

Contract changes recycling rules, market threatens contract

No more sorting

Westmounters need no longer separate recycling into the two sections of their blue boxes, according to city officials. The requirement to sort paper and other fibers from the rest – glass, plastic and metals – is not necessary because of a change in operation imposed by the city of Montreal.

“It’s called co-mingling – a backward step – but we will have to continue nevertheless,” said Jenny Patton, chair of the Healthy City Project’s environment committee. “Westmount has been at or near the top of the recycling league for 18 years

and we must keep it that way.”

However, Montreal’s recycling system itself is in trouble due to the economic downturn and the resulting collapse of the market for recycled materials. There were even doubts that recycling collections would continue uninterrupted, as Montreal’s contractor was threatening to close the main sorting plant for the island.

Despite all the changes and uncertainty, local officials are appealing to residents to continue their recycling habits.

“It would be wrong to stop,” Mayor Karin Marks told the *Westmount Independent*. “The alternatives are to store the recyclables until they can be sold, or to put them in landfills, which is not acceptable.”

Last month, JC Fibres, which for the past five years collected, sorted and sold the recyclables from Westmount and many other island cities and boroughs, abruptly ended its commitments to the municipalities (see *West-* *mount Independent*, January continued on p. 10

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ROYAL LEPAGE

HERITAGE

Carnival-time in Westmount



From left: Samantha Sambrook, 10, Julia Ryan, 11, and Natasha Ryan, 6. Three young Westmounters wait for the horse-drawn sleigh ride to start. Samantha’s and Julia’s faces are still painted after their figure skating performance during Westmount’s Winter Carnival. For story, please see p. 3.

Westmount studying truck side-guards, backs Jessica Campaign

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount has taken the initiative to explore the retrofit of larger municipal trucks with side guards. The skirting helps prevent pedestrians and cyclists from slipping between the wheels.

The announcement was made at the February 2 council meeting when the council endorsed a petition coming from

the Federation of Canadian Municipalities urging Transport Canada to implement national safety standards for side-guards along the lines of those in Europe and the UK.

Westmount the first in Quebec

“We’re the first in Quebec to do this,” announced Councillor Cynthia Lulham in moving the resolution.

At the same time, she said council had asked the city staff to look into retrofitting its current larger trucks with the devices. City director general Duncan Campbell later said, “We’re going to be looking at our fleet to see what can be modified.”

The real impetus, he added, will come from the federal and provincial governments.

The Westmount resolu- continued on p. 10

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Remind you of a Hitchcock movie?

Over the last year, Westmounters have noticed a lot of black birds – variously identified as crows and grackles. In the 1963 movie *The Birds*, director Alfred Hitchcock adapted Daphne du Maurier's short story about a planet-wide bird attack to one California town. Is Westmount next?



Looking east at de Maisonneuve and Redfern Ave.

Photo: Hubert Bordat



Looking north from the 4300 de Maisonneuve apartment building.

Photo: Michael Price



These birds were photographed near Olivier Ave.

Photo: Joan Graham

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Alouettes turn to basketball at The Study



From left: Alouettes Scott Flory, Ryan Karhurt and Anwar Stewart pursue Study grade 10 student Jessica Weibel on a breakaway.

Six Montreal Alouette football players visited The Study on February 3 to play basketball with the students.

After a motivational talk from the Als, Study girls and staff took to the court on day two of the school's Spirit Week.

Although the girls had the at-home advantage, the Als had lots of supportive fans in the crowd. The game ended with a slim 4-point lead for the Als and a final score of 31 to 35.

Winter Carnival brings families and friends together

BY ISAAC OLSON

With events around the city held over a three-day period, Westmount's 26th Annual Winter Carnival attracted droves of families and friends to activities geared toward kids and adults alike.

With mild weather rolling through on February 7, excited children climbed aboard the horse-drawn sleigh in Westmount Park, enjoyed maple taffy on snow and skated in the arena. (For photo, please see p. 1.)

Over the three days, activities ranged from tobogganing in King George Park to a "Speakeasy" casino night held in Victoria Hall on February 6.

When asked if he enjoyed his maple taffy on snow, 7-year-old Rasheed Faraj quickly replied "of course" before taking another lick.

His 9-year-old brother, Kareem Faraj, content with his own gooey, maple-coated stick, said he thinks the Winter Carnival is great and he especially enjoyed the free hot dogs in the arena.

The Study is the second among 30 schools the Alouettes will visit over the next three months as part of their community service off-season program.

"I could be back home in Florida, but I choose to do this," said long-standing Alouette defenseman Anwar Stewart.

Senior school director Antonia Zannis added that "Anwar did a great job of modeling community service for our girls." She also thanked the other players, John Bowman, Damon Duval, Ryan Karhut, Scott Flory and Skip Seagraves.

Westmount High has also been chosen to be a part of Alouettes' "School is Cool" program. The players will visit on Wednesday, February 18.



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Council to release its selected design in April

Residents press for arena report

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council has remained resolute in its decision not to release the preliminary feasibility and design report on arena renewal despite pressuring by citizens at the February 2 city council meeting.

As the council approved \$271,000 to advance the process from design concept to development, citizens called for “openness and transparency,” saying taxpayers had paid for the preliminary architectural and engineering report. They wanted more information at this stage to understand what could be done and at what cost.

They also questioned an increase in professional fees for the next phase, the level of environmental standards proposed and the lack of polling based on the findings in the report.

“Post it on the website,” said Henry Olders, past president of the Westmount Municipal Association. “It won’t be divisive but will help make people know that decisions are not being made in secret behind closed doors.”

(For an opinion piece by Olders, please see p. 6.)

Mayor: too early for public report

Mayor Karin Marks insisted that the report’s findings were too preliminary to be released until after council had selected the final design. This would be submitted to taxpayers in April when two information meetings would be held.

Pollsters would then conduct a poll to indicate whether or not citizens agreed to proceed with the projected \$25 million renewal.

This ballpark amount is based on a number of factors including estimates from other arenas, construction costs per square foot, the city’s overall long-term financing commitments and costs identified with the 1999 arena renewal project postponed by the merger with Montreal.

“Personally, I’m in favour of us spending more money,” Olders said. But he wanted to learn from the report what might be obtained on a higher budget. Later he said this was especially relevant “if we’re able to get infrastructure money.”

In compiling the feasibility report, Marks said many meetings had been held with the architects and engineers. The Lemay consortium had been hired by the city in July at a fee of \$1.37 million over five phases based on estimated construction costs of \$19.6 million.

