# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 3 No. 6b

We are Westmount

June 9-10, 2009

The battle for the leadership of the Westmount Municipal Association has been won. See who is the next president, p. 8.

#### What's at stake?



A surveyor's stake marks the spot where a second rink, 185-ft. long, would end near de Maisonneuve if placed north-south where the pool is now. This is one scenario understood to be under consideration. A number of stakes were spotted during Family Day. See more arena news, p. 4-5.

# City invites farmer to share weekly harvests

By Laureen Sweeney

Westmounters will have an opportunity this summer to obtain organic produce fresh from a farm in the Eastern Townships. Baskets of vegetables and fruit are to be delivered weekly to the Westmount arena.

Ferme Mange-Tout has been delivering baskets for four years to NDG as part of a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) concept and agreed at the last moment to include Westmount as a sustainable development project.

For a fee of \$420, subscribers to the program will obtain a basket of the weekly harvest of vegetables and fruit over an 18-week period. A typical basket is described as sufficient for two people for a week. Requests can be made for larger or smaller portions.

 20/20 vision



From left, Caroline Jo and Ariel Charney, two of Canada's top 20 under 20.

Caroline Jo and Ariel Charney were chosen last week as two of the "Top 20 Under 20" in Canada by Youth in Motion,

a Toronto group that develops mentorship programs for young people. Jo is a Study alumna continued on p. 10

#### See our listings p. 11

Amy Assad Béatrice Baudinet Pam Davidson McLernon Marlene Fischel Rubin Martha Tsadilas Carly Fridman Wener



#### Council tables 2008 audited financial statement

# **Confirms \$3 million surplus**

By Laureen Sweeney

While the city spent some \$2 million more than its \$36 million budget in 2008, it also took in almost \$5 million more than anticipated, thanks to much larger than expected revenues from parking tickets, the welcome tax and profits from the electrical utility.

The audited financial statements for the year ending December 31 showed the city spent close to \$5 million to remove snow, almost double the typical amount. But it managed to shell out \$1 million less than expected in debt service resulting from falling interest rates.

As a result, the city and its council were given "a new and clean bill of health" by the auditors, said Councillor Tom Thompson in tabling the financial statement at the June I council meeting.

More than \$2.3 million continued on p. 8



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#### Trink goes east

Tracy Gartner, of Victoria Avenue's Trink Jewelry, and business partner Claudia Gravel have teamed up to form Hobochic Productions, which will put on a "Bar à Bonbons" open bar event at Le Candi (1148 Mount Royal Ave.) on Saturday and Sunday June 20 and 21 from 12 noon to 7 pm.

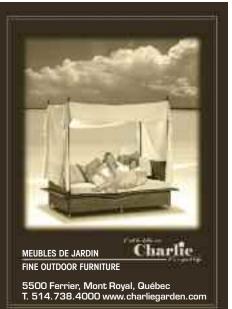
It will feature the work of more than 15 local jewelry and accessory designers, including Missy Industry, Rachel F, Red Sofa and Métal en Bouche.

Entrance is free, but the duo will welcome donations to Dans La Rue at the

#### Evidence?

This homemade pipe appeared behind a Victoria Ave. office building the week of May 25. Tenants surmise that it belongs to the high-school age marijuana or hash smokers who have been seen in the building's parking lot, which is roofed but otherwise open to the elements. It is not known whether the smokers came back to use it from time to time or had discarded





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#### Emergency access road off Glen Rd. also on tap

# MUHC to start decontamination of Westmount land next month

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Residents should not be too concerned when they spot upcoming activity on the Westmount portion of the MUHC superhospital site at Glen Yards, Mayor Karin Marks told the June I council meeting.

It's the decontamination of the eastern end of the site and the construction of an emergency egress road onto Glen Rd. – not preparation for building. The work is expected to start in July.

"People will be very nervous when they see the trucks coming and going," she said.

Marks reported that she had met recently with MUHC representatives who confirmed that neither of the consortia bidding on the public-private partnership project (PPP) was planning to build on the Westmount side of the site, at least "for the foreseeable future."

The road onto the site from Westmount is intended only for emergency evacuation. It would not be for regular use by ambulances or other emergency vehicles.

A consortium for building and operating the hospital is expected to be chosen by the end of the year with construction to

start early in 2010.

The decontamination will only be superficial – a few feet deep, said Westmount resident Maureen Kiely, who attended a public meeting on the issue June 2 at the MUHC building adjacent to the Vendôme station

Since no building is slated to take place on this Westmount portion, she said, the decontamination measures are considered sufficient to render the area environmentally acceptable and safe for people, animals, plants and construction of the road. "After removing the soil, they plan to bring in a top layer of new earth."

She also said the plan for the emergency road has been somewhat reconfigured to preserve more wooded area than originally planned.

