

Building activity reached new heights before slowing

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Construction and renovation activity soared to new peaks in Westmount in 2008 when 974 building and plumbing permits were issued by the city for work conservatively estimated at \$51 million. This was 9 percent higher than the previous year's \$47 million. It also represents a 70 percent increase over five years and 90 percent in the last decade. The number of permits last year jumped 12 percent over the previous year and almost 21 percent from 2004. "The scope of the work is much larger than it used to be," said Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier. Larger building projects place more demands on the department for regular site inspections and required the additional hiring last year of

two temporary building inspectors. While the rising activity in 2008 was driven by many major projects and additions, renovation work for the first quarter of this year appears to be lagging behind the same period last year by almost 6 percent. "It has picked up a bit recently but is definitely slower," Poirier confirmed. It was not known whether or not a downturn in the economy was responsible for the emerging trend. Last year's all-time high construction values were characterized by permits issued in the home sector for the building of three new houses at a total of \$2.7 million and for renovations and additions estimated at \$37 million. Of these, 13 underwent work exceeding \$500,000 *continued on p. 16*

Garneau supports Israel on its 61st



Marc Garneau, Liberal MP for the Westmount-Ville Marie riding, addressed a crowd of over 10,000 in Dominion Square and Place du Canada, April 29, during a march to commemorate the 61st anniversary of the creation of Israel. Garneau spoke to the flag-waving crowd about the need to support the Middle Eastern country, saying "Israel's struggle for peace and security is our struggle." International Trade Minister Stockwell Day also spoke. Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

Stuart Robertson is back! See p. 17 for his column. This week: how to mulch!

City reviews preparedness for flu epidemic

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount officials began reviewing the city's emergency measures plan for epidemic preparedness last week as the World Health Organization raised pandemic alert levels for H1N1 influenza virus. They also began interacting with Quebec health ministry authorities and island-wide municipal officials through regular conference calls organized by the Centre de Sécurité Civile (CSC), part of the Montreal agglomeration. "Based on information we have received, the virus seems to be relatively be-

nign in regions outside Mexico," said Alan Kulaga, the city's Human Resources director. While health care remains within provincial jurisdiction, Westmount's preparedness plan calls for ensuring management procedures are in place, staffing of municipal services can be maintained during an emergency and that provisions are in place to deal with widespread infection should the community be affected, Kulaga said. The coordination of actual patient care as it might affect various medical clinics is managed by the regional health network.

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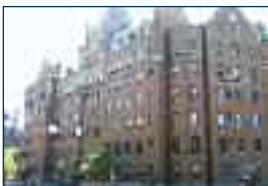
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Graffiti overload

An “all-purpose” summer student for the city’s Public Works department is being asked to keep an special eye open for new graffiti on public buildings. This is so city crews can remove it as quickly as possible in the effort to address a mounting increase in vandalism.

His primary function, however, is to carry out traffic counts and assist the department in whatever needs to be done, said interim department director Marieanne Zalzal. Similar work was undertaken last summer.

City beefing up sanitation checks

Plans are underway by the city to recruit a full-time sanitation inspector to enforce by-law violations dealing with garbage, hygiene, the maintenance of mechanical ventilation systems in apartment buildings and related matters.

The newly-created full-time position was one that used to exist several years ago. A part-time seasonal inspector completed his contract at the end of 2008 and a building inspector has been handling his tasks.

The full-time job is being resurrected to address a growing number of complaints.

Posting for inspector imminent

With the imminent posting of the position, the inspector is expected to be hired as soon as possible to be in place for the start of the summer season, said Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier.

Last year, the city’s Board of Inspections carried out 7,718 inspections of various natures, a 16 percent increase over 6,638 in 2007.

The inspections division currently includes four building and one plumbing inspector. Two temporary building inspectors joined the team in 2008 as a result of the record number of permits.

Main Turcot hearings start May 11

The principal hearings on the proposed Turcot reconstruction, organized by the Bureau d’audiences publiques sur l’environnement (BAPE), will begin on Monday, May 11 at 7 pm. They will be held at the St. Zotique recreation centre (75 Sir Georges-Étienne *continued on p. 4*)

Garden booklet back on sale

A booklet called *A Walking Tour of Westmount Gardens* is once again available at the library and the Community Events office in Victoria Hall. The \$4 cost will go toward the production of a guidebook to Westmount parks planned for next year.

The walking tour features a number of gardens in each of the city’s eight electoral districts along with small descriptions.

Since the booklet was produced at the end of last summer when many gardens were on the wane, it was considered timely to reissue it again, said city horticulturist Claudette Savaria.



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Ding-dong: ‘Your lawn is on fire’

A Prince Albert Ave. resident’s evening was interrupted on April 30 by a passerby ringing his doorbell to say that his front lawn was on fire.

It turned out that a corner of the yard was indeed emitting smoke.

“I’m guessing it was the wood chips-fertilizer combo on the lawn that had been ignited by a cigarette, but it wasn’t easy to tell. The fire was smoldering under dirt.”

‘Surprisingly resilient’

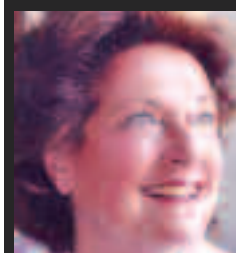
The man found the small blaze “surprisingly resilient” even after two pitchers of water had been poured onto it. He even-

tually soaked his whole front lawn with a hose, which worked.

Fire department’s advice

The Montreal fire department’s press spokesman said this kind of wood chip or peat moss fire happens “quite often” and that there is “no easy solution,” except keeping the whole yard wet or moist.

If residents encounter a similar situation, the spokesman advised them to “use a hose and, if they can’t control it or if it risks spreading to a bush or building, to call the fire department.”



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At Second Glance

Arena/pool design: more than aesthetics

BY HEATHER BLACK



Consider the possibilities. The arena's textured red-grey brick wall, broken by a grey horizontal panel of solar cells, crowns the site. A majestic copper structure frames the pool entrance. Sunlight filtering through the circular grill, half-sculpture, half-roof, dances on the pool's surface. Children wrapped in colourful beach towels skip up the steps, while others cheer an impromptu game of street hockey.

With Westmount's arena/pool in the planning stage, citizens – and city hall – are considering various possibilities that would meet expectations as well as the rules of aesthetics.

Aesthetic criteria

The goal of architecture is to create structures that invite usage. The design must express the function of the building, harmonize with surrounding structures and be innovative. But there is also a language of design that viewers intuitively understand.

Circular forms are friendly and inviting, while triangles are dynamic and rectangles project stability. A new building designed for recreational fun for all ages

warrants a welcoming façade. I would anticipate circular forms like those found in the next-door armoury or the neighbouring entrance to Westmount Park Church.

I would also expect the building materials to harmonize with the neighbouring buildings and apartments – a mix of brick, sandstone or concrete. Often a planning criterion, this practice promotes visual continuity and neighbourhood identity. Colour also speaks volumes, black or charcoal grey is cool and monumental, earth tones warm and inviting.

And I would anticipate something innovative and unique. In Quebec, art – as a construction-cost percentage – must be included in the building. But as murals are fragile, I would envision a sculpture incorporated into the exterior design to enhance an entrance or roofline. In elegant design, "form follows function" where nothing is superfluous.

But design is first and foremost a problem-solving process to generate possibilities. In this instance, the goal is to replace a deteriorating structure with enhanced facilities. The preliminary drawings by Lemay Associés – specialists in arena and green design – indicate possible site options for a two-rink arena, an engineering requirement for any design.

