

900 daily library users recorded in 2008

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BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount Public Library's well-known claim to being the city's best-used resource has just been substantiated with the first-ever daily counts, recorded in 2008. And the numbers have surprised staff and users alike.

"The counters that were installed at the entrances show that we averaged 900 visits a day," announced library director Ann Moffat. "We had guessed at maybe half that. Some days we had more than 1,300 visits."

Varying with the weather and other factors, the counts at the two main entrances are considered to provide an accurate reflection of the library's use, since staff and service providers use other doors. But the number of interactions is even greater when factoring in the drop-offs of borrowed material in the outdoor depot boxes, and a 9 percent increase in traf-
fic to the library's website. continued on p. 14

All in the Westmount family



Andrew Macdougall, as King Hildebrand, and his four sons are rehearsing for Princess Ida, this year's Gilbert & Sullivan production by the Montreal West Operatic Society. From left, back row: Westmount violinist Nigel Penney, and the Macdougall family: Sebastian, Andrew, Jonathan and Maxime with Benjamin in the foreground. See story, p. 16.

Architects argue new limits not needed

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A chorus of concerns was raised by architects at a public consultation meeting March 23 on measures to limit the size of homes relative to lot sizes on Westmount's upper levels.

The architects – most of whom work on Westmount projects – claimed the proposed by-law reductions for site coverage, lateral set-backs and underground construction were too restrictive and complicated, especially given the steep slope on which some lots are located. "I wouldn't know how to do the calculations," said one.

Given the discretionary powers already exercised by the city's architectural design committee (PAC) in the review process, changes were probably unnecessary, they said.

None of PAC's architectural consultants attended the city hall meeting to hear the comments firsthand or respond directly. They are expected to discuss them, however, before recommendations are given to city council for approval.

"There are five city councillors here tonight, and we heard a lot of interesting comments," said city councillor Patrick Martin, a member of the council's urban planning continued on p. 12

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650 NOTRE-DAME W., PH-1703 — \$2,375,000



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DOWNTOWN
1455 SHERBROOKE W., #3203 — \$2,250,000
1455 SHERBROOKE W., #1805 — \$419,000



INTRODUCING

WESTMOUNT
227 CLARKE PH-1 — \$1,699,000



DOWNTOWN

1227 SHERBROOKE W., #52 — \$1,499,000



OLD MONTREAL

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305 DE LA COMMUNE W., #31 — \$799,000



OLD MONTREAL

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INTRODUCING

DOWNTOWN
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WESTMOUNT ADJ.

3982 COTE DES NEIGES #A-44 — \$619,000
3980 COTE DES NEIGES PH C59 — Rental \$10,000



INTRODUCING

OLD MONTREAL
445 VIGER W., PH-1109 — \$595,000



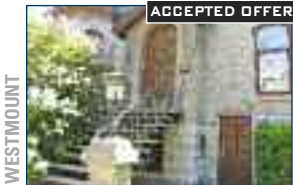
3982 COTE DES NEIGES A1-A2 — \$449,000



INTRODUCING

DOWNTOWN
1200 ST-JACQUES PH-2109 — \$475,000

RESULTS



ACCEPTED OFFER

WESTMOUNT
352-354 ELM



ACCEPTED OFFER

WESTMOUNT
40 ROXBOROUGH



SOLD

WESTMOUNT
121 ARLINGTON



ACCEPTED OFFER

WESTMOUNT
458 CLAREMONT



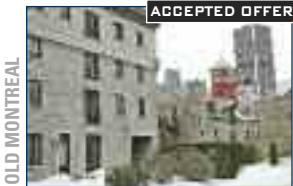
ACCEPTED OFFER

NUNS ISLAND
300 DES SOMMETS #1908



ACCEPTED OFFER

DOWNTOWN
38 MCGILL PH-81



ACCEPTED OFFER

OLD MONTREAL
287 DE LA COMMUNE W



SOLD

DOWNTOWN
117 ST-NORBERT #3



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Park's cannon to be refurbished over '09-'10

Bowser: Cannon will return

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A decision has finally been made to return the pair of 1810 cannon to Westmount Park just as soon as their rotting wooden gun carriages can be replaced. But that's not expected until next year at least.



City councillor George Bowser with one of the pair of cannon

The cannon were removed from the park some three years ago due to the rotting of their carriages and concerns over the way they were secured. A decision on their future has been pending until now.

"It is my view that the cannon should be displayed outdoors as they were until recently because they are a living part of our history," city councillor George Bowser said in announcing the decision to undertake the historic reconstruction project.

"I'm very excited that not only can we begin the work on the cannon," he said, "but that we know what the end result will be. We'll have them back in the park and secured."

The item is expected to be presented to

council soon for approval so the work to replicate authentic carriage wheels of the period can proceed as quickly as possible. These would replace the current cart wheels.

This decision was initially approved at a meeting of the Safety, Utilities and Environment committee in January, and details further confirmed March 25.

The four new wheels are to be made by specialist Karl Gayer in West Virginia along with a spare – all at a cost of more than US\$16,000. The support portions of the carriages are expected to be built under next year's budget.

Researching the information required to replicate the historical wheels proved challenging, Bowser said. Local consultant Philippe Danton "has been enormously helpful. He has found the sister cannon at Fort Henry in Kingston, Ontario, with the carriage wheels intact."

Made in England during the reign of George III, the cannon are described as "12-pounder medium brass smooth-bore muzzle loaders that were continually in service with the British crown from 1750 to 1860." Information on the cannon was obtained by Westmount in 1973 from the Royal Ar-

continued on p. 15



Cast during the reign of George III (1760-1820)

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Hundreds take advantage of Earth Hour to view Saturn

An estimated 400 people gathered March 28 at the Summit lookout to celebrate Earth Hour and obtain a telescopic view of Saturn with its rings and moon.