Kiely, along with Stan Grossman and John Johnston of the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA), were among a handful of residents who attended the meeting, she said.

Kiely represents the WMA on the Inter-Cartier Coalition, a group of community organizations from Westmount, NDG and St. Henri concerned with the development of the Glen site.

# Getting ready: Vic Village fair



From left: Tawn Friedman (Le Fournil), Gerard Fellerath (Folkore 1), Ralph Benarrosh (Minelli), Annick Robinson (Victoria Park), Astri Prugger (Astri Prugger Design), Pierre Le Gourriérec (Avenue des Arts), Wayne Hemsworth (ArtRebel) and Sara Fellerath (Folklore 1).

The merchants of Victoria Village were hard at work on June 2 organizing their annual Westmount Street Festival. They were hard at work at Victoria Park health club and spa where they were planning the

event.

The event takes place on Victoria Ave. and the Claremont to Grosvenor section of Sherbrooke St. from Friday, June 12 to Sunday, June 14.

# Moffat honoured with Quebec Library Association award

By Laureen Sweeney

Westmount's library director Ann Moffat was recognized by the Quebec Library Association May 30 for outstanding library service and "exemplary leadership and dedication to the library community in Quebec." The Anne Galler Award was presented at the association's annual conference.

"It's a well deserved honour," said Mayor Karin Marks at the city council meeting June 1. "We're very proud of her and disappointed she's retiring." Moffat leaves at the end of this month after 25 years at the Westmount Public Library.

She told the *Independent* the award was "really not just for me, but because the library is so good. You have to have a place – the right environment – to create new ideas and best practices that can be shared. That's what I like to think I got (the award) for."

Interestingly, Moffat said, the introductory speech was given by the association's past president, Janine West, another Westmounter.

"She said all sorts of nice things, of course, but what was really funny was that she had asked some people to describe me in one word. That turned out to be 'unflappable.' So I've been thinking of this all day while I try to handle the pile of stuff that is always there when you come back from a holiday." Moffat had just returned from a trip overseas.



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#### All in the Public Security family



A group of Westmount public safety officers (PSO) including Director Richard Blondin, left, turned out cheer on Sgt. Kimberley Colquhoun, centre, as she received her BA degree Sunday from Concordia. The spring convocation took place at Place des Arts. "We're very proud of her," Blondin said. While most public safety officers have their professional certification, "it's very rare for them to have their degree." Above, PSO Jennifer Chabot presents her with flowers.

# Street maintenance changes

The city's afternoon times for street maintenance have been advanced to include the typical lunch hour. That means

a change in the no-parking regulations to all streets where afternoon cleaning applies. The new times are 12 noon to 2:30 pm (rather than 1 to 3 pm).

The change results from the new blue collar workers' contract regarding lunch hours, explained Councillor John de Castell at the June I city council meeting.

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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Owned and published by: Sherbrooke-Valois Inc., 310 Victoria Ave., #105, Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9 Fax: 514.935.9241 Fretz and Weldon submit their own arena proposal

# Scaled-down plan calls for indoor pool and split sites

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Responding to the city's request for citizen input on the arena/pool renewal project, two residents have combined forces to present their own scaled-down proposal, which they distributed during the city council meeting June 1.

While the submission by John Fretz of Lansdowne Ave. and Peter Weldon of Academy Rd. excludes underground parking and community centre rooms from the current site, it includes a second 185-foot rink running east-west and suggests creation of a second facility at another site.

The additional one – possibly at the former Giant Steps' facility on Hillside – would include an indoor pool, a gym and a teen centre along with a basketball court and skateboard ramp.

"It is imperative to address the needs of the community at large, as distinct from the demands of interest groups like the hockey lobbyists," Fretz and Weldon state in their proposal.

"Because of the vast expenditure, Westmount won't get another chance to address the big picture again for at least another decade or more. So it is imperative that we get it right, plan properly for the future and avoid a short-sighted solution to satisfy a vocal minority."

#### Second submission in a week

It was the second written proposal to the council in a week calling for an indoor pool and long-term planning as was also called for by the Community Life Committee of Westmount's Healthy City Project

Both come as city council considers revisions to the \$30-million preliminary plan presented at two public information sessions. *continued on p. 16* 



Letters to the Editor, p. 13

#### Update on arena/pool renewal project

## Council's job: Respect all of Westmount's constituencies

By Mayor Karin Marks



There are a variety of needs and a variety of expectations in the community surrounding the rebuilding of our pool/arena complex. This project, albeit the largest that Westmount has undertaken, cannot meet every-

one's needs or expectations, and certain compromises will have to be made.

