alissandratos (Fourniotis)	11-Dec



14 Ramezay Rd. recently sold for just under \$2 million.



For a list of houses recently put on the market in Westmount, please see p. 10.

◀ 379 Claremont Ave./33 Winchester Ave. was recently transferred for \$1.



536 Lansdowne Ave. recently sold for \$385,000.



4313 Montrose Ave. recently sold for \$2.85 million.

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ON THE SHELVES

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

Tout le monde on parle: Obama

“Inauguration Preview: Great Expectations: A New President and the Burdens that Await Him” in *Time*, Jan. 26, 2009, p. 26-50.

“The 44th President: Renewing America” in *The Economist*, Jan. 17, 2009, p. 11.

“Obama: le grand défi” by Philippe Boulet-Gercourt in *Le nouvel observateur*, Jan. 21, 2009, p. 6.

“Obama, un président en construction” in *Courrier international*, Jan. 21, 2009, p. 26.

New DVDs

Love in the Time of Cholera. At the turn of the 20th century, romantic Florentino Ariza spots the stunning Fermina Daza and immediately falls in love. Denied by her father, Florentino refuses to give up his dream of winning her hand, even if that means waiting decades to fill the passion in his heart. Based on the award-winning novel by Gabriel García Márquez.

Goya's Ghosts. Set against the backdrop of political turmoil at the end of the Spanish Inquisition and start of the invasion of Spain by Napoleon's army, this film captures the essence and beauty of Goya's work. When his beautiful muse is accused of being a heretic, renowned painter Francisco Goya must convince his old friend Lorenzo, a power-hungry monk and leader of the Spanish Inquisition, to spare her life.

Picture books

Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes by Mem Fox. Celebrate babies from all over the world with this delightful rhyming book about fingers and toes from award-winning author Mem Fox and illustrator Helen Oxenbury!

Drôle d'œuf by Emily Gravett. All the birds have an egg except Duck. When he finally finds one that he can call his own, he is delighted! The other birds think it's a very odd egg and make fun of it. But when it hatches, Duck gets the last laugh!

The lives of painters

Bernard Buffet, le samouraï by Jean-Claude Lamy. One of the most distinctive painters of the 20th century, Bernard Buffet committed suicide in a ritualistic manner in 1999. Highly popular and internationally known, he was not without his detractors, however, and had feuded with partisans of abstract art and fueled polemics throughout his life. A tormented man known for his wild love affairs, Buffet had personified the rebel spirit of the 1950s and 1960s.

Raphaël, une vie heureuse by Antonio Forcellino. When Raphael died on Good Friday, 1520 at only 37 years of age, a deep grief engulfed the papal court. He was highly regarded and had an exemplary journey as an artist. After taking Florence and Rome by storm, he had received the highest honours and gained the protection of the papacy. Raphael also had found happiness in love, befitting an artist who had shown his admiration for beautiful women through his works.

Shorter pieces

Woof: Writers on Dogs edited by Lee Montgomery. Twenty well-known writers contribute personal essays “ranging from the deadly serious to the madly humorous” on the relations between dogs and humans. Sure to bring pleasure to more readers than the fans of *Marley and Me* by John Grogan.

The Red Convertible by Louise Erdrich. The author of over two dozen books for adults and children including the recent *The Plague of Doves* has gathered 36 of her stories, creating a treasury of the North American experience. Many characters appear – a reclusive sculptor, the diabolical Sister Leopolda of the Sacred Heart Convent, a small-minded German sister-in-law, a trapeze artist who saves her daughter from a burning house, a doctor who lures a college girl by promising to cook her an omelet. The characters and situations reappear from one story to another, linking generation to generation in a multitude of shifting moods.

9 Lives: Hope

BY LYZANNE

Hope is only 8 months old, an abandoned kitten living outdoors in this cold winter! She is a lovely white and grey domestic shorthair. She has been fed and vet-



Hope

ted by a very kind man, but he can't keep her since he is not allowed to have a cat in his apartment building. So, against all odds, Hope is having to survive outside in the cold until a kind family offers her a home.