They were also treated to a celestial tour of the skies by astrophysicist Tony Moffat who spearheaded the Dark Sky event for the Healthy City Project. City councillors attending included George Bowser (who played guitar for the assembled group), Kathleen Duncan, John de Castell, Tom Thompson and Patrick Martin, who had helped canvass the neighbourhood with Moffat and Scouts asking residents to turn off their lights.



Through the telescope.



City councillor George Bowser on guitar accompanied by Stanley Grossman on the harmonica.

Mayor responds to WMA

March 26, 2009
Ms. Patricia Dumais, Recording Secretary
Westmount Municipal Association

Dear Patricia,
Thank you very much for your letter dated March 17 and addressed to me and to the councillors. Since I am away on vacation, I apologize that it has taken a little longer than usual to respond.

As mentioned in your letter, council will unveil plans of the project during its April 6 public meeting. After months of hard work and meetings, we have brought this phase to its completion, and we feel very strongly that it will be an exciting project to meet the needs and expectations of a majority of Westmounters.

What might be an omission from your letter is that, following the council meeting, all households in Westmount will receive an information package with as many details as we can provide, and other additional information will be available for any who wish to see it. It is our full intention to provide a thorough document to be considered as a useful tool for residents in order to prepare for the two public information sessions held later on.

As tradition dictates in Westmount, residents will then have the opportunity to learn, make comments and suggestions,

and ask questions about the project to supplement the information already received. The suggested format will be like the previous one, held on April 12, 2008. Residents will truly have a chance to ask questions, discuss and recommend and as was the case last April, all comments will be documented for council and the community to see and incorporate where possible afterward. As you are aware, there are also other means by which residents can express their opinions, such as through our website.

Finally, we would like to reassure you that we do not intend to ask a simple “go/no-go” question. The telephone poll is intended to truly gauge our residents’ interest and we have been advised that it is the preferred approach to make a sound and informed decision concerning the Westmount arena/pool renewal project. On the one hand, it will allow us to draw a representative portrait of the opinions of our residents and, on the other hand, concrete numbers will give an exact measure of public opinion.


I hope this answers some of your questions.

Yours truly,

Karin Marks, Mayor
Cc: Council members

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Civic Alert

Col-Sel's green trucks stay as Big City's disposal starts

BY DON WEDGE



It will be not be noticeable, but this week the third contractor in 2009 begins emptying our blue boxes. There will be no change in personnel or equipment, though. RCI Environnement, the firm that put in the most attractive bid to collect recycling in Westmount for the next three years, has arranged with the hauler, Col-Sel, who has been doing the job in recent weeks to continue emptying boxes.

The big green Col-Sel trucks will still be picking up paper, plastic, glass and metal as they have been since replacing JC Fibres two months ago. Such are the machinations of the garbage industry.

It is among a batch of good news which will help to us turn away from landfills as we learn to better control our household garbage.

Westmount's latest collection deal is a joint one with many other municipalities and covers most of the western part of the island.

So two firms are sharing whatever profit there is. It seems a strange arrangement. No wonder Mayor Karin Marks has asked Public Works to evaluate whether we should copy Côte St. Luc and use our own staff and trucks for these pick-ups.

As part of the breakup of the forced mergers, the Quebec government made the Big City responsible for the disposal of all forms of waste. The Tremblay team made a 10-year exclusive deal – strongly criticized by Mayor Marks, amongst others – with Groupe Tiru to process all the recyclables from the whole agglom. It starts on April 1.

Tiru is a French garbage giant, which bought Rebutis Solides Canadiens, the operator of the sorting plant located on land leased from Montreal in St. Michel. Tiru also owns the Col-Sel trucking firm.

Wheels-within-wheels indeed!

Recycling sales improve

Tiru was hard hit at the end of last year when the world-wide recycling business collapsed due to the economic crisis. It could not sell the recyclables it was receiving.

There was no point processing it, so a backlog of about 20,000 tonnes accumulated, the firm's vice president, Michel Parent, acknowledged this week. Lately, though, the market has reopened and pro-

cessing has resumed.

"The prices are low, and we still lose money," Parent added, "but at least it is moving again."

Told that some Westmounters were disappointed at the switch to pell-mell collection, he said that it was Montreal's decision. Parent pointed out that the good habits that have been learned in Westmount would mean less contamination.

Mixed products, be they fibres, metals, plastics or glass bedevil Quebec's recycling industry. Materials are most useful and most valuable when they are pure.

In recent years, Tiru has sold about 60 percent of its processed recyclables in north-east America. The remainder has been exported, sometimes for more screening to remove contaminants at lower costs.

Apartments need boosting

Westmount's home owners have become renowned for their recycling efforts, but the situation at some apartment buildings is not comparable. However, since the latter's service began in 1993, the city has made little effort to encourage tenants.

With subsidies now being provided by the Quebec government and industry, this ought to change.

The funds come from the polluter-pay legislation introduced in 2002, but only implemented three years ago. They were among the drive towards more enlightened policies of the environmental wave in the 1980s.

In fact, 20 years ago next month,



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Canada's environment ministers, meeting in Vancouver, signed a protocol to halve the packaging sent to landfill by 50 percent. Looking at today's garbage cans, it is hard to believe that the objective was met.

In 1989, Quebec's representative, deputy premier Lise Bacon, later a senator, added a further note that all waste, not only packaging, was to be reduced by 50 percent by 2000. That diversion target was a complete failure, as was the next one: 60 percent by 2008.

It will take better recycling performance and widespread composting to reach such levels. It will also need a switch to new methods of manufacturing products that provide for their end of life. Canada's environment ministers are jointly preparing such policies.

February's agreement by Quebec's en-

vironment groups to support municipalities' appeals for government funds to build composting plants – with the cities dropping plans for incineration (*Independent*, March 3, p. 4) – has begun to bear fruit.

This month's provincial budget promised \$500 million.