We have had three public meetings whose purpose was to hear ideas before we began, and to inform residents and get their feedback once a preliminary design had been put forward. Now we are trying to integrate the feedback into our decisions as we move ahead. Before council can come forth with a proposal for the community's ultimate approval, we have had to come to some consensus on many of the issues ourselves. Council members, as a microcosm of the rest of the community, do not always agree. When we don't, we try to assess the available information and work through the issues, and if agreement is not clearly forthcoming, we take a vote and the desires of the majority become the position we adopt, as in any democracy. Without this, nothing could ever move forward. What are the elements that have been examined? Which issues have been resolved? What are the architects working on at the moment?

In April 2008, we had our first public meeting to discuss the facility that we were proposing to provide for the programs we run. That "building program" arose from needs originally outlined in 1999 when the renewal was first planned and which continue to be relevant. At that meeting, we explained that we intended to replace our 50-year-old facility, which is at the end of its life cycle. A new one would have some increased size and utility, and would

allow us to meet, and where possible, improve upon for the future, the program demands that were currently known. Two large rinks, a larger and more versatile outdoor pool, a multi-use room, a teen centre with flexible space and a community café were to be built.

This new arena has the potential to be an exciting and positive project. We had hoped by this past spring to have had both the funding and a plan that would have been vetted by the community. We were working towards a schedule that was somewhat dictated by potential government support programs and was timed to minimize disruption to our existing programs during the construction phase.

#### Unfortunate delays

A number of things have slowed down the process, although we are continuing to move ahead.

Unfortunately for us, the federal and provincial governments delayed the announcement of the projects that will receive the stimulus funds and the amounts which will be allocated. That response is an important piece of information that we want to know before we go to you, the residents, to assess your support. Both these funds and the historically low interest rates that would apply to any required borrowing make this potentially a very good time to plan this building.

We have made modifications to the initial project by adding underground parking to ensure that the facility would accommodate all of its users on site and not exacerbate the local and surrounding parking problems. This was an issue about which not all of council was in agreement, but a majority of council supported it and so it was included.

The preliminary design had some unresolved issues identified by council and other problems identified in the public meetings. As a result of this valuable input, the architects are currently looking at the relocation of the pool to the east side of the rinks with a larger deck space and a refined pool design. The possible extension of the 185-foot rink to a 200-foot one has been examined and after a lively debate and another vote, it was agreed by a majority of council that we would stick with the two sizes as proposed, since they will provide for our programs and will not increase an already large building footprint.

#### Indoor pool?

The question of including an indoor pool was discussed and council was unanimous that this was a separate project that should be looked at after this one is completed. It may well be something we could examine in partnership with the YMCA or with a private interest in a different location. First of all, our current facility proposal is based on many years of experience and a real understanding by our recreation department of its usage and shortcomings, and therefore the needs for a rebuilt facility. An indoor pool, as an untested entity, would require much more study and analysis in terms of potential use, and the costs of both construction and ongoing operations. The site is already one that is tight and adding more to it in that location is not an option that would respect many of the other constituencies and residents who live in proximity. It would add more concentration of activity all year round to an area that already has a significant amount.

Speaking of constituencies, let me share with you the various elements and concerns that are part of our analysis and thinking.

The site, although our best one within the community, is a restricted one both in terms of its size and proximity to homes, and also in terms of it being bounded on the north and south by streets that cannot be entirely closed and on the other two sides by park land that already has vocations supported by many residents— i.e. the dog run and the refurbished soccer fields.

#### Common spaces must answer to many groups

The uses of our common spaces, be they green or cultural and recreational facilities are shared by residents who have different needs, interests and concerns. It is council's job to try to respect all of these constituencies – finding a balance among them - while not sacrificing too much from one for the sake of the other. For example, some say – "Build on the dog run" while others are adamant that that space should not be touched at all. Some say, "We must have two 200-foot rinks," while others insist there is no need to increase the current one and a half surfaces that have been there for 50 years. Some say the swimming pool is not getting nearly enough added space and value while the hockey players are being accommodated in every way. And still others demand that we add an indoor swimming pool and not worry about the additional cost versus those who are apprehensive about the financial burden that the current undertaking could put on our city.

There is concern about the trees that might have to be cut to build a new facility and, of course, there is a desire to assure that the building will be as green as possible – no matter the cost, assuring a very limited carbon footprint.

It is council's role to reflect on the many ideas and suggestions and to work with the administration and the architects. We will make some decisions and come back to you, the residents, with a revised project. You will then have an opportunity, once again, to have input so that, with community support, decisions can be made and we can all move forward.



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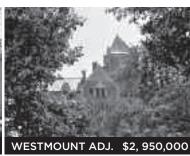




















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No1

# No question is moot at The Study





From left: lawyers Vincenza La Greca and Maryse Bertrand, bioethicist Dr. Eugene Bereza with Study Mooters Annie Saleh, Amanda Ip and Ashley Whalen.

Law schools watch out: The Study is getting into the moot court business.

