

Residents to be polled randomly by phone

Arena design roll-out planned for April 6

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After months – and years – of waiting, Westmounters will find out April 6 what design city council has selected for the arena and pool renewal project.

A detailed cost breakdown of the proposed \$25-million project will also be revealed at this time, Mayor Karin Marks

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announced at the March 2 city council meeting.

An information package is scheduled to be delivered to all Westmount households on April 7, 8 and 9, and posted on the city's website.

Citizens will then have "plenty of opportunity" to question the architectural and technical professionals at information meetings on Saturday, April 18 and Tuesday, April 21, she said.

A random Ipsos-Reid telephone poll of some 800 taxpayers will take place between April 22 and 29. The question or questions are not yet known. The results will be released on May 7.

It is still not known, however, what in-

frastructure grants will be forthcoming for what would be the largest project in Westmount history. Negotiations are still ongoing between the federal and Quebec governments concerning release of infrastructure money in this province, a delay that Marks calls "scandalous."

What will happen if the plan is turned down, asked resident Stanley Baker at the council meeting. "It would have to come back to the council to be reassessed," Marks replied. There's no Plan B.

To save time, she later explained, the council's arena design team has been folded into the council, which, acting as a steering committee, is now meeting as a whole with the architectural consortium.

Tax money slower than usual

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The first installment of Westmount property taxes brought in 86 percent of the \$33.4 million billings, city finance officials report. This compares with a three-year average of 90 percent.

While 93 percent of commercial taxes were paid this year, only 84 percent of residential amounts were.

According to a concern voiced at the council meeting March 2, some taxpayers may be finding it difficult to pay the larger than usual first installment from Westmount now that it includes the portion going to the Montreal agglomeration.

The total of both taxes has been divided into only two installments. When Westmount and Montreal each sent out two installments, the amount of each was lower.

Ironically, the new system of combin-

ing tax payments was designed to reduce the confusion experienced by taxpayers, who previously received bills from both Westmount and Montreal. These created numerous installments due at different times. Matters were further complicated by the division of school taxes into two installments.

Councillor Patrick Martin, speaking on behalf of one complainant, asked Mayor Karin Marks why Westmount did not divide the total tax bill into four installments to spread the tax burden over a wider period. This had been done in 2006 when Westmount collected only its local portion.

"We tried that, and it didn't work well," she said, adding, "We can take another look at it." Marks also urged those who hadn't paid to do so since Westmount had to remit its agglomeration assessment.

Westmount in Africa, again



Joal-Fadiouth, Senegal: What's the story behind this boy's Westmount soccer jersey? Please see full story on p. 3.

Photo: Philip Duguay.





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Local artists contribute to St. Justine



"Black Beauty" by Bruce Roberts.

Laughter may not be the best medicine after all.

Five Westmount artists put forth a strong case for the healing value of art when they donated works to be auctioned off during a gala dinner at l'Estérel Resort and Convention Centre in the Laurentians on February 28.

The event was held to raise funds for the St. Justine Hospital Foundation, specifically for research in pediatric endocrinology.

Local artists Hugo Wuethrich (York Ave.) and Bruce Roberts (Irvine Ave.) as well as Visual Arts Centre teachers and artists Lorna Mulligan, Françoise Issaly and Ian Shatilla each donated a piece. The event was also supported in part by Victoria Ave. fine art supplies retailer, Avenue des Arts.

Bruce Roberts' painting "Black Beauty" raised the most proceeds. Comedian Christopher Hall presided and jazz singer Meredith Marshall performed.

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Webster sweeps landscape awards



From left: Prize presenter Jean-Pierre Rodier (of buying cooperative Groupex) with some of the Webster team: Stuart and Claire Webster, Annie Robinson and Julie Dumont-Paquet.

Two businesses owned by Westmounter Stuart Webster – Stuart Webster Design and Daccord Webster Paysage – recently won five awards at the annual award ceremony of the Association of Professional Landscape Contractors of Quebec. The event was held at Mont St. Anne on February 18.

Webster's businesses design, construct and maintain gardens. They employ more than 60 people and were founded in 1998.

The blue ribbons

For Westmount properties:
Most Beautiful Backyard Garden
Most Beautiful Intimate Space
Transcontinental Media's *Coup de Cœur*.

For properties elsewhere:
Milan-Havlin Award – second time (Hampstead)
Tour de la Maison – second place (Hampstead).

More Westmount soccer jerseys in Africa

Westmount soccer jerseys just keep popping up in Africa.

At the March 2 city council meeting, Councillor Patrick Martin explained that his nephew, Philip Duguay (who was present), had discovered one such uniform – in Senegal.

Duguay was on an overseas student project in Dakar, the capital. One weekend, he visited the birthplace of Léopold Senghor, poet and first president of Senegal, on Joal-Fadiouth, an island made of seashells south of Dakar.

