

Hogg, SAQ to switch locations

Hogg Hardware and the SAQ liquor store at Sherbrooke and Victoria will be switching locations early next year.

Operations at both retailers will continue normally until January 2010, when renovation work at both buildings will begin.

The SAQ is planning to have a sales point open in Westmount during the renovation period, but details have yet to be worked out, said spokesperson Linda

Bouchard.

It aims to be open at its newly refurbished digs by April of next year.

The SAQ will be doubling its retail floor space from its current 3,500 square feet to 7,000. It will use the balance of Hogg's 13,000 square feet for storage. The greater floor space will allow for a much broader product range and a banner change from "SAQ Classique" to "SAQ Sélection."

The trade came about because the SAQ was in the market looking for a larger space and Hogg was looking for a smaller one.

The *Independent* was not able to reach representatives of Hogg for comment by press time.

Selwyn House employee charged with sexual interference due to alleged activity with non-Selwyn minor. See p. 20 for details.

MP news:
Exclusive interview
with Marc Garneau,
p. 6

MP's column, p. 9

Garneau to address
WMA's AGM May 25
see Comin' Up,
p. 21

Indie turns two next
week. See birthday
wishes, p. 11



MP Marc Garneau in front of the Peace Tower in Ottawa.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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We are Westmount

May 19-20, 2009

Road from Westmount connects only 10 units

City: Former Marianopolis site could have spelled 'disaster'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount homes near the former Marianopolis site in Montreal appear to be spared the full impact of a redevelopment proposal that calls for 325 housing units on the historic Sulpician property.

Plans show that a wide band of existing wooded land is to be preserved along St. Sulpice, Ramezay Rd. and Cedar. As well, a road with 10 new houses to be built off

Ramezay Place comes to a dead end at the main greystone building except for pedestrian access.

"The good news is that the new road will not provide a link to Côte des Neiges," said Westmount Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier. "It is a dead end and will be treated as a private road."

She said it had been feared the road might provide direct access between Côte des Neiges *continued on p. 12*




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SWAT hockey tourney supports Children's, St. Justine



From left: Nicolas Matossian, Alain Elbaz, Westmount mayor Karin Marks, Claude Bismuth, Norm Richer (tournament co-chairman), Mike Deegan (Westmount Sports & Recreation director), Dr. Jose Luis Montes (chief of neuro-surgery, Montreal Children's Hospital), Dave Lapointe (Westmount Sports & Recreation supervisor), Louise Dery-Goldberg (president, Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation), Peter Naylor, Vahe Djourian, Dr. Anne-Sophie Carret (oncologist, St. Justine Hospital), Leo Cauzo, Adam Cutler, Madeleine Colaco (director, St. Justine Hospital Foundation), Dominic Agostino, Jim West (tournament co-chairman) and Howard Hoppenheim.

Photo: courtesy of Valerie Frost, MCH Foundation

The Senior Westmount All Star Team ("SWAT") held its 20th annual hockey tournament at the arena last November 27 to 30 in support of brain tumour research and neuro-surgery at the Montreal Children's and St. Justine hospitals.

On May 12, SWAT players and Westmount officials were at the Children's to present a \$20,000 cheque towards the hospital's new intra-operative MRI, which is on schedule to be operational in late summer. It will allow neuro-surgeons to operate and do MRIs in the same session, potentially eliminating the need for subsequent surgery. It is the first one in Quebec and in a Canadian children's hospital, and the second in Canada. The MRI's total cost is more than \$10 million.

The exterior work presently visible at the hospital's Tupper St. entrance is to reinforce the building to properly support the heavy equipment. The MRI will be moved when the hospital relocates to its new Glen site.

Another \$20,000 cheque was presented to St. Justine Hospital, whose researchers will use it for their continuing oncology research in brain tumours.

The late Nicolas W. Matossian was the inspiration for the SWAT tournament. At the age of 16, he was diagnosed with brain cancer, but nevertheless proceeded to organize numerous fundraising activities for the two hospitals so that other children and their families would benefit from improved medical and surgical care. Among the supporters of the tournament are his parents, Nicolas and Martha Matossian.

Tournament co-chairmen, Jim West and Norm Richer, expressed the appreciation of the SWAT players to the many local retailers and professionals who purchased ads in the tournament's program and provided food and beverages for the tournament, "despite very tough economic times." They also acknowledged the contributions of the Westmount Sports and Recreation department and arena atten-

dants who, "once again, did a tremendous job in supporting the SWAT players."

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Council looks at public documents policy

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

At what point should documents be made public in supporting agenda items that city council is being asked to adopt?

The question was raised at the May 4 meeting by Councillor Patrick Martin who took issue with two items that lacked what he considered to be relevant background information and drawings to which citizens should be entitled to see.

One related to the repaving of eight streets that were not named. The other involved resolutions to approve the installation of canopies and a railing over the building line at three locations “as indicated in the data sheets and plans attached hereto.”

Information not public

In both cases, the data and other attachments formed part of the city council’s agenda. But the information was missing from versions made available to the media and public.

“The question is: When does it become public?” Martin asked of city clerk Mario Gerbeau. The information becomes public once an item of business is voted on by the council, Gerbeau confirmed.

On the other hand, council may determine what information can be released in advance of a vote.

Martin later told the *Independent* that he would “insist” that “in future, we comply

with this basic requirement so that there can be a greater understanding of how council arrives at its decisions.”

As well, he said, since the law also allows the council to permit the public dissemination of documentation in advance of the meeting, “I intend to impress upon my fellow councillors the importance of making every effort to do so.”

Interestingly, one of the three requests council agreed to for work over the building line involved installation of a copper hood over garage doors at 9 Lansdowne Ridge. Council had already approved the permit for this work on April 22.

The other requests were to rebuild a canopy at 1310 Greene and to install a balustrade bordering cement steps at 488 Victoria.

Eight paved streets

Locations to be paved were supplied by Martin: Willow Ave., Lane 30, Lorraine Lane, Academy Rd. (Park Place to Melville), Argyle north of The Boulevard, NDG Avenue (Claremont to west city limits), 3215-19 The Boulevard (lane accessing the Braemar property), and Summit Circle (from number 15 to Summit Rd.). Paving is also slated for the Stanton St. parking lot behind the Protective Services building.

The contract for this work was awarded to Les Pavages Tallarita for a total amount of \$334,689.

Parking changes for Church of the Ascension City adapts parking regulations

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

If the law can’t be enforced, then change it.

That’s the message from city council’s decision May 4 to remove no-parking weekend restrictions on the west side of Clarke Ave. alongside Ascension of Our Lord Church. Worshipers are sometimes ticketed there while expecting toleration during religious services.

Requested by the church, the six-month trial to remove the no-parking regulation was proposed by police and is the prelude to a survey by the city of parking regulations around other religious institutions.

“That’s what small cities can do,” Mayor Karin Marks said in explaining the city’s response to the problem.

Peace in the alley Clandeboye lane to be bypassed

Traffic is about to decrease on the much travelled alley, east of, and parallel to, Clandeboye Ave.

At a board meeting on May 11, the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres approved funds for a new lane from their parking lot to Weredale Park, where the main pedestrian entrance to their head office lies. Currently, the only access to and from the lot is via the existing lane’s Clandeboye opening.

The work will be done by the city of Westmount in connection with repair work to Weredale Park. It is currently scheduled to be completed by the end of July.

Some residents of Clandeboye, Prospect St., Dorchester Blvd. and Weredale Park with driveways leading to the existing lane found traffic to and from the 60-

There seemed to be no reason to restrict parking on the west side of Clarke just south of Sherbrooke on Saturday and Sunday when traffic is reduced, she said. The change will provide eight more parking spaces.

Local police commander Michel Wilson raised his own hand in approval during the council vote. He later told the *Independent* it was very confusing for police coming in and out of the district to keep track of the timing of various religious services.

While the city’s public safety officers generally tolerate parking during major holidays, they too find it challenging when confronted with enforcing parking regulations around places of worship, said city director general Duncan Campbell.

space lot excessive, especially when they were trying to leave against the morning inflow of employees.

The city has been trying to resolve the issue for some time. An opportunity presented itself when Weredale Park came up for reconstruction. The city asked for bids that included construction of a new lane. Batshaw will pay the city \$25,000 over three years for the work to compensate it for the \$36,000 incremental (allocated) cost of adding the lane to the Weredale construction.

Patrick Shea, a pleased Clandeboye resident, told the *Independent*, “It is a great example of many parties working together – residents, Batshaw, the city’s Public Works department, our city councillor John de Castell and former city director general Bruce St. Louis. We have been working on this for a long time. A lot of questions and issues had to be resolved.”

Councillor John de Castell explained that the city was happy to absorb \$11,000 of the added cost “to fix a planning nightmare.” He told the *Independent* that he was not a professional city planner, but that the block-length lane and its 90-degree turn must be in “the don’t-do pages of urban planning textbooks.”