The school held a moot court for 13 students in its grade 11 law class the week of

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May 18. The topic was assisted suicide.

The bench included lawyers Maryse Bertrand and Vincenza La Greca and family physician and bioethicist Eugene Bereza. All three judges have daughters at The Study.

"Both teams made excellent presentations," said Bertrand. "They both used great strategies. Their arguments were original and built on one another."

"I am very impressed," said La Greca. "Their legal debating skills are fantastic!"

#### Grossman acclaimed WMA president

Stan Grossman was named president of the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) June 4 after Charles Bierbrier, the candidate proposed by the nominating committee, withdrew from the contest.

Grossman had been nominated from the floor during an acrimonious session of the WMA's annual meeting May 25. "From now on, all board meetings of the WMA board will be open to the public," he told the *Independent*. "I stand for openness and transparency." (See a profile of Grossman in the September 9 issue of the *Independent*, p. 15.)

#### Rotary seeks candidates for India

The Rotary Club of Westmount is looking for businesspeople between the ages of 25 and 40 to send on a study exchange in February 2010 to Pune, India, a city located southeast of Bombay (Mumbai).

Four members will be selected from the Westmount club's district, which is composed of western Quebec, eastern Ontario, northern New York state and Nunavut. Anna Rochon, a member of the Kemptville Rotary Club in Ontario, has been selected as team leader.

The corresponding team from India will visit here in September 2009 during their four-week visit.

The program is funded by the international Rotary Foundation. The goal is for team members to experience the host country's way of life, observe their own vocations as practised abroad, develop relationships and exchange ideas.

Interested parties should contact Westmount Rotary at info@rotarywestmount.org.

# '09 budget forecast also revealed

continued from p. 1

of the \$3 million surplus was immediately allocated to eight anticipated expenses that included litigious items, costs related to the cancelled Foster Wheeler incinerator project, debt management, pay-as-you-go and the coming municipal elections.

Almost a quarter of the city's expenses last year went to items designated as "uncontrollable." These included payment of \$1 million to the regional Montreal Metropolitan Council, \$3.4 million in debt service, and \$1.3 in capital pay-as-you-go funding of major projects from the operating budget.

Almost 61 percent (\$25 million) of the total revenue collected (\$41 million) came from general property taxes. Another 10 percent came from the welcome tax.

Other amounts included \$3 million in Hydro Westmount profits and \$2 million in court fines (largely parking tickets). Another \$2 million in transfer payments from the island-wide Agglomeration included \$1 million for recycling credits.

#### 2009 forecast

Forecasts for 2009, show the city expects to end the year with a surplus of \$2 million, generated by larger-than-budgeted amounts in general property taxes. This year, Westmount is collecting the agglomeration tax portion (a total of \$40.6 million) as well as the local tax.

Therefore on this year's resulting gross budget of \$80 million, just a little over half will go for island-wide services such as police, fire and transit.



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#### Bierbrier doubles his product line

Westmount brewer Charles Bierbrier has just launched his second beer, a lager called Bierbrier Pilsner.

His first beer – Bierbrier Premium Ale

- goes back to the founding of Bierbrier Brewing in October 2005. It is available locally at Five Seasons, Bistro on the Avenue and the Claremont.

Bierbrier explained that lagers tend to be lighter in colour and more bitter, including many of the world's bestknown beers. Heineken.

Why the new product? Restaurants asked for it, especially to meet the tastes of thirsty summer crowds. At the moment, the new brew is available at three locations: on tap at Liverpool House and Joe Beef, and in bottles at Garde Manger.

Bierbrier was the Independent's first profile (May 16, 2007, p. 11). He

was recently a candidate for the Westmount Municipal Association presidency, but has decided not to run.



Charles Bierbrier poses with his new Bierbrier Pilsner.

# Jo and Charney in top 20

continued from p. 1

and current Marianopolis student; Charney went to St. George's and currently attends Dawson. One of Jo's main accomplishments is her work as a Climate Change Champion, including trips to England and Japan to develop and present young people's views on the subject. She is also a successful debater, violinist in the Westmount Youth Orchestra and Tae Kwon Do practitioner.

Charney has conducted stem cell research at the McGill Genome Center and contributed to research at the Weizmann Institute in Israel. She was also the first international president of The Friendship Circle, which pairs teenagers with special needs children, and helped found the first Friendship Circle Life Village in Canada.

Coincidentally, Charney and Jo are close friends and have known each other since elementary at St. George's. They were best friends in grades 5 and 6.

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**Grosvenor:** Charming 4 bedroom with studio apt in basement,garden + parking. Asking \$797,000



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#### Marina Cutler to host TV show

Event planner and Avenue Art gallery owner Marina Cutler is hosting a behind-the-scenes TV documentary series. It is so new that it has yet to be named. Cutler will cover a variety of fundraising and commercial events, especially ones "with an art component." Negotiations are underway to air the show on major US and Canadian networks.