This is an urgent placement: consider adopting Hope now instead of adopting a cat from a pet shop. She is not feral, she was abandoned and she needs a family as soon as possible.

Please call Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions on her pager at 514.203.9180 or email her at info@gerdysrescue.org.

Your neighbour,
Lyzanne



Artwork by Laura S. Cohendet

Underdog

BY FERN BRESLAW

For people who are chronically rejected while job hunting, the problem can often be boiled down to simple details – like a skirt that's a little on the short side or a limited knowledge of PowerPoint. The same is true for dogs who can't find homes.

Tango and Opaline are two such cases. Both have had their share of rejection and both are in desperate need of someone who is still willing to believe in them



Tango Photo: Marilyn Gelfand

despite a couple of details – something that not many of us are prepared to do.

Opaline is still home-hunting, mainly because of our collective dog racism. She acts like a Lab and loves like a Lab, only she isn't a Lab. She's a pit. Plus, she's a little stressed out and needs a few minutes to adjust to new people, a luxury few dogs are afforded. Just take her out to play and you'll see.

She is house-trained, is learning commands, and is a really good little girl who will make a great only child if she is given the chance.

Tango (whose story we ran in Nov.) is still at the shelter and has actually become quite comfortable there. It may sound silly, but if he doesn't find a home, then the SPCA would like to adopt him themselves and make him their permanent mascot. The problem is they can't cover the cost of treating his hips and anxiety medication, the total of which is \$1,000.

The difference is between him having a life where he is comfortable and one where he hurts. If someone would like to make a big difference for one dog, then please think about making it Tango.

If you would like to help, please visit Tango and Opaline at the Montreal SPCA or call Fern at 514.969.3376.



Opaline

Photo: Marilyn Gelfand

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Hello, Westmount

CHANTAIL BOULÉ, VIE DE CAMPAGNE

PHOTO & STORY BY ROBERT GALBRAITH

Vie de Campagne is celebrating its 20th year in business this year. Its first nine years were spent in Georgeville on the shores of Lake Memphremagog, and the last 11 years on Victoria. The main focus of the shop is custom interior design and home decorating.

“We have in-store designers to assist the buyer, and we offer a range of price points. We started in Georgeville catering to Townshippers, with many of our clients living there and in Westmount.

“Opening up in Westmount brought us a more di-

verse clientele. Now our customers are from the Laurentians and the Townships but mostly from right here in the heart of the city. The move opened up a whole new range of clients.”

Vie de Campagne is located at 361 Victoria. The phone number is 514.484.2199 and the email address is viedecampagne@gmail.com.

Hello, Westmount is content provided by the Westmount Independent. Businesses that appear do not pay or approve what is written.



Vie de Campagne owner Chantail Boulé in her Victoria Ave. shop at the corner of Somerville on January 28.

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Local Classifieds

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Office/studio sublet on Sherbrooke W. Rooftop spectacular view. Electricity and heat included. Mini-kitchen and bathroom. Call 514-484-3731.

European cook for light cooking for elderly woman. Dr. Penfield 4 hrs per day, 4 days per week. 514-488-1451.

WINTER CARNIVAL 2009

THURSDAY, FEB. 5

- Tobogganing, bonfire, skating and free hot chocolate and cookies at Murray Park from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Helmets recommended.



Murray Hill's hill. There will likely be more people around on Thursday night!

- 'Speakeasy' Casino Night in the Lodge Room at Victoria Hall, starting at 8 pm. Roulette, blackjack, poker, cash bar and entertainers Team Burlesque. For 18 years and over. Tickets on sale at Victoria Hall during regular office hours (Mon. to Fri., from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.) \$15 includes gaming chips. 514.989.5226.

FRIDAY, FEB. 6

- Carnival Space Odyssey, a family evening with dinner, dancing, and activities on board the spaceship *Westmount of the Stars*, at Victoria Hall from 5:30 to 9:30 pm. Dress code: extraterrestrial. Tickets on sale at Victoria Hall during regular office hours (Mon. to Fri., from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.) Cost: Adults \$10; youth aged 12 and under \$5. 514.8.5226.