He called working with Batshaw and with Clandeboye residents Sheila Murphy and Shea, “a model of cooperation.” He singled out the Roths, whose Weredale Park house is just north of the new alley, as the “selfless and gracious heroes” of the process.

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Civic Alert

Priority One for arena: future needs

BY DON WEDGE



Last week's Civic Alert featured 12 issues as a sampling of those surrounding the arena/pool renewal decisions. We must agree on what is wanted, how it will be paid for, and do so now, not later if and when facing an expensive and inflexible referendum process. There are many other considerations too – especially those looking into the future. Please consider 10 more issues:

1 RELATIVE COSTS – There is still far too little known about the overall impact on tax bills. The proposed renewal is the most expensive project Westmount has envisaged. The maximum estimate of \$400 – on an average annual property tax bill of \$10,000 – is high.

But it does not allow for any help that may come from government or other sources. However, the cost will not be zero either – even if the rebuilding is abandoned. Maintenance expenses have increased as the facility has aged and that trend can be expected to continue.

2 DEBT – Although the arena cost, and the potential borrowing to meet it, is unprecedented, the ongoing debt – around \$40 million – following the forced merger with Montreal is even greater. It cannot be forgotten. Also, Big Montreal continues to increase the agglom debt thanks to Jean Charest's law that requires Westmount to provide subsidies.

3 BACKGROUND – In presenting its case, the city goes back to the early decisions of the Trent council, which recognized the ailing state of the city's buildings. This led to the accomplished renewal of the library, Victoria Hall, the Protective Services building and the bowling green clubhouse/electrical substation as well as the new gallery. However, the plan

never embraced an indoor pool. I don't recall any consistent lobbying for such a facility. Are there other hidden needs waiting to surface?

4 RESEARCH – A decade ago, completing the building upgrade plan, Nick Matossian and other councillors made extensive studies of facilities provided elsewhere. As he recalled when welcoming the present council's plan on May 6, they became convinced of the case for two rinks. That survey was made more than a decade ago. If the same group made an equivalent survey in 2009, would it find more needs, particularly for the future?

5 DEMOGRAPHIC – The proposed arena is really an ice palace with an emphasis on a predominantly young, male sport. Is that a fair division of city resources?

The city forecasts growth in participation by today's children and near-retirees. As the population ages, will other indoor recreational facilities be expected – bowling, for instance? Will the arena be required to adapt for these new things or will another construction be necessary? In that case, will financing be available?

6 FUTURE INTERESTS – The new arena may be meant to last for 50 or more years, but it's hard to predict that interests won't change in that time. Both football and baseball are less popular than a decade ago. Cock and dog fighting were once legal and popular. Professional hockey has its critics, and that may spill over and adversely affect participation.

7 SOCCER – This world sport now attracts the young in North America and we have yet to see if there is sufficient provision for the demand in Westmount. Will the heavy junior sign-up translate into a need for more adult facilities? Is there another sport or activity waiting to bring new expectations? How about skateboarding? There is a recurring demand, though ad-

mittedly a difficult one to provide for.

8 MISSING BUILDING – So far we have heard too little of the part the armoury might eventually play in Westmount's future. Its availability is many years away but it might become the gymnasium that did not make the cut in the present project. Will it be a stand-alone facility or part of the arena complex, connected by a bridge or tunnel or a structure that would effectively close direct access to St. Catherine St?

9 CONSTRAINTS – Was council too tough on itself and the planners by not being more flexible with the present plan? Is the dog run inviolate? Likewise the height restriction? Are these issues part of this year's solution?

10 ANOTHER COUNCIL – At first, it was said that the indoor pool would have to "await another council." Not every dream can be met within a four-year term.

A council does the best it can and goes on its way or begins again with a fresh mandate, as will happen this November.

But taxpayers stay the same irrespective of any new hands on the tiller. So it is important that those taxpayers inform themselves of the opportunities and restrictions of the present ambitious project. Besides, some will be responsible to answer on behalf of all when the delayed IPSOS poll eventually takes place.

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

Chambers honoured for communication skills

Westmounter Gretta Chambers was honoured on May 7 at a cocktail organized by Communications et Société, a not-for-profit organization that promotes critical thinking, ethics and spiritual values in the media.

Chambers has had a long and distinguished career spanning journalism, administration and public service. She is best known as a *Gazette* columnist (beginning in 1978), host of TV show *The Editors* (1977 to 1980) and McGill University's chancellor (1991 to 1999).

She is also known for her volunteer and fundraising work.

In recognition of her achievements, Communications et Société presented Chambers with an engraving by Gianni Gamba called *L'Envol*.



Gretta Chambers at the Communications et Société's cocktail May 7.



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Our Man in Ottawa...in Ottawa

MP Garneau gets busy, moves back in,

BY DAVID PRICE

Becoming Westmount-Ville Marie's MP has meant many changes for Marc Garneau. He discussed them with me when we met in Ottawa on May 5.

Garneau is the Liberal Party's critic for Industry, Science and Technology. His office is in the Confederation Building, which is one building west of the West Block. The suite comprises three offices: Garneau's, his assistant's, and that of Fabrice Rivault, his press secretary and legislative assistant. Office allocation in Ottawa seems to be a science of its own, with first choice going to government members. Former MP Lucienne Robillard's office was in the same building, but on a different floor.

After a brief tour, we walked up to the Centre Block, which houses the senate and house of commons – jaywalking across an entrance to the parliamentary parking lot on the way, “like real Montrealers,” said Garneau.

Once there, Garneau treated me to a meal at the parliamentary dining room,

which – oddly enough given its vocation – is well known as a listening gallery that throws voices from one side of the room to the other.

“We first-time MPs were all warned very explicitly.”

Given the unforgiving acoustics, we jokingly agreed that everything would be on the record.

Here are some of his remarks.

WI: What was your biggest surprise upon coming to Ottawa as an MP?

Every day is just jam-packed.

I don't mean to say that I came here to have silent moments, but there are so many people to meet; and so many committees, speeches and question periods to prepare for, as well invitations for events outside of working hours.

WI: What's the best thing so far?

Parliament is the centre of some very important activities. This is not an ego thing – but this is the parliament of Canada. Laws are voted on here that affect people's lives. Even the most grizzled parliamentary veterans have this same sense [of responsibility].

WI: What's the worst thing?

The guilt at of being away from my family. I have two grown children, but my younger boys are 9 and 12, and I usually spend three nights a week here in Ottawa.

WI: Can you tell us about a normal week and day?

Typically, I come up on Monday morning and leave on Thursday night, in order to spend Friday in the riding.

In Ottawa, strangely enough, I have moved in with my mother, who lives here. It is great because it gives me a sense of home in the capital that many MPs don't have. Many live in hotels when they're in town or share an apartment with a colleague.

Quizzing the government

When I'm here, I always go to question period, which is 45 minutes every weekday. MPs usually get one or two questions per opportunity and I am averaging two questions every three days or so.

Caucusing

Every Wednesday, we have [party] caucus, including regional and specialty caucuses. I am the chair of the Quebec caucus. Like the other regional ones, it meets before the 10 am-to-12 noon national one. At the national meeting, the caucus heads report. Individuals can talk too. The leader then synthesizes what has been said.

Legislating

Today, I spoke in the house at the third reading of bill C-4, which has died on the books twice, due to the 2005 and 2008 elections. It makes changes to the law governing non-profit corporations, some 19,000 of which are federally incorporated. All four parties have agreed to the bill in committee.

The current law, parts of which go back to 1917, is cumbersome for organizations like these that are largely staffed by volunteers. For instance, non-profit administrators should now be able to take advantage of technological advances – by being able to have meetings online, for instance. The changes should lighten the administrative load.

At the same time, auditing still has to be carried out. Some of these organizations handle large sums of money.

Daily life

At a breakfast meeting this morning with five Liberal MPs, I had a chance to lis-

ten and question former Bank of Canada governor David Dodge.

This afternoon, the full Industry committee will be discussing the main estimates, which deal with how much money will be spent and where. Minister of Industry Tony Clement will appear and answer questions.

I will also meet with six different groups that want to present the concerns of their sector. One such group is the Canadian Dental Association. It is implicated by possible changes to the Competition Act, which is under the Industry portfolio, because questions are being asked about the competitive climate in the dental profession.

Groups come when they want to impart information or have a concern, and there are many of them. You could be here for five years and not meet certain people twice.

National scene

WI: On economic policy, what do the Liberals want that's different from the current government policy?

We have sent two clear signals.

Firstly, we want to change Employment Insurance. Specifically, we would like to see uniformity in the number of hours someone needs to work in order to be eligible. 380,000 jobs were lost in the period from December to March, but only 46 percent of those people are eligible for benefits, 80 percent of whom are getting them. We would like to see the threshold set at 360 hours. It currently varies by region and is as high as 700 hours in some places.