Several events have already been taped, including Cutler's own Champagne Memories Gala in Ottawa on May 2, which was held to benefit the Alzheimer Society of Canada. Featured at the event was a

Event planner and Avenue Art former Westmounter, 17-year-old llery owner Marina Cutler is sting a behind-the-scenes TV cumentary series. It is so new at it has yet to be named. Cutler ll cover a variety of fundraising former Westmounter, 17-year-old Miranda Di Perno, who will be returning to Montreal this fall to study music at Concordia. Montreal jazz singer Lorraine Klaasen also performed.

An all-Klaasen event on May 29 provided another opportunity for Cutler. The "Montreal Jazz Queen" sang with her mother, South African singer Thandie Klaasen at Kola Note on Park Ave. – and Cutler's team filmed the event. Lorraine Klaasen's music label is Westmounter Jim West's Justin Time Records.

Another event was the filming

of Montreal artist Ivy Howard, whom Avenue Art represents, at her first vernissage. According to Avenue Art, Howard's "career has been moving forward by leaps and bounds" and, in addition to other sales, three of her paintings were recently chosen to be part of the Alexia and Anthony Calvillo Cedars Family Room at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

By coincidence, another local connection is that Howard works at Decarel on St. Catherine – in Westmount



From left: Bob Gainey, honorary chairman of the Champagne Memories Gala, Marina Cutler and CBC's George Stroumboulopoulos.



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#### **Letters to the Editor**

#### CRIMINAL CODE SHOULD MIND THE MIND

I am writing to make citizens aware of, and create an opportunity for them to give their input and support for amending a rather shocking part of the Criminal Code that does not give protection to healthy individuals from their death being caused by influence on the mind.

Presently, the Criminal Code, section 228, reads:

"No person commits culpable homicide where he causes the death of a human being (a) by any influence on the mind alone, or (b) by any disorder or disease resulting from influence on the mind alone, but this section does not apply where a person causes the death of a child or sick person by willfully frightening him."

Unfortunately, there is no mention in this section of any protection for healthy adults whose death might be so caused. The code recognizes the possibility that the minds of children and sick persons can be mortally influenced by fear, but lacks recognition of healthy adults who may harbour a similar predisposition.

Although there is debate about the relationship between mind and body, there is also evidence proving psychological and neuro-psychiatric interventions work, and can produce changes in biology – regardless of the individual's age or health.

For these reasons, the Criminal Code should be amended to read:

"Any person commits culpable homicide where he causes the death of a human being (a) by any influence on the mind alone, or (b) by any disorder or disease resulting from influence on the mind alone, by willfully frightening him."

DAN SWEENEY, DIRECTOR, LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA RIDING ASSOCIATION (WESTMOUNT-VILLE MARIE)

#### A FINAL BIRTHDAY WISH

Congratulations on your second anniversary. The paper is excellent and gets better and better all the time.

We wish you continued success.

KATHRYN OSBORNE DESIGN, GREENE AVE.

#### **DOWN WITH COMPLAINTS**

I would like to comment on the letters from Ms. Bowes ("Westmount has seen better days") and Ms. Young ("Who's a complainer?") in the June 2 edition of the *Independent*, which were written in response to Anoosh Loertscher's letter ("Westmount's problem is problems") in the previous issue (May 26).

The impression I have when reading these letters is that the writers only prove Mr. Loertscher's point that Westmount residents complain too much! Ms. Bowes comments on cyclists, skateboarders and scooters that take up too much room on the footpaths. She finds the park unsafe and sees litter everywhere, although in my daily walks through the park, I have yet to see all the trash she mentions.

Ms. Young is bothered by the people who support improved facilities (many of whom are young people who play hockey and use the swimming pool facilities) and calls them complainers because they aren't happy with the status quo.

Rollerbladers, skateboarders, cyclists and scooters along with an active, busy arena and pool area are signs that we live in a dynamic, growing community that welcomes young families and children of all ages. It shows that we are committed to accommodating their needs for activities and sports – and that we care about their health and well-being. Investing in the youth of this community is what will help sustain it in the long term. Complaining about the inconvenience caused by their activities will do just the opposite.

The writers may not have realized that Mr. Loertscher is himself a young person. He is just the type of resident that we should encourage to stay in Westmount and take an active part in city life. However, with all the complaining, it seems likely that by the time any new facilities are

built, Mr. Loertscher and other residents of his age will be old people who will have long ago given up on Westmount.

Lois Carson, Kitchener Ave.

#### SMALLER IS HEALTHIER

Re: "Healthy City Dives into arena/pool review" June 2, p. 1

The Healthy City Project supports and endorses many outstanding programs including, the city's Green Strategy, waste management, eco-footprint, environmental sustainability, tree planting and so on.