After much discussion, it was decided to maintain the current site and height of the arena, not build on the dog run or impinging on the adjacent apartment building. It was also decided to maintain or even enhance park green space and work toward LEED certification.

“It was no easy task,” she explained. And findings from the feasibility report indicated the need to scale down much of the wish list emanating from a public consultation forum.

Now, with a better idea of the cost, she said, there was no time to lose in being “shovel ready” when federal and provincial infrastructure money becomes available.

The requested feasibility report is known to include results of soil testing as well as conceptual plans.

It is understood that underground

parking has already been considered too costly. And Marks revealed that it was discovered that the site could not accommodate two standard-size NHL rinks (200 feet by 85). (See the *Westmount Independent*, February 3, p. 1.)

More money being spent

Resident Patrick Barnard, the first questioner, said he believed that polling of citizens had been planned to take place at this stage, after completion of phase 1 in the design process. He also questioned why the professional fees for phase 2 were being approved at a higher amount than previously indicated. He also requested an accounting of the fees, which Marks said could be provided.

The rise in fees, city director general Duncan Campbell later told the *Westmount Independent*, resulted from an increase in the estimated construction costs on which the 15-percent for phase 2 was based. These costs had risen from the \$19.6 million to \$21.7 million.

In reply to a question from resident John Dorey asking if the \$400,000 in fees to the end of phase 2 would be “down the drain” if the project were reduced, Marks said “absolutely not.” The design plan would not be lost.

The project’s level of adherence to environmental standards, she told Luc Rivest, would be balanced against costs. “We’ll push for as much green as the budget will permit.” Gesturing appropri-



Henry Olders at the mic on February 2.

ately, she said, “The vision is up here. The reality is down here.”

Resident Gary Ikeman further asked if the phase 2 design work plan could be split into two parts, so as not to spend all the money before receiving feedback from the population. Marks said this had been considered but that design team professionals might be lost in an extended process.

Hockey parents

Jim West and Jim Stein, two hockey-playing fathers, urged council to “stay the course.” They said that the voices that were not being heard were the children’s. There are “kids with no skating time.” Marks was also asked what provision was being made during the construction period for residents left without the arena and pool. “We’re in the process of looking for alternative (sites),” she explained.

Rash of thefts: remove signs of electronic devices from car

A recent rash of thefts from parked cars in Westmount and adjacent areas has led police to alert residents to remove wires, brackets and other telltale signs of GPS, iPod, cell phone and similar electronic devices.

Two of seven cars broken into on January 29 in Westmount were parked in an apartment garage on Rosemount Ave., where a suspect was captured on a surveillance camera between 8:30 and 8:40 pm, police said. He was described as aged about 25, white and wearing a hooded three-quarter length coat.

“What’s important is why a suspect picks a certain car,” explained local Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimental. “It’s because items are left visible, doors unlocked and windows open.”

In the case of an apartment building, people get the impression that the car is safe inside as if parked in the garage of a home. But once inside a building, a thief has the same access to cars as on the street “and takes whatever he wants – ‘going shopping’ in an illegal way.” Tenants are also advised not to let strangers into their buildings.

Items stolen from the Rosemount garage cars included a vase left on a back seat, a wallet and sunglasses.

GPS devices, however, are currently hot items for thieves, Pimental said. It’s important therefore when parking to remove not only the unit, but also the bracket and wires which lead thieves to break in. The same advice applies for other such equipment.

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BNI launches Westmount chapter



The new Westmount chapter of BNI, from left: Lisa Anella, Sam El-Chaev, (in back) Hadi Assi, (in front) Karen Shebath, Carol Southey, Joseph Montanaro, Paul-Mathieu Grondin, Steve Chang, Sandra Salfner, Jacquie Charlton, Robert Healey, Lauren Tatner, Howard Lohner, Anthony Masecchia. Inset photo: guest Warren Ross gives his pitch.

Business Network International (BNI) launched its Westmount chapter on February 4 at the Sherbrooke and Grosvenor L'Oeufrier restaurant.

Approximately 55 guests and other BNI members joined the 15 Westmount initiates for a kick-off breakfast. As previously reported ("BNI arrives in Westmount", June 25, p. 3), the group of Westmount and near-Westmount businesspeople has been working towards accreditation for several months. It has now been granted.

BNI operates by having weekly breakfasts at which members exchange business leads and present their own services.

There were at least two moments of levity at the morning meeting. Visitor André Chitayat opened his remarks by saying, "Ooga, ooga, ooga! I am a headhunter." Local member Paul-Mathieu Grondin was called on to introduce his services more than once because of his various roles within the chapter. The second time he explained, "I am Paul-Mathieu Grondin – and I am still a lawyer."

Only one member from each profession can belong to each local group. There are 28 BNI chapters in Montreal and approximately 4,800 worldwide.



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Funeral held for Senator Lavoie-Roux

Westmounter Thérèse Lavoie-Roux died on January 31 at the age of 80. A funeral service was held for her on February 6 at St. Léon de Westmount.

Lavoie-Roux was born in Rivière du Loup and, after studying at the University of Montreal, McGill and Smith College, she began her career as a social worker at the Montreal Children's Hospital in 1951. She went on to become a professor at the University of Montreal.

Long career

During a long career in local, provincial and national politics, the Forden Crescent resident served as Quebec's minister of Health and Social Services (Liberal, 1985 to 1989) and as a Canadian senator (Pro-

gressive Conservative, 1990 to 2001), among many other positions. She was first elected as president of the Montreal Catholic School Commission in 1973 and to the provincial legislature in 1976. She had four children, Jacques, Françoise, Claude and Elisabeth, and five grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family indicated that donations to the Jean-Marc Boucher Foundation for care of the elderly (c/o Dr. Annik Dupras, Hôpital Notre Dame, 1560 Sherbrooke St. East, local F-2115, Montreal, H2L 4M1) would be appreciated.

Friend and fellow Westmounter Denis Lépine summed up her career in a sentence, "She wanted to help people."



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Maurice Podbrey back in town with *Tshepang*

By Kristin McNeill

Maurice Podbrey, a former Westmouter, is in town to promote the play *Tshepang*, produced by his company Mopo Productions, South Africa. Podbrey spoke sparingly about the plot so as to reveal little, but one can expect to be exposed to the story of a child undergoing “a devastating incident” in a small South African town and “from the ashes of tragedy a most unusual tale of hope and love emerges.”