But plans for a two-arena structure have citizens questioning various site options. Does the second arena crowd de Maison-

It's official: Atwater Library is historic



From left: Senator David Angus, Outremont borough mayor Marie Cinq-Mars (representing Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay), Westmount mayor Karin Marks and Hugh McGuire, president of the Atwater Library.

Approximately 45 people were at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre on May 1 to attend the unveiling of a "Historic Sites and Monuments" plaque from Parks Canada. This attested to the institution's importance as a centre for learning, aimed especially at workers and new immigrants.

Representatives of four governments, volunteers, donors and well-wishers converged on the 1918 building at Atwater and Tupper to offer congratulations.

Representing the Canadian govern-

ment, Senator David Angus, a former Westmounter, called the ceremony "long overdue." The designation was acquired by the former Mechanics' Institute in 2005, but the unveiling has been delayed at least once by an election.

In addition to those photographed above, provincial legislator Jacques Chagnon, Westmount city councillor Tom Thompson and Richard Lord, a longtime supporter of the library, were in attendance.

What's next

City hall welcomes suggestions. To view the various plans, visit the reference desk at the Westmount Public Library. A third information session on the arena/pool proposal is scheduled for mid- to late May.

The question is: Can the arena/pool design evolve to a winning concept – and building – which citizens will view with pride? The potential is there!

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

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neuve and the tennis courts? And if a design is chosen where Academy Rd. is blocked, is it still easy for parents to drop off a sandwich or forgotten gear, or casually look in on burgeoning swimmers and skaters?

And as a second building raises construction costs, is the architect's two-rink arena option – in their report at the library's reference desk – the better solution? As the preliminary architectural drawings provide choices that affect the beauty of the park and neighbourhood, now is the time for citizens to respond. And then, the exterior design is yet to be determined.

BAPE will provide info, then listen

continued from p. 3

Cartier Square in St. Henri). There will be simultaneous translation and the audio will be webcast through www.bape.gouv.qc.ca.

The first phase, devoted to obtaining information from the proponents and ex-

perts, will last several days. The second part for the public to present its views and suggestions will begin on June 15 at the same place.

The commission, which is made up of Michel Germain, Jean-François Longré and Anne-Marie Parent, must issue its report by September 11.

Michael Polak & Michael Pollak

One name, two spellings and a shared story

Cancer specialist Dr. Michael Pollak was expecting a normal night out when he attended the Canadian Cancer Society's Daffodil Ball eight years ago. Things seemed to start badly, though, when he found someone had taken his seat.

The interloper had made an honest mistake. He was Prospect St. resident Michael Polak, who practises law from his office at Westmount Square.

"I'd had calls for another Michael Polak and knew he was a lawyer," recalled Dr. Pollak, "but it was the first time we'd met." Lawyer Polak had likewise heard of Dr. Pollak.

The dispute over the seat must have been resolved quickly because the two Michaels and their wives were soon going out to dinner regularly. "Michael and his wife love going to exotic restaurants – Brazilian, Peruvian, whatever – and my wife Penny and I do too," said Polak.

The two couples also often spend the first night of Passover together, as they did this year. The families are close. Indeed,

Polak says, "Michael's kids are my other family."

Is there a family link going back to Europe? The men don't know, but they do share a history. It turns out that each had a parent – Dr. Pollak's father and Polak's mother – who had been interned by the Nazis at the Theresienstadt concentration camp, in what is now the Czech Republic.

The two parents, Celine Spier and Bernard Pollak, never met. (Dr. Pollak's father survived that camp and the deadlier Auschwitz, and immigrated to Canada, but died before the two sons met.)

Polak soon had occasion to be thankful for the chance meeting. "My wife Penny was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2003, and Michael was a part of the team treating her. He was very careful to point out the potential pitfalls of having a friend as a doctor, but we were extremely comfortable with having him on the case. I put my faith in him totally." Penny's cancer is now in remission.

With an obvious dedication to their re-



From left, Dr. Michael Pollak and lawyer Michael Polak.

spective mothers (both men call their mothers every day), were they planning on doing something special for Mother's Day?

Dr. Pollak wasn't so sure, "According to my mother [Westmount resident Catherine Pollak], Mother's Day is rubbish. You should be nice to your mother every day.

Mother's Day should be for mothers, not stationery companies."

Polak says his mother has the same idea.

So in the end, one "L" doesn't seem to have made much of a difference in their lives.

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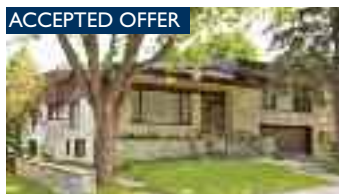
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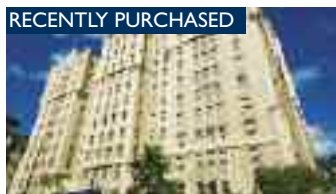
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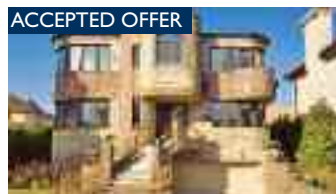
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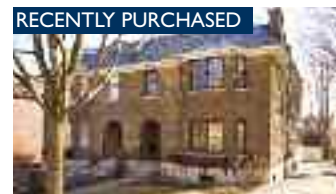
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Teen volunteers help book sale top \$11,000

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A team of 120 energetic teenage volunteers pitched in to help the Friends of the Library raise more than \$11,200 from the semi-annual book sale for the Westmount Public Library. It was the largest amount ever raised at the spring event.

The teens carted up some 1,000 boxes of books from the basement, cleaned the shelves, and helped set up, make signs and manage various sections during the April 25 and 26 weekend sale.

"We're team dependent and couldn't have grown so much without them," said Lee Taylor, who organized the event with Carolyn O'Neill.

This year's spring sale far exceeded last spring's total of \$9,847 and nudged close to the typically higher fall proceeds, which exceeded \$11,600 last year.

The latest results more than doubled the \$4,936 raised by the spring event in 2003.

Most of "the kids," as Taylor called them, came through the cooperation of their schools including LCC, ECS, The

Study, Trafalgar, St. Léon and École Internationale. Other volunteers were regular library users. All were credited with community service hours.

The students provided much-needed muscle power. Those working the Friday night shift to prepare for the sale were treated to pizza to sustain their energy.

"They gave the event a real community atmosphere," Taylor said, an observation also noted by library director Ann Moffat.

"What I liked was the way they interacted with the many adult volunteers and citizens at the sale," Moffat said. "It really added something. We've always had teenagers but never so many." She also enjoyed hearing them discuss books – ones they remembered as children, books they read in school or ones they chose not to finish.

The adult volunteers included four newcomers to Canada from Russia, China and Iran – students from the High School of Montreal's Adult Centre where Taylor teaches basic English. "It was their initiation to community work in Canada, and they loved it."



Many teenage volunteers pitched in to make this year's spring book sale a record success. Last year, Friends of Library donated \$22,000 to the library, most of which came from the sales.

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Letters to the Editor

GIVE PIT BULLS A BREAK

I read the letter (April 28, p. 4) concerning the granddaughter who had rescued the white pit bull puppy, and I dropped the paper into my lap, totally exasperated. The writer, Rena Watson, states that the *Westmount Independent* acted irresponsibly in printing the original, for-adoption article. Give me a break!

I had seen the photo and sad story concerning Deuce, and though being a long-time cat lover, my heart went out to this poor puppy and how he had suffered.

Living in an apartment building where I do not have the right to own a dog, I can tell you that I spent several sleepless nights trying to figure out how I could smuggle Deuce into my place to care for him.

Fern Breslaw's comment on how these dogs are sadly placed with irresponsible owners is exactly right. If you teach a puppy, right from the start, that there is love, patience, guidance and kindness from a "master," an extremely large percentage of these dog attacks would not occur.