What was waiting for him? The boy fea-

tured on p. 1.

As previously reported (September 9, 2008, p. 1), a whole shipment of Westmount jerseys was sent to Burkina Faso (Upper Volta), Africa through a program coordinated by Westmount parent Anne Duprat and Westmount's Sports and Recreation department.

Westmounters can also currently participate in another initiative, led by Sophie Lukacs, to donate team soccer uniforms to a co-ed soccer league in Burkina Faso. One such opportunity was scheduled to be held on March 7 at Centre Greene.

Westmount to be part of agglom budget process

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For the first time since Westmount was folded into Montreal and then later merged, suburban representatives, led by Mayor Karin Marks, have been invited to participate in Montreal's preparation of the agglomeration budget for island-wide services.

As president of the Association of Suburban Municipalities, Marks attended the first meeting of a newly-formed consultative committee on March 3. The committee also includes mayors Edgar Rouleau of Dorval and Maria Tutino of Baie d'Urfé as well as Hampstead director general Richard Sun.

Key Montreal officials include executive committee chair Claude Dauphin, vice chair Sammy Forcillo, responsible for finance, and city treasurer Robert Lamontagne.

While the mandate and other details of the new committee are yet to be clarified, Marks said, this is a step in the reconstituted cities' requests since 2006 to have some form of advanced knowledge of the

budget or input into it.

Why now? "One would hope it would be a change in attitude," she told the *Independent*. It's also possible, Marks suggested, that it's a pre-emptive move to prevent further budget appeals to Quebec by the suburbs. It might also be a desire to be seen in "a spirit of generosity" before hitting the campaign trail in the November elections. Four meetings of the fledgling committee are planned before the election.

Whatever the reasons, "we'll take our successes where we can get them," said Marks.

Asked if she thought Montreal would be looking to the suburbs to shoulder a larger amount of the tax burden for island-wide services, Marks said she felt the big city would understand that all municipalities are feeling the budgetary pinch in the current economic downturn.

Fortunately, she added, Westmount had budgeted for anticipated shortfalls in revenue from welcome taxes and falling interest rates on cash investments during 2009.

BCS wins award for student magazine

Inscape, a literary magazine written, illustrated and produced by students at Bishop's College School – including three Westmounters – was recently ranked "Superior" in the 2008 "Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines" in the Canadian school category by the American-based National Council of Teachers of English. The contest is open to all middle and secondary schools in North America. A total of 489

schools submitted entries, 67 of which were selected to receive the "Superior" ranking. Distinctions include highest award, superior, excellent and above average.

Poems by Westmounters included "You", by Alison Usher-Jones, grade 12; "Du Coeur Au Ventre" by Nicholas Charlton, grade 9 and "Winter's Win" by Claire Matheson, grade 11.

"YOU"

I feel your grip
And I try to run,
but you've got me
tied
with a stereotypical grip –
that unwritten bond
of biological reason –
that I cannot escape.
But for now
I walk beside you,
for today
I want you near

Alison Usher-Jones, grade 12



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Notary
Title Attorney

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Mayor's Column

Ready soon: arena plans; Ready now: rec booklets, memberships

BY MAYOR KARIN MARKS



As part of council's ongoing commitment to provide residents with timely information regarding the arena/pool renewal project, we are providing updates on the most recent news and developments regarding project planning initiatives.

- At the council meeting on March 2, it was announced that the architectural consortium attached to the arena/pool renewal project will make a presentation to council during its public meeting on April 6. This presentation will offer residents their first opportunity to view conceptual sketches of a potential new facility. The meeting will take place at 8 pm at city hall.
- An information guide including detailed background, a discussion of options available, overall cost estimates and the potential tax implications, and a tentative construction timeline, will also be sent by mail to all households between April 7 and April 9, following the April 6 council meeting.
- As well, council has announced the dates of the public information meetings on the arena/pool project:
 - Saturday, April 18 at 12 pm
 - Tuesday, April 21 at 7 pmThese meetings will take place at Victoria Hall. Residents are invited to take part in either session, as the same pres-

entation will be made at each meeting.

Other important information

- Westmounters are making good use of additional parking spaces at the arena, now available behind the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf located at 4670 St. Catherine. Pedestrian lights across St. Catherine St. are being installed shortly for added safety.
- The distribution of the *Culture, Sports and Recreation Activities Guide* is now complete. If you have not received yours, pick up a copy of the *Guide* at any municipal building as of Wednesday, March 11. Complete descriptions of all sports and recreation programming – including information not found in the *Guide* – is also available at www.westmount.org.
- The 2009 Sports Facility Membership Card is now on sale at the arena offices and at Victoria Hall. Two proofs of residency are required for all participants aged 18 years and up, along with personal identification and a passport-sized photograph.
- In order to receive regular email messages on the arena/pool project or Sports and Recreation activities, we invite you to complete your personal E-Westmount profile at www.westmount.org.