Westmount's good start with kitchen waste collection last year – due to expand across the city in May – will need assured compost processing capacity. This is promised in the cities' pact with the environment groups by 2012.

It is urgent to get these composting plants in place to meet our diversion obligations.

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

Turcot impact study released



The Ville Marie Expressway as it passes through Westmount, seen from the city's Corporation Yard at the foot of Bethune St.

An environmental impact study has confirmed concerns voiced by Westmount residents at a public meeting January 19 on the reconstruction of the Ville Marie Expressway.

Conducted by the Quebec transport ministry, a summary of the report was released March 23.

Noise, dust, night-time work, expropriations and traffic disruptions were all listed as factors that would affect the quality of life during the work to lower

the Turcot interchange to ground level. This requires the elevated Highway 720, the Ville Marie Expressway, to be rebuilt and lowered to connect with the new interchange.

Information meetings have been scheduled for April 20 and 21 by BAPE, the Bureau d'audiences publiques de l'environnement, which released the impact summary. The work is scheduled to start this fall and continue until 2016.

OPINIONS ON THE ARENA/POOL

Resident committee would have been good, may still be time for dissemination of all information

KATHLEEN WARNER DUNCAN, CITY COUNCILLOR (DISTRICT 4)

The March 17 letter written by the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA), which advocates public consultation on the arena renewal project, raises the critical question of local government consulting the citizenry regarding community projects. In my view, the WMA's expressed concerns may be summarized as one idea: citizen input.

During my tenure as the WMA's president, we were equally concerned with transparency, dissemination of information and consultation, which I bring to my present role as an elected official and where I am well aware of the value of listening to residents. The arena project has

driven home this principle, which has been further underscored by the many leaders in the field of urban planning that I have heard during my McGill lectures.

From the outset of this project, by way of public input, I have advocated a citizen's advisory committee, to be created at arm's length from council, but with a very clear set of criteria, while still reflecting a cross-section of the community. Core to the role and mandate of the committee would be the pursuance of feedback and participation from residents, whose input on the project would be sought at ground level and whose views would be removed from the political arena.

I wish we had had this ongoing consultation at every phase of this process, because then we might not have had to deal

with concerns such as the WMA has felt compelled to raise. We might have streamlined the process and had community buy-in at an earlier stage.

And now, despite the announced timeline, the schedule may require reconfiguration, as the mayor stated in last week's *Independent* (p. 1), "There's a possibility we won't be ready." I hope we can find a way to disseminate all information for the public to discuss and decide.

Thank you, WMA, for your input. We've waited so long to have an up-to-date arena and pool facility. Let's hope we can all move forward together to make this wonderful project a reality as soon as possible.

A copy of this reply has been sent to the WMA in response to its letter.

Expand arena into dog run?

Some two to three years ago, I suggested to Mayor Marks that when the time came for renovating the arena/pool, expansion in the area now devoted to the dog run should be considered. I was informed that this was not an option.

I find this hard to accept. The fact that the land now occupied by the dog run falls away on a slope would have meant that excavation for, possibly, a swimming pool would not be necessary.

Obviously the position of the renovated building cannot be changed whereas the dog run could easily be relocated.

E. JOAN ADYE
PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

Two rinks not justified, process flawed

Recently, an article appeared in the *Independent* ("Make phase 1 report public, larger arena benefits city" by Henry Olders, February 10, p. 6) that warned of the imminent desertion of Westmount by its residents if a spanking new, state-of-the-art arena/sports complex is not built forthwith. Did the writer envisage mass evacuations to Dollard? Beaconsfield? RDP?

Let's examine for a moment the facilities offered by those alleged suburban hockey paradises. The table below represents rink capacity and use for 21 surrounding communities, compiled from publicly available information and abstracted from the Westmount Arena Moderation Campaign website (www.wamcam.org).

For those accustomed to the refrain that Westmount is currently underserved with respect to ice capacity, it may surprise them that our community is already one of the *best served* in terms of per-capita use. It is third out of the 21 rinks whose usage was surveyed. Included were such affluent

cities as Côte St. Luc (32,000), Outremont (23,000) and Pointe Claire (30,000). Westmount's Sports and Recreation department has always been quite coy, almost Victorian, in their unwillingness to reveal ... anything about hockey numbers, normally the first step in preparation for a project of such a scale. One can only assume that they have not been produced precisely because the figures fail to support the argument for two full-size ice surfaces.

Those for whom hockey is a religion would say that you can never have enough ice, especially if other taxpayers are going to foot the bill. And there is nothing wrong with pressing the case for a good arena. However, a number of players and coaches, while stressing the need for arena refurbishment, are satisfied with the ice-time. One coach mentioned to me that his players already get twice as much practice as kids in other areas.

Secondly, there are reservations about the manner in which the project has unfolded.

From the start, the arena renewal project has been flawed. A wish list is not, and should not substitute for, a guidance document. It is ideally the trigger for a brainstorming process, out of which should

emerge a refined core of requirements, with broad consensus, around which a proper plan can coalesce. Instead of a measured approach, what Westmount will get is a hastily-devised plan based solely on a mandate of, "Quick! What, out of this grab-bag of wishes, can you design for \$25 million?"; an artificially-imposed deadline; and a refusal to share any information with residents and taxpayers. A number of writers to last week's *Independent* expressed dissatisfaction with, and proposed alternatives to, this condescending and undemocratic process.

These are some of the questions taxpayers should be asking:

- 1) Why, after spending \$400,000 on consultants and plans, is there only a single option – no Plan B, or Plan C?
- 2) Why is it a good use of funds to pay \$25 million to gain half a rink?
- 3) Where is the transparency in the process? Where, to use council's favourite phrase, is the "due diligence"?
- 4) Why can this council not propose and manage projects in a professional manner that involves the community in a more harmonious and open relationship, without engendering the kind of controversy familiar to those who remember the artificial turf/playing fields debacle?

