

# Indie's 2nd anniversary

## How many 2-year-olds get audited – and it's a good thing...?

### See p. 4.

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 3 No. 5d *We are Westmount* May 26-27, 2009

## New site for Family Day

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After years at the south end of Westmount Park, Family Day activities will kick-off summer this year at a new venue on the main playing field to the east along Melville.

Taking place on Saturday, May 30, all the favourite attractions – from pony rides to carnival booths – are expected to draw more than 2,000 kids and wannabes. The shift in location results from the recent re-furbishing of the junior soccer and playing fields along Academy Rd. They are considered still too tender to withstand the

heavy traffic of the event.

“A lot of action will be going on this year on the main field,” said Claude Danis, program and community services coordinator. “And because it rained last year, we’re guaranteed to have sunshine.”

While the races and the bulk of activities will take place at the new eastern venue from 10 am to 4 pm, the park’s usual central portions will also be used for the 34th annual event.

Members of the 3 Field Engineers, whose armoury is on Hillside, will operate their traditional aerial run- ..... way and boat rides on the *continued on p. 18*

## Spring Soirée 2009



The 7th annual Westmount Spring Soirée took place on May 21 at Victoria Hall. Cocktails were held in the Gallery courtyard, followed by a banquet dinner in the main hall. The event was held by the Community Events Advisory Committee. For more photos, see p. 17

Photo: Isaac Olson

**Map of Open Houses in Westmount, p. 13**

**Grossman in race for WMA presidency, p. 4**

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## High hopes for more gas tax \$

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As Westmount plans to fully replace the entire water main on Sherbrooke from Claremont to Victoria this year, the city has high hopes that federal gas tax grants to municipalities for such infrastructure projects will continue on a permanent basis.

The new work was in- ..... cluded in the city's updated *continued on p. 20*

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## Public consultation on 'supersized' homes Architects endorse revised zoning by-law changes

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

It was the second time around for the city's proposed by-law changes aimed at creating a balance between the sizes of houses and lots located in zoning district R1, mainly north of The Boulevard.

This time, the proposals appeared to be met by approval from architects and others attending the second public consultation meeting on the subject at city hall May 14.

"We found the new by-law to be a very workable one," said architect Bruce Anderson in explaining how his office had applied it to various property samples. He commended the city for the revisions, endorsed by a number of nodding heads in the audience.

At the previous consultation meeting March 23, Anderson had led off a chorus of concerns from professionals who claimed the proposed changes to limit the size of so-called supersized homes were too restrictive and complicated, and in many cases unnecessary.

"There were lots of good ideas so we went back to the drawing board," explained Councillor Cynthia Lulham at the latest meeting. She thanked architects who had worked with Urban Planning officials to help come up with the new draft being presented that evening.

The new by-law outlined by Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier slightly lessens the restrictions previously pro-

posed and exempts properties under 8,000 square feet. "We're being a lot more generous," she said.

It reduces from 35 percent to 30 percent the maximum site coverage allowable on these larger properties or limiting it to 2,800 square feet – whichever is greater. It also introduces floor area ratios (FAR) based on a sliding scale.

The by-law modifies minimum lateral setbacks concerning lots with frontage exceeding 75 feet, and prohibits below-grade construction that extends beyond the required uncovered space, except for footings, basement accesses and window wells. In this respect, Anderson asked the city to include chimney projections.

Anderson also pointed out he thought owners of large-frontage wedge-shaped properties on curvilinear streets such as Lexington and Edgehill might be "somewhat short-changed" under the new provisions, a point reiterated by house designer Adam Borowczyk.

Architect Andrea Wolff said she felt the by-law was still "too restrictive."

With or without minor changes, the new draft by-law is expected to be presented to council June 1. Its adoption would trigger a legal process in which citizens in affected areas would be able to mount opposition through the signing of a register and force a possible referendum on the issue.

No comments in this regard were voiced at the meeting.

## RE/MAX garage sale



From left: Karen Staddon, Lucette Hivon, Donna Hinchcliff and Virginie Lefebvre from RE/MAX Westmount served up hotdogs May 23 at Westmount Park Church as part of a garage sale fundraiser for Opération Enfant Soleil. The food was donated by Graham Fletcher of the Metro grocery store at Victoria and Sherbrooke.

Photo: Erin Stropes

## Batshaw moving forward



From left: organizers Karma Hallward and Barbara Molson with the invitation to the Youth Moving Forward event on June 3.

The Batshaw Foundation is holding a "Youth Moving Forward" fundraising event at Parisian Laundry (3550 St. Antoine St. W.) on Wednesday, June 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The evening will feature a raffle with prizes, and performances by urban dancers and Batshaw's own Social Circus. Tickets can be purchased for \$100

by calling Angie Bisson at 514.989.1885, ext. 1013. Organizers aim to raise \$40,000 for post-secondary scholarship programs administered by the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres for young people who are receiving or have received their services. Batshaw's headquarters are in Westmount.

## The Y's Fun Run continues family weekend bonanza

The Westmount Y's Family Fun Run and Healthy Kids Day takes place on Sunday, May 31. Events are designed both for kids and teens and include a 1-km race in the main soccer field near Sherbrooke and Melville.

The first run is a race for teens (13 to 17) with a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prize. The second run is for small children (up to 12) and their families. In this race, "everyone wins" according to Tracy Kamel, coordinator, Community Initiatives with the Westmount Y Centre.

### Other events

Other events such as a raffle, open gym and open swim will take place at the Y between 10 am and 4 pm. Registration is \$10 per child or teen, however if participants collect at least \$20 in paid pledges, the \$10 registration fee will be waived.

Registration brochures can be picked up at the Westmount Y Centre (4585 Sherbrooke St.).



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# Independent math: 2 = 13,780

We are very happy to be celebrating our second birthday here at the *Independent* – and we have just received some good news in time for the event.

For some time, we have been stating that our circulation is 11,000 copies per issue – which we knew was conservative. We’ve now been audited by the Canadian Newspapers Association’s Canadian Media Circulation Audit, and it has confirmed an audited circulation of 13,780. These numbers include door-to-door deliveries and copies at drop-off points.

We don’t mind being wrong when it means we’ve been exceeding what we told our clients!

### Clients, clients, clients

Speaking of clients, I would like to thank our many, many advertisers. In the free-distribution game, the rules are simple: no ads, no paper; more ads, more paper. We intend to keep working hard to bring Westmounters’ eyeballs to their ads – and those of new advertisers.

I’d also like to take the time to thank the team – which is now so large that I may easily forget someone. Apologies in advance.

### Team, team, team

Starting with the “every issue” team, I would like to thank Laureen Sweeney, under whose journalistic leadership the paper has thrived since Day One. Readers will be familiar with her byline (she has worked on every issue), but she has also contributed many un-bylined stories, innumerable editing suggestions and many, many hours of proofing. She is the gold

standard of Westmount journalism, her depth of local knowledge is unrivalled, and it is an enormous asset to have her on board.