Secondly, we recognize the value of infrastructure spending, but we've got to get the money out the door. Now is the time that stimulus is required. Right now, the system works via a system of matching funds. Municipalities must match federal spending in a project, but this can present a challenge.

We are proposing the use of the “gas tax mechanism,” where money goes straight to municipalities without the need for matching. In our view, half of infrastructure spending should go through this gas tax mechanism.

Critic for Infrastructure, Communities and Cities Gerard Kennedy proposed a motion reflecting this position. The three opposition parties voted for it, but it is not binding, nor will it cause the government to fall because it was not a budget vote. We do, however, hope to influence the next



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budget with votes like that.

In addition, we are for affordable early learning and childcare as worked on by Ken Dryden when he was minister of Social Development under the Martin government. The Conservatives currently have a \$100 per-child, per-month program, whereas we believe that we need to focus on early learning and childcare by providing more affordable spaces, with a focus on early learning.

We are also very critical of the government's spending on scientific research. We want to be the party of knowledge, working on the jobs of tomorrow. But [under this government's watch], the University of Montreal's Dr. Rafick-Pierre Sékaly, a prominent AIDS researcher, was recently lured to Florida – and he is taking 25 of his top researchers with him.

WI: How is Canada doing with flu preparedness?

It is incumbent on a country such as Canada to mobilize. We had the experience of SARS, and there is no excuse not to be ready.

We are not saying that the government is lying down on the job on this issue.

We are also sensitive to other aspects of it. For instance, China is banning pork from Canada. Foreign Affairs critic Bob Rae has talked about the unfairness of that.

Local scene

WI: What are Westmounters saying to you since becoming MP?

They have been very positive.

In terms of concerns, many people come to talk about immigration issues and visas.

Also, a lot of researchers at McGill and Concordia have come to criticize the lack of research funding.

The arts community has also been to see me about upcoming changes to the copyright law, which falls under the Industry portfolio. A balance must be struck

between access to artistic works in the modern age and respect for the creator, who in addition must be able to make a living.

WI: Any thoughts on funding a new Westmount arena?

I take my two kids to the arena and the family swims there a lot during the summer, so this is an issue close to my heart. There is a process that the city would go through and recreation facilities are an integral part of infrastructure spending, not some less important area.

I will follow the process very carefully, but I can't go over and talk to Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities John Baird every day. He has to administer the program for all of Canada, in a way you'd expect in a democratic country.

Partisan politics

WI: How will the style of new Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff differ from that of Stéphane Dion?

The duty of a leader is to unite the country and we contrast Ignatieff in this regard with Harper, who is a divider.

Also, Michael wants us to believe that Canada is capable of greatness in this century. There has not been a sense of possibility [under the Conservatives]. Michael wants to work with the provinces, and with each other, to "think big."

Dion was a formidable intellectual and was extremely committed to two [laudable] things. If you look at his election platform, he focused on the environment and on decreasing poverty.

But in the end ... his style did not reach out as much.



Marc Garneau at his Ottawa office.

WI: How is the minority government working?

The difference between now and eight months ago is that we are controlling the agenda. In the past, Harper could bring forward legislation and, although the Liberals would complain, they would vote for it. Now we are voting against things like that.

But, to force an election, all three opposition parties must vote against the government.

In the past, the NDP and Bloc wanted to bring down the government. Now, the Liberals are willing to do so if it is not listening to Canadians – and the other two parties are having second thoughts because the Liberals are moving into their territory. Our [poll] numbers are moving up.

WI: Any closing thoughts?

Adjusting has brought big changes for me. One case comes to mind. My wife

Pam phoned me up recently and said she had found the type of house that we had been looking to buy [back in Quebec], but we had to decide on it in the next hour.

Usually, with your biggest investment, you'd like to be there to see it beforehand, but I said "Go ahead."

We have now signed for a new house on Mt. Stephen Ave. and sold our existing one on Wood.

WI: I guess you can only say good things now, but how is the new house...

[Laughs.] It is just perfect.

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Letters to the Editor

HAPPY BIRDWATCHER, HEALTHY SUMMIT

On May 9, at 10:14 am, a sharp-shinned hawk swoops in from Oakland Ave., gliding through the woods before it disappears.

With cream-speckled brownish underparts, and very adept at retracting its wings in amongst trees, it is a silent predator venturing deep into foliage and branches.

An experienced bird-watcher on the trail chuckles. That's it, the small birds are all hidden now.

Early on another morning, three reconnaissance-looking men with their rolled collars and military-style jackets have sighted of pair of pileated woodpeckers, without yet spotting the nest site. These woods, the chartreuse green spreading up the boughs, are renowned for attracting over two dozen warbler species to the south flank. The updraft over the mountain, plus its sightline over the plains are key factors.

For the most part, dog-walkers seem to be keeping their pooches on leash during this sensitive, must-visit period.

Remember to bring binoculars.

JOHN FRETZ,
LANDSDOWNE AVE.

WHERE ARE THE MAGNOLIAS?

It has been said that "Spring is God's greeting card to us."

However, this year, what happened to the beautiful magnolia trees at the corner of Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve? We are going to miss that greeting card.

RENA WATSON,
METCALFE AVE.

SUGGESTIONS WELCOME, SOME LOOKED AT ALREADY

Last week's *Independent* (p. 4) included several interesting letters from citizens offering helpful suggestions for the design of the arena/pool.

It is premature to enter into a debate on technical issues that will only be resolved at the detailed design phase. Nevertheless, residents should be assured that all suggestions are welcome and will be looked at, if they have not already been analyzed.

It can be pointed out at this time that Mr. Hoffmann's idea of "stacking" the rinks one above the other ("Why not a taller arena?") was reviewed early in the process, and was set aside due to the extremely high cost of designing an ice rink structure with a roof that can support the heavy slab of a second rink above. The ad-

ditional cost is of the order of \$4 million, due to the long spans with no columns.

The same argument may come into play to a lesser extent for other suggested uses of the roof area above the rinks. This is indeed expensive real estate.

Mr. Marriott's suggested use of geothermal energy ("An arena for our time") unfortunately is not a sustainable concept in our case, as there is not an appropriate equilibrium between the heating and cooling needs. Too many wells would be required, and eventually the ground source would be depleted.

In fact, council should be taking a closer look at geothermal projects in Westmount to determine whether they are indeed sustainable in the long run, and to what extent they may be depleting the ground source for the potential long-term use by neighbours.

The suggested use of photo-voltaic cells was also considered; however, electrical energy from this source is approximately four times more costly than power from Hydro Westmount's own grid. And using solar energy to preheat water, for example, is also relatively expensive if we intend to place heavy panels on the roof of the arena. However, it may be appropriate on a smaller scale above the central building housing the offices and coffee shop.

Decisions have not yet been made regarding electrical vs. natural gas equipment, and since we have our own electrical supply company, we would naturally favour electricity.

Regardless of the source of energy, residents should be assured that the design will be as energy efficient as possible; for example, it will be transferring waste heat from the ice rink compressors to the heating system, to the garage ramps, and to the pools.

As we enter the phase of design, my fellow councillors and I look forward to receiving further suggestions from residents. All will be considered by the design team.

PATRICK MARTIN,
CITY COUNCILLOR (DISTRICT 1)

HOCKEY 2 – SWIMMING 0

In his column "Twelve issues to resolve for greater arena project acceptance" (May 12, p. 5), Don Wedge very concisely encapsulated 12 major themes that frame the controversy over the arena project.

While financial considerations such as cost and potential subsidies are of great importance and will impact all taxpayers, regardless of their intention to use the new

facilities, of perhaps greater importance is the fact that there appears to be no agreement on what facilities residents actually want/need.

While the impetus for two full-size rinks has been driven by a relatively small number of executive hockey lobbyists (despite the always-popular cry of "for the children"), the wishes of the 97 percent of the city's residents who don't play hockey have not been given such kind and generous consideration.

As Mr. Wedge notes, not all residents are going to get what they want and everyone must be prepared to be flexible. Nonetheless, it appears that the hockey lobby has achieved everything that it wanted and the swimmers nothing. And, as a result of this process, no financial resources will be available for any new project for many years to come.

And the response of the mayor to this imbalance? Has she agreed to reconsider the idea of an indoor pool? Quite the contrary; she has dismissed the idea and instructed the architects to find ways to make the second rink *even larger* (May 12 *Independent*, p. 3).

Year-round swimming and water sports will benefit a much larger segment of the population, young and old, than hockey. There is also no doubt that an indoor pool will offer health and recreational benefits to women and girls, in addition to men and boys, something that an extra rink will most certainly not do. A second NHL-sized rink is very much a male dream.

Why has no systematic effort been made to find out what residents, *all* residents, want in terms of recreational facilities, instead of the *ad hoc* approach of responding to lobby groups?

While a "consultation" was held prior to the start of the arena project, the impression was widespread that the exercise was highly controlled and that the city had already decided on its own plan.