Podbrey retired in 1997 from the Centaur (of which he was founding artistic director in 1969) and also left his home in Montreal, where he said he gave away his clothing and books, and returned with a few suitcases to his native South Africa to make “a new start.”

He has since founded Mopo Productions, which is a cultural trust set up as a not-for-profit that supports young South African talent in theatre. Though the country is beset with problems, most recently HIV/AIDS and troubles in neighbouring Zimbabwe, South Africa is nevertheless emergent and vibrant with new talent and energy, according to Podbrey.

Does he miss Westmount? Yes. “I have



Maurice Podbrey in front of Café Crème on Victoria Ave. on February 5.

fond memories of Westmount,” he said. His three children were brought up on Lorraine St. He misses friends, the village feel and... snow clearing, he said with a nod to a plastic bag containing his handy snow crampons.

The play runs from February 24 to March 7 at La Chapelle Theatre (for schedule and prices: 514.843.7738 or www.lachapelle.org).

A fundraising evening featuring the play and discussion takes place on March 3 and March 4 at the same theatre. Tickets for the fundraiser are \$150 (tax receipts for \$100). Proceeds go to Mopo Productions. To reserve, contact Maurice Podbrey: 514.509.6909 or mpodbrey@iafrica.com.

New poetry for lovers

Westmount poet Claire Silvera Rochon’s new book of love poems is scheduled to be available in time for Valentine’s Day. If you are in love, or wish you were in love, you can place an order for your copy of *Baisers d’ailleurs* by calling the author at 514.931.1251. The author dedicates the collection to all the lovers in the world.

Opinion

Make phase 1 report public, larger arena benefits city

By Henry Olders

At this month’s city council meeting, a large audience heard Mayor Karin Marks explain that the phase 1 report of Lemay et Associés on the arena/pool renewal project would not be made public. Instead, details will be provided to taxpayers in April, and a poll will be held to determine whether they wish to proceed with the project as currently conceived.

We also heard that the original concept of two NHL-size ice rinks had already been downsized because of cost and space considerations. What we did *not* hear was a satisfactory explanation for why the phase 1 report was being kept under wraps.

Mayor Marks maintains that making that report public would be divisive, that it would entail a great expenditure of energy in responding to citizen questions and that it risks turning every decision into a referendum.

She insists that the project needs to move ahead, given the current economic situation, in order to take advantage of the availability of federal and provincial stimulus funding, and to benefit from relatively low construction and borrowing costs.

Fast is good, bigger is better

On this latter point, I fully agree with the mayor. We should leverage our investment in recreational facilities by having a large part of the cost picked up by federal and provincial governments, which are poised to provide infrastructure funding for “shovel-ready” projects.

But I also believe we should be making the project bigger, not smaller.

The larger the amount leveraged, the bigger the advantage. But the most important reason for having the best and largest facility that we, residents of one of the wealthiest cities in Canada, can afford should be apparent to anyone who has ever played the videogame SimCity: providing city amenities that contribute to a high quality of life attracts taxpayers, making even more tax money available for future projects.

Conversely, if we build an arena and pool complex that fails to adequately respond to the wish list put together by citizens in April 2008, we run the risk that citizens will “vote with their feet” and leave Westmount.

Our tax base will be eroded, and the re-

maining residents will pay ever higher municipal taxes for increasingly substandard amenities.

Even worse, if the upcoming poll by the city (which sounds like it will be an “all or nothing” proposition) results in the current project being abandoned, not only will the money already expended be lost, but a subsequent project may be too late to benefit from infrastructure funding.

Public owns report

The phase 1 report should be made public. It has been paid for by taxpayers and belongs to them. Similarly, city councillors and administrative personnel are employees of the taxpayers.

If we want the report public, it should be made public, unless doing so would clearly be harmful. In this day of electronic documents and websites, it would cost essentially nothing to post the report on the city’s website.

So why has it not been made public? Since when is transparency in government the same as asking for public input? Does making information public automatically mean that there should be a referendum?

Most certainly not! That would be democracy gone amok. We elected our councillors to make decisions on our behalf, not to feel bound to ask us our preferences at every stage of a project. But governance does not need to be done in secret or behind closed doors.

Did city council cave?

If the reductions in scope that Mayor Marks referred to are the inevitable consequences of properly performed feasibility studies, so be it. But if city council has simply caved in to pressure from groups worried about site aesthetics, parking and traffic problems, or excessive costs to taxpayers, I would be greatly disappointed.

I would be distressed also if the project was downsized simply to fit within an arbitrary \$25 million ceiling. Wouldn’t the subsidies increase proportionally if we committed to a \$35 million project?

I would expect that the phase 1 report would help me to understand the rationale for the revised approach. Is it too much to hope that Mayor Marks and city council take the important step of committing to transparency and openness?

Henry Olders is a Lansdowne Ave. resident and past-president of the Westmount Municipal Association.



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La galerie du Victoria Hall lance un appel de propositions pour sa programmation de la saison 2009-2010 (septembre 2009 à août 2010). Cet appel s'adresse aux artistes et artisans qui habitent à Westmount. Les propositions doivent être transmises au plus tard le lundi 2 mars. Pour des renseignements détaillés, veuillez consulter notre site Web. Info : 514 989-5226.

Exposition à la galerie

La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les œuvres de Sara Peck Colby du 19 février au 14 mars. Info : 514 989-5226. 🌿

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Le 19 février – 19 h

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École Roslyn : ouverture en 1908;
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La galerie du Victoria Hall

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Club de lecture anglaise

Joignez-vous au club de lecture anglaise le mardi 17 février à 19 h pour discuter du livre *On Chesil Beach* d'Ian McEwan. Info : 514 989-5386.

Club de lecture française

Joignez-vous au club de lecture française le mercredi 18 février à 18 h 30 pour discuter des œuvres de David Lodge. Info : 514 989-5386.

Club de lecture pour ados

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

Club d'échecs et de Scrabble

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Rencontre d'auteur

Venez rencontrer Barbara Meadowcroft le mercredi 25 février à 19 h alors qu'elle parlera de la vie de l'auteure canadienne Gwethalyn Graham. Info : 514 989-5229. 🌿



FINANCE

Property Tax Bills

Please note that as of 2009, Westmount taxpayers will only receive one property tax bill, that issued by the City of Westmount, which will include the amounts that are payable to the Agglomération.