SATURDAY, FEB. 7

10 to 11 am	Termite mini hockey tournament	arena
10 am to 12:00 p.m.	face painting	arena
10:45 am to 4 pm	old-fashioned sleigh rides	main field in Westmount Park
11 am to 3 pm	sugar shack	main field in Westmount Park
11:15 am to 12 pm	kid's figure skating show	arena
12 pm to 12:30 pm	general skating	arena
12 to 1:30 pm	free hot dogs	arena
12:30 to 1 pm	puck-shooting contest	arena
1 to 2:15 pm	fun races and games on ice	arena
2:30 to 9:45 pm	family skating	arena
2:30 to 3 p.m.	tug of war	in front of arena

For information on: outdoor activities, 514.989.5353
activities at Victoria Hall, 514.989.5226

Comin' Up...

THURSDAY, FEB. 5: Marianopolis College Alumni Association hosts Groundhog Day reunion and annual silent auction fundraiser from 6 to 9 pm at **Marianopolis College** (4873 Westmount Ave.). Of special interest to graduates as former profs will attend, but event is open to all. Beer and pizza. No cost. 514.931.8792.

MONDAY, FEB. 9: Information evening for Secondary 5 students from 4 to 7:30 pm to learn about **admission to Marianopolis College's** pre-university programs. (4873 Westmount Ave.)

TUESDAY, FEB. 10: Westmount Horticultural Society presents "**Quebec Wild-flowers**" with speaker Rick Fraser from 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Library. 514.932.9349. Members free, guests \$5.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11: Atwater Book Club led by author **Mary Soderstrom** discusses *Hunting and Gathering* by Anna Gavalda at 7:30 pm at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre (1200 Atwater). Free. 514.935.7344.

FRIDAY, FEB. 13: **Tu Bishevat Seder** spon-

sored by Temple's Sisterhood/Brotherhood at Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom at 8:15 pm. All are welcome to partake in four cups of wine, fruits, nuts, special songs as part of this mystical custom from Safed, a unique seder. 514.937.3575.

FRIDAY, FEB. 13: The **Orpheus Singers**, directed by Peter Schubert, perform songs for Valentine's Day at 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre (1200 Atwater). Free. 514.935.7344.

SATURDAY, FEB. 14: Karen Potje performs songs from her new CD at a **Valentine's Day concert for kids** and grown ups at Babar en ville (1235A Greene Ave.) at 3 pm. Kids will rattle maracas, clack castanets, and kazoo too. Treats! 514.931.0606.

THURSDAY, FEB. 19: Joan Rothman will speak about the introduction of the French Immersion program to Roslyn School in 1965. Westmount Library, 7 to 9 pm. Organized by the Westmount Historical Association. Free for members, non-members \$5 at door. 514.925.1404 or 514.932.6688.

Always On

My Tool Box is a free six-session workshop held at the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex (2111 Northcliffe, Room 534) that is designed to teach people the skills they need to live well with **chronic health conditions** such as diabetes, heart disease, asthma, arthritis, cancer, MS, muscular dystrophy, stroke, hypertension and chronic pain.

Participants meet once a week, for two-and-a-half-hours. The next session starts February 24. Classes are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays, mornings, afternoons and evenings in French and English. To register: 514.398.5442 or my-toolbox.mni@mcgill.ca.

Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom's 12-week series, **Introduction to Judaism**, takes place on Tuesdays from February 10 to April 28. Learn to read Hebrew, review Jewish practices and history, from Rabbi Lerner and Rabbi Bykova. Simply wish to learn to read Hebrew?

Attend the first 15 minutes of each Tuesday session for 10 weeks. Sessions start at 5:45 pm. Fees for books and materials. Open to the entire community. 514.937.3575.

Tai Chi-based Movement and Stretch every Wednesday between 11 am and 12 pm at Centre Greene (1090 Greene Ave.)