The city should consider the following: Poll every residence to prioritize each family's athletic and recreational interests. We may end up with mini-golf and a bowling alley, but at least we will know what residents really want.

Commission designers who can produce a bold and innovative plan rather than the pedestrian, boxy structure presently on offer. Can something more aesthetically pleasing not be built for \$30 million?

Build a structure for the future, using the latest in solar panelling and geothermal technology. The use of excess heat generated by ice-making as the heat

source for swimming pools is already widely used in Europe. In the words of Paul Marriott in a letter (May 12, p. 4), "produce a low-energy building with zero operating carbon emissions, serve a broader section of the community and give Westmount an asset we can truly be proud of."

It is time to consider a scale-back of this proposal to the one and a half rinks we already have and a year-round pool (if that is what residents want). Bulldozing this project through in its present format will result in dissatisfaction in all but the hockey lobby.

Finally, as Don Wedge has suggested, council should encourage public dialogue through the medium of a town-hall format, where all comments are available to everyone and there is an opportunity for discussion.

This project and its manner of implementation will continue to be divisive if we cannot reach a compromise and a compromise cannot satisfy only hockey players.


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Our Man in Ottawa

Vancouver convention energized Liberals

BY MARC GARNEAU,
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR
WESTMOUNT-VILLE MARIE



The Liberal Party of Canada recently held its biennial convention in Vancouver and confirmed Michael Ignatieff as its leader. In addition, it adopted a number of policy resolutions and amended its constitution with a number of new measures, including the concept of “one member – one vote” to elect future leaders.

But beyond all of this, the convention demonstrated very clearly that the Liberal Party is united and re-energized. Not only

that, it is beginning to present some of its key policy planks for the next election.

EI, early learning key planks

In the short term, Liberals are calling for temporary changes to Employment Insurance in order to make it more accessible to the large number of Canadians who have lost their jobs but are not eligible because they have not met the requirement for the minimum number of hours worked. These are exceptional times and there is near-unanimous consensus that EI benefits must reach a far larger number of unemployed Canadians than is presently the case.

The Liberal Party is also committing itself once again to implementing its Early Learning and Childcare program because it believes that Canada must transform it-

self into a knowledge-based economy. This means that learning must be recognized as a life-long process, beginning at an early age and continuing throughout life.

Under a Liberal government, education would become a central theme alongside a stronger commitment to scientific research, including not only applied research but also basic research. This and other measures are required to make Canada a more innovative country in order to create the jobs of tomorrow. This is the only way we will be able to compete with other countries, many of whom have already publicly stated their commitment to such an approach.

Ignatieff: leader should unite

In his acceptance speech, Michael Ignatieff stressed that the most important

role of a leader is to unite Canadians and this means working constructively with the provinces. It also means inspiring Canadians to reach greater heights so that Canada can achieve its full potential. It means daring to think of greater possibilities. It means a Canada which will take its place on the world stage and be recognized for its tolerance, its fairness, its compassion and its willingness to help those who are less fortunate. This is the opinion that others have of our great country and it is time to regain that reputation.

All in all, the Vancouver convention was a turning point for a renewed Liberal Party of Canada. While we have much work to do, I believe we now provide Canadians with a credible alternative to form the next government of Canada.

Ideas for giving your hand-me-downs a new life

BY EVE ASPINALL

Sometimes it seems that another year has rolled past too quickly. When you look around your home, you realize it is time once again for that annual ritual – spring cleaning. How is it that so much stuff has accumulated, and that when the welcome spring sun shines in, everything looks so tired and dingy?

Start by looking for anything you no longer use or want. Don't neglect the cupboards, drawers and storage spaces where things lie dormant for years, unseen and forgotten.

What to do with these things

Remember the 3 Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. There are many options that include reselling the items in a garage sale or on eBay, or donating to organizations that help the needy. The worst option is putting the items in the garbage, as they inevitably end up in the landfill.

You can drop off non-regular items or hazardous waste yourself at one of Montreal's two Eco-centres. There is one nearby on St. Jacques West, and another on Côte des Neiges. Call 311 and ask for pick up if you can't bring the things yourself. Their primary goal is to reuse and recycle.

Several organizations will accept all sorts of things, including large electrical appliances, and will pick up donations:

- The Salvation Army (514.935.7425)
- Quebec Foundation for the Intellectually Deficient (514.725.9197)
- Renaissance Montreal (514.275.3626, ext. 242)
- La Société de St. Vincent de Paul (514.526.5937)

For specific items going on to their next life, check out these places. Some are charitable organizations that can benefit from your give-aways, and some will collect large items.

Clothes, material, shoes, purses, handbags, hats

- Bon Dieu dans la Rue (514.526.5222)
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Montreal (514.845.7920, ext. 222)
- Certex (450.926.1733, ext. 228)

Local churches, bazaars, and the clothing bin in the Public Works yards all accept damaged clothing, sewing scraps, old towels. The city also accepts old but still wearable shoes. Things must be labelled and bagged.

Books, periodicals, CDs, DVDs, videos

- Targray Technology CDs, DVDs (514.695.8095)

Check with local libraries, universities, senior citizen centres, or rehab centres who might also accept these items.

Toys

- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Montreal (514.842.9715)

Churches, day care centres, kinder-

garten and nursery schools are other suggestions.

Sports equipment

- Play It Again Sports on Decarie 514.484.5150.

Bicycles

- Cyclo Nord-Sud (514.843.0077)
- Velomakak (514.937.3553)
- Velo Eco Centrik (514.315.8863)
- SOS Velo (514.251.8803)

Furniture

- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Montreal (514.842.9715)
- AMRAC (514.388.5338)

Computers, monitors, printers

- Bureau en Gros (there are two stores in and around Westmount)
- Venitek Systemes (514.660.3026)

These are places that will accept old computer equipment.

The Eco-centres, schools, youth clubs are also worth consideration for second life of computer equipment. Don't forget to remove your personal documents and files.

TVs

- Real Giguere Television (514.523.2348)

Cell phones

Information on recycling your old cell phone can be found at Super Club and Videotron stores.

Paint

Home Depot, Réno-Dépôt, Rona Hard-

ware and Westmount's hazardous waste collection are some places where you can dispose of old paint. Also, check out Éco-peinture at www.peinture.qc.ca. Of course, don't pour paint down the drain or city sewers!

Medication

All medication, prescription or otherwise, that has expired or is not taken anymore should be returned to the pharmacy. They will dispose of it safely. Above all, don't flush medication down the toilet. It goes into our water supply where it does not get filtered out entirely, and ends up in the St. Lawrence River where it affects aquatic life. Optometrists can recycle eye glasses.



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Complex event at Westmount Square complex

By Kristin McNeill

A complicated turn of events took place at the Westmount Square Medical Centre on April 17. A patient at the clinic called 911 when doctors refused to re-fill her prescription. Yet the same person ended up arguing against her removal from the premises by the police she had called for help.

Westmount resident Audrey Hamon, 34, said a friend who is an attendant took her to the clinic to re-fill a prescription. She explained that she is suffering from Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome due to a fall she took in 2007. She said she is homebound and mostly bed-ridden.

'Medical system destroyed'

Despite her belief that the "medical system is destroyed," Hamon said she has "managed to get a doctor" at the Westmount Square clinic.

When she called to re-fill her prescription for pain-management medication, she was told her GP was away. Hamon nevertheless went to the clinic and claims that there were three or four doctors who

would not treat her. "It was basically a refusal. I kept asking, 'Why? Give me a reason you won't refill the medication.'" She asked to speak to the supervisor and called the police.

In the meantime, Hamon refused to leave, and the clinic staff called security. She said they spoke with her and eventually called the police, in order to get help for her, Hamon explained.

According to Adalbert Pimentel, community relations officer for Police Station 12, three officers were dispatched to Westmount Square following a call from Hamon to 911. When they arrived, it was the clinic staff who "wanted her out. She was screaming and loud."

Zero tolerance for aggression

The officers spoke to the "person in charge at the clinic" who said it doesn't tolerate "aggressiveness towards employees."

Hamon described one officer as taking "the brutal approach" and "the other was good and tried to solve the situation." Hamon claims the female officer approached the clinic and asked "why no one will treat this woman."

The officers called an ambulance "to bring her to the hospital and get her medication." Pimentel said they were trying to "satisfy both parties" and "respect the rights of the woman and of the clinic." He claims one officer stayed "for over two hours and tried to deal with her, calm her down, and talk to doctors." He also said that the officers reported "everyone from the clinic acted in good faith."

When the ambulance arrived, an unrelated party had a seizure, and was rushed to the hospital. Another ambulance had to be called. Pimentel said the officers reported that Hamon was "verbally aggressive" towards Urgences Santé.

Hamon claims she became startled when a man – whom she didn't know was an ambulance driver – approached her from behind. She said "out of reflex, I told him to get off me." She claims he yelled back at her and said she was refusing medical treatment.