Ted Sancton has captained the layout of every issue of the paper, also from Day One. He makes us look good, week in, week out. I am often complimented on the *Independent’s* clean layout – and it is all Ted’s doing.

Kristin McNeill is a newer addition to the team and she done a great job of laying out the content, of editing and of writing stories. Like Ted, Kristin often toils in obscurity, but take a look at “Complex event at Westmount Square complex” from our last issue (p. 10) for excellent, balanced and complete reporting by her.

I would also like to thank Arleen Candiotti (ad sales) and Beth Hudson (book-keeping), who keep the ads and the money flowing. With the addition of Arleen, we once again have a professional ad salesperson on the case – and the results are already showing – and Beth’s calling as a professional organizer has done wonders for our back office.

I also have many reporters, columnists and proofers to thank, many of whom contribute to most issues: Eve Aspinall, Heather Black, Fern Breslaw, Anthea Dawson, Aaron Fraser, Rob Galbraith, Aurel Guillory, Doreen Lindsay, Lyzanne, Isaac Olson, Carola Price, George Retek, Stuart Robertson, Erin Stropes, Don Wedge and Sylvia Wedge.

And I haven’t forgotten the readers. Thanks for your support to date and keep on reading: we’re just getting started.

David Price, Editor

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LETTERS & COMMENTS: We welcome your letters, but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please check your letter carefully. We may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. If you do make amendments, please “redline” them instead of resending the whole letter. Please email any letter and comments to indie@westmountindependent.com. Every letter of support helps us with advertisers!

# Letters to the Editor

## WESTMOUNT’S PROBLEM IS PROBLEMS

I moved to Westmount less than five years ago. Over the past few years I have grown to appreciate the unparalleled quality of living our city has to offer. I have also come to the realization that many Westmounters fail to recognize how good we really have it.

I have made it a habit to read the *Westmount Independent* as often as I can; and in nearly every issue, without fail, someone has a problem they are ready to write in about. And this is exactly what I am doing: writing in about my problem – the complainers.

Over the past few weeks and months, I have read numerous complaints, about the new arena plan (quickly, just to get this off my chest, if you have a major problem with this state-of-the-art facility being proposed to Westmounters, you likely are not a regular user of the current arena anyway) and complaints about the new composting system, to name a couple.

There is a fine line between being a concerned and active citizen, and being an obsessed citizen of the community. It amazes me how many Westmount residents have become completely consumed with our city and its “problems.”

Have we forgotten what a great privilege it is to live in Westmount? Have we lost sight of the true problems in our society? Problems such as war, poverty, hunger and disease.

It seems as though many of us have forgotten that a world beyond Westmount’s boundaries does exist. To those of you have such great emotion invested in our city’s shortcomings, I ask you to take the short walk to the Montreal Children’s Hospital. Spend a few hours there, and then you will realize how large Westmount’s “problems” truly are. I ask you to watch the 6 o’clock news, and then you will realize how great our city’s “troubles” truly are. But most of all, I ask you to appreciate all the greatness Westmount does have, instead of seeking out its few weaknesses.

Let’s love Westmount and all it offers, instead of constantly fighting it.

ANOOSH LOERTSCHER, OAKLAND AVE.

## WHERE ARE THE ARENA/POOL TRAFFIC STUDIES?

Recently the city presented its new sustainability initiative at great cost and effort. At the same time, it is promoting a significant increase in vehicle traffic into a small residential area around the arena. Earlier in the project we were told that

a professional traffic study would be done. Many citizens are worried about a large increase in traffic volume due to the new arena proposal, the impact of the MUHC and the Turcot development. The planning and development of the arena project requires a detailed analysis of the local road network and its projected capacities into the future. This cannot be ignored. The new structure will not exist in a vacuum.

The city administrators could help allay residents’ concerns by presenting professional traffic projections, which demonstrate that we have the road capacity to handle increased volume. Without such estimates, many citizens fear the planners are just guessing and taking serious risks without knowing the outcome. This is not what is expected of our leaders or of the professionals we have already hired.

Many of the issues that surround the arena/pool renewal, hinge on the choice of a location that is too small for the massive project that is being promoted. This point has been made many times before. If a significantly larger structure is required, another location should be chosen.

P.S. Some writers to this paper have suggested that the city should start using up its precious park lands (including the dog run) to house the new arena. That would be a huge backwards step and contradict the city’s stated principles including its newly minted “sustainability” initiative. If anything, we need more trees and green space to mitigate the increased pollution effects of vehicles.

GARY IKEMAN, WESTMOUNT ARENA  
MODERATION CAMPAIGN (WAMCAM)

## WMA has presidency candidate

At press time May 25, just hours before the annual general meeting of the Westmount Municipal Association, the *Westmount Independent* learned that board member Stan Grossman would be a candidate for the presidency. The citizen watchdog organization has been without a president for two years following the retirement from the position of Henry Olders.

It was not known whether Grossman’s name was being proposed by the nominating committee of which he is a member, or whether his nomination would come from the floor. The WMA traditionally announces its slate for the coming year at the annual meeting.



## Civic Alert

# Democracies, large and small, need newspapers

BY DON WEDGE



Democracies, large and small, need newspapers.

This thriving two-year-old is a remarkable business and journalistic success. Its rise to local prominence has been achieved at a time of both general business recession and revolutionary change in media industries. In fact, the end of daily newspapers, in their present form, is forecast. Where will that leave democracy?

For instance, many expect the *San Francisco Chronicle* to fold during the year, a fate the *Boston Globe* has just avoided.

Imagine San Francisco without a comprehensive daily. Worse, imagine it happening in Montreal and losing *The Gazette* and *La Presse*, papers comparable to the *Chronicle*.

Without such publications, how would the current range of questionable decisions by Big Montreal have been brought to light?

Would we have ever known of flaws in the now-suspended water meter contract? Or of the expensive Caribbean cruises on a city contractor's yacht taken by Frank Zampino, Big Mayor Gérald Tremblay's then right-hand man?

How would taxpayers have discovered the worrying multiple transactions of the Big City's housing corporation?

If there were no newspapers, who would fund and publish such investigations? Television is not at ease presenting dry auditors' reports, however explosive the content. Radio is little better. The internet, a main source of the newspaper industry's woes, has no news collection

ability. Its raw material comes free from the newspapers.

How this situation will evolve is a matter for some concern. Some viable business model must be found. Could there be a wider future for the intense local and caring coverage that distinguishes the Indie?

## Makes democracy function

As *The Economist* (May 16) editorialized: "News is not just a product – the press is the fourth estate, a pillar of the polity....Autocracies can function perfectly well without news, but democracies cannot."