One is usually counselled to regard as suspect fantastic investment opportunities that have a short shelf-life: sign today or the opportunity will be gone forever!

Westmounters – those who are "selected" to be polled – should have no problem rejecting this no-choice hustle and sending it back to the drawing board. In real life, after a suitable period of reflection, another option, more acceptable to more people, always appears.

MAVIS YOUNG, MELVILLE AVE.

Editor's note: I think the statement that Sports and Recreation is unwilling to share "anything" regarding hockey numbers is too broad. Residents may have unanswered questions, but in at least one major instance, the department very freely shared with us the statistics regarding hockey enrolment (e.g. "Hockey enrolment 'explodes'", November 18, p. 1). Large-arena skeptics have criticized what they perceive to be a link between more program offerings and more enrolment ("More hockey, more demand" by Gary Ikeman, November 25, p. 5), but Sports and Recreation was undoubtedly forthcoming about the enrolment facts at their disposal, whatever the cause of the high numbers may have been.

DP

	Population	# of rinks	Average pop./rink
21 cities in Montreal area	774,661	33.5	23,124
Westmount	20,000	1.5	13,333

PROJECT

I ♥ Westmount!!!

Westmount is a great place to live! And, so close to downtown: friendly and clean; great services for garbage and recycling collection; a new composting program; and generally on the cutting edge of environmental protection, including our project of boosting Earth Hour.

Electrical wiring is mostly underground throughout, and the city is well-treed.

We have an excellent security department; snow removal is great, and our street crossings are fairly safe.

We have a myriad of activities for all ages and interests:

- Sports, e.g. tennis, baseball; swimming, soccer, hockey, skating and much more;
- Cultural, e.g. art exhibits, music, library, dancing, theatre/drama and much more;
- Recreation and fitness, e.g. Tai Chi, yoga,

bridge, fitness and more;

- Entertainment and fun events, e.g. Winter Carnival, la Fête nationale celebrations, Canada Day celebrations and camping, the Spring Soirée and so on;
- Urban enlightenment projects, e.g. Sustainable Westmount and the Healthy City Project.

All one has to do is scan Westmount's *Culture, Sports and Recreation Activities Guide*.

Why does this all succeed?

- The activities are actively supported by our mayor and council,
- Often they personally participate in them,
- We have a dedicated staff of city employees,
- And, we have hard-working and talented

volunteers.

What is most important is that all these activities and events have access to municipal facilities, established by the foresight of the present and previous administrations, to carry out these functions.

Enhanced arena

We are currently faced with a new improvement project which is the enhancement of our arena and pool facilities. The council will be presenting its proposed plan to citizens shortly. The project has involved much planning that has used the input of professional planners and has listened to the concerns of citizens. In the interest of the environment and a good lifestyle, many compromises have been made.

There are the naysayers who are opposed to improvements to the community. In general, they are not concerned with accommodating their fellow citizens. Listening to explanations is not part of their make-up. Skewed data has been presented

to try to prove that arena proponents want more than what other municipalities provide for their citizens. Even if it were so, what is the sin of Westmount having superior rink facilities?

We live in a high-density community as part of the downtown area. Having an older, fully developed total urban area does not grant us the luxury of open spaces that are afforded to suburbs. We share this space with others to afford a richer and healthier life style. The antagonists to the project, who generally oppose any community improvement, continuously rant like clucking Chicken Littles who hysterically proclaim that the "sky is falling," when actually rays of sunshine are beaming through. Why do they continuously malign Westmount?

I believe in a superior progressive community for today and tomorrow, and proudly support our mayor and council in these endeavours.

Up with Westmount!

STAN GROSSMAN
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

Arena need strong as ever, dithering may spoil chance

At the end of my 12-year stint as a Westmount city councillor, I was a member of the then-Arena and Pool Committee.

As a committee working with the Recreation department, we looked at dozens of existing sports facilities, on and off the island. In my case, I saw other facilities in the US and Europe, and I had participated in the design and development of the Pierrefonds Sportsplex, which has four arenas.

The Recreation department was overwhelmed at the time by the demand for facilities and programs. There were, among others, major backlogs for women's programs, figure skating, swimming and junior hockey. As it was, programs were cut back or eliminated, waiting lists increased to an unacceptable level and, in spite of rigorous upkeep, the facilities were obviously obsolete. It became almost embarrassing to host events and have guest teams from outside Westmount. At the time, the city had developed a series of preliminary design options within the constraints of space, traffic and cost that existed then as they do now.

Then came the municipal merger, which put a stop to it all. Eight years have gone by, the demand has risen even more with the surge of a younger population and a further deterioration of the facilities.

I am taken aback to find that, at this late hour, someone like Councillor Patrick Martin and, to some degree, the West-

mount Municipal Association are alleging a lack of information and transparency to invoke more public consultation and grind the process to a halt.

Is it that they have fallen prey to the false and misleading pronouncements of limited interest groups, the likes of Mr. Ikeman's Westmount Arena Moderation Campaign (WAMCAM)?

I hope not.

Or is it that they are not clear on the following concepts?

Demand: There is, and has been, plentiful information available for many years from the Recreation department to support improved swimming facilities and a two-rink arena, one of these for year-round use. This would meet the demands of an expanded population for programs that are currently available in other cities. The proposed facilities would accommodate the current demand with only some spare capacity. If anyone has any doubt about the current state of demand and thinks that consultation will alter its parameters or intensity, I strongly suggest they do their "consultation" with some of the parents, or – even better – go and consult those people that line up for hours at registration, only to end up on a waiting list.

Design: there are strict space limitations that govern and limit the design of any new recreational facility. They existed 10 years ago and have not changed much, so that there are not many permutations

and combinations available within the realm of cost and reality. I believe it is the professionals' responsibility to present to council the recommended options and to provide the most within all the constraints, a difficult task. At this point, public consultation will not advance anything. Instead, as the project develops and information is available, councillors should inform themselves and communicate with their constituents and get feedback to allow them to make responsible decisions at council.