Computer classes every Tuesday in February at Centre Greene from 8 to 9:30 pm. \$30 for 4 classes or \$10 per drop in. www.centregreene.org.

On Thursdays at 2 pm, **ballroom dance classes** are offered to people living with Parkinson's at Centre Greene.

Instructors Susan Chiasson, ballroom dance teacher, and Ellen Rubin, a dancer and retired physiotherapist who specializes in the treatment of neurological conditions, teach this social dance class for those living with stage 1 or stage 2 Parkinson's. Must bring an able-bodied partner.

The goal of this class is to learn to dance and have fun. For info or to register, phone Rubin at 514.484.2016. No drop-ins please.

For info on Centre Greene activities, call 514.931.6202.

To contribute an event to
Comin' Up or Always On,
please email us at:

indie@
westmountindependent.com
or

fax us at 514.935.9241.

Always On is published in the
first issue of the month only.

Westmount Profile: Louise Penny

Creating Inspector Gamache

By Laureen Sweeney

Louise Penny was in Phoenix on a promotional tour when her latest book in the Inspector Gamache series skyrocketed to #3 on the US bestseller list. It was a mind-whirling milestone for this award-winning author.

But once she was flying high en route home to Westmount, she settled back and plugged into her iPod, as is her custom during so much of her book-related travel.

“As my mind empties, into it walk all my characters,” she says. “There’s no feeling I’ve ever had like it. It’s euphoria. I really love the characters.”

And no wonder. For it’s the characters that bridge her 20-year career as a CBC radio host and her move into the world of fiction some 13 years ago.

“The main difference is that as a journalist, I worked with the truth,” she explains. “Now I’m making up an entire world where nothing on the page has happened like that before.”

Dog lover, risk-taker

The fiction brings out her own personality: a risk-taker by nature and a fervent dog lover who advocates for the support of animal shelters. “I’m always up for a risk,” she says. “I bluff at bridge and put everything into the pot in poker. I’m hoping now that I’m 50 it will be tempered a little.” Chief Inspector Gamache also takes on some of her own persona in his inquisitiveness and search for the truth.

Penny’s journalistic background has given her particular insight that she has been able to weave into her characters. “I’ve had the privilege of interviewing so many people and learning about their compassion, forgiveness and ability to rise above their situation.”

With accuracy never far from her mind, Penny has rented a house in Quebec City for a month during Carnaval to “steep” herself in the staging for Book 6, tentatively called *Bury Your Dead*.

With 120,000 words at stake, she says, “I don’t want to have Gamache walking along a street that’s flat when it’s really a steep hill!”

Book 5 out this year

Meanwhile, Book 5 (*The Brutal Telling*) is scheduled for publication in October 2009. Her current book, *The Murder Stone* (Book 4), hit the Canadian and UK markets in October and was recently released in the US as *A Rule Against Murder*.

Penny, who does most of her writing at her home in Sutton, has a special bond with Westmount, where she and her husband, retired physician Dr. Michael Whitehead, maintain an apartment.

It was here that she lived between the ages of 8 and 12, attending Roslyn School and ECS. The family subsequently returned to Toronto where Penny landed her first job with the CBC in 1979 after studying Radio and TV Arts at Ryerson College.

Successive positions took her to Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, Quebec City and Montreal. “I became tired of all the moves, and this was the place where I felt the most kinship.”

Back to Arlington

Meanwhile, she fell in love with Whitehead, a pediatric hematologist at the Montreal Children’s Hospital and holder of the first Canadian chair in the specialty. Together they discovered that Penny’s childhood home, a duplex on Arlington, was for rent. Her life had come full circle. Later, they moved to their current Sherbrooke St. apartment on acquiring the house in the Eastern Townships, the area where most of her books are set.

“The first draft is a real chore,” Penny says. “I’d rather be doing anything than sitting at the computer doing that. It takes discipline and perseverance.”

As well, she struggles with the difference between producing an instantaneous story for radio rather than one that unfolds over an entire year of writing – “like an exam that goes on and on.”