Their recent proposal for year-round swimming is also a great idea, but we suggest a different location. We have heard frequently that the current arena location is much too small to handle the proposed two full-sized rinks. In fact, the architects initially proposed a smaller second rink because of space limitations.

The Healthy City's suggestion that we also add a year-round pool facility seems to ignore the reality of our geography and our finances. On the other hand, if the second rink were *replaced* by an indoor pool, that could be an option to consider.

A truly healthy city has lots of parks and trees, and limits traffic. The proposal to replace open green space with bricks and mortar, to reduce park size, to eliminate a tennis facility, to probably chop down some nice old trees, and to encourage more year-round traffic and pollution, does not sound very "healthy" at all.

GARY IKEMAN, ST. CATHERINE ST.

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# Family Day snaphots

By Isaac Olson

Westmount held its annual Family Day at Westmount Park on May 30. Less-than-perfect weather did not deter kids and parents from enjoying the day.



From left: Amanda Shannon, Lucy Sofin, Abby Sofin, Emily Sofin, Kim Shannon, Sophie Higgins, Heidi Higgins, Peter Higgins, Megan Higgins and Clare Aitken.



Salomé Brajot, 15 months, laughs at the goats as Marguerite Dumas, 13 months,



Kids of all ages tested their mountaineering skills scaling the Scouts' climbing wall.

SEOUT

Sultana Founev, 10, Frederick Martel-Plante, 11.



Five-year old twins Sabrine Chamlian and Alec Chamlian.

Ximena Riveros, 8.



Jermey Akerman, 3, patiently waits his turn as Daisy Beggs, 4, prepares to go down the slide.

# **Batshaw Foundation raises** money for scholarships

The Batshaw Foundation held its "Youth Moving Forward" fundraising event at Parisian Laundry on St. Antoine St. June 3 in support of post-secondary scholarship programs administered by the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres. A large crowd showed up to support the Westmount-based children's services group.

PHOTOS BY ROBERT J. GALBRAITH



From left: Scott Pritchard, Andrew Clark, Sophie Palmer and Kelly Patrick.



Margaret Douek (left), executive director of Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, and Erin O'Brien, president of Batshaw Foundation.



Kathryn Osborne and Carla de Livry.



From left, Mark Lalonde, Valerie Schwartz, Christine Harkness and Pierre Lapointe.

Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

# Terrasse Mt. Stephen open for summer

By Veronica Redgrave



Westmounter Jack Sofer, owner and president of Tidan Group, welcomed guests to an elegant cocktail celebrating the official opening of the Terrasse Mount Stephen. The Tidan Group purchased the Mount Stephen Club a few years ago.

In the shade of the historic mansion, once the home of George Stephen, Lord Mount Stephen, the terrasse is opened an-



Paul Ortenberg (centre) with Hans Koechling and a guest.

nually with the warmer weather. "This is the jewel in our real estate portfolio. We are restoring the building to its former glory, and welcome one and all to enjoy this magnificent property," said Silvio Sicoli, executive director of the Mount Stephen Club.



Dagmar and Ronald Guttmann.



From left: Silvio Sicoli, Phil Guertin and Jack

The launch had more than executive chef Frank Barbusci's delicacies: it premiered the spring/summer collection of Not Your Daughter's Jeans (NYDJ), presented by the president of John Warren Imports, Jon Wasserman, also a Westmounter. NYDJ jeans were modelled by Westmount model Rosemary MacMahon as well as Diane Robert and Natalie Legacé. Other Westmounters included Dagmar and Ronald Guttmann and Paul Ortenberg.

Media celebs noted were Francine Grimaldi, Radio-Canada, Aaron Rand, The Q and the Gazette's Fashion Editor, Eva Friede. Guests included Sarah and Raouf Greiche, city councillor Karim Boulos; Peter Morentzos, president TMG and Réjean Le Bel, president of the Mount Stephen Club, with his wife Karen.



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"The path of a pandemic: how one virus spread from pigs and birds to humans around the globe. And why microbes like the H<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub> flu have become a growing threat" by Laurie Garrett in Newsweek, May II-I8, 2009, p. 22.

"Special Section: 2009 International Summer Festival Guide" in Downbeat: jazz, blues & beyond, May 2009, p. 93.

"L'effect domino: Malcolm Gladwell, Thomas L. Friedman et Don Tapscott vendent des millions de livres. Pourquoi leurs idées sont-elles si populaires?" by Diane Bérard in Commerce, April 2009, p.

#### **DVDs**

Walkabout - Nicolas Roeg's mystical masterpiece chronicles the physical, spiritual and emotional journey of a sister and a brother abandoned in the harsh Australian outback.