For information on these or related issues, please refer to our website at www.westmount.org or contact Brigitte Stock at 514.989.5371.

Top architect prompts Rivest to ask again for wood arena

A top architect's advocacy for constructing public buildings in wood has encouraged Dorchester Ave. resident Luc Rivest to ask council again to give more consideration for its use at the proposed Westmount arena.

He was inspired to do so after hearing the position of André Bourassa, president of L'Ordre des architectes du Québec (OAQ).

Rivest wrote to Mayor Karin Marks asking that use of the province's wood be examined from a sympathetic standpoint. He would like council to meet Bourassa.

"I am not an expert," Rivest said, "but there seem to be environmental advantages – much less energy is used harvesting and manufacturing wood than making concrete. Most of all, given the problems of the forestry industry, it would be a huge feather in Westmount's cap to own a mod-

ern building made from Quebec timber."

Rivest cannot say whether or not there would be extra costs, but points out that the government subsidizes such buildings.

"Although I provided information to the council last summer, I understand that not one official has been to see the lovely, all-wood Bois de Boulogne arena in Laval, a comparable building. That's very disappointing. I've also since discovered that Air Transat has a hangar built of wood at Dorval airport."

Rivest's renewed proposal comes after hearing a panel discussion with forestry industry leaders and an extended interview with Bourassa on Radio Canada. These can be heard at www.tinyurl.com/cdtm7f (industry panel) and www.tinyurl.com/b9y229 (OAQ president).

Letters to the Editor

DOG WALKERS ON MONTROSE BEWARE

With regard to Alix Chodkowski's letter to the editor re "Dog-Doo," I too would like to add my comments. I am a dog owner and am totally disgusted with some of the other owners who walk their dogs along Montrose. When the snow started to melt a couple of weeks ago, I was amazed and shocked how many people with rather large dogs had not picked up after them. If your children do the walking, please give them a doggie bag! Be a responsible citizen and pick up after your dog!

SUSAN KHAN, MONTROSE AVE.

BACK TO 1982?

As a Westmount resident for most of the last 35 years, 20 of those as a commercial and residential real estate agent fo-

cused on Victoria Village, the only time I can recall anything like the feeling communicated in your impressive "Looking for retail space?" photo essay (p. 13, February 24) was back in 1982.

It was a terrible real estate market, and interest rates skyrocketed to 22 percent. Who needed slow-as-molasses real estate when you could get that rate at the bank? Today we get nothing at the bank. To me, that image on p. 13 is a picture of the global downturn as it affects upscale markets in particular. It's not only affecting Westmount. Even Dubai has its headaches.

Congratulations on finding new angles on Westmount and adding depth to old ones.

ELIZABETH ROSS
BLUERIDGE CRES.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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At Second Glance

Towards a “green new deal”

BY HEATHER BLACK



In his recent visit to Ottawa, US President Barack Obama opened a “clean energy dialogue” with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. With Westmount just having adopted a sustainable vision statement

and with the overall metropolitan area experiencing a record number of smog days, any measure to reduce greenhouse emissions is welcomed.

The question is: Can talks lead to an emissions pact and can it be done soon?

Mandate of the United Nations

Secretary-general of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon has declared 2009 “the year of climate change.” At the recent UN Environment Programme meeting in Nairobi, executive director Achim Steiner, urged G20 countries to follow FDR’s example, include the environment in the economic recovery, and develop a “green new deal.”

“We must ensure that trillions of dollars are not spent by this generation to save its economy of today, without any answers as to what the next generation, that has to repay the debt ... will do in terms of jobs for tomorrow,” said Steiner.

In Ottawa, Canada and the US agreed to coordinate research and share information on green technology. President Obama reiterated his support for a cap-and-trade system where companies pay for carbon emissions. That amount – an estimated US\$30-50 billion south of the border – will fund green technologies and research.

Recently, environment minister Jim Prentice stated that a carbon-cap pact with the US is “doable.” A carbon-cap pact was implemented in the 90s to reduce sulphur emissions in the Great Lakes. In Canada, Quebec and Ontario signed a similar agreement last June, while British Columbia and Manitoba adopted a scheme based on the US Western Climate Initiative. And this policy was put forward by the Greens, NDP, Liberals and the Bloc in the October election.

Canada, as signatory to Kyoto, is legally bound to reduce emissions, and needs quick action, while US efforts have stalled. Their cap-and-trade system laid out in the “Climate Stewardship and Innovation Act” was defeated in 2003, 2005 and 2007. What is needed is political will, both here and in America.