Travel important

Research, writing and editing, however, consume only part of her time. In the last year, Penny attended some 100 promotional events throughout Canada, the US and England. These included speeches, launches and book festivals. “Some of the best were in smaller places where people are engaged and happy to see me.”

Inspired as a school girl by Farley Mowat, “I was amazed that you could be a Canadian, a writer and alive all at the same time,” she recalls. “I thought: if he did it, maybe I could.” But it wasn’t until she was in her 40s, “that I discovered I had something I wanted to say. Before that, I was too self-absorbed and callow.”

A pivotal moment came when she introduced herself to Mowat on a train just as her first book was about to be released. “I thanked him for his inspiration.”

Penny’s love of dogs is underlined by




Louise Penny with husband, Michael Whitehead. The retired pediatric hematologist has caught the writing bug from his wife and is now working on his own book on neuroblastoma, a common cancer in children.


the priority she gives to her own golden retrievers in introducing herself on her website. One is a rescued dog. They take precedence over her career and the world of writing in which she thrives.

“I realize that one day this will all go

away and my happiness will not be dependent on the books,” she says. “So this is what matters in my life: my dogs, my friends, my husband. The older I get, the more I believe in John Lennon’s message: ‘All We Need is Love.’”



Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount



RÔLE DE PERCEPTION 2009

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné par le soussigné, trésorier de la Ville de Westmount :

QUE le rôle général de perception des taxes pour l'exercice financier 2009 est maintenant déposé à mon bureau situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount; et

QU'il sera procédé à l'envoi des comptes de taxes dans le délai imparti.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 3^e jour de février 2009.

2009 COLLECTION ROLL

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, Treasurer of the City of Westmount:

THAT the general collection roll of taxes for fiscal year 2009 is now deposited at my office located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount; and

THAT the tax accounts will be mailed within the allotted delay.

GIVEN at Westmount this 3rd day of February 2009.

Claude Lachance
Trésorier de la Ville/City Treasurer

February at the Art Galleries

Update: **Collins Lefebvre Stoneberger** (now Beaux-arts des Amériques) has re-located. 3944 St-Denis, 514.481.2111

Galerie de Bellefeuille: Group show "POP!". Exhibit: February 12 to 23. Group show "Landscapes". Exhibit: February 26 to March 9. 1367 Greene Ave., 514.933.4406

Galerie D'Este: Angel Mateo Charris & Ludmila Armata: new work. 1329 Greene Ave., 514.846.1515

Galerie Sandra Goldie: Frank Caracciolo "Darling": paintings. Vernissage: February 12 at 5:30 pm. Exhibit continues to February 20. 4898 de Maisonneuve, 514.935.2355

Gallery at Victoria Hall: Anne Fish: paintings. Exhibit continues to February 7. Sara Peck Colby: paintings. Exhibit February 19 to March 14. 4626 Sherbrooke St., 514.989.5226

Han Art: Group show, gallery artists. 4209 St Catherine St., 514.876.9278

La Galerie sur Greene: Gallery artists. 1368 Greene Ave., 514.938.3863

McClure Gallery – Visual Arts Centre: Robert Walker "Town & Country": photo-

graphs, Vernissage: February 5 at 6 pm. Exhibit continues to February 28. 350 Victoria Ave., 514.488.9558

Parisian Laundry: Theresa Sapergia "Canada Day" & Geoffrey Jones "A Cold Light". Exhibit continues to February 14. Valerie Blass Publication launch: February 14. 3550 St. Antoine St., 514.989.1056

West End Gallery: Mary Harman & Kay Aubanel: New works. 1358 Greene Ave., 514.933.4314.



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- **I won't...** try to impress you with meaningless awards in order to prove to you that I am a highly qualified professional with 25 years experience.
- **I won't...** just stick a "For Sale" sign in front of your door and wait for something to happen.
- **I won't...** pass you off to an assistant.
- **I won't...** have you wait until I am paged in order to speak with me.
- **I won't...** do a brief dull description, nor will I use or neglect to update out of season photos.
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