The *Indie's* success indicates that its dedicated and detailed service to a relatively small community transcends the industry slump. But two years ago, we were critically near the no-local-news situation in Westmount that *The Economist* was warning against.

After functioning in the community since 1938, the now corporately-owned *Westmount Examiner* closed its office, shed some staff, reduced its editorial budget and moved to its regional base in a LaSalle strip mall.

The incredible outcry from citizens eventually provoked the managers responsible to reopen a smaller office here. But the editorial content about Westmount, while skillfully presented, remains thin – even slimmer than before the exodus.

Notably light was reporting on the arena-pool renewal project. Despite the \$30 million cost and being Westmount's biggest building investment, in the post-veiling issue, it received only perfunctory coverage: one architect's rendering of the exterior and minimal reporting.

**"Autocracies can function perfectly well without news, but democracies cannot."**

– THE ECONOMIST

Few would deny that the local news-gathering leadership has been taken over by the *Independent* and that the newcomer is today's successor to the great local weekly that John Sancton published for two decades.

## Sweeney recruited

This paper's success is based on many talents, not least those of the business acumen and Westmount-smarts of its entrepreneur-publisher-editor David Price, a lifelong resident. Probably the smartest thing he did, though, was to employ Laureen Sweeney as chief reporter.

She has been in the forefront of the Westmount scene, both as an activist and chronicler, for three decades. "I remember

her at Roslyn School committee meetings, still in her Guides leader's uniform," said another community veteran, Sally Aitken.

"Recruiting her was also one of John's best decisions," according to Don Sancton who eventually took over as *Examiner* editor and publisher when his father retired. "She was an experienced journalist from the *Montreal Star*, lived on Clarke Ave. and knew the town. We thought we had really hit the big time!"

"She believed in the core importance of community life and over time that probably grew in her," her former editor added.

Sweeney's multifaceted role at the *Indie* brings forth all the experience gained over the years in Westmount ..... and elsewhere. As chief re- continued on p. 15

## Recycling Westmount gardens



Hundreds of perennials from private Westmount gardens and those specially-grown in the city greenhouses found new homes after the plant exchange and sale held May 20 at the arena by the city's Horticultural Advisory Committee (HAC). Among the many volunteers staffing the event were Susan Zegray, left, and Susan Burpee. The event generated a record amount of \$1,549, said city horticulturist Claudette Savaria. It will go toward a guide to Westmount parks.

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# The Indie is now two years old

*Thank you to all our advertisers, contributors, suppliers, supporters and letter writers.*

Congratulations on the milestone of your second anniversary! Not only are you still alive, you are thriving and should be proud of your accomplishments in restoring a unique and much-needed truly Westmount voice to the community's news.

You have a great understanding of the many facets and subtleties of Westmount that make it such an interesting place, and that comes through your pages every week.

It was what made my many years of reporting on Westmount life so fascinating.

I wish you well for your third year and many more to come.

DON SANCTON, BEACONSFIELD

Please accept my congratulations on the second anniversary of the *Westmount Independent*.

Your excellent newspaper has brought forward to the community critical issues for all Westmounters.

Keep up the good work.

GARY IKEMAN,  
ST. CATHERINE ST.

Hats off to the *Independent* on it's second birthday. In the short space of a couple of years you have become weekly required reading for the Westmount community.

PETER WELDON, ACADEMY RD.

Rupert Murdoch got it right when he said people have a hunger for news. And that's what readers can expect with every issue of the *Westmount Independent*. News that informs, news that entertains, news that can be used, news that occasionally sets teeth on edge. The *Indie* has become a "must read." Congratulations.

DOROTHY LIPOVENKO & HENRY MIETKIEWICZ

We wish you a successful continuity upon entering your third year of publishing. You have provided Westmount with a high quality publication that is a credit to our community.

ANNE DIXON-GROSSMAN & STAN GROSSMAN, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

The *Independent* is great and it covers

the issues. Also, it is in the spirit of community, which is so important.

SHARYN SCOTT, SHERBROOKE ST.

Chapeaux to David Price and his staff for bringing to Westmount a superb community paper, offering salient and well-crafted articles. The *Indie* offers a clever redact of many points of view, some fashionable, some not, and provides an excellent reflection of what this city is all about and where it is going. Launching a new paper in non propitious economic times takes guts...a brave move and deserving of our salvos.

I particularly enjoy the format and design, with its pleasing and balanced interweaving of text and advertising. This is not an ad rag!

Kudos to the strong efforts and perseverance of a dedicated team and may they celebrate many future happy birthdays!

As is fashionable these days, one "discloses." David Price grew up next door to me. My most vivid and fondest memory of him was his sitting on the front stoop reading, and from what I could see, at pretty well any time he could grab. This was not the norm for kids his age and was impressive. Then he went on to King's College, McGill and law/business school, and I thought, "Bravo." Then the *Indie* appears and I thought, "Super bravo!"

MARY ANNE FERGUSON, CHURCH HILL

While newspapers everywhere are floundering, community newspapers like the *Independent* are not only surviving but flourishing. The *Independent* has become the go-to paper in Westmount for news, notices, celebration announcements and, of course, real estate information. It's a great paper, only getting better each year. Well done!

AMANDA JELOWICKI

Happy Birthday and may you enjoy ongoing success.

I wish to congratulate you on the admirable job that you have done with your newspaper. It is a quality publication. Not only does it look good, but it is informative and interesting to read.

As a regular advertiser, I also wish to say thank you: my ads get noticed! I get calls and compliments on them.

TANIA KALECHEFF, RE/MAX WESTMOUNT

Read cover to cover every week!

The *Independent's* friendly format size lends itself to a balanced integration of text and ads.

Happy 2nd, and best wishes.

SUSAN KAZENEL, KENSINGTON AVE.

Congratulations on a great year of community reporting.

The *Independent* has definitely become part of living in Westmount.

Well done!

SARA & ED COLBY

Congratulations on your second anniversary. We enjoy the *Independent* every week. It's an excellent paper and gets better all the time.

COLIN & JUNE PATERSON, MELVILLE AVE.

Congratulations on your newspaper's 2nd birthday. Keep up the good work!!! I read the paper on a regular basis and do look at the ads (particularly real estate).

OREST BLASCHUK, DE MAISONNEUVE

Happy 2nd birthday! You are a great addition to the community and we hope to be celebrating many more of your birthdays!

MARILYNN GILLIES & PATRICK BARNARD,  
MELVILLE AVE.

As a faithful reader and frequent contributor to the *Independent* and its letters section, it's a pleasure to wish the *Independent* a happy 2nd birthday.

Whatever side of the issues we find ourselves on, we are fortunate in this community to have a forum which allows for vigorous and robust debate, in a publication whose focus is keeping Westmounters well-informed.

I wish you continued success.

MAVIS YOUNG, MELVILLE AVE.