Governments – according to economic journalist Clive Crook – prefer “too little, too late.” He suggests that leaders first anticipate the problem; second, convince the electorate of the importance of the issue; and third, put aside partisan ideology and lead. Fortunately, Obama as junior senator for Illinois had a track record on all three and was considered one of the most influential figures on Capitol Hill.

Senator Obama at work

First elected in 2004, he co-sponsored the failed McCain-Lieberman “Climate Stewardship and Innovation Act”. In 2007, he co-sponsored the “Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act” to decrease emissions 80 percent by 2050. This bill, backed by Greenpeace, the Sierra Club, the National Audubon Society, and the Union of Concerned Scientists, solidified his support among environmentalists.

During his presidential campaign, he again made his intentions clear, calling for federal buildings to be carbon neutral and a 35 percent reduction in oil consumption by 2030. For US “dirty” energy, Obama supports coal-to-liquid technology. Moreover, as president, he has given the world notice that America is again “ready to lead.”

Future positive

For Canadians, Obama’s commitment to the environment is good news. Expect American participation in the UN Copenhagen agreement in December. And for Canada, anticipate a federal carbon-cap agreement, sooner than later.

2009 may indeed become the year of climate change.

Heather Black is a Westmount communication designer. Contact her: atcitizen@gmail.com

Wilson publishes memoirs

Westmounter Sandra Wilson has recently published her memoirs. The book is called ... *and then some!*

Wilson is best known as a music teacher and promoter of music, including founding Montreal’s Civic Youth Orchestra in 1976 and the Début concert series in 1979. She has also acted as a federal returning officer and was a UN observer of South Africa’s first all-race election in 1994.

The book is available at Nicholas Hoare (1366 Greene Ave.).

Montreal Childrens’ Library turns 80



From left, front row: Robin Sales (head librarian), Linda Miller-Eubank. Middle row: Sophie Economides, Marielle Wertheimer, Heather Gibbons, Cheryl Stenason (president), Rosemarie Asch, Ann Boa. Back row: Rhianna Garland, Margaret Stronach, Nadia Craig, Suzanne Csik, Sally McKinnon, Diane Deruchie, Karen Cooke.

BY ERIN STROPES

More than 30 people attended the Montreal Children’s Library’s annual AGM on February 26. The tone of the meeting, held at the Atwater Library, was upbeat and optimistic. Staff and board members described a year marked by successful programs, outreach efforts and community participation.

The weekly “Science is Everywhere” and “Mother Goose Rhyme Time” programs were singled out for praise. The science program saw children building a geodesic dome out of newspaper, enjoying guest animators from the Granby Zoo and the Ecomuseum, and getting outdoors for the summer “Science in the Park” activities. The Mother Goose program gave the chance for kids, parents and grandparents from 19 different language backgrounds

to gather together to read and socialize.

The library also took its show on the road, visiting daycares, hospitals and special needs organizations, including the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf. “When children can’t come to us, we bring the library and all of its resources to them,” said Robin Sales, head librarian.

The Children’s Library will be celebrating its 80th continuous year of service this year, with many activities and events throughout the year. The official anniversary party will be held on June 2 at Avenue Art in Old Montreal.

Branches of the Children’s Library can be found at the Atwater Library (1200 Atwater, 514.931.2304), Centre René Goupil and Tyndale-St.George Community Centre.



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Camps: from A to Y



Among the many presenters at Montreal Families' camp fair, held downtown and in Pointe Claire February 23 and 24, was the YMCA. Here a St. Leonard family listens to Rock Boucicaut's presentation about YMCA Kanawana in St. Sauveur. From left: Pina Napolentano, Gil Daponte and 8-year-old Lara Daponte.

Photo: Isaac Olson.

Volunteers or book donations, please

Centre Greene will be holding its annual used book sale on Friday, April 3 from 10 am to 7 pm, and Saturday, April 4 from 10 am to 3 pm.

The community centre is looking for volunteers, as well as donated books in good condition, especially children's books.

All proceeds from the sale will benefit

its camper fund, which allows more children to attend summer camp.

To volunteer, contact cgspeialevents@gmail.com or call 514.931.6202.

To drop off books, visit 1090 Greene Ave. Monday to Friday, 9 am to 9 pm; Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm; and Sunday, 10 am to 1 pm.

Répertoire des activités : Avez-vous reçu votre copie?

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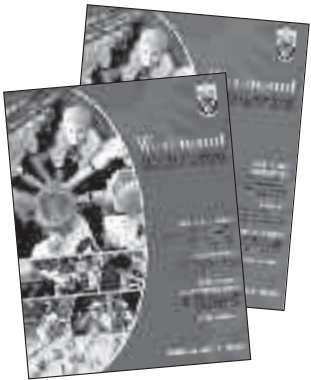
Have you received your copy of the Activities Guide?