I also ask "Why not start punishing, for example, 'fierce' looking German shepherds, which sometimes look like they could take your head off in a heartbeat?"

My reply to Rena Watson: Remove the dog immediately from the arms of her granddaughter before she falls any more in love with the puppy, and hand the dog over to one of the agencies that can place the animal with someone who can really love him for what he is, and not for what his breed makes him out to be.

Maybe then, Mrs. Watson, a dog like poor Deuce can hold his head up smiling in a photo. Life was just that bad, and in his poor little mind, it was obvious that he was not worth loving.

Once the little white pit bull puppy is

removed from the Watson household, the family can once again stand "responsible" (in their minds) to their family, neighbours and friends.

I pray that Deuce finds the home he deserves.

DEBBY RACICOT
39TH AVENUE, LACHINE

WESTMOUNT Y'S POOL OVER-, NOT UNDER-, TAXED

I'm writing in response to Mayor Karin Marks' comment that the YMCA pool is underused ("Start all over again' on arena/pool plan", *Independent*, April 28, p. 9).

I invite the mayor to look over the schedule of activities at the Y pool. It is solidly in use from 6:20 am (with a Masters team practice) until 10 pm.

A visit with the maintenance staff at the Y would enlighten how hard they work to ensure good water and air quality in an over-taxed facility.

The kids' swim team has to send some of its swimmers to another pool for more than 6 hours of practice every week. The Westmount Y Masters swim team, comprising 120 swimmers, has three separate time slots for practices. These provincial champions are always looking for more practice time.

The Y does its best to accommodate as many swimmers as possible. However, its pool is small. To maximize usage, lane ropes are placed close together to create five lanes in a four-lane pool.

Swimming and all types of water fitness are beneficial activities that attract people across all levels of our community.

The city currently has an outdoor pool that is only in use for a maximum of three and a half months a year. Why are we not trying to accommodate a pool that would be used 12 months of the year in this new

recreation centre?

The fact that the Y has a pool has allowed the city of Westmount to get away without an indoor community pool. For an hour and a half on Sundays, all West-mounters can enjoy open swim at the Y. That's it!

Now is the time to revisit the placement

of buildings, the dog run etc, and include an indoor pool in the new facility.

ROSALIND DAVIS, PRESIDENT,
WESTMOUNT YMCA
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2009

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domestiques dangereux

LE SAMEDI 9 MAI
DE 9 H À 17 H *

Bibliothèque publique
4574, rue Sherbrooke Ouest

* AUCUNE COLLECTE DES RÉSIDUS
AVANT OU APRÈS CES HEURES

Résidus dangereux (RDD)

Peintures, solvants, nettoyants,
pesticides, médicaments, piles sèches,
batteries d'auto, antigel, huile à moteur,
bonbonnes à propane et tout matériel
toxique, corrosif, réactif ou inflammable.



Non accepté : Appareils
électroménagers, moteurs,
pneus, CFCs et tout déchet
d'origine commerciale.

Équipement électronique usagé

Ordinateurs, portables, photocopieurs,
téléphones cellulaires, téléviseurs,
magnétoscopes, caméscopes, appareils
photo, écrans, imprimantes, cartouches,
équipements de jeu vidéo, télécopieurs,
scanneurs, modems et baladeurs /
baladeurs CD.

Vêtements usagés

Vêtements, sous-vêtements, bas, gants,
chapeaux, linges, rideaux, chaussures,
bottes, sacs à main, valises, et autres.



Non accepté : Tapis avec fond
de caoutchouc ou collant et
sacs de couchage.

Prochaine collecte à Westmount
Le samedi 17 octobre 2009



Westmount
Service des travaux publics
Public Works Department

2009

Household Hazardous
Waste Collection

SATURDAY, MAY 9
9 A.M. TO 5 P.M. *

Westmount Public Library
4574 Sherbrooke Street West

* NO MATERIALS ACCEPTED
OUTSIDE OF THESE HOURS

Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Paint, solvents, cleaners, pesticides,
medication, batteries (including car
batteries), antifreeze, motor oil, propane
tanks or anything marked corrosive,
reactive or flammable.



Not accepted: Appliances,
engines, tires, CFCs
and all commercial waste.

Used Electronics

Computers, laptops, photo copiers,
cellular phones, television sets, VCRs,
camcorders, cameras, printers, printer
cartridges, monitors, video game
systems, fax machines, scanners,
modems and walkmans / discmans.

Used Clothing

Clothing, underwear, socks, hats,
gloves, linens, draperies, shoes, purses,
luggage, etc.



Not accepted: Carpets with
rubber or glue backing and
sleeping bags.

Next Collection in Westmount
Saturday, October 17, 2009

Info : 514 989-5390
www.westmount.org

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Meighens at the Atwater



From left, Senator Michael Meighen and his son Hugh.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

A unique insight of how political life affects families was shared with an Atwater Library audience on April 30.

Senator Michael Meighen, a former Westmounter who now lives in Ontario, and his son Hugh, who resides in Westmount and just graduated from McGill law, addressed about 50 attendees.

Michael Meighen, the grandson of former Canadian prime minister Arthur Meighen, was an advisor and fundraiser for former prime minister Brian Mulroney, who appointed him to the senate in 1990.

Meighen described life with his grand-

father, the ninth Canadian prime minister. "I remember when I was 14 or 15, we would visit with my grandfather in Toronto. He and I would walk to his office together," said the senator. "My grandfather would always ask me the same two questions. What was I studying in Shakespeare and 'How's your French?'"

Michael is the third generation of Meighens to have served on the board of directors of the Westmount Conservatives. He ran in both the 1972 and 1974 federal elections in Westmount but failed to win the seat.

Marianopolis' mezzo-soprano

Mezzo-soprano Emilie Ellis, a Westmounter and Marianopolis College student, centre, is congratulated by schoolmates Alexandra Hamel, left, and Westmounter Oriana Pizzingrilli, after the ArtsFest Concert at Marianopolis, April 24. Photo: Owen Egan



Featured Property: Super spacious home on terrific street



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**378 – 280 Clarke
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Amazing Apartment



**4660 Bonavista
Asking \$639,000**

1 Hudson
Don't miss this excellent home with 5+2 bedrooms, 3+1 bathrooms, nice garden, air conditioning, new roof, spectacular dining room, large kitchen and more. Come live where memories are made!
\$1,500,000

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WE'RE TURNING TWO AND STILL NEED YOU.

The *Westmount Independent* turns two in May.

We have made great strides since that first edition: in page count, by becoming weekly and in scope of coverage. We've also added *a lot* of advertisers, which is great for the health of the project. Advertising is the paper's only source of revenue. One of the things that advertisers like is that Westmounters *read* our paper – and we've shown them your letters to prove it.

If you like what we're doing and want to help, can you take a moment to send us a letter for publication saying so? It can be one line long or several. We will also put your name on our birthday "Best Wishes" list.

We'd love to hear from you – even if we've already done so in the past.

Letters should be sent to indie@westmountindependent.com

or 310 Victoria #105, Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9.

Please include your street name for publication.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT



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More jerseys to Africa



Students in the Congo sporting their new Westmount jerseys. The serious attitudes are a result of their pride in posing like "real soccer players," explained trip participant Rosemary McMahon.

Three Westmounters – Geneviève Kelly, Patrice Perron and Rosemary McMahon – are just back from the Congo, where they were taking a gift of 32 laptops to young entrepreneurs and Westmount soccer jerseys to even younger soccer players.

The soccer uniforms were donated with the help of Westmount Sports and Recreation, which put out a box for donations.