Right to refuse transport to hospital

Pimentel explained people have the right to refuse transport in an ambulance. Only if someone is posing a risk to them-

selves or others, can police force transportation to the hospital.

He also said Hamon had "alternatives" including her companion, who had a car and a driver's license. "She had the means" to get help, Pimentel said.

Hamon said she didn't want to go to an emergency room because, to fill a prescription, she "didn't want to spend 'X' hours with 50 other people." She also said the hospital has told her in the past to see a GP.

She claims she "was thrown out" into the middle of a food court where she was "left on the floor."

Her sister, Catherine Hamon, described her as "having full convulsions" after the event.

When called to comment, president and chief executive officer of Groupe Santé Westmount Square Luc Provost responded by saying he is "not using journalists or anyone to call patients," and that there is a complaint mechanism for dissatisfied patients. Provost said their "only obligation is to the patient" and to protect their confidentiality.

Not a Court Reporter by Bruce Roberts

Westmount Youth Orchestra's Open House, May 2



For the Indie, two isn't terrible!

We turn two next issue. Thank you to all our advertisers, contributors, suppliers, supporters and letter writers.

DAVID PRICE, EDITOR

Hats off to the *Independent* for making it to Year Two in a tough journalism economy. The paper is fresh, insightful and a must-read. Don Wedge's conscientious, incisive column is an ornament to Montreal civic journalism.

HENRY AUBIN

In response to your request in the last issue, I have always had a good response to my ads placed in the *Independent* – the real estate industry needs a weekly like yours. Keep it up!

JANE ALLAN,
GROUPE SUTTON – WESTMOUNT

The residents of Westmount have been well served by the *Westmount Independent* in the two short years of its publication. The newspaper provides comprehensive and balanced coverage of all subjects affecting the city of Westmount and its population, while also permitting the local people to express their opinions on public issues. Congratulations on this good performance. Long may the *Westmount Independent* endure and prosper.

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KENSINGTON AVE.

Happy Birthday, and I hope you have many more!

GERALD GLASS, METCALFE AVE.

Happy second birthday! Keep up the great coverage of local affairs. Best wishes,

PATRICK SHEA AND SARA PEDERSEN,
CIANDEBOYE AVE.

It is May and the *Westmount Independent* is turning two. Congratulations and best wishes! I am so glad you have become a weekly and look forward to every issue to keep me informed of the local news that I can't find anywhere else. Keep up the good work!

BARBARA MOORE, LANSDOWNE AVE.

I love reading your paper and I try to support the local stores/advertisers. Great articles and info on community events.

ALI MINDEL

We continue to admire your progress and enjoy the increasing number of articles and photos. The quality of the coverage of Westmount gets better with each issue. The *Westmount Independent* has come a long way and we wish you many more years of consistent expansion.

DIANA & DAVID NICHOLSON, WEDNESDAY
NIGHT SALON/ROSEMOUNT AVE.

In times of difficulty within the print media, we are fortunate to have two weeklies in our "independent" city.

Thank you, Mr. Price and your talented contributors, for two years of insightful information.

GERRY HIONIS, CLARKE AVE.

The *Independent* has been a terrific addition to the community. It is interesting, informative and fun. When you don't have a quality local newspaper you realize how much you miss it.

Here's to your continued success.

DIANA & DUNCAN MCNEILL,
PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

Congratulations on turning two. I look

forward each week to reading all segments of the edition. Very interesting and informative.

RITCHIE BELL, LANSDOWNE AVE.

I wanted to congratulate you on the second anniversary of the *Westmount Independent*. This is a great publication, and I look forward to reading it every week - I don't miss an issue.

JUSTIN VINEBERG, DE CASSON

We read your paper. Congrats on number two.

E.A. GILDAY, OLIVIER AVE.

The month of May seems to be a time for personal celebrations in our family and for many friends and acquaintances.

So much more so is it the occasion for extending continued success to the *Westmount Independent*.

You have already enjoyed a grateful and growing readership. It will continue.

GILL AND DAN SULLIVAN, ROSEMOUNT AVE.

My father's business is in Westmount, but I live in Laval. Let us be considered

local news. Lol. I really enjoyed the May 12-13 issue, particularly the McGuigan Pepin add on p. 7.

GIBRAN HAKIM, LAVAL

Please write a birthday letter for our anniversary issue and send it to indie@westmountindependent.com or 310 Victoria #105, Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9. Advertisers need feedback!

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Development of Sulpician site

continued from p. 1

and Westmount for hundreds of cars “which would have been a disaster.”

The property lies just off Côte des Neiges in the Mount Royal Historic and Natural District. It was sold last year by the Sulpician Fathers and has been vacant since Marianopolis College moved from the original seminary building almost two years ago to its new site on Westmount Ave.

Current plans presented by Développement CATO Inc. at recent hearings of Montreal’s Office de la consultation publique call for preserving some 85 percent of the land as well as historic relics. This is expected to be written into an agreement with Montreal, Poirier said.

A large amount of the green space on the 6.5 hectare property is protected by the recent Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan, which includes Westmount’s summit.

The redevelopment project has been opposed by a number of environmental and conservation groups, including Les Amis de la Montagne and Heritage Mon-

treau.

And while Poirier acknowledged that opponents are viewing it from the perspective of restoring the mountain to a more natural state, her point of view relates to the impact the project could have on Westmount citizens in the immediate area.

Plans call for converting the original seminary building into condominiums, building town houses where the sports centre stands, and building underground parking for more than 650 cars.



Looking eastwards: This is how the proposed new street extending from Ramezay Place in Westmount is being planned to end at the main greystone building that housed Marianopolis College.

Graphic by Groupe IBI/DAA

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¹Carol Vogel, New York Times, April 26, 2009

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



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Architectural triumph*Custom built 2000* 3 levels w/walkout*elevator*MLS 1482275
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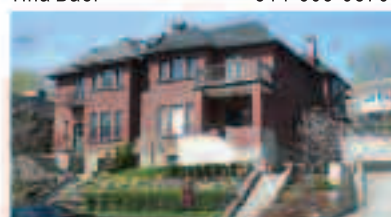
WATERFRONT



BEACONSFIELD, 386 LAKESHORE \$1,495,000
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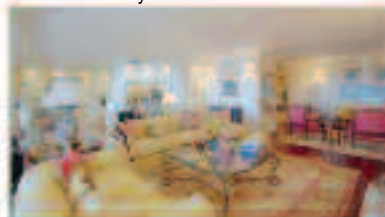


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Westmount Art Scene

Drawn to form: McClure and Armata

BY HEATHER BLACK

Matisse once said "Drawing is putting a line [a]round an idea." The work of Virginia McClure at the Visual Art Centre, and Ludmila Armata at Galerie D'Este both reflect this notion. But while McClure draws on the human form, Armata's ideas are dramatic abstractions.

McClure at the McClure

At the gallery named in her honour, McClure's exhibit of "Recent Drawings" reveals a mix of styles and various techniques.

In "Two women – different poses", the juxtaposition of two dancers – one bent over, the other sitting upright – creates an interesting composition. A woman's refined profile together with sketched gestures convey the charm of traditional drawing.

In contrast, "Les demoiselles: Number 1" is a humorous sketch of a woman, a cat and a bath. An eye-catching yellow and blue, the figures are drawn with thick black lines coloured with an acrylic wash. "Number 6" in the series recreates an earlier era. The scene – a woman turns her back on an amorous embrace – is inscribed with the words "I don't want to know."

Yet McClure – a pivotal figure at the gallery since the 50s – also adopts contemporary techniques. In many of her figurative sketches, the artist adds texture to the background before sketching with charcoal. Or in "La Contessa", a mylar mask is used to frame the face. Revealing an adventurous spirit, McClure's exhibit continues until May 23 at the Visual Art Centre, 350 Victoria.



Virginia McClure "Young man head and torso"

Ludmila Armata at Galerie D'Este

Entitled "Exit", Armata's paintings and prints reveal a unique and powerful talent. Concentrating on form, the Canadian creates simple yet compelling images, often monochromatic. In "Stretch", a black wing-like shape dominates a white background.

Creating texture – and movement – with sketched rather than painted lines, the images often evoke nature or science. In "Censored" the distribution of lines resemble iron filings pulled to magnets. "Tube" recreates life through a magnifying lens, while "Detachment" suggests a tornado. In this instance it is the ambiguity of form and interpretation that increases the paintings' appeal.

As in printmaking, the artist uses colour sparsely *continued on p. 18*



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Vol. 3/10

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ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES Échange de plantes vivaces

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 ægopodes de podagraire, hémérocailles 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.

Soirée printanière

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. Quelques billets sont encore disponibles, en vente au Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5226. 🍷

DATES À RETENIR

Le lundi 20 mai

Séance spéciale du conseil.

Jusqu'au 23 mai

Les œuvres de Cynthia van Frank seront exposées à la galerie du Victoria Hall **jusqu'au 23 mai**. Info : 514 989-5226.