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Crow assault on Roslyn



This is the way Petra Carlsson and Marc Coulombe discovered their car the morning of February 25 on Roslyn north of Sherbrooke. "The left-over," as Carlsson calls it, from the crow invasion that hit Westmount in recent weeks (see other photos in Westmount Independent Feb. 10 p. 2). It was "extremely embarrassing" when dropping her son at school, she said. Other parents wondered where she had been with her car – "only home in my driveway," she replied.

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City: Report dead birds, but otherwise crows = spring

The large packs of crows visiting Westmount at this time of year are just another sign of spring, contended city officials in a press release on March 3.

The city has been receiving an "influx" of calls about the birds, but they pose "little threat," according to officials.

Indeed, sustainable development coordinator Joshua Wolfe suggests that, "Instead of seeing the crows as a nuisance, why not think of them as part of the natural cycles of the Earth's seasons?"

As part of ongoing monitoring of avian flu, the city does want residents to report

dead birds by calling Services Québec at 514.644.4545 between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm and further recommends that residents not handle them until told to do so by authorities.

For one resident who may be looking at this sign of spring with a jaundiced eye, see 'Crow assault' at left.

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Modica opens on Victoria



Some of the Modica team, from left, standing: Nancy Nepton (manager), Barbara Legal (aesthetician), Stéphanie Bruneau-Roy (aesthetician) and Gabriel Beaudoin (receptionist). From left, sitting: Judith Dorais (aesthetician), Cheryl Hodge (owner) and Vincenza Martinez (owner).

Modica Medispa launched a new branch on March 4 at 320 Victoria Ave. The group's original location (in Dollard des Ormeaux) will celebrate its first birthday in May.

The new site offers massages, facials and photofacials, hair removal and other treatments.

It is co-owned by Westmounter Cheryl Hodge and Vincenza Martinez. Although

Hodge is a medical doctor (in endocrinology), the spa and her practice are not related.

Martinez explained that the spa aims to “cocoon” clients with top-of-the-line products and services. In addition to traditional spa treatments, nutritionists are available for consultation, as well as health advice on a variety of topics in order to treat the “whole person.”



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Vol. 3/05

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TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Projet de reconstruction du complexe Turcot

Lancement du nouveau forum Web

Si vous désirez partager vos idées concernant le projet de reconstruction du complexe Turcot, nous vous invitons à utiliser notre forum Web, maintenant disponible sur notre site Web, www.westmount.org. Peut-être aimeriez-vous poser une question particulière, faire une suggestion, ou simplement apporter un commentaire. Vous pouvez également répondre aux commentaires des autres. **Exprimez-vous!** 🌿



SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Inscriptions printemps-été 2009

Les inscriptions pour les activités sportives et de loisirs se tiendront les 25 et 26 mars au Victoria Hall de 18 h à 20 h. Veuillez noter qu'après le 26 mars, toute inscription devra s'effectuer à l'Aréna de Westmount. Info : 514 989-5353.

Répertoire des activités : Avez-vous reçu votre copie?

Sinon, procurez-vous un exemplaire du répertoire dans un immeuble municipal à compter du mercredi 11 mars, ou consultez notre site Web pour accéder à la liste complète des activités offertes. 🌿



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Conférences de 14 heures

Vous voulez améliorer la qualité de vos photos digitales? Joignez-vous à nous pour une rencontre en compagnie du photographe Tony Hadley le mercredi 11 mars à 14 h. Info : 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture anglaise

Joignez-vous au club de lecture anglaise le mardi 17 mars de 19 h à 21 h pour discuter *The Thirteenth Tale* de Diane Setterfield. Info : 514 989-5386.

Club de lecture française

Joignez-vous au club de lecture française le mercredi 18 mars de 18 h 30 à 21 h pour discuter les oeuvres d'Irène Némirovsky. Info : 514 989-5386.

DATES À RETENIR

Jusqu'au 14 mars

Exposition : Sara Peck Colby
La galerie du Victoria Hall

Le 22 mars – midi

Défilé de la Saint-Patrick

Le 23 mars – 19 h

Assemblée publique de consultation
Modifications aux règlements 1303 et 1305
Hôtel de ville

Les 25 et 26 mars de 18 h à 20 h

Période d'inscription
Activités de loisirs printemps-été 2009
Victoria Hall

Conférences sur la santé

Waist Management

Venez rencontrer l'entraîneur *Can-fit Pro*, Gay Elliott le mercredi 18 mars à 19 h. Elle discutera de l'importance de l'exercice et de la nutrition. Info : 514 989-5299.

Club d'échecs et de Scrabble

Aimez-vous jouer aux échecs ou au Scrabble? La prochaine rencontre du club aura lieu le vendredi 20 mars à 14 h. Nous sommes toujours à la recherche de nouveaux joueurs. Info : 514 989-5386.