"We want to thank Sports and Rec, and hopefully inspire others to do the same kind of trip. It is not that difficult," said McMahon.

The effort was organized by marketing firm Kelly & Co., where Kelly and Perron are the principals. Three quarters of the office, including McMahon, went to the Congo (formerly Zaire and the Belgian Congo) in March to present the gifts. It is the second such visit by the company, following one to Rwanda in 2008.

Although the main purpose of the trip was to present the laptops, "It was the jerseys that made the moment."

Upon arrival at the school, the Canadians were enthusiastically received by soccer-mad students and an impromptu game broke out as soon as the shirts were presented – adults included. "Their soccer fields are not like ours," said McMahon. "They are uneven, and there is dirt and sand and tree stumps, but everyone played terrifically."

The children watching the game would run onto the field after each goal, something that the Canadians had not expected and that made a strong impression.

McMahon is keen to help others who might want to organize a similar trip. She can be reached at rosemary@kellyet cie.com, and a website about their time there can be found at www.afrik.ca.

Is another trip in the works for 2010? "Absolutely."

This is the third time that the Independent has written about Westmount soccer uniforms in Africa. See also March 10, 2009, p. 1 and September 9, 2008, p. 1.

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401 Côte St. Antoine – Westmount
\$1,849,000

Bunny says: I now have a large number of families looking in the range of \$1,750,000 – \$2,200,000, for homes with 3 floors, minimum of 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, garden & 2 car garage.



57 Columbia – Westmount
\$659,000

If you are looking for a wonderful starter home, this property could be yours!



365 Dobie – TMR
\$1,095,000

If you would like a 3 bedroom, with a possibility of adding 2 more bedrooms in a totally renovated home with a pool, come to visit us on Mother's Day.



434 Metcalfe – Westmount
\$900,000

Bunny says: If you have a home that you have loved for many years and not done any renovations in, I would like to know about your property; I have a large number of clients who are looking to renovate a house with "good bones."



55 Covey Hill Road – Hemmingford
\$1,250,000

Bunny says: Do you have a "hobby farm" you would like to sell?



642 Belmont – Westmount
\$1,795,000

Bunny says: Now seeking a home with 4 + 1 bedrooms – finished basement, 2 car garage, garden on Belmont.



440-454 du Champ de Mars – Old Montreal
\$1,250,000

Revenue property

Bunny says: I have many clients looking for revenue properties. Please call to list yours.



4361 Decarie #304 – Westmount Adj.
\$528,000

Bunny says: Many of my clients are downsizing; is your condo at least 1,700 square feet and in updated condition??



137 St. Pierre #212 – Old Montreal
\$359,000

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*2006, 2007, 2008



Bought & Sold: Real estate transferred since March 30

Address	Price	Evaluation	Buyer	Seller	Date
754 Upper Lansdowne Ave.	\$1	\$974,700	Doris Bradbury	Paul Beauchemin	22-Apr
399 Clarke Ave. Apt. 3c	\$210,000	\$176,100	Jonathan Kaplansky	Lorraine Gratton	17-Apr
2 Prospect St.	\$400,000	\$521,400	Gregory Barlow & Lisa Angeloni	Chrystelle Armstead	9-Apr
77 Stayner St.	\$640,000	\$558,400	James Gleason & Jocelyn Andrews	Marie José Legault	31-Mar
412 Metcalfe Ave.	\$772,500	\$688,700	Robbert Van De Griendt	Rachel Goldman	20-Apr
631 Roslyn Ave.	\$1,027,500	\$1,030,800	Claude Simard & Katia Renaud	Armand Des Rosiers & Brigitte Fortier	30-Mar
110 Upper Bellevue Ave.	\$1,795,000	\$1,169,700	Kim Mendelson	Barbara Socolow & Jack Rosenthal	15-Apr

Tagging comes to real estate



At least one Westmount real estate agent's signs were recently "tagged" with graffiti. While Westmounters have noticed an increase in the practice throughout the city, for-sale signs have largely been exempt – until now. A frustrated Tania Kalecheff, whose signs have been targeted for the first time in a 28-year career, told the *Independent*, "There are more meaningful ways of leaving your mark in the world than doing something to people who do not even know you and have not done anything to you – in this case, me and the homeowner."

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Detached family home with pool size garden! Renovated with taste & quality. Open style kitchen. Ground floor family room, 4 bdrms, 3½ baths – finished basement, garage
\$949,000



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Homes featured on p.23
Ron Benveniste & Esti Jedeikin
Joyce Faughnan
Lucette Hivon
Tania Kalecheff



WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Gold Club

9234 5678 9012 3456

NAME:

MCGUIGAN PEPIN INC.
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BRIAN DUTCH
MARIE SICOTTE
CHRISTINA MILLER
BUNNY BERKE
JOYCE FAUGHNAN
CHRISTOPHER GARDINER
TANIA KALECHEFF
MARTIN ROULEAU

MEMBER SINCE:

OCTOBER 1, 2006
JUNE 20, 2007
SEPTEMBER 5, 2007
MARCH 19, 2008
APRIL 16, 2008
MAY 20, 2008
AUGUST 26, 2008
AUGUST 26, 2008
SEPTEMBER 9, 2008
DECEMBER 2, 2008



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WESTMOUNT

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By the Park! A rare feel-good opportunity in a fabulous location! This elegant, detached 3-storey Stone Home is a perfect blend of comfortable family living and stunning architecture; Classic beams, leaded windows, lovely gr. flr den w/ fireplace; 4+ bedrooms, 2-car garage, secluded garden, patio. Gorgeous finished basement. **Asking \$3,290,000**

WESTMOUNT

**MELBOURNE AVE.**

This superb 4 bedroom detached home is waiting for you! The unparalleled charm of this enchanting turn of the century property located adjacent to Westmount Park on a quiet avenue is a must see. The Queen Anne style architecture and overall spaciousness of the interior will captivate you. Delight in its exterior features: deck, garden & parking. **Asking \$1,445,000**

WESTMOUNT

**ROSEMOUNT CRES.**

Wake-up with energy and vitality! There's nothing dreary about this gorgeous sun-filled detached stone home with lovely views. Exquisitely renovated, superbly located. Central air, new windows, garden, level garage + 2 parking. The perfect house designed for today's needs. No wasted space! A must see! **Asking \$1,395,000**

WESTMOUNT

**ROSLYN AVE.**

Detached brick COACH HOUSE set amongst the grand residences on Roslyn ave. 3 bedrooms plus, 3 full bathrooms, great living room plus fireplace. Parking, garden & potential! Very unique property. **Asking \$825,000**

MONTREAL WEST

**STRATHEARN NORTH AVE.**

Classic Brick Cottage, 3 storey, semi-detached. Fixer-upper, original woodwork, mostly newer windows. Good location and western exposure. The sale is made without any legal warranty of quality, at the buyer's risk. **Asking \$389,000**

DOWNTOWN

**CÔTE-DES-NEIGES CH.**

Unique former Coach House on 3 levels, wood flrs, skylight. Charming bed-sitting room on top flr., ensuite, open main flr., kitchen in bsmt. Well-situated singles pad or cozy couples-steps to Sherbrooke, metro, hospitals, bistros. Also for rent \$2,200/mo. **Asking \$325,000**

OLD HAMPSTEAD

**HEATH RD.**

This picture perfect det. house is a young family's dream. W/ its stone and wood façade it boasts every modern convenience and is timelessly reno. w/ refined taste. Easily acc. to every mode of transp. 28ft. master bdrm/sitting room w ensuite granite bthrm. Other feat. incl. a/c, two car tandem garage, 2 more bthrms, a huge vestibule, a ground flr pwrdr, a fini. basement and a lovely garden. **Asking \$825,000**

LE SUD OUEST

**DU CANAL ST.**

Loft studio, in the Corticelli, close to Downtown & Old Montreal, next to canal and bicycle path. Perfect pied à terre – wood floors, big windows, renovated bath, large kitchen overlooking interior garden, open living/dining/bedroom area and Murphy bed, soundproof. Easy parking. Below municipal evaluation. **Asking \$199,000**

LE PLATEAU

**DES PINS W. AVE.**

Luxury furnished summer rental in the heart of Montreal. Gorgeous double unit, 2 bdrm, 2 bthrm condo. Well located in walking distance to 2 main hospitals, 3 universities, St Laurent blvd, park Mont-Royal. High ceilings, hardwood floors, and tall windows. Large living room + den, with a double sided wood burning fireplace. **Asking \$4,500/mo**

Comin' Up...