1^{er} juin : Date d'échéance pour le paiement des taxes foncières municipales

Le deuxième versement de vos taxes foncières municipales 2009 est exigible le **lundi 1^{er} juin**. Veuillez libeller votre chèque à l'ordre de la Ville de Westmount. Pour de plus amples renseignements sur les taxes foncières de la Ville, veuillez consulter notre site Web, www.westmount.org, ou communiquer avec nous au 514-989-5234.



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Club de lecture française

Joignez-vous au club de lecture française le **mercredi 20 mai** de 18 h 30 à 21 h pour discuter des œuvres de Lise Tremblay, Élise Turcotte et Martine Desjardins. Info : 514 989-5386.

Club de lecture pour ados

Aucune liste de lecture imposée et aucune date limite, seulement des discussions au sujet des livres que tu as lus ! Notre prochaine rencontre se tiendra le **jeudi 21 mai** à 16 h. Info : 514 989-5357.

Conférences culturelles : La mode des années 40

Joignez-vous à nous pour un diaporama au sujet de la mode des années 40, une des périodes la plus innovatrice de la mode du vingtième siècle, en compagnie de **Pamela Grimaud**, historienne de la couture, le **mercredi 27 mai** à 19 h. Info : 514 989-5386.

Concours littéraire McEntyre 2009

La cérémonie de remise de prix du concours littéraire McEntyre aura lieu le **lundi 1^{er} juin** à 19 h dans la salle de concert du Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5229. 🍷



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Perennial Plant Exchange

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.

Spring Soirée

The Westmount Spring Soirée will be held **Thursday, May 21**, at Victoria Hall. Cocktails begin at 7pm, followed by dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$90 each, payable by cash or cheque, maximum of 8 tickets. A few tickets are still available, on sale at Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5226. 🍷



SPORTS AND RECREATION

34th Annual Family Day May 30, 2009

What better way to start the summer in Westmount? A wide array of activities for the whole family will be offered **Saturday, May 30, from 9:30 am** until 4pm. The Day will begin with a parade starting at Greene and de Maisonneuve, going all the way to Westmount Park. Come and enjoy games, races, pony rides, a petting zoo, carnival booths for children, arts exhibits and music. A variety of foods and refreshments will be sold throughout the day. In the event of rain, many of the activities will take place at the Arena. 🍷



DATEBOOK

Monday, May 20

Special Council Meeting.

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.

June 1st: Deadline for Municipal Property Tax Payment

The second installment of your 2009 municipal taxes is due on **Monday, June 1st**. Please make your checks payable to the order of the City of Westmount. For more information on municipal property taxes, please consult our Web site, www.westmount.org, or contact us at 514-989-5234.



LIBRARY

French Book Club

Join the French Book Club from 6:30 to 9pm. on **Wednesday, May 20** as they discuss books written by Élise Turcotte, Lise Tremblay and Martine Desjardins. Info: 514 989-5386.

Teen Book Club

No set reading list and no deadlines, just talking about the books you're reading and comparing notes with other teen readers! We will meet on **Thursday, May 21** at 4pm. Info: 514 989-5229.

Cultural Lecture Series: Fashion in the '40's

Join us for this illustrated lecture by costume historian Pamela Grimaud that looks at the 1940's, one of the most vibrant and innovative periods in twentieth century fashion on **Wednesday, May 27** at 7pm. Info: 514 989-5386.

McEntyre Awards Ceremony 2009

The McEntyre Awards Ceremony will take place on **Monday, June 1st** at 7pm in the Concert Hall at Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5229. 🍷



SPORTS ET LOISIRS

La 34^e Journée familiale Le 30 mai 2009

Quoi de mieux pour fêter l'arrivée de l'été à Westmount? Une panoplie d'activités sont offertes pour toute la famille le **samedi 30 mai, de 9 h 30 jusqu'à 16 h**. La Journée commence avec une parade qui débutera au coin de l'avenue Greene et de Maisonneuve pour se poursuivre jusqu'au parc Westmount. Prenez part aux jeux, aux courses et aux promenades à dos de poney, visitez les kiosques d'amusement pour les enfants, et venez voir et entendre les expositions d'art et les prestations musicales ! Des rafraîchissements et des repas légers seront en vente au cours de la journée. En cas de pluie, plusieurs des activités se tiendront à l'aréna. 🍷



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www.westmount.org
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LA VILLE DE WESTMOUNT**

Il est maintenant possible, pour les **citoyens** et les **professionnels** (notaires, agents immobiliers), d'avoir accès au rôle d'évaluation foncière de la Ville de Westmount via Internet, 24 h par jour, grâce à la technologie **Immonet**.

Ce nouveau service est accessible à partir de la page d'accueil du site de la Ville en cliquant sur le bouton *E-Westmount : Immonet et autres services en ligne*.

Ce service comprend 2 liens d'accès :

1° PUBLIC : Accès gratuit aux renseignements concernant la dimension du terrain, le cadastre, l'évaluation et le montant des taxes annuelles. Veuillez noter que l'identité des propriétaires n'est pas disponible.

2° PROFESSIONNELS : En plus des données publiques, cette section permet aux notaires, créanciers hypothécaires et autres professionnels reconnus (en s'abonnant), d'accéder à des informations supplémentaires en fonction de leur statut.

Les agents immobiliers sont invités à consulter le lien d'accès public.

Pour plus d'informations, contactez le service de la taxation de la Ville par téléphone au **(514) 989-5234** ou par courriel à **assistance@westmount.org**



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**ONLINE PROPERTY
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CITY OF WESTMOUNT**

It is now possible for **citizens** and **professionals** (notaries, state agents) to have access to the property valuation role of the City of Westmount, 24 hours a day through **Immonet** technology.

This new service is available on the home page on our website, by clicking on *E-Westmount: Immonet and other online services link*.

This service is comprised of 2 access links:

1° PUBLIC: Free access to information relative to land size, cadastre, and total annual property taxes. Please note that information regarding the identity of the owners is not available.

2° PROFESSIONALS Besides public information, this section allows notaries, hypothecary creditors and other accredited professionals (by membership), to access additional information in relation to their status.

Real estate agents are invited to access the public access link.

For more information, you may contact our Taxation Office by phone at **(514) 989-5234** or by email at **assistance@westmount.org**

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indie@westmountindependent.com.

Wine and philosophy on Victoria



From left: Astri Prugger, Rona Brodie, Linnet Fawcett and Tracy Gartner.

Astri Prugger (Astri Prugger Design) and Tracy Gartner (Trink Jewelry) opened their shared Victoria Ave. shop to a night of cocktails and networking on May 12. The event was set up to showcase the services of Wine, Women and Philosophy, which describes itself as a “spa for the mind.”

Rona Brodie and Linnet Fawcett, principals of the Laurentians retreat, were on hand to answer questions.

Fawcett explained that the group's weekend sessions are built around a topic, recent examples being choral singing, drawing, “slow” food, self-promotion for entrepreneurs and computer use. Several philosophical concepts are woven into the program, as is Epicurean food.

“There are no papers,” said Fawcett, “and the idea is that learning doesn't stop when class is out.” The weekend sessions cost \$395 to \$430 and are for women only, but male membership friends can participate at salons organized by the group in Montreal.

Prugger will talk about design at a weekend session in the fall.

Art Scene

continued from p. 16

to create emotion or to explain. In “Source” water flowing from a bucket is both narrative and symbolic. Representing emotions, the water runs red and blue – hot and cold. Thought provoking, the exhibit continues until March 24 at Galerie D'Este, 1329 Greene Ave.

Drawing as exploration

In these exhibits, both artists draw lines “around ideas.” For Armata these lines – intentional or accidental – evoke scientific studies, or for McClure, a social commentary. Yet the work of each artist evokes the beauty of drawing – gestures made permanent – which capture, entertain or provoke.

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ON THE SHELVES

Magazines

The Talent Issue: 25 Stars of the next World Cup, *World Soccer*, April 2009.

Guide d'achat – Vélos de montagne, hybrides et urbains, *Velomag*, avril 2009, p. 23

CDs

Live in London by Leonard Cohen – This two-disc set is a joyous, triumphant return of Leonard Cohen to live performance.

In Principio by Arvo Pärt – This eagerly-awaited album features exciting new music from one of the world's most famous living composers. The music provides an impressive overview of Pärt's recent stylistic development covering six touching compositions of different scale and instrumentation.

On relationships

Tug of War: A Judge's Verdict on Separation, Custody Battles, and the Bitter Realities of Family Court by Harvey Brownstein – Written by an experienced sitting family court judge, (Brownstein currently presides at the North Toronto Family Court) this jargon-free book contains comprehensive information about the Ontario family justice system. It also describes alternatives to litigation that are designed to help prevent families with children from entering the legal system to resolve disputes.

Not Becoming My Mother and Other Things She Taught Me Along the Way by Ruth Reichl – From her letters and diaries, the author pieces together the transition her mother made from a hopeful young

woman to an unhappy older one. Could this be a first step to re-thinking the lives of an entire generation of women?