Amal – This modern day fable follows an auto-rickshaw driver in New Delhi who is content with his small but vital role in life until he encounters an eccentric millionaire who, disguised as a vagabond, is searching the streets for someone he can leave his fortune to.

#### ...Worth a thousand words

Why Photography Matters as Art as Never Before by Michael Fried – This professor of art contends that photography is at the cutting edge of contemporary art as never before seen.

How to Read a Photograph: Lessons from Master Photographers by Ian Jeffery – Using biographical and historical background of great photographers, Jeffery leads the reader to the appreciation of pho-

tography as an art form and highlights particular examples of styles and movements throughout its history.

#### Picture books

Owney the Mail-Pouch Pooch by Mona Kerby – This is the fascinating true story of Owney, a stray dog who finds a home in an Albany, New York post office in 1888 and becomes its official mascot travelling across the United States by train and eventually around the world by ship. (Owney even makes his way to Montreal!)

Chester le retour! by Mélanie Watt - The loveable Chester is back. Armed with his red marker, Chester is full of hilarious stories as he tries to outshine the "real" author - Mélanie Watt!

#### Writers and collectors

Des bibliothèques pleines de fantômes by Jacques Bonnet - What do you do when you have too many books? In this amusing incursion into the world of bibliomania, the author shares his insights about organizing a book collection and presents stories from the lives of several biblio-

Montréal, à l'encre de tes lieux by Florence Meney - Complemented by photographs, this book is a collection of interviews with authors who describe their favourite places in Montreal and explain how the city has influenced their work. Quebec writers, including Claude Jasmin and Michel Tremblay, are featured, as are writers from France, such as Jean d'Ormesson and Marc Lévy.

#### Reference

Dogs in Canada Annual 2009 - All about puppies.

# Arena entry on Lansdowne?

#### continued from p. 4

The Fretz and Weldon proposal states the new facility's imprint should match the current arena space at its present location as closely as possible. Their plan creates a number of new angled on-street

parking spaces on Lansdowne and Academy Rd. It positions the second rink eastwest at the north end of the current 200-foot rink and maintains the outdoor pool in its existing position and configuration. The drop-off is on Lansdowne.



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#### From radio host to community servant

# McKenty pitches in

By Isaac Olson

"The lines are blazing," was once Neil McKenty's signature saying when he hosted Montreal's top-rated, phone-in radio show, but now, at age 84, the retired Westmounter is working to drum up support for a rapidly growing youth empowerment program aimed at giving young black anglophones a helping hand.

DESTA Black Youth Network is a Little Burgundy-based outreach initiative that provides education, employment services and social advocacy for young adults in the black community. DESTA's name, which stands for "dare every soul to achieve," is derived from the Amharic word for happiness.

"One of the things that I like about DESTA is it doesn't just treat the symptoms," said McKenty, the program's director of communications. "DESTA deals with the causes, and I think it's an interesting distinction. In that sense, it's a fundamental foundational program."

In 2007, the Padua centre, working with other community-oriented organizations, received a seed grant from Human Resources Canada and launched a sixmonth employment-focused pilot program that attracted 12 participants. Padua, hosted by St. Anthony of Padua parish in Little Burgundy, is an urban spirituality centre that welcomes people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds. McKenty is on the centre's board of mentors.

When the successful pilot program came to a close, organizers saw a strong need to give multilateral assistance to disadvantaged black youth. Thus, DESTA was born

Now, nearly two years old and housed at the Padua centre, the program has 35 participants, a school and a willing troop of volunteers. Gaining in popularity as word spreads about the youth-led nonprofit, DESTA development officer Berkley Cineus Jr. said he sees a bright future for the program as organizers work to provide the tools some underprivileged black youth need to pursue more productive lives.

Now all they need is funding. This is where McKenty steps in.

Using his media know-how, seasoned experience and vast network of connections, McKenty, involved with DESTA for about a year, has been working to boost funding and raise public awareness of the program.

St. Anthony of Padua sponsors DESTA, monetarily sustaining the program's ad-

ministrative costs and supplying a base of operations. DESTA's programs, however, are financially backed by fundraising. With DESTA's popularity soaring, Cineus said there is a strong need to expand resources.

"Between the school, employment services and community outreach, we've become a one-stop shop," he said. "We've opened the floodgates. The participants don't stop coming. This is why we are trying to get more funding. Neil has been



Retired broadcaster, Neil McKenty, on May 27 in his home on Somerville Ave.

supporting us with the fundraising and, because he has done a lot of community work, he has great insight."

Born in Ontario, McKenty, who holds a master's degree in communications from the University of Michigan, spent 15 years as a teacher and Jesuit priest before becoming executive director of Special Olympics Canada.