Conférences culturelles

Venez rencontrer Wayne Larsen le mercredi 25 mars de 19 h à 21 h. Il parlera de son livre sur l'artiste canadien, James Wilson Morrice. Info : 514 989-5299. 🌿



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Défilé de la Saint-Patrick

Joignez-vous à nous le dimanche 22 mars à midi pour le 185^e défilé de la Saint-Patrick! Les laissez-passer pour monter à bord du char de Westmount sont disponibles au Victoria Hall seulement. Vous pouvez aussi vous joindre à notre groupe de marcheurs. Un autobus partira du Victoria Hall à 11 h 15 pour se rendre au site de départ. Info : 514 989-5265. 🌿



PUBLIC WORKS

Reconstruction of the Turcot Interchange

New Web Discussion Forum

If you would like to share your thoughts about the reconstruction of the Turcot Interchange, we invite you to use our special Web forum, now available on our Web site, www.westmount.org. Perhaps you'd like to ask a question, contribute a suggestion or comment on something you have heard. You can also respond to comments made by someone else. **We want to hear from you!** 🌿



SPORTS AND RECREATION

Spring/Summer Registration 2009

Registration for spring and summer sports and recreation activities will take place March 25 and 26 at Victoria Hall from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please note that registration after March 26 will take place at the Westmount Arena. Info: 514 989-5353.

Have you received your copy of the Activities Guide?

If not, pick up a copy of the guide at any municipal building as of Wednesday, March 11, or consult our Web site for a complete list of the activities offered. 🌿



LIBRARY

2 O'clock Series

Learn how to take better digital pictures with Tony Hadley on Wednesday, March 11 at 2 p.m. Please register for this event at the main desk. Info: 514 989-5299.

English Book Club

Join the English Book Club from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17 as they discuss *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield. Info: 514 989-5386.

French Book Club

Join the French Book Club from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18 as they discuss the works of Irène Némirovsky. Info: 514 989-5386.

DATEBOOK

Until March 14

Exhibition: Sara Peck Colby
Gallery at Victoria Hall

March 22 – noon

St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 23 – 7 p.m.

Public Consultation Meeting
Amendments to By-laws 1303 and 1305
City Hall

March 25 and 26 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Registration Period
Spring/Summer 2009 Recreation Activities
Victoria Hall

Health Series

Waist Management

Join Can-Fit -Pro trainer Gay Elliott as she shares tips on exercise and nutrition on Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m. Info: 514 989-5299.

Chess and Scrabble Club

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

Cultural Lecture Series

Join Wayne Larsen in the Westmount Room on Wednesday, March 25 at 7 p.m. as he discusses his book on Canadian painter James Wilson Morrice. Info: 514 989-5299. 🌿



COMMUNITY EVENTS

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Join us for the 185th St. Patrick's Parade on Sunday, March 22! Board the Westmount Float or join the walking contingent. Passes are only available at Victoria Hall. A bus will transport participants from Victoria Hall to the float on Sunday at 11:15 a.m. Info: 514 989-5265. 🌿

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ON THE SHELVES

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

Magazines

“Darwin’s first clues: He was inspired by fossils of armadillos and sloths” by David Quammen in *National Geographic*, Feb. 2009, p. 34.

“What Darwin didn’t know: today’s scientists marvel that the 19th-century naturalist’s grand vision of evolution is still the key to life” by Thomas Hayden in *Smithsonian*, Feb. 2009, p. 40.

Canadian Books on CD

The Flying Troutmans by Miriam Toews. The Troutmans are a troubled family facing serious change. When their mother is admitted to a mental hospital, young Logan and Thebes are joined by their aunt for a cross-country trip to find their father. Along the way, each comes to realize something unexpected about the family.

Late Nights on Air by Elizabeth Hay. When Harry Boyd, a hard-bitten refugee from failure in Toronto television returns to a small radio station in the Canadian North, he falls in love with a voice on air, though the real woman is both a surprise and even better than he imagined.

Non-fiction for 8-12 year olds

Planet Earth: 25 Environmental Projects You Can Build Yourself by Kathleen M. Reilly. This guide provides 25 hands-on projects that kids can do to better understand the environment and how they can make a difference.

200 métiers autour de toi by Nadine Mouchet and Sophie Bordet. An interesting approach to teaching kids about different career options. Over 200 jobs are

presented under 20 themes, for example different jobs needed to run a rock festival; work at a video game company; and jobs involved in the making of a book!

In the great capitals of Europe

Les coulisses du Louvre by Pascal Bonafoux. Illustrated with more than 300 photographs, this is a behind-the-scenes look at one of the great museums of the world. Visit the reserve stacks and learn about overnight security.