Another year has passed. The paper is excellent, and I enjoy every issue.

PAM PRICE, SHERBROOKE ST.

We want to convey to you our sincere best wishes for the continued success of the *Independent*. Your newspaper is a joy to read via the internet.

JANE & PATRICK MARTIN

When I received the first *Independent* in my mailbox, I thought "What the hell is this? Another pretentious publication aimed at Westmount?" I was wrong.

Congratulations and Happy 2nd Birthday *Indie*!

STELLA MINDORFF

*It's not too late. Please write a birthday letter for our anniversary and send it to indie@westmountindependent.com or 310 Victoria #105, Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9. Advertisers need feedback!*

## A new art gallery in Westmount



**Galerie V. Trimont invites you to see the work of Mario Merola till June 2, 2009**

**Born in Montreal in 1931, Mario Merola, R.C.A. (Royal Canadian artist) spent all his life painting and sculpting. He has created**

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It's not too late to add your name  
or message.

If you want to, please write to us at  
[indie@westmountindependent.com](mailto:indie@westmountindependent.com).

## Cubs take over city hall

The Westmount Park Cubs were at city hall on May 21 for an in-depth civics lesson, courtesy of Westmount city councillor John de Castell and city clerk Mario Gerbeau.

Stops included deciphering the Westmount crest on the steps of city hall, ringing the ship's bell of the *HMCS Westmount* and a mock council session – complete with agenda, residents' questions and journalists.

How many residents know that the ravens on the city crest are due to Westmount's previous incorporation as the "Town of Côte St. Antoine"? Well, these Cubs do. Councillor de Castell explained that the city's former patron saint, St. Anthony/Antoine of the Desert (251-356), was fed by the birds while he was living a hermit's life.

The highlight for many was a visit to the rarely seen, room-size model of the city, which shows all the parks, roads and buildings, including individual houses. The Cubs pointed out their own resi-

dences and answered questions from their leaders about major buildings.

The future voters had some of the same concerns as Westmount's current electorate. When asked what was the most important building in the city after city hall and Victoria Hall, the answer came back, "The arena!"

Back in the council chamber, de Castell and Gerbeau explained the various levels of government and their respective jurisdictions, as well as the roles of the mayor, councillors, administration and journalists.

Once again, the youth mirrored the interests of their elders. When asked what municipal governments actually did, one Cub answered, "Family Day," which takes Saturday, May 30.

Kids will be kids, though. The loudest response of the evening was to a question about whether the Cubs were ready for a cookie break. The answer was an enthusiastic, "Yes!"



From left: Councillor Dakota Jugel, Councillor Jackson Frank and Mayor Clara Commier.



From left: Clara Commier, Paul Commier, Arthuro Bascunan-Vanderhorst, Neos Dionisopoulos, Evan Yatrou, Andrew Macdougall (Cub leader), Ege Nur Satir and Valonna Clark look at the three-dimensional model of Westmount. Macdougall was multi-tasking that night: the next event for him was Westmount's Spring Soirée.

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## ECS celebrates athletic year with Olympian Heil



Olympian Jennifer Heil (left foreground) talks to ECS grade 7 students Sabina Trudeau and Alexandra Hayman while in the background grade 9 student Jennifer Goldstein talks to ECS's head of school Katherine Nikidis. Goldstein introduced Heil to the assembled students moments later.



From left: Jennifer Heil with new Athletics Guild members Lisen Bassett and Bianca Farella. The guild is open to grade 11 students who have earned 100 points, which are given out for sports achievement, participation and captaincies.

Olympic skiing gold-medalist Jennifer Heil visited ECS on May 21 and spoke at the school's athletic banquet. The freestyle mogulist was introduced by grade 9 student Jennifer Goldstein, herself a competitive skier.

In addition to her skiing, Heil has taken a large role in numerous charities, including Plan (which helps alleviate child poverty in 45 countries), Kids Kottage (which helps victims of child abuse) and the David Suzuki Foundation's "Play It Cool" program.

Heil has also travelled to Rwanda to demonstrate the importance of play in child development and to Burkina Faso to

raise awareness for girls' rights.

When asked about the standout event of the year at ECS, athletics director Sarah Neeff, who has just finished her first year at the school, had one word, "Participation."

This year, 71 percent of students in grades 6 to 11 participated in an inter-scholastic sport.

Neeff was also proud of some more traditional measurements of athletic success, "We've been hitting playoffs in a lot of sports and won GMAA banners in Juvenile soccer, Juvenile cross-country running, rugby 7s, Bantam badminton, and Bantam and Midget tennis."

## WHOBa gathers on old, new stomping grounds



From left: Tony Sultson, '54, Blake Beaver, '56, Peter Haldimand, '55, Ron Leadbetter, '57, Paul Hamilton, '57, Dave Robb, '53.

BY ISAAC OLSON

On May 15, members of WHOBA, Westmount High School's alumni association, held their annual reunion dinner and general meeting on campus for the first time since the school moved to its current St. Catherine St. location in 1961.

Converting the library into a temporary bar and bistro, WHOBA members were treated to drinks and a student-guided tour of the school before settling in for dinner and the general meeting.

For some, the school is "new" as they remember attending Westmount High where Selwyn House School is today. The more recent graduates, however, were re-

turning to their old stomping grounds and, armed with cameras and smiles, they relived memories as they walked the halls and visited classrooms.

Originally established in 1936 by the all-male alumni, the Westmount High Old Boys Association was formed so graduates could maintain a connection with each other and the school while remembering those who died in war.

In 2002, they officially became Westmount High School's alumni association under the original acronym WHOBA and opened their doors to all former students, teachers and staff. The organization now has over 1,200 active members.



Richard Lord (left), class of 1948, is the former president of Westmount High School's alumni association. Steve Brewer, class of 1955, is the current president.

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# Underdog: Refugees

BY FERN BRESLAW

Beirut is far from heaven if you are a dog. The dogs in Lebanon are unfortunately not only ignored, but many are poisoned, shot by police, thrown off of buildings or have boiling water poured over them. As a result, most dogs hide during the day and

venture out only at night.

Enter BETA (Beirut for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), an organization which was co-founded by Sylvie Lavoie who has now helped coordinate the transport of over 150 animals out of Lebanon while also volunteering for Sophie's Dog Adoption here in Montreal.

Thankfully all 150 of those dogs were adopted, and so this week BETA is sending two more: Sheila and Zeus.

Both dogs were rescued during the war in 2006 but failed to find homes and are now looking for the chance at a new life.



Zeus



Sheila

Zeus is a super large, four-year-old male with no known breed. He is neutered, house-trained, calm, smart, obedient, gets along with other dogs and loves human affection. A pretty good resume for a homeless dude! We aren't sure on the cat front, so consider yourself advised.

Sheila is a five-year-old large, beautiful German shepherd. She is spayed, house-trained, calm, likes walks, people, the outdoors, gets along with other dogs but NOT with cats.