Because of this change, agglomeration tax bills from 2008 and previous years can NO LONGER be paid at Westmount City Hall. To pay these older bills, please visit a City of Montreal service counter, or pay by Internet through your preferred financial institution. 🌿



PUBLIC WORKS

Snow Removal

Westmount relies on your cooperation to help keep our streets and sidewalks safe during the winter. Snow from private driveways and walkways must NOT be placed on public sidewalks, lanes or streets. During snow loading, snow may be added to the existing snowbanks prior to removal.

As well, the City asks that on recycling day on Wednesdays, that you please keep your blue box off the sidewalk and out of the path of Westmount's sidewalk plows. 🌿



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Gallery Call for Submissions

The Gallery at Victoria Hall announces a call for submissions for its 2009-2010 exhibition season (September 2009 to August 2010). Artists and artisans who are residents of Westmount are invited to apply. The deadline for submissions is Monday, March 2. For complete details, please consult our Web site. Info: 514 989-5226.

Gallery Exhibition

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to show the works of Sara Peck Colby from February 19 to March 14. Info: 514 989-5226. 🌿

DATEBOOK

February 19 – 7 p.m.

Westmount Historical Association
2009 Spring Lecture Series
Roslyn School opened in 1908;
French immersion began in 1965
Library

February 19 to March 14

Exhibition
Sara Peck Colby: Soundings
The Gallery at Victoria Hall

March 2 – 8 p.m.

Council Meeting
City Hall



LIBRARY

English Book Club

Join the English Book Club at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17 to discuss *On Chesil Beach* by Ian McEwan. Info: 514 989-5386.

French Book Club

Join the French Book Club at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18 to discuss books written by David Lodge. Info: 514 989-5386.

Teen Book Club

No set list and no deadlines, just talking about the books you're reading and comparing notes with other teen readers! We will meet on Thursday, February 19 at 4 p.m. Info: 514 989-5357.

Chess and Scrabble Club

Do you enjoy playing chess and/or Scrabble? Our games club will meet on Friday, February 20 at 2 p.m. Drop by for a friendly game as we look forward to meeting new players. Info: 514 989-5386.

Author Event

Join Barbara Meadowcroft as she explores the life and times of Canadian author Gwethalyn Graham on Wednesday, February 25 at 7 p.m. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌿

Argyle presents innovative introduction to *Buried Child*

Westmount's Argyle Institute is taking mental health treatment to a new venue,

April fundraiser for Argyle

In April, the Argyle is raising funds for its free-therapy program aimed at low-income couples, families and students in conjunction with a production of *Over the River and Through the Woods* by Joe Di Pietro.

A post-play talk will be held by an Argyle member, Westmounter Gabriela Legorreta, a psychologist and psychoanalyst.

The *Over the River* event takes place on Sunday, April 26 at 7 pm at the Segal Centre (5170 Côte St. Catherine, tickets: 514.739.7944) until Saturday, February 22.

The free introductions will take place at all showings except the matinees of February 11 and 18, and the evening presentations of February 11 and 17. They take place half an hour before show time.

Grandson returns

Buried Child is about the return of a long-lost grandson to his family's farm, located in the American Midwest. The Argyle's goal is to frame the play so that audiences can "watch it and experience how complex people are," explained Carmela Mindel, president of the board at the Argyle. "As therapists, we want people to appreciate it in a non-judgmental, helpful way. We hope they will watch it and not just say, 'That's too raw' or 'That's not entertainment.'"



Three of the Argyle's nine *Buried Child* presenters, from left: Carmela Mindel (psychologist, and couple and family therapist), Brian Wrench (psychologist, and couple and family therapist) and Nancy Humber (psychologist). The other presenters are Westmounters Joan Keefer, Harvey Giesbrecht and Gabriela Legorreta; and Sylvie De Lorimier, Veeta Engels and Valerie Pronovost.

Why does *Buried Child* need such treatment?

The play deals with a variety of dark themes, ranging from economic despair and the tarnished "American Dream," to family disappointments and incest.

"It is a very hard play for the public to watch," Mindel explained. "There is no beginning. The language is very raw. The father is drinking, and is angry at his wife and about his diminished role as family patriarch. His continued on p. 10

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ACTION

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Eastern Townships Living by Lois Hardacker
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New panel helps prevent electrical outages

Power to the people

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A new state-of-the-art control panel at Hydro Westmount enables the electric utility to pinpoint overloading on circuits and take steps to redistribute the load before a power outage occurs.

Installed December 15 on a five-year investment of \$1 million, the new equipment was unveiled at a media briefing February 6 and is the first stage in creating a computerized control centre.

"Before this we were blind," said Hydro Westmount director Pierre Dubé. "People used to call us and say, 'We have lost power.' Now we know beforehand and can try to prevent the problem."

Being able to view the status of all circuits in real time also makes it possible for the utility to alert people who may be depending on electricity for life-saving medical or other vital equipment.

"It's all about getting power to the peo-

ple," said utilities commissioner Councillor Patrick Martin.

The panel at the Glen Power House also enables the operator to directly monitor the three other substations (Olivier, King George Park and Côte St. Antoine), previously done onsite.

This new capability played a significant role in helping Hydro Westmount prevent power outages during the three days of extreme cold, January 14 to 16, when a new peak consumption record was set (see *Westmount Independent*, February 3, p. 1).

By identifying in advance certain circuits using "dangerously high" levels of electricity, the utility was able to dispatch field crews to rebalance the loads.

The monthly bill that Hydro Westmount received for January from Hydro Quebec was \$2.5 million, Dubé said. Because the Westmount utility buys its electricity from Hydro Quebec to redistribute on the municipal network to all homes and



Hydro Westmount's new control panel is unveiled by director Pierre Dubé and operator Robert Radu.

businesses, it receives a monthly bill just as it, in turn, sends bills to its own clients.

Over a year, this generally amounts to around \$25 million. Because the utility pays wholesale prices as a large customer of Hydro Quebec, but is required to charge the same rates as the utility giant, it pro-

vides a net profit to Westmount's operating budget of some \$2 million.

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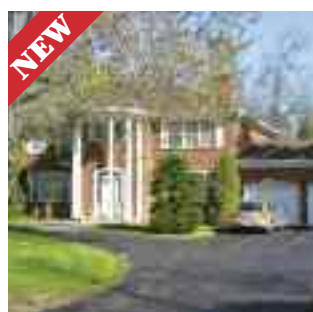
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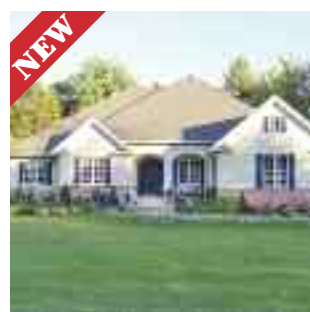


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EDYTHE BERMAN 514-935-4205

Some recycling pick-ups missed

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continued from p. 1
28, p. 3).