Être conjoints de fait: pour une vie à deux sans soucis by Sylvie Schirm – A lawyer and specialist in family litigation, Schirm wrote this book to help spouses define their obligations and emphasizes the importance of writing a common-law contract. With the cost of a trial between ex-spouses being often much higher than the cost of a divorce, this is a must-read to avoid going down that road.

Histoire de l'adultère (XVIIe – XIXe siècle) by Agnès Walch – According to the author, infidelity has not been considered or repressed in the same manner throughout history and adulterous women were often treated in a much harsher way than adulterous men. She gives other examples of double standards such as how the king of France could parade with his mistress while the middle classes of the times tolerated no misdemeanors.

Children's picture books

Boucle d'or retold by Lauren Child – This is a fresh retelling of the classic Goldilocks story by using real photographs of adorable dolls in an enchanting miniature world.

Louise, The Adventures of a Chicken by Kate DiCamillo – Louise the Chicken leaves the comforts of her henhouse and heads out into the world to search for adventure. Along the way she meets nasty pirates, daring circus performers and a fortune-teller who can read her feathers!

In Other Words

Leafblowers on radio

CBC Radio's Daybreak carried an interview on May 11 by Mike Finnerty with city councillor Patrick Martin about enforcement of Westmount's leafblower laws.

The story was prompted by a "tweet" from Westmounter Paul Marriott, who supports a campaign for a total ban on gas-powered leafblowers.

Councillor Martin explained the rationale for Westmount's current leafblower law, which allows for only two periods (in April, and from October until November 15) when they can be used. He cited noise concerns, including both irritation and serious hearing loss risk, as well as emissions issues. Also, the number of seniors and the increase in the number of people working from home means that there are

more people to hear the noise. He said that Westmount is trying to encourage landscapers to purchase less noisy machines, "It's not the leafblower we're after, it's the noise."

Martin also said that some leaf-blowing offenders team up to put spotters at the top of a street to warn workers of approaching authorities.

The principal of Westmount Landscaping was also interviewed. He said he had "no problem" with the ban during the summer months or with buying less noisy leafblowers, but that a total ban would be impractical and/or prohibitively expensive for gardening-service customers.

He also said, "I've never heard of spotters."

In Other Words summarizes selected media coverage of Westmount.

Obituary: Margaret Stronach

School librarian well-known to many Westmounters

Former students of Roslyn and Westmount High schools as well as many Westmounters will be saddened to learn of the passing of librarian Margaret Stronach on May 9 after a short illness. A memorial service was planned for May 15 at Mountinside Church.

Stronach, who began her career at the Royal Bank, was a strong supporter of the Montreal Children's Library. Predeceased by her husband, Bob, she is survived by two sons, James and Ian, and four grandchildren: Andrew, Matthew, Elizabeth and Tom.



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New sex allegations involving Selwyn employee

Selwyn House School is dealing with another case of alleged sexual misconduct after the arrest of school computer technician Michael Kane the week of May 11.

According to a letter sent to parents and alumni on May 15, hours before the *Independent* went to press, headmaster Hal Hannaford said he learned of Kane's arrest on May 13. The school has suspended Kane.

According to major news sources, Kane was arrested in Chateauguay on charges of "sexual interference related to alleged sexual touching of a minor."

In his letter, Hannaford stated "the alleged events leading to his arrest took place entirely away from the Selwyn House community, and no Selwyn House

students were involved."

The letter also stated that Kane was hired in 2000 and had no previous criminal record. "The hiring procedure undertaken was thorough and complete, including reference and police checks," Hannaford wrote.

Selwyn House has had four other employees – all teachers – accused of wrongdoing related to alleged sexual acts, the latest being Richard Doucet, who was accused of crimes in Virginia involving no Selwyn students (see May 20, 2008 *Independent* p. 19).

Litigation arising from the first three sets of allegations was recently settled (see January 20 *Independent* p. 3).

Bridge for Bright Brains The art of coming up from behind

BY GEORGE RETEK

In a huge surprise during the first round of the Vanderbilt KO competition, the No.1 seed Nickell Powerhouse Team (coached by Canadian all-star Eric Kokish) was 67 Imps down to a team captained by former Montrealer Morrie Kleinplatz. With 16 deals to go, Nickell was still behind by 35. The kibitzers gathered two-third fold around the tables.

First it was Meckstroth's turn. White against red, holding:

K XXXXX/Q XX /1097/X heard his partner open 3 Diamonds. He boldly bid 3NT followed by three passes. Down seven undoubted against opponents' game of 3NT gave him give him 8 Imp. Then Hamman decided to bid 3NT holding (no

doubt seduced by having all four 8s) K 8 / J 8 / Q 8 / J 10 8 6 4 3 2 opposite his partner's INT bid. All Zia had to do was to make it, facing six losers.

The Heart 10 lead was covered by J.Q. and Ace. At trick two, Zia led his Club Queen that held! Now he had 8 tricks. Where is the 9th coming from? After a long a pause, Zia, the magician brazenly played a low Diamond. When the Queen held, he had his contract!

Nickell won the last segment by 46 survived for another round.

It is always great fun to watch when bridge history is being made by the masters of the game.

North

♠ K 8

♥ J 8

♦ Q 8

♣ J 10 8 6 4 3 2

West

♠ J 7 4 2

♥ 10 4

♦ A K 10 5

♣ K 9 5

East

♠ 10 9 3

♥ K Q 6 5 3

♦ J 9 7 3

♣ 7

South (Visitor)

♠ A Q 6 5

♥ A 9 7 2

♦ 6 4 2

♣ A Q

West North

ID P

P 3 NT

East

1 H

all Pass

South

INT

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

- **Perennial Plant Exchange** from 4:30 to 8 pm at the arena. Info: www.westmount.org / Community Events 514.989.5226.
- **Special council meeting** at 12 pm in the council chamber.
- Thomas More Institute's Spring Interview Series presents "Legacies – Reflecting on the worlds we inherit" with journalist and author **Alan Hustak**. 7 pm to 9 pm. Tickets: \$10. 3405 Atwater. Limited seating. Reserve: 514.935.9585.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

- **Nikki Yanofsky** performs in the Grover Auditorium at Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom's Spring 2009 fundraising gala event. Doors open at 7:30 pm, concert begins at 8 pm. Patrons \$150; friends \$118; general admission \$65; students \$36. Reservations: Risa 514.937.3575, ext 237 / risa.scherzer@gmail.com.
- **Richard Pound** gives a talk about the tragic life of Canadian murder convict Janise Marie Gamble, based on his book *Unlucky to the End* at the Atwater Library, 12:30 pm.
- The **Westmount Spring Soirée** takes

place at Victoria Hall. Cocktails, 7 pm in the courtyard by the Gallery, followed by a sit-down dinner. Tickets cost \$90 and can be purchased at Victoria Hall, by cash or cheque. 514.989.5226.

MONDAY, MAY 25

- Women's Canadian Club event features **Richard J. Schultz** on "Canada's December Political Crisis: What Have We Learned?" The Unitarian Church (5035 de Maisonneuve W.) at 12:30 pm. Cost: \$10 non-members; free for members. Info: Carolyn Roper 514.932.4005.
- **Westmount Municipal Association** annual general meeting in the Lodge Room of Victoria Hall at 7:30 p.m., honouring Westmount citizen of the year. Guest speaker is MP Marc Garneau. Info. 514.846.8464.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

- "Travel: The Journey Begins", a **community youth project** showcasing painting, sculpture and collage at the Gallery at Victoria Hall. Vernissage May 28, 4 to 6 pm. Runs until June 17.
- Cultural lecture series "Fashion in the '40s" with Pamela Grimaud at the Westmount Public Library, 7 pm.

RE/MAX garage sale



RE/MAX Westmount is hosting its first charity garage sale Saturday, May 23 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Westmount Park United Church (Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve). All proceeds will go to Opération Enfant Soleil. Some of the RE/MAX team got an early start. Posing at the church are, from left, André Campeau, Nadia Chidean, Joanne De Seve and Joyce Faughnan.

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NOTICE is hereby given that the 111th Annual Meeting of NOVA Montreal (formerly VON Montreal Inc.) will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2009 at 310 Victoria Avenue, Suite 403, Westmount, Quebec.

Expert at Westmount Horticultural Society Sharing many secrets of easy-to-grow clematis

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount gardens provide excellent conditions for the growing of clematis – especially when some of the many hardier types are planted, according to a leading Quebec collector and grower.

A number of well-known varieties are wilt-resistant and dependable bloomers even in north-facing and shadier locations, biologist and teacher André Poliquin told the May 12 monthly meeting of the Westmount Horticultural Society at the Westmount Public Library.

“If I had to choose only one,” he said, it would be the Étoile violette. Like other *viticella* varieties, he said, it is easy to grow: “No wilt, no pests and no disease.”