Cost: two things have changed significantly since we first looked at a new sports facility, almost 10 years ago.

- 1) construction costs have risen during the real estate boom,
- 2) today, available government grants and infrastructure programs are much more significant and could cover a much higher percentage of the costs (up to 66 percent).

This is an incredible and timely opportunity that requires immediate action. Thus, if the overall cost has increased from eight years ago, the net cost to Westmount taxpayers could be lower. How the net cost is covered remains a question of how much can be raised privately or from other sources, an exercise that Westmount went through very successfully with the renovations of the library and Victoria Hall.

Westmount residents know what they

need now in the way of improved recreational facilities for themselves, their children and grandchildren. City management and city council know how to manage the process. Relevant information has been readily available. What is most important is to drive the vision to completion in a timely manner. What public consultation could change that?

There comes a time when consultation becomes dithering, and dithering leads to half-measures and missed opportunities.

Having lived through the experience of the library and Victoria Hall projects, I have learned to trust the abilities of city council and of city management to inform themselves, act in a responsible and cost-effective manner and communicate with the community as they manage the process.

We elect a mayor and councillors so that they can make informed decisions on our behalf and in the interests of the community.

I voted for my councillor so that he could represent me. If I had to be consulted on every issue, why then do I need a councillor?

Westmount council must act with vision on behalf of our community and of future generations, and act now to move forward, lest we miss a unique opportunity and drift into the quagmire of half measures.

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This red-headed woodpecker was spotted recently in Summit Park. It traditionally drumrolls the entry of Spring, when over two dozen species of warblers and other birds return to the park. To protect birds, the city requires that dogs in Summit Park be leashed from April 15 to June 15 at all times.

Photo: John Fretz



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423 & 425 Landsdowne Ave.	\$649,000	\$545,000	Patty Kodrun & Marilyn Nunn	Estate of the late Arthur Nunn	25-Feb
436 Claremont Ave.	\$420,000	\$329,900	Zois Tzicas	Elizabeth Hunter	13-Mar
327 Victoria Ave.	\$418,000	\$437,000	Richard Foltz	David Hogg	27-Feb
17 (all) & 19 (1/6th) Chesterfield Ave.	\$400,000	n.a.	Anna Miloradovitch	Jean Papacotsia	18-Mar
273 Melville Ave.	\$390,000	\$391,900	Maria Toro	Peter Ferst	10-Mar
104 Abbott Ave.	\$300,000	\$345,100	Paola Ridolfi	Lorna Hutchinson (Estate of George Hutchison)	26-Feb
1 Wood Ave. 2 lots	\$32,000	n.a.	Daniel St. Martin Inc.	Devdip Chatterjee	3-Mar

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Debate on proposed supersizing

continued from p. 1

committee. He suggested a roundtable of professionals be held to discuss the concerns.

The modifications are proposed only for zone R1, mostly north of The Boulevard (see details, the *Independent*, March 17). A small portion is included to the south between Carleton and Sydenham and down through Forden and Murray to Côte St. Antoine.

"If you have a bigger property, you can build a bigger house," explained city councillor Cynthia Lulham who chaired the meeting as commissioner of urban planning. It would just not be as big as before.

One member of the audience estimated the reduction at 30 percent using one set of the new parameters.

Joanne Poirier, the city's urban planning director, opened the meeting by explaining how changes were needed "to maintain the fine balance in existing streetscapes and to ensure the preservation of the mountain."

In introducing a floor-area ratio (FAR) to property in the residential zone, a sliding scale had been worked out since "not one model fits all because we are on a

slope."

Bruce Anderson, who lives in Westmount, has practised here as an architect for 40 years and helped write the city's building and planning guidelines, received a round of applause when he said

QUESTIONS



Architect and resident
Bruce Anderson



Resident Joan Adye

the proposed by-law sounded "highly politicized" and "extremely complicated."

His experience had been that houses have been nicely integrated. "Let us know which houses are too big and too ugly."

While no examples were provided, Lulham told the meeting that complaints were being heard from citizens that neighbouring construction and additions were having a negative impact on their properties.

"We're trying to maintain some harmony and be fair," Lulham said. "It's not fair to block neighbours' windows."

Joan Adye, a resident of Prince Albert, asked that neighbours be informed of work before it is undertaken.

Interestingly, her request was repeated

by Marni Zeidel, wife of Steven Goldberg, who outlined their own experience with a court case regarding the controversial addition of a storey to their house at 27 Bellevue. Perhaps problems (protection of views) might have been resolved if neighbours had been informed beforehand, she suggested.

Architect and Westmount resident Philip Hazan outlined further difficulties and contradictions the new FAR would present in building on a slope.

City councillor Kathleen Duncan asked if limiting underground construction to lateral building lines would be extended to other zones. Poirier replied "that will be up to the council."

Designer Adam Borowczyk said there were "too many laws." As well, in presenting project plans to PAC "we are told it is politically correct not to go to the (allowable) maximums." Would this still be the case with the reduced maximums?

The meeting also heard from a citizen who stated his building project had now been frozen out by the changes because a meeting that might have allowed him to get his plan in under the wire had been cancelled. When told it was a matter of "bad luck and bad timing," he replied: "this is not a bad-luck business."

City councillor Tom Thompson said that since it had been impossible to legislate "suitability," it seemed appropriate "to bring in a set of guidelines that architects can work within but allow a spirit of sustainability."

Major changes would require the legal process and consultation to start over, including a new building freeze.

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Underground construction of houses in R1 would no longer be permitted to extend right to the edges of side property lines as this one on Edgehill, which is being built under current regulations.