Trucks from another firm, Col-Sel, began to empty the blue boxes beginning January 21. Their crews had been collecting the recycling in the Plateau borough until the end of the year and their supervisor had worked in Westmount previously.

“They did a great job at first. We got none of the complaints we expected with the change,” said the city’s environmental coordinator Marina Peter.

However, Col-Sel missed several pickups last Wednesday and had to be recalled.



These blue boxes – both Westmounters – pose after a day on the job.

They also pick up earlier on some streets, so residents have been reminded to have their bins ready by 8 am.

“They use a GPS tracking system so there is a clear picture of the pickup routes,” Peter added.

Keen-eyed residents have noticed that all the blue box contents were being tipped into the same truck compartments, where JC Fibres and their predecessors had maintained separate containers.

Col-Sel is the trucking arm of Rebutis Solides Canadiens (RSC), which was the original, family-owned contractor when

Westmount pioneered door-to-door recycling collection in October 1990.

But now RSC is an affiliate of Groupe Tiru, a French multinational waste giant that operates the sorting centre at the former Miron quarry.

Free sorting, at first

In 2007, Tiru made a 10-year agreement with the city of Montreal to process all the agglom’s recycling free of charge and be compensated by selling the collected material, while the independent cities would continue to collect the materials with the haulers of their choice.

Marks, as leader of the independent cities, objected to the new contract. It was faulted because of its extreme length, inflexibility, environmental short-sightedness and the monopoly situation it created.

Westmount and the other linked cities were allowed to complete their existing contracts, but this dispensation is due to end this April when Tiru’s Miron facility would have to be used.

In Westmount’s case, JC Fibres’ exit from the market accelerated the switchover.

Co-Sel’s work here will be brief. As reported two weeks ago, council has awarded RCI Environnement a three-year contract starting in April to haul Westmount’s co-mingled recycling to Tiru’s sorting plant.

Meantime, Montreal’s free processing deal has already come unstuck. The economic crisis has meant that most markets for recyclables have disappeared internationally. Tiru can only stockpile material. There is no value in sorting it.

New deal?

With a backlog of over 15,000 tonnes of paper and 85,000 sq. feet of storage overflowing, and with nine years to go on its contract, Tiru has asked Montreal to renegotiate the deal.

“It would cost us more,” Marks warned. “Nevertheless, we can’t stop recycling. Our residents have learned to carefully separate them from their trash.

“It needs urgent, strong government action to reduce packaging materials and at the same time to give incentives to new companies to find ways of using recycled materials.”

Also calling for fundamental change was Lansdowne Ave. resident Georges Hébert, the long-serving president of the environment group STOP and also an Healthy City Project environment committee member.

“These events show how easy – and

Campaign stems from accident at Strathcona and Sherbrooke in 2005



The Jessica Campaign is headquartered on the web at www.thejessicacampaign.com

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tion came one day before three seniors were hit and killed by snow removal trucks in Montreal, but it stemmed from a death in Westmount on December 19, 2005 at Strathcona and Sherbrooke.

That’s when 21-year-old Jessica Holman-Price lost her own life falling under the wheels of a turning snow removal truck while pushing her younger brother out of harm’s way. She was posthumously awarded Canada’s Medal of Bravery.

The Jessica Campaign mounted by her

wrong – it is to assume that because recycling, like garbage, disappears every week in a truck, it is the end of the problem.

“Waste management has become a very serious, complicated matter. Perhaps the current troubles will lead towards the real solution – not to create so much disposable material in the first place. ‘Reduce, reuse, recycle’ remains the correct sequence.

“Throwing recyclables pell mell into trucks is not the best solution for Westmount homes, although it may have certain advantages in other situations,” Hébert added. “There are some small savings in collection costs, but the resulting mixture means that once-clean items now can become soiled and not marketable. Consequently, the amount of ‘waste’ sent to the landfill increases.”

Ironically, in a little publicized element of the Tiru contract, the garbage so created at the end of the recycling process is paid for by Montreal agglom taxpayers.

mother, Jeannette Holman-Price, has taken up the cause of improving truck safety, including the mandatory use of the side guards.

St. John’s, Newfoundland, where Jeannette now lives, was the first city in Canada to support the campaign and others are now adopting similar resolutions. A letter to Prime Minister Harper can also be signed at www.thejessicacampaign.com.

Westmount will be sending its resolution to other local municipalities.

Argyle

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continued from p. 8
wife remembers when she was happy and is sarcastic too. Everybody is in pain. Audience members immediately feel they are coming in to something tense.”

As previously reported (April 29, 2008, p. 1), the Argyle turned 25 years old last year and aims to fill a gap in the Quebec healthcare system. Although mental health services are covered by the Quebec government at hospitals and CLSCs, therapy is limited to 15 visits or less and there are long waiting lists. Private providers charge.

The Argyle is a private charitable organization and charges on a sliding scale (\$30 to \$75 per 50-minute session). In all cases, therapy continues for as long as needed. And clients are seen “in about a week.”

JANE L. CHARRON

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ON THE SHELVES

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

In the Magazines

"The Great College Con: Higher Education Can Be A Financial Disaster. Especially with the return on degrees down and student loan sharks on the prowl," by Kathy Kristof in *Forbes*, Feb 2, 2009, p. 60.

"The Case for All-Black Schools: Afrocentric Schools Could Be The Key to Success for a Generation at Risk. Just Don't Call It Segregation" by Andrew Wallace in *This Magazine*, Jan/Feb 2009, p. 16.

"L'enfer à l'université: aucun cinéaste avant lui ne s'était aventuré à aborder le drame de Polytechnique. Denis Villeneuve admet que le tournage a été une expérience artistique périlleuse. Le Québec est-il prêt à replonger dans cette tragédie?" by P. Cayouette in *L'actualité*, Feb. 2009, p.69.

Books on CD

The Chopin Manuscript: A Serial Thriller by Jeffery Deaver. Harry Middleton has possession of a priceless score by Frederic Chopin that puts him and thousands of others in grave danger. Hidden amidst

measures and notes is a secret that others are willing to kill for, and Middleton must work toward discovering the mystery while also protecting his life.

Twilight by Stephenie Meyer. When 17-year-old Bella leaves Phoenix to live with her father in Forks, Washington, she meets an exquisitely handsome boy at school for whom she feels an overwhelming attraction and whom she comes to realize is not wholly human.