Both dogs will be getting off the plane soon but have yet to call anywhere home. If you would like to help give them a fresh start either by fostering or adopting, please call Sophie's Dog Adoption at 514-523-5052.

Each dog is sent from Lebanon in a crate and costs \$300. The more \$300's BETA can get, the more dogs they can remove from Beirut.

If you would like to save a life but can't adopt, cheques will do the trick. Any donation can be dropped at Pawtisserie (4932B Sherbrooke St.) in exchange for wild amounts of gratitude and hugs.

UPDATE: Fantastic news: all 50 rescues from the puppy mill that we ran in the May 12 issue have now found homes or foster families. This doesn't solve the problem, but it is great news all the less. Many people worked really hard to make this happen. You are all amazing!

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mud and bits of garbage, the other chickens suddenly see him as a beautiful bird and want him as their friend!

## Reference

Kovels' antiques and collectibles price guide 2009.

CPS 2009 (Compendium of pharmaceuticals and specialties.

## ON THE SHELVES

### Magazines

"African gothic: after decades of international aid and global trade, many African farmers are still only one step ahead of starvation" by Christopher Frey in *Maisonneuve*, Spring 2009, p. 24.

"Tropical depression: despite its high suicide rate, Cuba denies the existence of mental illness. For relief, citizens turn to the black market and a little white pill" by Lygia Navarro in *Utne Reader*, May-June 2009, p. 60.

"Faut-il avoir peur de la grippe mexicaine?" by Martine Betti-cusso in *Le Figaro Magazine*, May 2, 2009, p. 28.

### DVDs

*The Darjeeling Limited* – Having not spoken to each other in a year, three American brothers set off on a train voyage across India with a plan to find themselves and bond with each other.

*Man on Wire* – This extraordinary documentary incorporates Philippe Petit's personal footage to show how he overcame seemingly insurmountable challenges to achieve the artistic crime of the

century when he stepped out on a wire illegally rigged between the New York World Trade Center's Twin Towers.

### *The charms of the Orient*

*J'aurais voulu être Égyptien* by Alaa el Aswany – A collection of short stories by the author of the best-selling *L'hôtel Yacoubian*, one of which was banned by the Egyptian government for "insult to Egypt." The author presents a cast of unforgettable characters who happen to live in a society where hypocrisy and obscurantism are rampant.

*Damas* by Birgid Keenan – Damascus has some of the most magnificent architecture of the Islamic world, and this book takes you on a tour of mosques, palaces and sumptuous private residences. The beautiful photographs are complemented by texts about the history of the city.

### *Enjoy yourself*

*Dare to Draw/La passion du dessin* by Sean B. Murphy – This is the challenge of an "octogenarian ophthalmologist with a passion – art!", a book written out of sheer

desire to inspire others to go ahead, sketch, draw and paint. His sketches, doodles and watercolours, his practical advice and insight will have you heading to buy an 8"x6" sketchbook. There's a watercolour of Westmount Library on p. 64!

*Sunnyside* by Glen David Gold – "A big splashy novel" with Charley Chaplin at its centre in a blend of reality and fiction taking characters from emerging Hollywood, a world at war and the rise of capitalism. If you enjoy this novel you can prolong the pleasure by reading Gold's first book *Carter Beats the Devil*, another novel about the brash America of the twenties.

### Picture Books

*Tadpole Rex* by Kurt Cyrus – A tiny tadpole named Rex begins to grow in a puddle created by the footprint of a large dinosaur. As he grows into a frog, Rex begins to feel his inner tyrannosaur emerge!

*Le petit coq tout nu* by Chih-Yuan Chen – A featherless chicken emerges from his egg feeling cold and scorned by the other chickens who don't want anything to do with him.

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Westmounter Jonathan Patterson will be playing the Pirate King in the Segal Centre's upcoming production of Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*, which will be performed in Yiddish with English and French "supertitles."

The play runs from May 31 to June 16. Patterson studied at McGill University and has previously played Ko-Ko in Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado*.

## Westmount in Washington



Westmount public safety officer Robert Forbes, at far left, joined other law enforcement officers from around the world at the 28th annual National Police Peace Officers' Memorial Service held May 15 in Washington.

The service was preceded by a candlelight vigil. Shown with him are, from left: Anthony DeMelo (Laval Police), John Carroll (DDO public safety), Giovanni Romanelli (Montreal Police) and Kyle Walls, a former Westmount PSO now with Canada Border Services.

Among the many officers attending were those from Metro London police and officers from Germany, Russia and elsewhere.



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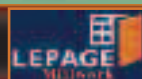
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**SOLD** – 537 LANSLOWNE ..... ASKED \$435,000  
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**SOLD** – 455 ROSLYN ..... ASKED \$2,375,000  
**SOLD** – 4546 DRAPER ..... ASKED \$399,000  
**SOLD** – 723 UPPER BELMONT ..... ASKED \$1,100,000



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# The Inventory: Houses for sale

The Inventory's content is provided by the Westmount Independent for the benefit of the reader. All information is garnered from public sources. Real estate agents, on the other hand, have access to closed networks that allow them to see more information, including the addresses of all listings. The Inventory endeavours to list all of the real estate of the type specified (e.g. condos or houses) that is for sale in Westmount at press time. If you are a real estate agent or private seller whose property has been overlooked, please write to us at [indie@westmountindependent.com](mailto:indie@westmountindependent.com), and we will work to include your properties in future editions.

\$495,000 50 Bruce Ave.  
\$529,000 111 Lewis Ave.  
\$529,000 109 Lewis Ave.\*  
\$535,000 102 Irvine Ave.  
\$549,000 Address unavailable  
\$575,000 443 Claremont Ave.  
\$575,000 36 York St.  
\$599,000 Winchester Ave.  
\$649,000 54 Bruce Ave.  
\$659,000 57 Columbia Ave.  
\$659,000 12 Burton Ave.  
\$669,000 59 Columbia Ave.  
\$679,000 373 Prince Albert Ave.  
\$689,000 4628 St. Catherine St.

\$699,000 488 Victoria Ave.  
\$749,000 Address unavailable  
\$779,000 453 Victoria Ave.  
\$799,000 431 Wood Ave.  
\$799,000 694 Victoria Ave.\*  
\$799,000 305 Grosvenor\*  
\$815,000 500 Prince Albert Ave.  
\$825,000 485 Roslyn Ave.  
\$829,000 481 Argyle Ave.  
\$829,000 479 Argyle Ave.  
\$839,000 380 Metcalfe Ave.  
\$849,000 563 Grosvenor Ave.  
\$869,000 Address unavailable  
\$875,000 4299 de Maisonneuve Blvd.