MONDAY, MAY 11

- **St. James Literary Society** annual dinner with speaker Senator Hugh Segal. The McGill Faculty Club (3450 McTavish St.), starting at 6 pm. \$65 for 4-course meal and glass of wine. Reserve: 514.484.0146.
- Monday, May 11, and continuing: BAPE commissioners and the public question the proponents and experts on the **Turcot Complex** renewal plans. 7 pm at St. Zotique recreation centre (75 Sir

Georges-Étienne Cartier Square, St. Henri) and in audio at www.bape.gouv.qc.ca. Continues daily depending on demands of public and the commissioners.

- Benefit concert for **Project Chance** featuring Women Making Music and the McGill Choral Society, 7:30 pm at St. Matthias Church. Project Chance is a non-profit that helps support young single mothers pursuing post secondary education by providing access to safe, low-cost housing, parenting and personal development programs, and after-school programs for their children. Tickets: \$20. Info: Westmounter Cherry Richards, foundation president. 514.934.6199.

TUESDAY, MAY 12

In the City provides enriching programs for **Montreal's 50+ community**. The spring program features Judge Andrée Ruffo who advocates for children's rights and Twinkle Rudberg, founder of Leave Out Violence (LOVE.) Starts at 7 pm at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. Tickets: \$10. Register: Stefani Novick 514.342.1234, #7201.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

Centre Greene's last Senior's Luncheon (roast beef) before the autumn at 12:15 pm. Three-course, home-cooked meal, served in a friendly environment. \$5. 514.931.6202.

THURSDAY, MAY 14

Professor Graeme Morton, Scottish Studies Foundation Chair at the University of Guelph, gives a talk on a new book about **Scottish diaspora groups**, including the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal. 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Free.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

- **Perennial Plant Exchange** from 4:30 to 8 pm at the arena. Drop-off and voucher

distribution from 4:30 to 6 pm (maximum 6 coupons per variety); exchange (vouchers only): 6 to 7 pm; sale 7 to 8 pm. Info: www.westmount.org / Community Events 514.989.5226.

- Special **council meeting** at 12 pm in the council chamber.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

"The city of Westmount: Becoming a city 100 years ago" with speakers Caroline Breslaw and Ruth Allan Rigby. From 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Admission free for Westmount Historical Association members; non-members \$5 at door. 514.932.6688.

Always On

Always on at the Westmount Y: Tuesdays and Thursdays – Seniors' Arthritic Aquafit & Open Swim from 1:15 to 2:15 pm, followed by a Senior Social (tea, coffee, snack) from 2 to 3:30 pm. Get together to chat, play cards. Annual membership is \$6. Note that there are two-week breaks in the summer and winter. For people 60 years and older. 514.931.6770.

Harmonia Westmount, conducted by Fredericka Petit-Homme, is an amateur women's choir that sings in diverse styles and languages. It meets every Tuesday, 7 to 9:15 pm, from September to June. Next concert is Saturday, June 6 at Mountain-side United Church. For more information or auditions: harmoniawestmount@gmail.com.

gmail.com.

Always on at the Running Room (514.483.4495 / westmount@runningroom.com): Wednesdays – Free Run/Walk Club at 6 pm and Sundays at 8:30 am. The group leaves from the store (4873 Sherbrooke St., corner Prince Albert.) Free, and open to all.

Always on at Centre Greene (514.931.6202 / www.centregreene.org): Tuesdays and Thursdays – Tumbling Tots playgroup, 9:30 to 11 am. \$3.50/child per morning. Info: 514.931.6202. Wednesdays – Tai Chi-based Movement and Stretch, 11 am to 12 pm. Thursdays – Ballroom dance classes for people with Parkinson's, 2 pm. Info or register: Ellen Rubin 514.484.2016.

Y DAY CAMPS



(514) 931-8046

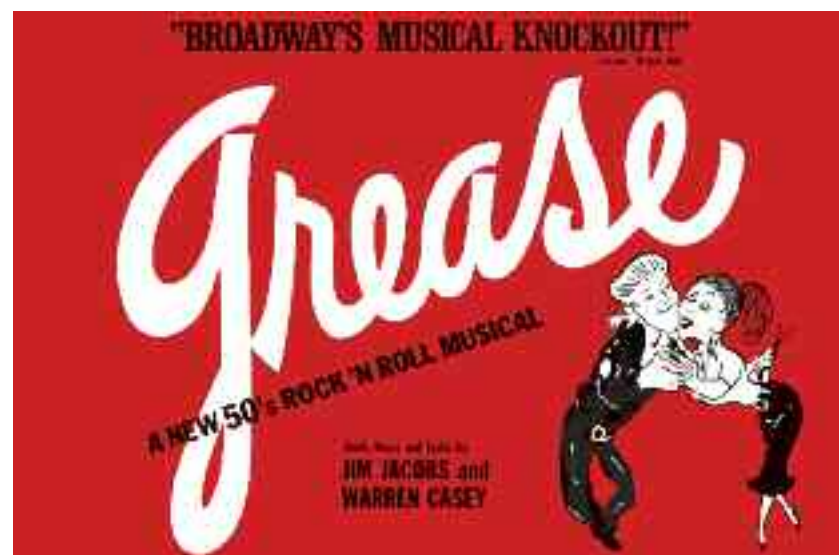
The Westmount Y centre offers a wide variety of fun stimulating activities for children and youth from 2 1/2 to 17 years of age. Our dynamic counsellors are well trained and thoroughly prepared. Groups are small and divided by age.

Activities include: swimming lessons, arts and crafts, music, indoor and outdoor sports and activities, outings, counsellor-in-training programs...



For more details on our day camps: www.yquebec.org

TRAFALGAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS proudly presents:



3495 Simpson (corner Dr. Penfield)

Performances: **May 7 & 8, 7:00 p.m. May 9, Matinee, 2:00 p.m.**

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Adults: \$12 ✓ Students: \$5 ✓ Children Under 5: Free

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May 13 — STEFANO FAITA

Celebrity chef and author of *Entre Cuisine et quinquilleries*, which features mouth-watering recipes and stories about his family history

May 20 — ALAN HUSTAK

Journalist and author of eight books about the people who have shaped Montreal including three books on the contribution of the Irish community

June 3 — MONIQUE POLAK

Author of nine novels for young adults including *What World is Left*, a historical novel based on her mother's experience in a Nazi concentration camp

June 10 — MARTIN BAENNINGER

Co-author of the memoir, *In the Eye of the Wind*, which tells the story of his parents' life as foreign nationals in Japan in the years leading up to World War II