Author, Author...

Adieu, mon frère by Edwidge Danticat. In this memoir, acclaimed fiction writer Danticat tells the wrenching story of her immigrant family. Her parents left Haiti for the United States, leaving her and her brother in the care of her uncle for eight years. This is a remembrance of being separated twice from caregivers and a homage to her uncle, who met an undignified death while detained by US Customs.

Portrait d'une femme romanesque, Jean Voilier by Célia Bertin. An author writing under the pseudonym Jean Voilier, Jeanne Loviton was celebrated poet Paul Valéry's last and probably greatest love. Described

by François Mauriac as "the last romantic figure of her times" she had love affairs with other luminaries such as Jean Giraudoux, Saint-John Perse, and Curzio Malaparte. Loviton was also a remarkable businesswoman, taking over the Denoël publishing house in 1945.

Happy Birthday Charles Darwin

February 12 marks Charles Darwin's 200th birthday

Charles Darwin: the Concise Story of an Extraordinary Man by Tim M. Berra. A quick but still authoritative read on Darwin's life. The illustrations, including reproductions of period paintings, title page facsimiles and many of the author's own photographs, add interest to this biography of a great scientist.

Why Evolution Is True by Jerry A. Coyne. A well-written and accessible explanation

of the evidence for evolution by natural selection. The text draws on the most recent research from many fields of science.

Angels and Ages; A Short Book about Darwin, Lincoln and Modern Life by Adam Gopnik. Lincoln and Darwin were born on the same day and our world changed because of them. The author and *New Yorker* writer Gopnik writes of the men behind the icons of emancipation and evolution. "An original and personal account of the creation of the liberal voice."

Reference

L'état du Québec 2009: [tout ce qu'il faut savoir sur le Québec d'aujourd'hui]

The Big Book of Jobs: 2009-2010 editions, McGraw-Hill.

The Essential Guide to Business Etiquette by Lillian Hunt Chaney and Jeanette St. Clair Martin.



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Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount



**PROCÉDURES D'ENREGISTREMENT
RÈGLEMENTS N^{os} 1377, 1378 ET 1379
LE 18 FÉVRIER 2009**

**À TOUTES LES PERSONNES HABLES À VOTER AYANT LE DROIT D'ÊTRE INSCRITES
SUR LA LISTE RÉFÉRENDARE DE LA VILLE DE WESTMOUNT**

**AVIS PUBLIC EST PAR LA PRÉSENTE DONNÉ PAR LE SOUSSIGNÉ, GREFFIER
DE LA VILLE DE WESTMOUNT, DE CE QUI SUIT :**

Lors d'une séance ordinaire tenue le 2 février 2009, le conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount a adopté les règlements suivants :

Règlement n° 1377 intitulé « RÈGLEMENT AUTORISANT UN EMPRUNT DE 400 000 \$ POUR L'EXÉCUTION DE TRAVAUX DE RÉFECTION DE BÂTIMENTS », dont l'objet vise à autoriser un emprunt de 400 000 \$ pour effectuer des travaux de réfection de bâtiments municipaux.

Règlement n° 1378 intitulé « RÈGLEMENT AUTORISANT UN EMPRUNT DE 3 798 000 \$ POUR L'EXÉCUTION DE TRAVAUX DE RÉFECTION ROUTIÈRE, DE RESTAURATION DE CONDUITES D'AQUEDUC ET DE RÉHABILITATION DE CONDUITES D'ÉGOUTS », dont l'objet vise à autoriser un emprunt de 3 798 000 \$ relativement à l'exécution de travaux de réfection routière, de restauration de conduites d'aqueduc et de réhabilitation de conduite d'égouts.

Règlement n° 1379 intitulé « RÈGLEMENT AUTORISANT UN EMPRUNT 600 000 \$ POUR LES TRAVAUX DE RÉALISATION DU PROGRAMME DE RESTAURATION DES RÉSEAUX AÉRIEN ET SOUTERRAIN DE DISTRIBUTION ÉLECTRIQUE D'HYDRO WESTMOUNT », dont l'objet vise à autoriser un emprunt de 600 000 \$ relativement à l'exécution de travaux de réalisation du programme de restauration des réseaux aérien et souterrain de distribution électrique d'Hydro Westmount.

REGISTRE

Les personnes habiles à voter ayant le droit d'être inscrites sur la liste référendaire de la Ville de Westmount peuvent demander que l'un ou plusieurs des règlements **1377, 1378 et 1379** fassent l'objet d'un scrutin référendaire en inscrivant leur nom, adresse et qualité et en apposant leur signature dans les registres ouverts à cette fin.

Pour signer les registres, les personnes habiles à voter devront établir leur identité en présentant une des pièces suivantes :

- carte d'assurance maladie délivrée par la Régie de l'assurance-maladie du Québec ;
- permis de conduire ou permis de conduire probatoire délivrés sur support plastique par la Société de l'assurance-automobile du Québec ;
- passeport canadien ;
- certificat de statut d'Indien délivré aux personnes inscrites au Registre des Indiens en vertu de la Loi sur les indiens ; ou
- carte d'identité des Forces canadiennes délivrée par le ministère de la Défense nationale.

Les registres seront accessibles de **9 h à 19 h le mercredi 18 février 2009** dans la salle du conseil de l'hôtel de ville de Westmount, située au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest.

Le nombre requis de demandes pour que chacun des règlements **1377, 1378 et 1379** fassent l'objet d'un scrutin référendaire est de **500**. Si ce nombre n'est pas atteint, les règlements **1377, 1378 et 1379** seront réputés approuvés par les personnes habiles à voter.

Les résultats des procédures d'enregistrement seront annoncés à 19 h 05 le 18 février 2009, dans la salle du conseil de l'hôtel de ville de Westmount.

Toute personne intéressée peut consulter les règlements **1377, 1378 et 1379** et en

obtenir copie au bureau du greffier situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, du lundi au vendredi, de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30 et pendant les heures d'enregistrement.