\$889,000 Address unavailable  
\$889,000 Address unavailable  
\$895,000 30 Windsor Ave.  
\$895,000 526 Victoria Ave.  
\$898,000 Address unavailable  
\$898,000 Address unavailable  
\$939,000 4338 Montrose Ave.  
\$949,000 430 Clarke Ave.  
\$949,000 594 Lansdowne Ave.  
\$959,900 646 Roslyn Ave.  
\$969,500 449 Claremont Ave.  
\$990,000 638 Roslyn Ave.  
\$995,000 43 Holton Ave.  
\$999,500 490 Argyle Ave.  
\$1,039,000 628 Victoria Ave.  
\$1,075,000 554 Lansdowne Ave.  
\$1,075,000 656 Victoria Ave.  
\$1,075,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,085,000 3664 The Boulevard  
\$1,089,000 19 Willow Ave  
\$1,090,000 495 Lansdowne Ave.  
\$1,095,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,099,000 15 Lansdowne Ridge  
\$1,099,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,195,000 595 Lansdowne Ave.  
\$1,195,000 481 Strathcona Ave.  
\$1,198,000 1 Severn Ave.  
\$1,199,000 4329 Montrose Ave.  
\$1,225,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,250,000 4386 de Maisonneuve Blvd.  
\$1,275,000 90 Arlington Ave.  
\$1,279,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,280,000 364 Kitchener Ave.  
\$1,295,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,295,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,325,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,345,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,349,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,349,000 35 Church Hill  
\$1,350,000 70 Summit Crescent  
\$1,350,000 3249 Cedar Ave.  
\$1,395,000 79 Rosemount Crescent  
\$1,398,000 786 Upper Belmont Ave.  
\$1,399,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,475,000 10 Willow Ave.  
\$1,484,000 659 Belmont Ave.  
\$1,488,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,489,000 4350 Westmount Ave.  
\$1,495,000 175 Cote St Antoine Rd.  
\$1,495,000 660 Grosvenor Ave.\*  
\$1,499,000 167 Edgehill Rd.  
\$1,500,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,550,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,575,000 122 Sunnyside Ave.  
\$1,585,000 651 Belmont Ave.  
\$1,585,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,590,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,595,000 359 Redfern Ave.  
\$1,595,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,599,000 95 Summit Crescent  
\$1,625,000 Address unavailable\*  
\$1,649,000 477 Prince Albert Ave.  
\$1,650,000 123 Aberdeen Ave.  
\$1,650,000 4760 The Boulevard  
\$1,695,000 701 Victoria Ave.  
\$1,695,000 757 Upper Belmont Ave.  
\$1,695,000 15 Surrey Gardens  
\$1,695,000 311 Kensington Ave.

\$1,699,000 3284 Cedar Ave.  
\$1,749,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,850,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,949,000 331 Lansdowne Ave  
\$1,970,000 30 Surrey Gardens  
\$1,995,000 29 Bellevue Ave.  
\$1,995,000 9 Rosemount Ave.  
\$1,995,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,997,000 497 Mountain Ave.  
\$1,998,000 Address unavailable  
\$1,998,000 Address unavailable  
\$2,100,000 3710 The Boulevard  
\$2,198,000 Address unavailable  
\$2,295,000 5 Anwoth Rd.  
\$2,350,000 607 Clarke Ave.  
\$2,375,000 420 Côte St. Antoine Rd.  
\$2,375,000 Address unavailable  
\$2,389,000 Address unavailable\*  
\$2,400,000 591 Argyle Ave.  
\$2,400,000 3255 Cedar Ave.  
\$2,400,000 680 Victoria Ave.\*  
\$2,485,000 Address unavailable\*  
\$2,495,000 118 Upper Bellevue Ave.  
\$2,795,000 630 Clarke Ave.  
\$2,795,000 35 Aberdeen Ave.  
\$2,795,000 627 Clarke Ave.  
\$2,975,000 4302 Montrose Ave.  
\$3,199,000 Address unavailable  
\$3,290,000 64 Forden Crescent  
\$3,350,000 3777 The Boulevard  
\$3,395,000 46 Forden Crescent  
\$3,500,000 62 Belvedere Rd  
\$3,750,000 Address unavailable  
\$3,750,000 515 Roslyn Ave.  
\$3,950,000 3657 The Boulevard\*  
\$5,975,000 Address unavailable

\* Also for rent

## Sweeney writes stories, world-class profiles

continued from p. 5

porter, she advises on all the news coverage, writes stories long and short, by-lined or not, as well her world-class profiles of local people. In addition to all this, she proofreads the paper late in the production process.

As such, Laureen will see these words once they are slotted into the layout and probably object to some, or all, of them. Normally, I welcome her suggested changes, but this time I will resist. She is a major part of the *Indie's* acceptance by Westmounters after only two years. Publisher and reporter have fortified the community with its democratic "pillars" based on local news.

Happy Birthday, indeed!

Citizen activist Don Wedge's email address is [dwardge@sympatico.ca](mailto:dwardge@sympatico.ca).

## 1Km Family Fun Run

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## Health Round-Up

# Trouble losing weight? Your set-point could be the reason

BY BARRY NASHEN

Last week, the European Association for the Study of Obesity reported that over-eating, not a lack of exercise, is to blame for the American obesity epidemic. It warned that physical activity could not fully compensate for excess calories. The increase in energy intake virtually explained all of the weight gain.

Separately, the World Health Organization estimates that in 2006, about 1.6 billion adults were overweight, of which at least 400 million were obese.

So what does this new study mean to you and me? Are we doomed to be overweight even if we exercise? Have we no control over our weight?

Here's my take: It is your lifestyle that ultimately creates the set-point for your body weight. This set-point is based on only three factors: your genetic predisposition, the calories you consume and the calories you burn.

Let's examine one factor at a time.

We are each born with a genetic predisposition that makes it easier for some of us and harder for others to gain or lose weight. This is the hand we are dealt at birth. Ever notice how hard it is to lose weight and then to keep it off? That's because your body will do what it must to return you to your set-point body weight. Now while we can't do anything about our genes (not yet, anyway), I do have good news if you want to lose (or gain) weight: If you change your lifestyle, your body weight will change, naturally. How does this work?

Let's look at the second factor and the main result of the study that I mentioned. What kinds of food do you eat, generally? Does your lifestyle foster fast food at lunch, rich desserts after dinner, or snacks before bedtime even if you are not really

hungry? If you change these habits, you will, without fail, lose weight. Naturally. How can I claim this? Because your body will determine a new set-point body weight for you based on your new lifestyle of eliminating fast food and rich desserts or by snacking on fruit instead of chips.

The last factor takes into account how you expend energy. What sports or other physical activities do you enjoy? If you take a walk or play tennis once a week and you increase that to four or five times a week, you will, without fail, lose weight. Again, your body will seek a new set-point body weight for you. Naturally.

But has your lifestyle really changed? The answer to this important question is "that depends," and is the subject of a future article.