Poliquin, an author and Montreal Botanical Garden consultant, also recommended the early-blooming but smaller flowering *albina* species that can quickly cover a fence or wall. He also likes the late *recta* varieties that can grow among roses after their blooming.

Explaining “how easy it is to grow clematis and how difficult to get rid of them once they are established,” Poliquin outlined many of his successes and failures over 40 years of working with some of the 4,000 clematis cultivars on the market today. Some of these plants can live 145 years producing large woody trunks.

Choose older plants

The trick to growing all types of clematis, he said, is to plant only those that are at least three years old and whose roots fill a one-gallon pot. The root systems of younger plants, such as those sold in small pots in many outlets, are not yet strong enough to be removed.

As well, plants should be set deeply in the ground slanted toward their support with three “eyes” of the plant covered.

Avoid damage, removing any broken stem above the break. Spread compost and manure around the plant late in the fall to prevent new growth until the next year.

Incorrectly called vines or climbers,



With guest speaker André Poliquin are, from left: Westmount Horticultural Society co-presidents Gabrielle Pilot and Brigitta Brittain, and member Francis Gilseman.

clematis are small trees that can grow eight inches in two hours during an early sunny afternoon in the spring, he said. “Take a chair and ruler and watch them grow.” The best support is netting or

chicken wire attached to a fence or wall that that leaves can fasten onto.

Poliquin said that growing zone 5, which covers the island of Montreal, provides an excellent climate for clematis which benefit from a “freezing dormancy”. Able to withstand minus 40°C, most do not need winter protection.

Contrary to many varying directives, he said, the ideal time to prune all varieties of clematis is immediately after their blooming.

The most difficult to grow tend to be the early large-flowering cultivars such as Nellie Mosher and The President. These are more vulnerable to the fatal “clematis wilt” fungus. This infects the plant through a broken stem. Destroy any leaves and branches as soon as they show signs of dryness or blackening.

But to spare all the worry, opt for hardier clematis.



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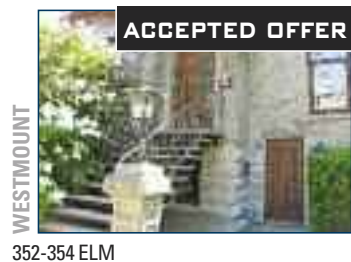
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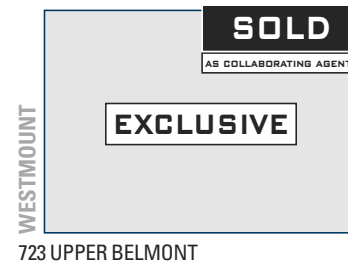
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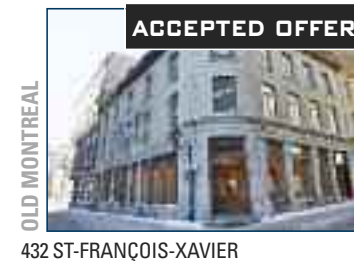
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Soutar: Concrete is sexy

Former Westmounter Annabel Soutar has written five one-act documentary plays, collectively entitled *Sexy Béton*. The plays deal with the de la Concorde overpass collapse of September 30, 2006.

The title comes from a quip by *La Presse*'s Alain Dubuc that every citizen was

in some way responsible for neglecting a problem that wasn't "sexy" enough to attract attention.

Explained Soutar about her inspiration, "The word 'Concorde' means 'harmony' and a bridge is a man-made structure that connects two places... The idea that this particular incident in Laval reflected something deeper about Western society – perhaps a failure of social harmony and a breakdown in the systems that connect human beings to each other – intrigued me very much."

The plays will be performed by Porte Parole, Soutar's production company, which focuses on conflicts regarding social issues. Each is directed by a different person. The first play (*Qui a fait tomber le viaduc?*) will be performed June 1 to 7 at the Segal Centre (5170 Côte St. Catherine, 514-739-7944), with subsequent installments in the fall. For more information and a complete schedule, go to www.porteparole.org. The performances are bilingual with translation provided for English-only speakers.



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YMCA youth experience life in Nicaragua



Some members of the local YMCA youth group, gathering to talk about their January trip to Nicaragua, pose at the Westmount Y. From left, Charles Fergue, 15, of Ahuntsic, Pablo St-André Karass, 16, of NDG, Simone Nichols, 15, of Westmount, Carolyne Miron, Youth Coordinator at the Westmount Y, and Danna Petersen-Deeprise, 17, of Westmount.

BY ISAAC OLSON

Eight local teens spent the first two weeks of 2009 experiencing life in Central America thanks to an exchange program sponsored by the YMCA.

Living with the Nicaraguan youth group's families, the teens experienced life and culture in a poor, polluted country.

"It was an amazing opportunity, and I really learned a lot," said Danna Peterson-Deeprise, a 17-year-old Westmounter. "It's really disgraceful how first-world countries disregard countries like Nicaragua. It really helped all of us gain a new perspective of the world."

Continuing as part of a cyclical exchange, the Nicaraguan youth group will

come to Canada next year. Having developed strong friendships with the Nicaraguan teens, members of the local group are all looking forward to next year's visit.

The Hochelaga-Maisonneuve and Westmount Y centres first teamed up with a Nicaraguan YMCA youth group called Asociación Cristiana de Jóvenes (ACJ) back in 1993 in an effort to help young people develop leadership skills.

For the last eight years, a local Y youth group of teens from around the island has been meeting regularly to learn Spanish, leadership skills and about life in Nicaragua. They then flew down to the Central American country every other year to immerse themselves in a world very unlike their own.

Street signs showing wear of time

Some street name signs throughout Westmount are fading and rusting – a normal process that occurs over time, according to Marianne Zalzal, interim director of Public Works. The department is currently finalizing a preliminary inventory of all signs throughout the city.

"We are preparing a report to detail the signs that need to be replaced in order to get a price, to find out the best way to proceed, since it's been a few years since we last ordered signs," said Zalzal.

Some of the old signs with embossed lettering have been replaced, temporarily, with flat signs which were ordered in plain white so that the names could be painted on, in-house, as needed, she explained.



Westmount Blvd. and Victoria Ave. street name signs fade to white.

Early bird, early ticket?



Recycling seen on Tuesday morning.

This house in lower Westmount had its recycling out on a recent Tuesday morning. If caught and ticketed by Public Security or Urban Planning staff, the fine for

pre-Wednesday placement would have been \$100 to \$1,000 for a first offense, and \$250 to \$2,000 subsequently.

9 Lives: Urgent adoptions

BY LYZANNE

Anyone who has a companion animal can relate to this situation: You have your own cat or dog and you find another, so you add the foundling to your family, in hopes of eventually finding it a home. With time and circumstance, you acquire another one over the winter. In a few years, you find yourself with several animals and no real adoption opportunities.

These are the circumstances for Canelle and Buddy. The owner of their present foster home has been ordered by their municipality to reduce the number of cats being sheltered. If they are still there on June 1, 2009, they will be taken and euthanized. Please give them priority, and find a place in your hearts and your homes for them.

Canelle is white with calico colouring on her head, like a bonnet! She is about 5

years old, spayed, and very affectionate. She is keen on lying on your lap and being hugged. She also loves to play and chase, which is a fun characteristic of a family cat.

Buddy is a handsome white and cream shorthair. He is charming, attentive and loves to be cuddled. Like so many others, he was a rescue that was taken in before winter arrived. Attempts to find his owner were unsuccessful so he has been fostered and, under these urgent circumstances, needs to be taken in by a new family as soon as possible. Oh yea, he is also a big snoozer in the afternoon!

If you can shelter or adopt Canelle and/or Buddy, please call Gerdy on her pager at 514.203.9180 or email her at info@gerdysrescue.org.

Many thanks for helping save their lives.

Your neighbour, Lyzanne



Buddy



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VICTORIA: Impeccable and sun-filled 2+2 bdrm ground floor condo w/ approx. 2,700 sq.ft. Of wonderful living space & exclusive use of the lovely backyard. W/central air, central vac, oak floors, tons of improvements & integ. Garage; this condo feels like a home & is steps from everything! **Asking \$639,000.**



ADDINGTON: Large semi-detached 4+2 bedroom home filled with beautiful woodwork, stained glass, inlaid wood floors & the charm of 1912. With a garage, sun-filled garden, eat-in granite kitchen, ground flr den & finished basement, this home is perfect for a large family who like to entertain! **Asking \$535,000**



DUFFERIN: Just listed! Best buy in Hampstead! Adorable and completely renovated with quality and taste. 3 bedrooms semi-detached home with garage, large garden with cabana and deck, A/C, granite eat-in kitchen, bio-fuel fireplace, finished basement, 2+1 bathrooms ++ a real gem for a starter home or small family! Simply move-in! Great location steps from everything! **Asking \$498,000**

OUR SUCCESS IS MEASURED... ONE FAMILY AT A TIME