**CONDITIONS POUR ÊTRE UNE PERSONNE HABLE À VOTER AYANT LE DROIT
D'ÊTRE INSCRITE SUR LA LISTE RÉFÉRENDARE DE LA VILLE DE
WESTMOUNT**

Est une personne habile à voter selon l'ordre de priorité suivant :

- 1° Toute personne qui n'est frappée d'aucune incapacité de voter et qui remplit les conditions suivantes **le 2 février 2009** :
 - être domiciliée sur le territoire de la ville de Westmount ;
 - être domiciliée depuis au moins 6 mois au Québec ;
- 2° Tout propriétaire unique d'un immeuble ou occupant unique d'un établissement d'entreprise qui n'est frappé d'aucune incapacité de voter et qui remplit les conditions suivantes **le 2 février 2009** :
 - être propriétaire d'un immeuble ou occupant d'un établissement d'entreprise situé sur le territoire de la ville de Westmount depuis au moins 12 mois ;
 - avoir produit ou produire au moment de la signature des registres un écrit signé par le propriétaire ou l'occupant demandant l'inscription sur la liste référendaire, le cas échéant ;
- 3° Tout copropriétaire indivis d'un immeuble ou cooccupant d'un établissement d'entreprise qui n'est frappé d'aucune incapacité de voter et qui remplit les conditions suivantes **le 2 février 2009** :
 - être copropriétaire indivis d'un immeuble ou cooccupant d'un établissement d'entreprise situé sur le territoire la ville de Westmount depuis au moins 12 mois ;
 - être désigné, au moyen d'une procuration signée par la majorité des personnes qui sont copropriétaires ou cooccupants depuis au moins 12 mois, comme celui qui a le droit de signer les registres en leur nom et d'être inscrit sur la liste référendaire, le cas échéant. La procuration doit avoir été produite ou être produite pour être admis à s'enregistrer.

Dans le cas d'une personne physique, il faut qu'elle soit majeure, de citoyenneté canadienne et ne pas être en curatelle.

Dans le cas d'une personne morale, il faut :

- avoir désigné parmi ses membres, administrateurs ou employés, par résolution, une personne qui, **le 2 février 2009** est majeure, de citoyenneté canadienne, qui n'est pas en curatelle et qui n'est frappée d'aucune incapacité de voter prévue par la loi ;
- avoir produit ou produire au moment de la signature des registres une résolution désignant la personne autorisée à signer les registres et à être inscrite sur la liste référendaire, le cas échéant.

Sauf dans le cas d'une personne désignée à titre de représentant d'une personne morale, nul ne peut être considéré comme personne intéressée à plus d'un titre conformément à l'article 531 de la *Loi sur les élections et les référendums dans les municipalités*.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 10^e jour du mois de février 2009.

Mario Gerbeau
Greffier de la ville



Ville de Westmount City of Westmount



REGISTRATION PROCEDURES BY-LAWS NOS. 1377, 1378 and 1379 FEBRUARY 18, 2009

TO ALL QUALIFIED VOTERS ENTITLED TO HAVE THEIR NAME ENTERED ON THE REFERENDUM LIST OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED, CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT, OF THE FOLLOWING:

At a regular sitting held on February 2, 2009, the municipal Council of the City of Westmount adopted the following by-laws:

By-law 1377 entitled "BY-LAW TO PROVIDE A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$400,000 FOR THE REFURBISHING OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS", the object of which is to authorize a loan in the amount of \$400,000 to carry out work for refurbishing of municipal buildings.

By-law 1378 entitled "BY-LAW TO PROVIDE A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,798,000 FOR THE ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME, THE REFURBISHING OF WATER MAINS AND THE REHABILITATION OF SEWERS" the object of which is to authorize a loan in the amount of \$3,798,000 to carry out work for the roadway reconstruction programme, the refurbishing of water mains and the rehabilitation of sewers.

By-law 1379 entitled "BY-LAW TO PROVIDE A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$600,000 TO CARRY OUT WORK FOR THE HYDRO WESTMOUNT AERIAL AND UNDERGROUND NETWORK RESTORATION PROGRAMS" the object of which is to authorize a loan in the amount of \$600,000 to carry out work for the Hydro Westmount aerial and underground network restoration programs.

REGISTER

All qualified voters entitled to have their name entered on the referendum list of the City of Westmount may demand that one or many of the by-laws **1377**, **1378** and **1379** be submitted to a referendum poll by entering their name, address and capacity and by apposing their signature in the registers open for that purpose.

To sign the registers, the qualified voters will be required to produce one of the following identification, namely:

- Health insurance card (Medicare) issued by the *Régie de l'assurance-maladie du Québec*;
- Driver's license or probationary licence issued in plastic form by the *Société de l'assurance-automobile du Québec*;
- Canadian passport;
- Certificate of Indian Status issued to persons registered in the Indian Register under the Indian Act; or
- Canadian Armed Forces identification card issued under Order of the Department of National Defence.

The registers will be open for registration from **9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18, 2009**, in the Council Chamber of Westmount City Hall located at 4333 Sherbrooke West.

The number of applications needed to require that each of the by-laws **1377**, **1378** and **1379** be submitted to a poll is **500**. Failing such number, by-laws **1377**, **1378** and **1379** shall be deemed to have been approved by the qualified voters.

The results of the registration procedures will be announced at 7:05 p.m. on February 18, 2009, in the Council Chamber of Westmount City Hall.

An interested person may consult By-laws **1377**, **1378** and **1379** at the office of the City Clerk, 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and during the registration hours.

CONDITIONS TO BE A QUALIFIED VOTER ENTITLED TO HAVE ONE'S NAME ENTERED ON THE REFERENDUM LIST OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT

Is a qualified voter according to the following order of preference:

1. Any person not disqualified from voting and who meets the following requirements on **February 2, 2009**:
 - is domiciled in the territory of the City of Westmount;
 - has been domiciled for at least six months in Quebec;
2. Any sole owner of an immovable or sole occupant of a business establishment not disqualified from voting and who meets the following requirements on **February 2, 2009**:
 - has been, for at least 12 months, the owner of an immovable or the occupant of a business establishment situated in the territory of the City of Westmount;
 - has filed, or file when signing the registers, a writing signed by the owner or the occupant requesting that his or her name be entered on the referendum list, as the case may be;
3. Any undivided co-owner of an immovable or co-occupant of a business establishment not disqualified from voting and who meets the following conditions on **February 2, 2009**:
 - has been for at least 12 months, undivided co-owner of an immovable or co-occupant of a business establishment situated in the territory of the City of Westmount;
 - be designated, by means of a power of attorney signed by the majority of the persons that have been co-owners or co-occupants for at least 12 months, as being the one having the right to sign the registers in their name and to have the right to be entered on the referendum list, as the case may be. The power of attorney must have been filed, or must be filed to be entitled to register.

In the case of a natural person, he or she must be of full age and a Canadian citizen, and must not be under curatorship.