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Library director: 'We always knew we were a busy place'

continued from p. 1

"We always knew we were a busy place, and now we have the stats to prove it," Moffat said.

The daily counts for 2008 compare with 600 users a day recorded at the main public library in Pointe Claire over the same period. Moffat considers this a relevant comparison.

With overall annual circulation figures showing an increase of more than 7 per cent in 2008, the library launched new

Last year was also the first full year that reduced membership prices were offered to non-resident seniors at \$50 instead of \$120.

"I think these are all wonderful things the city does to position the library as a community resource," Moffat said.

The FastReads circulation of prize-winning books and bestsellers exceeded 6,500 last year, demonstrating the popularity of this program. It was introduced a couple of years ago as a special collection, many of which are featured in the library's On the Shelves column in the *Independent*.

These selections formed an important component of the 9,700 new materials added to the library collection last year. This was funded in part by a donation of \$20,000 - a record amount - raised by the Friends of the Library book sales.

A highlight of 2008 was the selection of Westmount library as one of three public libraries singled out for visits by participants in the annual worldwide conference of the International Federation of Library Associations held in Quebec City in August.

Eighty chose to visit Westmount. The other two libraries were Montreal's La Grande Bibliothèque and Park Extension's multicultural library.

Many programs for kids

The Westmount Public Library children's section held close to 400 "story times" which attracted some 4,000 participants as well as 33 special programs attended by close to 600 people. A summer reading program attracted 200 children under 12.

The library also hosted 140 class visits; 82 book, film and chess club meetings - as well as lectures and author talks.

"One night recently, I counted four community groups that were meeting at the library," Moffat said. "That's all we can accommodate."

This year the library will be launching its new website, Moffat said. Other plans include introducing weekend story times for children and acquiring a digital microfilm reader and six standup workstations in the reference section.

"There is still the question of extending library hours in the summer following the results of last year's user survey," Moffat said.

Most popular books borrowed in 2008

Law of Dreams by Peter Behrens

Through Black Spruce by Joseph Boyden

Book of Negroes by Lawrence Hill

The Private Patient by P.D. James

Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson

The Murder Stone by Louise Penny

Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society by Ann Shaffer

An Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennet

programs and services, catered to more groups, and positioned itself as a "welcoming place." This was further enhanced with the installation last year of a coffee and hot chocolate maker. "It's been very popular," Moffat said.

One of the new programs was homework help in French provided mainly by older students from École Internationale as a community service.

Another was the library's 10 books-in-a-bag service customized to the needs of local book clubs. Mini-computer courses were also introduced.

Always changing

"We're always changing because people change, and interests come in and out of fashion," Moffat explained. "We've been collecting a lot of information on sustainability. This year there is a lot of interest in urban planning."

The library's membership also reflects continual change. One third of the 7,500 members were new last year, reflecting the normal turnover. Fully 1,000 of these were free memberships for students attending Westmount schools. It was the first full year that these were available to the newly relocated Marianopolis which moved in September 2007.

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Cannon in park since 1899

continued from p. 3

tillery Institution in Woolwich, England, where they had been cast by brothers J. and H. King.

Correspondence showed the city was contemplating authentic reconstruction of the carriages at that time.

This particular pair were reportedly used to fire a royal salute June 21, 1897 on

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. They were placed in the park in 1899 by Westmount Lodge, Sons of England.

The cannon have been a favourite with children and park users ever since.

Exposed to the elements, the carriages have been repaired or replaced on previous occasions. A \$15,000 facelift was undertaken in 1994.

In Other Words: Westmount in the Media

Former Marianopolis may be developed

The Montreal *Gazette* reported on March 24 ("Marianopolis project to go to consultation", p. A7) that a development plan for the former, Côte des Neiges site of Marianopolis College just outside of Westmount is heading for public consultations.

The developer, Développement Cato

Inc., bought the site for \$46 million in 2008 and has put forward a plan for 290 condos, 24 townhouses and 10 single-family houses, including ones on an extended Place de Ramezay St., which runs into Westmount to join Ramezay Rd.

The Study and St. George's schools have been renting the site's sports complex since 2007. Neither school had commented on the news for the *Independent* by press time.

Traf students triumph in science at Marianopolis



From left, Megan Stewart-Waywell, Westmounter Olivia Gutherz, Jenna Downey, Westmounter Jessica Chetrit, Celeste Calder and Westmounter Victoria Schouela.

Students attending Trafalgar School for Girls went from success at their own science fair to win awards at the Bell Montreal Regional Science and Technology Fair, held March 22 to 24 at Marianopolis College in Westmount.

Westmounters Olivia Gutherz and Victoria Schouela received silver medals for their projects, respectively "Blades of Glory" and "CI Therapy in MS Rehab".

Another Westmount resident, Jessica Chetrit, and her partner Celeste Calder received honorable mention for their project "Eco-friendly Solar Cells".

Jenna Downey's project, "Surfing the Waves," received a bronze medal and Megan Stewart-Waywell's project, "Flutter Power", was the star of the Traf team – with a gold medal as well as six other prizes, including two cash awards.



Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount



AVIS D'ENTRÉE EN VIGUEUR RÈGLEMENTS D'EMPRUNT N^{os} 1378 et 1379

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné à tous ceux qui peuvent être concernés, que les règlements d'emprunt énumérés ci-dessous, adoptés par le conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount lors d'une séance ordinaire tenue le 2 février 2009, sont réputés avoir été approuvés par les personnes habiles à voter lors de l'enregistrement tenu le 18 février 2009. La ministre des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire a approuvé les règlements 1378 et 1379 le 26 mars 2009.

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 DE 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.

Ces règlements entrent en vigueur conformément à la loi.

Toute personne intéressée peut consulter lesdits règlements sur le site web de la ville : www.westmount.org et en obtenir copies au bureau du greffier situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

DONNÉ à Westmount, Québec, ce 31 mars 2009.