Le roman de Madrid by Philippe Nourry. According to the author, Madrid may not be Spain’s most modern city, but it is its most historically significant. A cast of flamboyant and romantic characters are presented in this history of the city which is a new installment in the series “*Le roman des lieux magiques.*”

Books and Food

Very Valentine by Adriana Trigiani. A contemporary family saga with a cast of colourful characters – Valentine Roncalli who leaves teaching to rescue the family’s shoe company, her grandmother, a master shoemaker and her chef friend Roman. Great locations (New York and Italy), a “sumptuous feast”.

Mediterranean Fresh by Joyce Goldstein. Another book in the library’s collection of cookbooks – a compendium of one-plate salad meals and mix-and-match dressings.

Reference

Joey Green’s Fix-it magic: More than 1971 quick-and-easy household solutions using brand-name products by Joey Green.

Troubleshooting and repairing major appliances by Eric Kleinert

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Underdog

By FERN BRESLAW



This is an emergency call for a foster family. Sheena and her family arrived at the Montreal SPCA early last week. The babies will stand little

chance of surviving unless someone, somewhere, can get them out of there, pronto. The reality is that puppies under a certain age rarely make it in shelters. There are too many illnesses and germs for their vulnerable systems to handle. This litter is no exception. There are eight little guys, and one very good mummy. They need a home for five weeks, together, as the mum still does all the feeding and cleaning of her puppies. That's a little over one month only. Then



Sheena and her pups.

the puppies will be old enough for the SPCA to find them homes for good. If you are reading this and can open your heart and your home for the time they need to grow a little, you won't just be helping one dog; you'll be saving nine. Enough to check off your good deed box for the rest of the year. Please call Anita at the SPCA foster program at 514.735.2711, ext. 2237 if you want to help.

9 Lives: Handsome Midnight

By LYZANNE

Midnight is a black domestic shorthair, who is about one year old, very playful, and likes people. He has now been neutered and vaccinated. He had belonged to drug addicts who were forced to move, and he was left behind to live outside in the cold. For a while, Midnight was fed outside, then someone took pity on him and took him in, but they cannot keep him for long. He needs a permanent home. Please consider helping this young fellow who is down on his luck. Midnight is little more than a kitten and has already been through enough misery to last a lifetime. He would be so grateful, and you would be saving a life! To enquire, please page Gerdy's Rescues at 514.203.9180.



Midnight



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From left: Lee-Ann Hemsworth of ArtRebel with clients Richard and Melissa Matthews.

Newlyweds Richard and Melissa Matthews dropped by ArtRebel at 318A Victoria on March 2 to get their August wedding pictures framed. "It is one more step in a long process of choosing photos and formats," explained Richard. They hope to have a final, framed product to show family and friends by Easter.




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Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before



BY DOREEN LINDSAY

Question: The Gate Keepers Lodge. When was this house built? For the answer, please turn to p. 14.

Comin' Up...

TUESDAY MARCH 10: Westmount Horticultural Society presents "How to Make Herbal Extracts, Vinegars, Liqueurs, & Syrups" with herbalist Karen Runnels, from 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Doors open at 6:30 pm. www.wh-society.com. Free to members, \$5 otherwise.

FRIDAY MARCH 13: TGIF at Centre Greene from 6 to 8:30 pm. Dinner and games in the spirit of St. Patrick's Day. \$10/child ages 5 to 12 years. www.centregreene.org or 514.931.6202.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15: An evening of new and traditional Passover melodies, featuring a 20-piece big band, synagogue choir and children's chorus at **Congregation**

Shaar Hashomayim at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$36 and \$20. Call 514.937.9471.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15: The 17th Westmount Antiquarian Book Fair takes place at Selwyn House School (95 Cote St. Antoine) from 10 am to 5 pm. Quebec and Ontario book dealers will be selling a wide variety of used and rare books, first editions and maps. \$2/door. 514.935.9581. www.defreitasbooks.com.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17: Marianopolis welcomes the community to its **Canada Council for the Arts Reading Series** starting with Todd Babiak, Edmontonian novelist, journalist, screenwriter and board member of PEN Canada from 1-2 pm in the Amphitheatre. 514.931.8792. Free.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18: Special city council meeting at 12 pm in council chamber, city hall. 514.989.5251.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19: "The Westmount Municipal Association: Celebrating a Centennial" from 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Speakers Tom Thompson and Kathleen Duncan. Organized by the Westmount Historical Association. Free

You and the Law

BY BARBARA NOETZEL, LAWYER

Parents were turned away from a B & B

George is the father of two children, Erica, who is five years old, and eighteen-month-old Charlotte. Although George is separated from his wife, who has legal custody, he sees the children on a regular basis.

Last Wednesday, George decided to take his children to an expensive restaurant for supper. However, he was refused entry at the door. Why? As the hostess explained, "I'm so sorry, sir, but we do not admit children under the age of ten".