The study I quoted is simply telling us that, on average, we are consuming more calories than we used to, but we haven't increased our physical activities correspondingly. We each have within us the power to eat better quality food and exercise a little more often. Do this and you will lose weight and keep it off forever. I guarantee it.

*Barry Nashen is a Westmount IT consultant. He is not a doctor or health professional and his comments should be read in that light. Any medical problems that you are having or remedies that you are contemplating should be discussed with a doctor or appropriate health professional.*

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# PAPARAZZI PAGE

## 7th annual Westmount Spring Soirée

PHOTOS BY ISAAC OLSON



Volunteers serving drinks: Louise Campbell-Burny, Samantha Pepper and Charlotte Lamontagne.



Michael Vachon, Andrew Kaluza and Jan Kaluza.



Michel Gamache, Anne-Lousie Lafontaine and Brian Dutch.



Sian Matthew, David Matthew, Cary Lawrence, Thomas LaPierre, Kathleen Roger and Janet Danielson.



Mark Iarrera and Andrew Robb.



Lisa Pittman, Helen Campbell (chair of the Community Events Advisory Committee) and Sandra Churchill.



Nicky Senyard, Nichole Fortunaso, Pete Wiazowski and Andrea Bobcowicz.

# Same fun Family Day at new site

.....  
*continued from p. 1*  
lagoon. Information exhibits by community groups will line the east-west paths, and the make-up booth will be located at the gazebo.

The Family Day parade will lead off from Greene and de Maisonneuve at 9:30 am and proceed west to the park for costume judging and the start of the races. Inflatable games, the Scouts' Climbing Wall and the petting zoo will continue throughout most of the day. Contactivity Centre's bake sale starts at 11 am. The Dixieland Band plays between 12 and 12:30 to be followed by games from 1 to 2 pm. These include balloon and eggs

## Safety on the internet

Information for parents on the safe surfing of the internet for children of all ages will be available at the Family Day exhibit of Westmount's Healthy City Project (HCP). Cyberbullying is one of the topics addressed in a booklet from the Canadian Centre for Child Protection that will be provided, according to Barbara Moore who chairs the HPC's Community Life Committee.

tosses and a tug of war. Food and refreshments will be sold by Venturer Scouts, Girl Guides and District Catering.

The carnival booths "where everyone is a winner," Danis said, will operate from 2 until closing time at 4 pm, also on the main Melville field.

The field, as well as land north of the end-zone should provide the needed space, said Sports and Recreation director Michael Deegan. "We walked the park and measured out the area."

Initially, he said, it was hoped to remove the temporary fencing around the lower playing field along Melville Ave. in front of Westmount Park School, but the sod was still considered too new.

Volunteers able to help staff the inflatable games and carnival booths may offer their services by calling Sports and Recreation at 514.989.5353.

## Test your eco-footprint

What is your carbon footprint? Bring the square footage of your home to Family Day and have your imprint assessed by Joshua Wolfe, the city's sustainability coordinator, at the Healthy City Project kiosk near the bandstand.

# Comin' Up...

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

Dr. Athanasios Katsarkas, Director of the Dizziness Clinic at the Royal Victoria Hospital gives a talk entitled "Doctor, I feel dizzy!" at 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Free.

SATURDAY, MAY 30

**Family Day** takes place in Westmount Park, preceeded by a parade at 9:30 am, corner Greene and de Maisonneuve. Activities run from 10 am to 4 pm. If it rains, many activities will be held in the arena.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

- A **Klezmer Evening** with Shtreiml! At Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom at 8 pm, Grover Auditorium (4100 Sherbrooke St. W.) Tickets: \$20, includes concert and sweet table. Reserve: 450.672.9788.
- Westmount YMCA Family Fun Run and Healthy Kids Day from 10 am to 4 pm at Westmount Park with pre- and post-events at the Westmount Y Centre (4585 Sherbrooke St.) \$10/child. 514.931.6770.

MONDAY, JUNE 1

City **council meeting** in council chambers at 8 pm

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

**ARTNOW** speakers: artist Anna Jane McIntyre and photographer Bogdan Karasek. 7 pm at the Westmount Public Li-

brary. Free admission.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

Teacher, author and journalist **Monique Polak** speaks at the Thomas More Institute's Spring Interview Series from 7 to 9 pm. 3405 Atwater Ave. \$10. To reserve: 514.935.9585.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

The parish of St. Leon is holding its annual **super bazaar** from 1 to 6 pm. Clothing, books and music. 330 Clarke Ave.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

**Harmonia Westmount Choir** presents "la fleur d'orient" under director Fredericka Petit-Homme. 7:30 pm at Mountainside United Church (4000 The Boulevard) Tickets \$15; free for 12 and under.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Congregation Shaar Hashomayim presents **Sid Stevens**, co-founder of Sun Youth Organization on "55 Years of Activation & Response: First Aid to Victims of Abuse, Fire and Crime." Lunch at 12 noon, followed by lecture. Cost \$5. Reserve: 514.937.9471.

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Westmount Memories

# Classmate sees Leonard Cohen from a different angle

By GAVIN ROSS

Leonard Cohen and I were school chums. We went through the Westmount school system as classmates from grade 1 to grade 11.

I was on the Westmount High student council and Leonard was president of it. We were on the school's drama club executive and did a few silly things together.

"Lenny" grew up on Belmont Ave. (number 604, as I recall) and I on the next street, Lansdowne. My dog and I delivered his mother's morning paper each day and while at Westmount High, I would often walk with him on the way to school.

In grades 2 and 3 at Roslyn, we were lucky enough to have a very special teacher, Miss Janet Kingsland. She was a real sweetheart and everybody loved her. She looked pretty old to us, but she was about 21. Her fiancé was a prisoner of war in Germany, although we didn't know that at the time. Over 50 years later, she gave me a photo of the class and there was little Leonard sitting cross-legged in the front row, on the floor beside his good friend Ivan Phillips.

I remember in 1951 when President Harry Truman fired General Douglas MacArthur, we drove around the school yard in the Morris Minor convertible of our classmate, David Hogg, with Leonard dressed as MacArthur, complete with corn-cob pipe, standing in the back yelling "I shall return. I shall return."

David is the father of Hogg Hardware's owners.

Each year our high school yearbook, Vox Ducum, published a few selected short stories. In the 1950 edition, Leonard had a story "Kill or be Killed". It was a good story as I recall and just may have been his

first published article! I think he was about 15 years old.

A few years ago, McGill University honoured Leonard and his achievements by awarding him an honorary degree. I worked at McGill at the time, and was able to get Miss Kingsland and me seated at Leonard's table for the post-convocation lunch.