Nancy Gagnon
Greffière adjointe de la Ville

NOTICE OF COMING INTO FORCE LOAN BY-LAWS No. 1378 and 1379

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to all who may be concerned that the loan by-laws listed below, adopted by the Municipal Council of Westmount at a regular sitting held on February 2, 2009, were deemed to have been approved by the qualified voters at the registration held on February 18, 2009. The Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy approved By-laws 1378 and 1379 on March 26, 2009:

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.

These loan by-laws shall come into force according to law.

Any interested person may consult the said by-laws on the City's website: www.westmount.org and obtain copies thereof at the Office of the City Clerk located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

GIVEN at Westmount, Quebec, this March 31, 2009

Nancy Gagnon
Assistant City Clerk

Underdog: Help find Milly

By FERN BRESLAW



I don't usually feature lost dogs in this column, but this little girl deserves to be an exception to the rule. Her name is Milly. She is very small and was only recently rescued from a puppy mill. In mid-March, she escaped from a garden in Hampstead and has since been seen by a handful of people in Westmount who have all tried to catch her but couldn't. She has just been spayed and seriously needs to have her stitches removed, which is not a very nice thought; not to mention that her likelihood of making it in the early spring cold isn't inspiring much confidence.

Milly is a mini schnauzer. She is grey and is wearing a pink collar. She has also had a haircut since this photo was taken. Helping this week is easy: Check your

yard, under the porch, in your garage. If you see a little dog without an owner that matches the description, please catch her if you can. If you have any info regarding Milly, please call Kelly at 514.296.4664.



Milly

Photo: Marilyn Gelfand

Father and four sons act together

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Andrew Macdougall and his four sons – all raised in Westmount – will appear together in this year's 70th anniversary production of the Montreal West Operatic Society (MWOS), the second oldest Gilbert & Sullivan group in North America after Boston's. See photo on p. 1.

While three of the brothers play hockey in Westmount's Senior B league, it is the first time that Sebastian, Jonathan, Maxime and Benjamin have all participated in the annual Gilbert & Sullivan show with their father, a longtime Westmount Scout leader. He is the treasurer of the MWOS.

"This year they were all pressed into service because our production of *Princess Ida* requires so many spear carriers," Macdougall said.

While Macdougall plays King Hildebrand in one of the leading roles, his sons

will be his bodyguard.

Also involved is Westmounter Nigel Penney, who will play violin in the orchestra.

The show takes place at the Parkhaven Auditorium (the former Wagar High), 5785 Parkhaven in Côte St. Luc, on April 23, 24 and 25 as well as May 1 and 2, all at 7:30 pm. A performance at 1:30 pm is scheduled for May 3.

A special show is to be held in the Eastern Townships town of Stanstead at the Haskell Opera House (1 Church St.) on May 17 at 7:30 pm.

Tickets may be obtained by calling 514.486.5918, or at the door.

Rarely performed, *Princess Ida* is considered one of the funniest and most difficult of the Gilbert & Sullivan operas. Set in medieval times, it was adapted from Alfred Tennyson's poem "The Princess," which satirizes the idea of higher education for women.

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Comin' Up...

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1: **Stuart Robertson** discusses growing plants in containers in his latest book, *Stuart Robertson's Tips on Container Gardening*, at the Westmount Public Library, 7 pm. His book will be on sale.

THURSDAY APRIL 2: As part of 3-day conference, Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom offers open forum and panel discussion on "Men and Women: Building an Alliance against Human Trafficking" at 7:30 pm. Guest speakers explore human trafficking, prostitution and sexual exploitation. Free, donations appreciated. Reserve: human@templemontreal.ca

THURSDAY, APRIL 2: St. Leon Parish's (330 Clarke Ave.) annual **super bazaar** from 1 to 6 pm. Clothes, books, music. 514.935.4950.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2: The local **Sherlockian Club** (known as The Bimetallic Question) meets at 6:30 pm in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library. Amateur and potential sleuths welcome for a fun evening. Optional quiz on *The Stockbroker's Clerk*. 514.931.8690.

FRIDAY APRIL 3: **VivaVoce** Chamber Choir's 10th anniversary concert, 7:30 pm at Redpath Hall (3461 McTavish St.). Join Westmounters Peter Schubert, conductor, and Lori Schubert, director, and the choir, for an evening of Bach cantatas, humorous commentary and birthday cake. Tickets: 514.398.4547 or 514.790.1245 /

www.admission.com. Info: www.vivavoce-montreal.com

FRIDAY, APRIL 3: **Centre Greene's** (1090 Greene) annual used book sale from 10 am to 7 pm, and Saturday, April 4 from 10 am to 3 pm, including children's music and sing-along at 11 am. Proceeds benefit the summer campership fund, allowing deserving children to attend summer camp. Centre Greene continues to accept donations of used books and seeks volunteers. cgspecialevents@gmail.com / 514.931.6202.

MONDAY, APRIL 6: **Rotary Club of Westmount** International Celebration Dinner at Bitoque (3706 Notre Dame W.) from 6:30 to 9:30 pm, to celebrate Rotary International and Rotary Club of Westmount international work including Polio Plus, Ghana water project, YMCA Westmount Nicaragua project. \$75. Reserve: 514.935.3344/info@rotarywestmount.org.

MONDAY, APRIL 6: **City council meeting** at 8 pm, city hall.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7: **ArtNow** speakers include Jason Goldsmith "Big Blue Hug" and Susan Mott of 9 Artistes 9/Galerie Cactus. Westmount Public Library, 7 pm. Free.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8: Start of public viewing of the city's **Spring Flower Show** at the Conservatory. Monday to Friday, 10 am to 9 pm. Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 5 pm.