<div></div> <div>Westmount vous informe... Westmount vous informe... Westmount</div>				<div>www.westmount.org info : 514 989-5200</div> <div></div> <div>Vol. 3/09 Publié par Westmount • Published by Westmount</div>	
<div></div> <div>ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES</div> <div>Salon des métiers d'art de Westmount – Appel d'offres</div> <div>La 11e édition annuelle du Salon des métiers d'art de Westmount aura lieu les 14 et 15 novembre 2009 au Victoria Hall. Les artisans habitant à Westmount sont invités à présenter trois ou quatre échantillons complets de leurs œuvres au comité de sélection le mercredi 13 mai entre 14 h et 18 h au Victoria Hall, 4626, rue Sherbrooke O. Info : 514 934-0294 ou 514 484-1974.</div> <div>Échange de plantes vivaces</div> <div>Apportez vos plantes vivaces à l'Aréna de Westmount le mercredi 20 mai de 16 h 30 à 18 h. Elles doivent être fraîchement déterrées, leurs racines conservées dans la terre humide et empotées dans un contenant bien identifié. Les aëgopodes de podagraire, hémérocalle orange, plantes annuelles, arbustes et plantes d'intérieur ne seront pas acceptés. Un coupon vous sera remis pour chaque plante. L'échange des coupons se tiendra de 18 h à 19 h. Les plantes non réclamées seront vendues 1 \$ de 19 h à 20 h. De plus, venez visiter nos kiosques d'information sur le jardinage et les produits écologiques. Info : 514 989-5226.</div> <div>Soirée printanière</div> <div>La soirée printanière de Westmount aura lieu le jeudi 21 mai au Victoria Hall. Le cocktail débutera à 19 h et sera suivi d'un dîner dansant. Coût du billet : 90 \$ (maximum de 8 billets par personne), payable par chèque ou comptant. Les billets seront en vente au Victoria Hall durant les heures de bureau. Info : 514 989-5226.</div>		<div></div> <div>COMMUNITY EVENTS</div> <div>Westmount Artisans' Festival – Call for Submissions</div> <div>The 11th annual Westmount Artisans' Festival will take place on November 14 and 15, 2009 at Victoria Hall. Artisans residing in Westmount are invited to submit 3 to 4 samples of their completed work to the selection committee at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke Street West, on Wednesday, May 13 only between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Info: 514 934-0294 or 514 484-1974.</div> <div>Perennial Plant Exchange</div> <div>Bring your perennial plants to Westmount Arena on Wednesday, May 20 between 4:30 and 6p.m. All plants must be freshly dug up with the roots preserved in well-moistened soil. Plants must be labeled and potted or wrapped in plastic. Goutweed, orange day lilies, annuals, houseplants or shrubs will not be accepted. A voucher will be given for each plant. Redeem your vouchers between 6 and 7p.m. The remaining plants will be sold between 7 and 8p.m. for \$1 each. Visit our kiosks for gardening advice and a selection of ecological products. Info: 514 989-5226.</div> <div>Spring Soirée</div> <div>The Westmount Spring Soirée will be held Thursday, May 21, at Victoria Hall. Cocktails begin at 7 p.m, followed by dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$90 each, payable by cash or cheque, maximum of 8 tickets. Tickets will be on sale at Victoria Hall during business hours. Info: 514 989-5226.</div>		<div>DATEBOOK</div> <div>May 6, 6 p.m. Registration for Summer Camp.</div> <div>May 9, 9 - 5 p.m. Household Hazardous Waste Collection</div> <div>May 13, 6 p.m. Registration for swimming classes.</div> <div>Until May 23 The works of painter Cynthia van Frank will be presented at the Gallery at Victoria Hall until May 23. Info: 514 989-5226.</div> <div>Monday, May 18: Holiday Municipal offices will be closed for Victoria Day.</div>	
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<div></div> <div>BIBLIOTHÈQUE</div> <div>Club d'échecs et de Scrabble</div> <div>Aimez-vous jouer aux échecs et/ou au Scrabble? Les prochaines rencontres du club auront lieu les vendredi 8 et 15 mai à 14 h dans une ambiance amicale. Nous sommes toujours à la recherche de nouveaux joueurs. Info : 514 989-5386.</div> <div>Cercle de lecture</div> <div>Aucune liste de lecture imposée et aucune date limite, seulement des discussions au sujet des livres que vous avez lus ! Notre prochaine rencontre est prévue le mardi 12 mai à 10 h 15. Info : 514 989-5386.</div>		<div></div> <div>LIBRARY</div> <div>Chess and Scrabble Club</div> <div>Do you enjoy playing chess and/or Scrabble? Our games club will meet on Friday, May 8 and 15 at 2p.m. Drop by for a friendly game as we look forward to meeting new players. Info: 514 989-5386.</div> <div>Readers to Readers Book Club</div> <div>Join our morning book club with a twist. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12 at 10:15a.m. to talk about great books recently read. Info: 514 989-5386.</div>		<div></div> <div>PUBLIC WORKS</div> <div>Household Hazardous Waste Collection</div> <div>Mark your calendar – Saturday, May 9 is Household Hazardous Waste Collection day in Westmount. Safely dispose of your leftover paints, solvents, used batteries, pesticides, etc. in the parking lot of Westmount Library between 9am. and 5pm. Used clothing and used electronics will be collected the same day. Info: 514 989-5390.</div>	
<div></div> <div>TRAVAUX PUBLICS</div> <div>Collecte des résidus domestiques dangereux</div> <div>Inscrivez dans vos agendas le samedi 9 mai, journée de la collecte des résidus domestiques dangereux à Westmount. Disposez en toute sécurité de vos restes de peinture et de solvants, de vos piles usagées, de vos pesticides et autres substances dangereuses en les déposant dans le stationnement de la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount entre 9 h et 17 h. Une collecte de vêtements et d'équipements électroniques usagés aura également lieu à cette occasion. Info: 514 989-5390.</div>		<div></div>		<div></div>	
<div>Westmount, à votre portée. Pour toute question ou commentaire, veuillez nous contacter : Westmount at your fingertips. Contact us with any comment or question:</div> <div>www.westmount.org assistance@westmount.org</div>					

Charity, school benefit from fundraiser



From left: Cara Woodruff, Selwyn House School English teacher, and Evi Pachis, French teacher, talk with headmaster Hal Hannaford during the annual SHS fundraiser held at the Time Supper Club on April 29. Dressed to match the vintage theme, Hannaford, who was auctioneer that evening, is holding the gavel that, over the years, has earned over \$28 million for the school.

BY ISAAC OLSON

From the tasting of premium wine and aged Scotch to a live auction and late-night dancing, Selwyn House School played host to its annual fundraising extravaganza on April 29, raising money for both the school and charity.

Set to a vintage theme and held at the Time Supper Club in Montreal, the spring-time fundraiser brought in approximately \$20,000 after expenses. While most of the proceeds went to the Selwyn House Centennial Endowment Fund, 10 percent of the money raised was donated to Centre de répit Philou – a Montreal-based, non-profit respite centre that offers parents of disabled children one day or more of much-needed rest.

Colourfully dressed to match the vintage theme and using his experienced gavel, the fast-talking headmaster Hal Hannaford was, like last year, the evening’s auctioneer.

“I love these casual social events,” said Hannaford. “The fundraising for the

school is great, but I also love that a local charity benefits as well.”

Home renovations dominate

continued from p. 1

led by the ongoing expansion and renovation project at the heritage home of Stephen Bronfman, 15 Belvedere Rd. Permits issued for this work in 2008 included \$5.5 million of construction and \$1 million for plumbing. This was in addition to \$7 million in permits the year before.

In other building sectors, a total of \$1.7 million concerned work in apartment buildings. Commercial buildings accounted for \$6.4 million of the total work. This included \$1.5 million in office renovations at 376 Victoria and more than \$1.5 for Alexis Nihon Plaza.