Louise and Frank had a similar experience. They wanted to spend a weekend at a country bed and breakfast with their eight-year-old son Michael. The owner of the inn told them, though, that she is running a romantic, couples-only establishment, and that children are not welcome.

Louise and Frank, as well as George, filed a complaint with the Quebec Human Rights Commission on the ground that

they and their children were discriminated against.

Are they right? They certainly are, according to a decision of the Quebec Human Rights Tribunal, which ordered the owner of a bed and breakfast to pay \$3,000 in damages to the parents of a baby who had been refused accommodation because the innkeeper thought their infant would disturb the other guests. The court applied the provision of the Quebec Charter of Rights and Freedoms which forbids discrimination on the ground of civil status.

A similar decision was rendered a few years ago against a restaurant owner who refused to serve a mother with a four-year-old child on the ground that this was discrimination on the basis of age. The court rejected the arguments of the establishment's owner that he would lose customers if he was forced to admit young children. According to the court's reasoning, discrimination cannot be justified by economic reasons.

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

Editorial advertising

for members, for non-members \$5 at door. 514.925.1404 or 514-932-6688.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21: Musica Orbium, which includes 12 Westmounters, performs "Voices of the East", featuring the music of Eastern Europe at 7:30 pm at St. George's Anglican Church (1101 Stanley St.) Tickets \$15 to \$25. www.musicaorbium.org, 450.671.3548.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22: Starting at noon, residents and community groups are invited to march with the Westmount float in the 185th St. Patrick's Parade in downtown Montreal. Bus leaves Victoria Hall at 11:15 am to transport participants to the float on René-Levesque (and returns to the Westmount Arena after parade). Participants who wish to ride on the float must have a pass which are available free at the Community Events Office in Victoria Hall.

SUNDAY MARCH 22: Get your game on at Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom's (395 Elm Ave.) game-a-thon from 2 to 5 pm. Games and light refreshments with friends and family. Everyone welcome, all ages. \$5. 514.937.3575.

MONDAY, MARCH 23: Public consultation

meeting on zoning by-law changes regarding the modification of French text and the construction of supersized houses. City hall, 7 pm.



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History quiz: Mystery of Gate Keeper's Lodge

BY DOREEN LINDSAY

Question from p. 11. The Gate Keeper's Lodge. When was this house built?

Answer: I do not know.



Notaries

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The small white painted red brick, stone house with the steeply inclined metal roof sits on a triangle of land at the corner of Rosemount Cres. (number 70) and Mountain Ave. In trying to trace the origins of this house, I first looked at maps.

The small house is clearly marked on the Charles A. Goad map of 1890.

The house is not on the 1868 Fortification Survey from the National Archives of Canada. In fact, there were only 50 residents of Westmount listed in the 1868 Montreal Directory.

Rosemount Estate

The house was part of the original Rosemount Estate. The estate is there in all its glory. The directory shows the houses built by John Young, now number 16 and 18 Severn, set in a thickly forested area. Does that mean that the house did not exist in 1868 or that it was too small to be shown on a survey map?

A wide driveway, today's Rosemount Ave., is shown coming north from Sherbrooke St., continuing in a large sweeping curve west to Mountain Ave. where the house stands. Then, the driveway turns

northeast and ends along the north side of the Rosemount house.

Let us trace back the owners of the famous Rosemount Estate. The first owner of the land was William McGillivray, fur trader, who purchased 154 arpents of the Bouchard farm.

The second owner was Asa Goode-nough, the owner of the Exchange Coffee House, an informal stock exchange on St. Paul St. in Old Montreal.

He acquired the estate in 1843 and named it Rosemount.

John Young

In 1852, John Young, who contributed to the development of the harbour, bought Rosemount to become the third owner. He and his wife, Amelia Jane, had thirteen children and liked to entertain. They needed more space, so John Young demolished the existing house to construct a new grey stone one that is now 16 Severn Ave. today.

He also enlarged his living space by adding another three-story house to the west, 18 Severn Ave. today. Could he have built the Gate House at the same time as he was enlarging his own? The stables on

the Rosemount Estate, built sometime in the 1860s, are still standing at 52 and 60 Rosemount Ave. They were converted to residential houses in 1917 and 1918.

On a recent tour of this house, the new owners, Richard Ouellette and Maxime Vandal, told me of their plans to incorporate some of the dark grey stones retrieved from a basement wall into an exterior landscaped garden.

Thus the neighbours will be able to view an otherwise hidden treasure. I admired two original carved brackets at each side of the bay window in the living room and discovered that the beams supporting the main part of the house were trunks of trees.

The bark had been stripped but the trees remain round, not squared.

This house has found new owners who are charmed by its structure and dedicated to bringing every feature, such as windows and woodwork, back to its origins.

*Doreen Lindsay is
the president of the
Westmount Historical Association.*

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