April at the Art Galleries

Galerie de Bellefeuille: Hunt Slonem. Exhibit continues to Apr. 6. Little Luxuries. Exhibit: Apr. 9 to 20. Jean-François Provost. Vernissage: April 23 at 5:30 pm. Exhibit continues to May 4. 1367 Greene, 514.933.4406.

Galerie D'Este: Dominik Sokolowski. Vernissage: Apr. 18 at 2 pm. Exhibit continues to May 3. 1329 Greene, 514.846.1515.

Gallery at Victoria Hall: Homeira Mortazavi, Nathalie Guez. Exhibit continues to

April 21. Cynthia Van Frank. Exhibit: April 30 to May 23. 4626 Sherbrooke, 514.989.5226.

Galerie V Trimont: Quebec and Canadian artists. Gallery opening on April 2 at 5 pm. at 4259 St Catherine, 514.658.7214.

La Galerie sur Greene: New artists. 1368 Greene, 514.938.3863.

McClure Gallery – Visual Arts Centre: Annual student show. Vernissage: April 4 at noon. Exhibit continues to April 23. Virginia McClure "Demiselles". Vernissage: April 30 at 6 pm. Exhibit: April 31 to May 23. 350 Victoria, 514.488.9558.

Parisian Laundry: Alyssa Andrews & Kim Dorland. Exhibit: March 13 to April 18. 3550 St Antoine, 514.989.1056.

West End Gallery: Ingrid Harrison: new works. 1358 Greene, 514.933.4314.

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Westmount Profile: Kathleen Duncan

Climbing hills – a mental game

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

With a string of community activities to organize and a family to raise, Kathleen Duncan has long learned to juggle numerous projects and still pursue a rigorous training regime for upcoming triathlon events.

Over the last 15 years, she launched and ran the Santa Claus parade in Westmount, taught Sunday school, chaired the boys' choir at St. Matthias' and helped spearhead the demerger campaign locally and beyond as president of the Westmount Municipal Association – all through bringing together a number of volunteers.

Now as a city councillor, Duncan has folded new responsibilities into the mix. She has returned to school to obtain a master's degree in urban planning at McGill and assumed the unexpected responsibilities of becoming a single mother.

"I really have to keep all those balls in the air at the same time," she says.

"In the last year, I've been able to pick up and drop off children, be at meetings, keep up my biking and running, make my classes and go through a difficult divorce. It's a learning experience.

"And it impresses upon me just how strong we human beings can be when required."

Maverick at heart

Thriving on new challenges, she adds, "I like to do what I'm told I can't. I like to be a maverick. Every time I go out on my bike, it's to beat my personal time – trying to live life to the fullest.

"I love climbing hills and cycling long distances. It's a mental game so it has the same application to everything else in life."

Having just turned 46 on March 30, Duncan has attended city council meetings for 10 years, the first seven questioning council on behalf of the WMA. "Having been on both sides has only heightened the importance to me of listening to residents and understanding that what they say is vital," she explains. "I don't think I've ever wavered over the need for transparency and trust."

Taking up urban planning stems largely from her council experience. "What I'm doing at school broadens my experience and has brought more depth to my understanding of planning policy and governance."

Both Kathleen and her twin brother,

John, a lawyer, were born in Rochester, MN, where their father, Dr. Al Warner, was specializing at the Mayo Clinic.

They later moved to Westmount, where their sisters subsequently were born. Anne-Marie is an actuary, and Molly, a hematologist. "I'm the joke of Molly's department at the Royal Vic because I can't take the sight of blood," Kathleen says.

Party girl

Educated at ECS, she was inspired by her history teacher, Westmounter Jill Harrington. "She's the reason I'm in politics," Duncan explains. "I was involved in gymnastics at the provincial level and was interested in debating, choir, drama – and boys," she adds laughing. "I had to get invited to the parties. I'm a party girl!"

She studied piano and has always painted.

Life changed just before graduation in 1980, when her entire family "sold out" and joined the anglo exodus from Quebec. "In retrospect, it was very sad." She joined them in Fredericton, where she happily obtained a general arts degree at the University of New Brunswick, "which has always stood me in good stead."

An interest in graphic design brought Duncan back to Montreal to study art history and studio art at Concordia, where she obtained another BA.

Meanwhile, working part-time in fashion at Ogilvy's, Duncan was enticed into becoming assistant manager, and then manager of Jaegar's new store at the Fairview shopping mall. This required a year out from her studies. But after completing them in 1987, she rejoined Jaegar, married, and worked out of Toronto as merchandiser for the chain's 13 Canadian locations and illustrator for its merchandising manual for all 93 North American stores.

Relocating to Westmount in 1993, the family moved into the house on Lansdowne where Duncan continues to live with Lexy, 19, Warren, 15, and Jack, 9. Her widowed mother, Barbara Warner, also returned to Westmount.

Since 2004, Duncan has run four half-marathons and has completed two full triathlons in Ottawa and Montreal. She trains summer and winter five or six times a week, often before breakfast, and is happily using her brand-new bicycle with the good weather.

Elected to city council for District 4 in 2005, Duncan serves as commissioner of Library Services. She is also a member of



Kathleen Duncan in front of one of her paintings with, from left, Warren, Jack and Lexy.

the council's Sports and Recreation Committee and chairs the Horticultural Advisory Committee.

"One of my biggest achievements," she says, "has been restructuring the CLD (Centre local de développement) Les 3 Monts (Mont Royal, Outremont and Westmount)." She and city councillor John de Castell represent Westmount on the board.

Duncan plans to seek a second council

term in November, saying: "I feel there is a lot of information that remains confidential but could be out in the open. I have very clearly stated this from the beginning, and have tried to maintain my independence, starting with the synthetic turf issue."

She also hopes to pursue a career in urban planning, which, she says, will combine her love of design, governance and the community.

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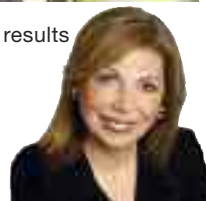
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