As well, \$3 million in renovation was undertaken at institutional buildings high-



Westmounters who will be performing in Trafalgar School for Girls’ production of Grease on May 7, 8 and 9 include, from left, Emily MacGowan (playing Frenchy), Clara MacGaughey (dancer), Sasha Van Frank-Adler (Eugene), Beatrice Scharf-Pierzchala (Doody), Olivia Houston (chorus) and Victoria Schouela (dancer). Though the rock ‘n’ roll show has had two Broadway revivals since the original film in 1978, Sandy, Danny and the gang from the fictional Rydell High will be jiving at Traf (3495 Simpson St.) for only two nights and a matinee.

lighted by \$1.7 million of work at St. Margaret’s residence on Hillside Ave., and \$700,000 at Westmount High School for window work.

Construction values increased

Interestingly, while construction values have increased 90 percent over a 10-year period from \$26.8 million in 1999, the big leap has come in the last five years. A steady upward curve since 2004 depicts the jump in values from \$30 million to \$51 million in 2008.

Poirier attributes this to a rise in construction costs as well as the characteristic trend toward enlarging living spaces, through expansion of the building envelope, underground areas and conversion

of attics to habitable space.

While 2009 began with smaller than usual building projects in homes, the trend seems to be continuing. Poirier notes, however, that a number of proposed projects and plans are under review at this time.

A total of 136 permits were issued in January, February and March this year, reflecting renovation values of \$8.5 million. These include \$4.4 million in single family dwellings and \$2.2 million in apartment buildings.

Last year, the same number of renovation permits were issued for the first quarter in the amount of \$9 million. But these were largely made up of work in dwellings (\$7.8 million).



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The Westmount Gardener

Time to start mulching now

BY STUART ROBERTSON

It's amazing how over the summer, the mulch you spread in the previous spring breaks down and disappears – to the point where this spring there are very few traces of it left at all in the garden.

But that's a good thing, because the

mulch you spread last year has gradually broken down, and its fibrous components have worked their way into the ground to become part of the organic mix of the soil. I know it means adding more mulch again each year, but it's a relatively inexpensive way to build more organic matter into your soil.

Now that the weather and the sun have warmed up our garden soils, it's time to get serious about spreading this year's layer of mulch. I'm often asked "Why bother doing it each year?" I think that's a good place to start.

A solid layer of organic mulch does two things very well. It traps moisture in the soil, and it stifles the growth of weeds.

Mulch lets moisture from the rain or your hose trickle down into the soil, but it forms a guard against the drying effects of the sun and the wind, and protects the soil against evaporation so that the moisture stays there even in hot and dry conditions. This helps to provide the consistent moisture levels that plants prefer.

A 2-inch thick layer of mulch also stops annual weed seeds from germinating, and any perennial weeds that get through are

Vieux Montréal Rotary gala



Westmounter and Rotary Club of Vieux Montréal's president Gail Goodfellow Skutezky joined guests and honorary chairman Justin Trudeau at the club's annual gala on April 25. From left: Santos Hanitijo, Annie Yu Chan (gala chairman), Trudeau, Goodfellow Skutezky and Monika Spolia.

so obvious that they are easy to remove.

So right there you have two huge time-consuming garden chores removed: much less watering and very little weeding needed. In my book, anything that lowers the maintenance levels in gardening is a good thing.

When it comes to buying mulch, the least expensive is the shredded cedar bark. There are often specials offered at the big-box stores, and it has a nice natural colour and feel to it.

You can opt for cocoa bean hulls, which for a couple of weeks smell delicious – but which cost considerably more. As do the large bark chunks which I find are only useful around specimen trees in the middle of the lawn.

When you're ready to spread the mulch, soak the soil first, spread the mulch and then wet again to keep everything in place. Before long your plants will grow larger, and you won't even notice your mulch rotting away under everything.

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Wine: What's In Store...

Humble beginnings...What is bad wine anyway?

BY CAROLA PRICE



When I was studying for my sommelier certificate, I was drinking anything I could get my hands on. No, really – it was almost a joke. My husband thought I was crazy because apart from ingesting something equivalent to nail polish remover, I would drink flat sodas, fermenting juices, stale beer and – wait for it – homemade wine.

I am not putting this lovely and time-consuming pastime on the block but, wow, there are some beverages out there that can only loosely be termed “wine.”

People from all backgrounds had something brewing in secret places in their homes and were ever so proud to bust it out for me to try. I have sampled bad grape juice in all its forms, and yet I still love the effort made by these home vignerons.

Westmount is hardly the place where men get together in their garages at the end of September and crush grapes in tanks, begin fermenting the must in glass or oak containers, bust out the sterilized bottles, and bottle and cork this lovingly prepared juice that only the winemaker can love. It seems to me that it is more expensive to make homemade wine than buy some lower priced and well-made wine at the SAQ.

While I will never endorse the plonk with animals on their colourful labels, I am sharing some delicious examples I have tasted lately. Happy bargain hunting, friends, and remember, sometimes simple wine can be good, but winemaking is never simple.

What to Drink

Cabernet/Merlot, Domaine Boyar, Bulgaria. SAQ#00471250. \$9.90

This dry yet fruity red is perfect for

lighter meals like pasta with vegetables and olive oil or roast pork with peaches in cider. Medium-bodied and well-balanced in terms of fruit to acid ratio, this can be a great house wine for summertime.

Available at press time: Across from Atwater Market, Westmount Square, Victoria.

Chenin Blanc, Robertson Winery, South Africa. SAQ#10754228. \$9.75

Acidity and refreshing citrus fruit are the key components to this white wine. Chenin has been used in France for eons and South African examples are rich and lively with great balance. Good value when matching sushi and baked fish in citrus, or gooey cheeses like Chèvre Camembert and *Tomme de Haut Richelieu*.

Available at press time: Across from Atwater Market, Pepsi Forum, Victoria.

Xinomavro/Krassato/Stavroto, Tsantalis, Rapsani, Greece, SAQ#00590836. \$12.60

This dry red is the perfect companion

to a Greek mythology discussion. It is grown and made at the foot of Mt. Olympus and has a nose and flavour of plum, dried fruit and some black cherry with smoke and cedar to round out the mellow finish. It is best served with grilled chicken and hamburgers and medium to heavy bodied cheeses from our own backyard.

Available at press time: Across from Atwater Market, Atwater Market, Pepsi Forum, Victoria.

Note: I was given a bottle of grocery store wine by a seasoned wine drinker the other night, and let me tell you, it could be the best money you've ever spent. If you can get your hands on more, do so. While it is simple Cabernet Sauvignon with quite a bit of Zinfandel flavour (probably up to 15 percent) it paired well with tourtière and even with grilled trout. Cheers and thank you! For those of you dying to know: it is the Crane Lake Cabernet bought in San Francisco for \$4.

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Joe King's latest book is out!



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Spring recipe: Chicken with apricots and olives

Now that spring is here, the less time spent in the kitchen, the better.

This chicken dish is easy, can be doubled for a large crowd and can be prepared in advance (up to 2 days). Just make sure you have it in the oven for approximately 1 ½ hours before you want to serve it.

I serve this dish with Quinoa pilaf or cauliflower mash and roasted asparagus. Fresh fruit or brownies for dessert complete this delicious supper.