I brought her to the table where Leonard was chatting with his sister, Esther, and his old friend, Mort Rosengarten. He nearly flipped when I introduced him to Janet, as I called her by then, his grade 2 and 3 teacher. He spent most of the lunch talking with her and the last I saw of him he was in the half-backseat of a Mercedes convertible, dressed in a pinstriped suit, Order of Canada in his lapel, clutching his honorary degree with Miss Kingsland sitting proudly in the passenger seat on their way to drop her at the station. He almost looked like General MacArthur in the back of Hogg's Morris Minor!

Some years ago, I met an Irish rugby personality who remarked how impressed he was with Canadian artistic talent, especially Leonard Cohen. His daughter was a performing musician in County Clare. She adored Leonard and composed and sang his type of music.

Next day, I emailed Leonard telling him about this young lady in Ireland who admired him so much. I asked if he would he drop her a short note of encouragement. Instead, he sent her his latest book of poetry, illustrated paintings by Matisse and included a warm inscription wishing her the best. She was over the moon!

Such is Leonard Cohen – from a different angle. A thoroughly nice guy!

*Gavin Ross is a former Westmounter.*



Roslyn School class in the early 1940s.

Photo courtesy of Gavin Ross and Jasmin Uththoff

Front row, from left: Derek Reid, Leonard Cohen (circled), Ivan Phillips, Clifford Bowles, Billy Fell, Stuart McKinnon, Freddie Farnsworth.

Second row: Unknown, Elizabeth Cross, unknown, Rayetta Shacter, Carol, Selma Hershorn, July Patton, unknown.

Back row: Michael Savage, John Moffat, Gavin Ross (circled), Carter Powis, Norman Alexander, Bill Minguy, unknown.

Back row: Chuck Laidley, Bill Fuller, Barbara Roberton, unknown, unknown.

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## UMQ fights for permanent gas grant

*continued from p. 1*

report on \$14.5 million of work for 2006 to 2009 tabled at the city council meeting May 20. The tax grant allocation to Westmount of close to \$4 million for those years covers the portion to be spent on renewing the water and sewer systems.

The money "came at the right time for Westmount," said Councillor Tom Thompson, in presenting the required report outlining work at more than 18 locations. "A P.S. to the government," he added, is "we need more."

And this appears to be coming, Mayor Karin Marks told the *Independent*.

"The UMQ (Union of Quebec Municipi-

palities) is working with the province on making the gas tax (grant) permanent," she said. "And I believe it's going to be an increased amount."

This was discussed at the UMQ's annual conference May 13 to 16, which Marks attended along with many mayors. It also attracted Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff, Premier Jean Charest and Quebec Minister of Municipal Affairs Nathalie Normandeau.

The minister and her deputy minister, Marks said, have built up a dynamic team of officials who are knowledgeable in the areas of political and administrative issues. "It would be a shame to lose her in a cabinet shuffle."

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# *Joe King's latest book is out!*



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Colourfully Yours:

# Add a detail that catches your eye

BY GRETA VON SCHMEDLAPP,  
MUSE TO AURÉLIEN GUILLORY



Thoughts from Greta Von Schmedlapp: "Those Things That We Touch... They Say So Much!" My dear design friends, I must tell you what bliss to rest my world-weary bones on Aurel's teak deck chair and enjoy the lovely Eastern Townships mountain air. As I write these words, I am sipping a Pisco Sour. Ever

since Aurel experienced it in Lima and Macchu Picchu, he has been slowly converting me (even though I am a die-hard martini girl – gin, of course, never vodka). I must confess to really enjoying the clear crispness and flavour complexity of the special bitters he brought back from Cusco.

Enough rambling... I must tell you all about this week's theme. As Frank Lloyd Wright said, "God is in the details." Ladies, how many times have you bought a blouse because the buttons and the stitching on the collar made it special? Well, please

think about those details around your house that will make it special, and thrill you every time you look and touch them. I mean things like door knobs and handles, kitchen cabinet and drawer pulls. Do you realize that the ceiling cornice mouldings and light switch plates are also in that category?

Aurel is currently working on a kitchen that has not been renovated in 30 (!) years. He is questioning all of the details that have been there, so that the renovation will more accurately reflect the client's taste today, as well as the current innovations in the world of kitchen design.

Since he has been designing several retirement residences in the past few years (a definite growth industry) – and he himself is a victim of arthritis – Aurel has, along with several of my friends, been encouraging the lever handle instead of the knob. The motion is easier to push downward, instead of turning.

The type of metal and the shape should relate to the style of the home...One doesn't usually have a baroque curvy Louis XV bronze handle within an angular, modern split-level home, when a steel techno-style lever will keep the rhythm of the line throughout the home consistent.

He is also working with a young couple who have bought a really surprising condo near the Atwater Market, but all of the door knobs are black plastic with a large square button to squeeze in order to open the door! Those were trendy over 20 years ago, but the couple was in diapers at the time, and see those knobs as out-dated and difficult to handle. Those steel techno-style levers will be just the right choice to make the condo look modern.

On another note, stair railings should feel comfortable under the palm – and suit the architecture of the space. I must men-

tion here that although most of you have heard of Baldwin for all the classical brass hardware, and Richelieu Hardware company for all sorts of special drawers and knobs, sometimes we look for a specialty company (that makes all of their knobs here in Quebec) to have something that will take these important details to another level altogether.

So, I must mention the lively couple who are casting their own knobs (and special door knockers) here in La Belle Province: Big Bang Boom Knobs. They moved from Montreal to Knowlton several years ago – and since email means that the world is flat (from an electronics viewpoint), they are happy here in the Townships, and are still able to ship their crazy and elegant knobs everywhere ...and still enjoy the lovely Eastern Townships air.

They are Daphne-Monique Beaudry and Marc-André J. Fortier. They use the ancient lost-wax process known as *cire perdue*, a process that is very time-consuming, but results in incredible detail. Remember, the theme of today is Details and Uniqueness, so you must visit their web site, [www.bbbknobs.com](http://www.bbbknobs.com) [www.maj-fortier.com](http://www.maj-fortier.com) to see their items, ranging from "bon-bons" knobs to enamels that will suit a fancy bathroom at the Port Royal with \$10,000 worth of Versache tiles. I promise to not reveal the details, only to say that once "Madam Port-Royal" had seen the special 24-carat plated drawer handles Aurel found for her bathroom console, she wanted them for her condo in Boca Raton! You simply must tell them that Greta sent you... I really must close now, as I slip into another Pisco...

Hugs, and kisses, your Greta.  
*Do keep me up to date with your questions and commentaire.*  
[www.colorsbyaurelien.com](http://www.colorsbyaurelien.com)

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## Breakfast pot

A Victoria Ave. commercial tenant on his way to work May 21 at 8:15 am disturbed two high-school age boys standing behind his building. They turned away from the newcomer as if to hide something.

The strong smell of marijuana solved the mystery of their behaviour, as did their quick return to their joint once the threat assessment came back as low.

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