In the case of a legal person, one must:

- have designated by resolution one of its members, directors or employees who, on **February 2, 2009**, is of full age, a Canadian citizen, not under curatorship, nor disqualified from voting.
- have filed, or file the resolution when signing the registers, designating the person authorized to sign the registers and to be entered on the referendum list, as the case may be.

Except in the case of a person designated to represent a legal person, a person shall have his or her name entered on the list in only one capacity, as per section 531 of *An Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities*.

GIVEN at Westmount, this February 10, 2009.

Mario Gerbeau
City Clerk

Comin' Up...

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.

FRIDAY, FEB. 13: **Tu Bishevat Seder** sponsored 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. ● Westmounters Tim and Janet Hutchins, musicians with the OSM, invite the public to a **Valentine’s Day concert** in the auditorium of Marianopolis College (4873 Westmount Ave., corner Claremont). They will

play a wide variety of musical delights for flute and piano. Tickets, at the door, cost \$25 (seniors and students \$15). All proceeds go to charity. 7:30 pm, doors open at 6:45 pm.

MONDAY, FEB. 16: **Dorothy Williams**, historian and author specializing in black Canadian history speaks on “Diversity in Black Montreal”, sponsored by the Women’s Canadian Club of Montreal. Introduction by Richard Lord. Takes place at Unitarian Church (5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd, near Claremont) at 12:30 pm. Event is free for members; \$10 for guests. Sandwich lunch with tea/coffee available for small cost at 11:30 am. 514.939.6215.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18: **Special council meeting** at city hall starting at 12 pm.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18: Dr. Mai-Anh Le Van gives a presentation on her work with **Médecins sans frontières** in Congo at 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre (1200 Atwater). Free.

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.

THURSDAY, FEB. 19: Art exhibit “Soundings” by **Sara Peck Colby** runs until March 14 at The Gallery at Victoria Hall (4626 Sherbrooke St.) from 10 am to 9 pm. 514.989.5226.

FRIDAY, FEB. 20: **Byron Toben** presents a Paul Robeson Tribute, told and sung by Tom Fox, accompanied by Andrew Cowan at 7:30 pm at the Atwater Library (1200 Atwater). Donations go to Actors Fund for theatre people in distress. The library will exhibit Paul Robeson (athlete, lawyer, actor, singer, activist) memorabilia during February. Info: byrontoben@videotron.ca

SATURDAY, FEB. 21: Opening public screening of *Fennario’s War: The War to End All Wars* co-produced by Westmounter **Patrick Barnard** of Outawork Films at 7 pm at de Sève Theatre at Concordia University’s Library Building (1400 de Maisonneuve W.). Tickets \$10 available at the door and in advance at Montreal area bookstores until February 14 at \$8. 514.932.2026.

THURSDAY, FEB. 26: **The Montreal Chil-**

dren’s Library (80 years old) holds its annual general meeting from 10:30 to 11:30 am in the basement of the Atwater Library (1200 Atwater). Its mission is to provide free library services where none is available. AGM is open to all members of the community. Refreshments. The library is seeking new volunteers. 514.931.2304.

New! Sale Hunter

Agendas (25% off) and calendars (50% off) – WESTMOUNT STATIONERY (4887 Sherbrooke St. at Prince Albert).

Sale Hunter is free to Westmount shops, up to maximum of 30 words and for sale publicly only. Please send your information to indie@westmountindependent.com in the format provided above. Information should be sent by Friday at noon, for publication the next week.

To contribute an event to Sale Hunter, 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.

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9 Lives: There are more like Hope

BY LYZANNE

Last week, we featured an eight-month old kitten named Hope who is struggling to stay alive outside until a kind family adopts her and brings her indoors. Sadly, Hope is not the only kitten who is barely surviving this winter in a laneway or the back of an industrial building.

Through Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions, I have been put in touch with a number of kind people who are trying to save kittens and housecats that have been abandoned outside. To my consternation, some are purebreds and others are declawed. Time is of the essence. We have found out that one municipality "takes care" of these poor abandoned animals by trapping them and sending them to a vet

in LaSalle to be euthanized. I don't dare think of what the others are doing to "help."

Please consider adopting a kitten in need instead of buying one from a pet shop. You will save a life.

To find out more about a kitten that needs a home right now, please call Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions on her pager at 514.203.9180 or email her at info@gerdysrescue.org. These are compassionate placements, as emergencies.

Thank you for opening your heart and your home to an abandoned kitten.

Your neighbour,
Lyzanne

Artwork by Laura S. Cohendet



Underdog: Going nowhere fast

BY FERN BRESLAW

The dogs we have chosen to feature here weekly get to have their 15 minutes in the spotlight. We all read their stories over our skinny lattes and say to ourselves "Well, thank heavens somebody will finally hear about this poor dog and do something to help him." Skip ahead a month and many are still sitting in their cages – a little skinnier than before and now compulsively licking their feet. Many of you have called, and lots of you love dogs. This week's column is intended to be a reminder: nobody else is going to get there before you to save the day. Opaline is still



Freya



Elsa

Photos: Marilyn Gelfand

waiting, Elsa is still waiting, Freya is still waiting. You may say you are looking for a dog to adopt but are you waiting for a little guy who doesn't shed, is hypo allergenic and knows how to heel?

The thing is, that dog doesn't need saving: he was adopted before he even had

time to complain about the accommodations. The Opalines, Elsas and Freyas and others – these are the ones that need you. To book a date with any of them, please call Fern at 524.969.3376 or visit the Montreal SPCA. Chances are, they'll all be still waiting anxiously for you to come and bring them to their new home.

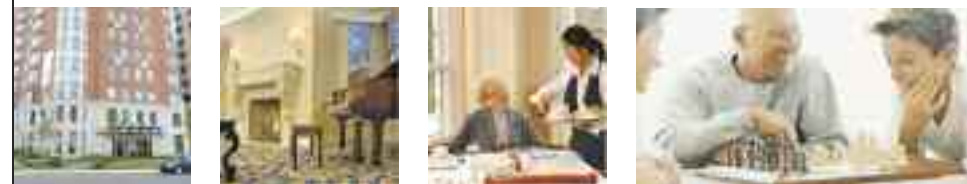
Groundhog Day at Marianopolis



Gathering at Marianopolis College for its eighth annual Alumni Association's Groundhog Day reunion and silent auction February 6 were, from left, Marianopolis grads David Daly, a former Westmounter, Westmount resident Lorraine Briscoe and Humanities professor Rebecca Bain.

Photo: Owen Egan

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