Ingredients

- 2 whole chickens (3 lbs. each), cut into pieces
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon dried basil
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 6 to 8 cloves garlic (about 2-3 tablespoons minced)
- ¾ to 1 cup chopped dried apricots
- ½ cup pitted black olives

- ½ cup dry-packed, sun-dried tomatoes, coarsely chopped
- ¼ cup balsamic vinegar
- ¼ cup honey
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ½ cup white wine
- 2 bay leaves
- Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish

1. Rinse the chickens well and pat dry with paper towels. Trim the excess fat. Place the chickens in a large roasting pan sprayed with cooking spray. Season the chickens well with salt, pepper, basil and oregano, and garlic.
2. In a measuring cup, combine the balsamic vinegar, honey, and olive oil. Drizzle evenly over the chicken; mix well so that the chicken is thoroughly coated. Add the apricots, olives, and sun-dried tomatoes to the pan. Pour the wine around the chicken and add the bay leaves. Cover the

pan and refrigerate for several hours or for as long as 2 days.

3. When the chicken is marinated, remove from the refrigerator, uncover, and bake in a 350-degree oven for 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 hours, basting occasionally. When done, the skin will be golden and the juices will run clear when pierced with a fork. Remove the bay leaves and discard.
4. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the chicken mixture to a serving platter. Drizzle with some of the pan juices (including the apricots and sun dried tomatoes) and sprinkle with chopped parsley. Place the remaining pan juices in a gravy bowl, skim off the fat, and serve alongside the chicken.

Yield: 10 to 12 servings. Keeps for up to 2 to 3 days in the refrigerator; reheats well. Freezes well for up to 4 months.

Recipe submitted by Etty B.

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At Westmount Rotary King, prince and czar

Author and broadcaster Joe King was the speaker at the Rotary Club of Westmount's April 29 meeting at Victoria Hall.

He recounted several anecdotes from his new book *Fabled City: The Jews of Montreal*.

Among them were the long line that Prince Charles' equerry was forced to brave in order to get some real Montreal bagels and how the anti-semitic Czar Alexander III was forced – in the end – to award the first international figure skating champion in 1890 to Montreal Jew Louis Rubenstein.

Price-Patterson, the publisher of Fabled City, and Sherbrooke-Valois, the owner of the Independent, have a shareholder in common.



Joe King

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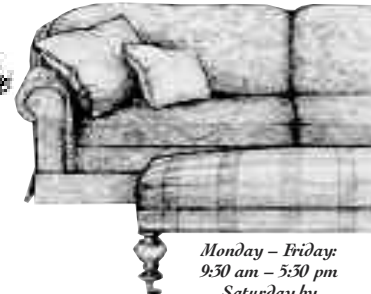
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Things are hopping at art supply store Avenue des Arts (328A Victoria Ave.). The spring term has just begun at the Visual Arts Centre, and students have been buying their materials. The retailer has a wide range of products and prices, but “no low-end brands,” explained co-owner Pierre Le Gourriérec. For instance, the store stocks 1,500 different kinds of brushes, including Series 7's No. 12.

The store has recently introduced a calligraphy section, which may be “the best in the country,” according to Le Gourriérec. Calligraphers can buy specialized books, nibs, holders, inks and paper, including Egyptian papyrus. The store recently concluded a deal to carry the products of John Neal, which are otherwise only available to Montrealers via the internet.

Le Gourriérec figures he is doing something right. Four to five times a week, customers are telling him the shop is Montreal's “best art supply store.”



From left: Sara Landry and Pierre Le Gourriérec of Avenue des Arts.

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ON THE SHELVES

Magazines

"The death and life of great American newspapers: the fall of journalism threatens democracy; we need a government rescue" by John Nichols and Robert W. McChesney in *The Nation*, April 6, 2009, p. 11.

"Put people first: the age of possibility" by David Ransom in *New Internationalist*, April 2009, p. 13.

"Drôle de Papel: le malaise grandit dans

l'Eglise" by Suddeutsche Zeitung in *Courrier International*, March 31, 2009.

DVDs

Passchendaele – The lives of a troubled veteran, his nurse girlfriend and a naive boy intersect first in Alberta and then in Belgium during the bloody World War I battle of Passchendaele.

Encounters at the End of the World – Filmmaker Werner Herzog examines life in Antarctica, focusing especially on the stories of the "professional dreamers" who reside there.

Something to think about

Grown up Digital: How the Net Generation is Changing Your World by Don Tapscott – This is a convincing and optimistic inside look at the net generation (those born between 1978 and 1994) who are changing every aspect of our society. The book is based on a research study of nearly 8,000 people in 12 countries.

I Want to Spend the Rest of My Life Everywhere, with Everyone, One to One, Always, Now, Forever by Damien Hirst – This British artist made the cover of *Time* mag-

azine and is reputed to be the wealthiest contemporary artist. This fine art monograph is fascinating, inspirational, baffling even hilarious. See his rendition of "This little pig went to market, this one stayed home." If this is all too odd, there are plenty of other choices in art books in the collection in the North Findlay room.

European mystery writers

Hiver arctique by Arnaldur Indridason – This author is winning accolades with his latest book and is even being compared to Georges Simenon. The death of the young son of a woman from Thailand is the starting point of this fifth investigation by commissioner Erlendur, which is also an exploration of the impact of immigration on the closely knit Icelandic society.

La loge des innocents by Michele Giuttari – A former chief of police of Florence himself, Giuttari tells a tale of murder, corruption and mafia intrigues. A drug-addicted woman dies; for commissioner Ferrara,

this would normally be a routine investigation but he is intrigued by the fact that his bosses insist that the affair be classified quickly.

Picture Books

10 Things I Can Do to Help My World by Melanie Walsh – A charming book that shows young children easy ways they can help save their environment.

Attention...Plantes Carnivores by Olivier Melano – A ladybug belonging to Léa accidentally flies into her father's terrarium filled with carnivorous plants! As she and her brother Théo watch the ladybug narrowly escape the plants, Léa explains how these plants eat.

Reference

Vaclav Smil – *Creating the Twentieth Century*: Technical innovations of 1867-1914 and their lasting impact.

Vaclav Smil – *Transforming the Twentieth Century*: Technical innovations and their consequences.

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May at the Art Galleries

Galerie de Bellefeuille – Sylvain Louis-Seize. Vernissage: May 7 at 5:30 pm. Exhibit continues to May 18. Paul Béliveau. Vernissage: May 21 at 5:30 pm. Exhibit continues to June 1. 1367 Greene, 514.933.4406.

Galerie D'Este – Ludmila Armata. Vernissage: May 7 at 5 pm. Exhibit continues to May 24. Paul Bourgault. Vernissage: May 28 at 5 pm. Exhibit continues to June 14. 1329 Greene, 514.846.1515.

Galerie Sandra Goldie – The office of MitzArt, photographers Lea Stillinger and Marlene Itzkovitz, is now located at the gallery. 4898 de Maisonneuve #100, 514.670.8327.

Gallery at Victoria Hall – Cynthia Van Frank. Exhibit continues to May 23. Youth exhibit: May 27 to Jun 13. 4626 Sher-

brooke, 514.989.5226.

McClure Gallery / Visual Arts Centre – Virginia McClure, "Demiselles." Exhibit continues to May 23. Thérèse Joyce Gagnon, "Witness – a Mini-retrospective." Vernissage: May 28 at 6 pm. Exhibit continues to June 20. 350 Victoria, 514.488.9558.

Parisian Laundry – Kalup Linzy: "Recessed, Depressed.... Child, Just Tell Me." Performance May 7 at 7 pm. Exhibit May 8 to June 13. 3550 St Antoine, 514.989.1056.

The Emporium Gallery – Gaetan Lavoie "Moments in Time". Opening: May 9 at 7 pm. Exhibit continues to May 15. 3035 St. Antoine, #74. 514.510.1547.

West End Gallery – Lynda Schneider Granatstein: New works. 1358 Greene, 514.933.4314.

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