He moved to Montreal in 1972, got into radio and eventually hosted a phone-in program that, by 1985, had about 75,000 regular listeners. From there, he went on to write books, host a television show and volunteer in the community. McKenty now runs a popular blog and is a columnist for *The Senior Times*.

"I certainly think DESTA is necessary because black youth, between the ages of 18 and 25 particularly, need a hand up," McKenty said. "There's a lot of poverty. There's a lot of unemployment. There's no question that DESTA has found a niche where it can make a difference, and that's part of the excitement."

## Comin' Up...

THURSDAY, JUNE II

• St. Margaret Day Centre's (50 Hillside Ave.) rummage sale, 10:30 am to 3 pm. The money raised will benefit the centre's day programs. Info: Elizabeth Mourelatos 514.932.3630, ext. 3047.

• Ruth Shine, who has owned Westmount Bead Emporium, presents "The Beauty of African Beads" illustrated by slides and beads from her collection. At The Eleanor London Côte St. Public Library, 7 pm. Tickets: \$2.

• Claire Holden Rothman reads from and discusses her new novel *The Heart Specialist*. 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library.

#### Friday, June 12

- Last day to register for **Centre Greene's summer day camp** counselor-in-training program for 15 to 17 year olds. The centre continues to accept applications for summer camp participants (ages 5 to 14). Info: www.centregreene.org or 514.931.6202.
- The Westmount Village street festival runs June 12, 13, and 14 on Sherbrooke St. (between Grosvenor and Claremont) and Victoria Ave., rain or shine. From 10 am to 6 pm on Friday; 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday; and 12 to 5 pm on Sunday.
- The Ballad of the Sad Café, performed by

Dramatis Personae, opens at Westmount Park Church Hall (4695 de Maisonneuve) at 8 pm. It also runs June 13 at 2 pm and 8 pm; June 14 at 2 pm and 8 pm. Free, donations welcomed. Info: 514.486.7423 or 514.484.2016.

Saturday, June 13 Arlington Avenue holds its annual **street** sale between 9 am and 2 pm.

#### Sunday, June 14

"Medieval Sacred Chant for a Financial Crisis," a concert of **Gregorian chant** and medieval polyphony by Les Scholastiques Neumatiques under director Pascale Duhamel at St. Matthias Church, 6:15 pm. Tickets at door: \$15 (adult); \$10 (reduced).

#### Monday, June 15

The second part of the public hearing on the Turcot Exchange Reconstruction Project begins on June 15 in the gymnasium of the Centre récréatif, culturel et sportif de St. Zotique (75 Sir Georges Étienne Cartier Sq.) On Tuesday, June 16, the city of Westmount will present an information brief from 1 to 3 pm at the same location.

Wednesday, June 17

• Special **city council meeting** at 12 noon in the council chambers of city hall.

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# **Citizenship Evening**

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#### Wolfe: 'Share the bounty, share the risks'

continued from p. 1

Joshua Wolfe, the city's sustainable development coordinator. "When it rains, you'll feel good because you'll know it will help the growing season. You share the bounty and you share the risks."

Wolfe facilitated the arrangement that grew from a meeting of the Healthy City Project's Environment Committee.

One of the reasons the project is considered sustainable, he said, is that it supports a local farmer. "You can visit the farm."

Mange-Tout is located near Lennoxville and is certified organic by a governmentrecognized group called Québec-Vrai. The farmer, David Merson, has been operating the CSA program for several years.

CSA is a way of supporting small-scale farmers. It's a concept where farmers con-

who pay them in advance to provide needed cash for equipment and other purchases, Wolfe explained.

tract to share their harvest with people

The arena was chosen as the drop-off point for Westmount because it can be staffed by the Teen Centre with pay for a local teen - \$20 from every \$420 fee. While typically the farmer staffs the dropoff in person to interact with customers, Merson would not have been able to take on the Westmount commitment under these terms, Wolfe said. "So we came up with the idea of helping a teen."

Merson told the *Independent* that any of his Westmount customers who would like to meet with him can do so Tuesdays, 4 to 6 pm at the Co-Op Maison Verte (5785 Sherbrooke St. W.)

Deliveries will take place on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 pm in front of the arena entrance. Reservations should be made by June 15 using the form at www.fermemangetout.ca.

The Mange-Tout community farm is described on its website as "a partnership between a group of conscientious consumers and the people who grow their produce. Its mission is to grow a large diversity of organic fruits, vegetables and fine herbs using sustainable methods that minimize harm to the environment, reduce dependence on fossil fuels and provide a reasonable living to farmers while helping people of all income levels to improve their access to fresh, healthy food."

Other CSAs have been serving neighbouring communities for some years. For more CSAs, visit www.equiterre.org.



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Wine: What's In Store...

# Summer wedding whirlwind

By Carola Price



I have just come back from the first wedding weekend of the season, and, let me tell you, it was a good one. As weddings go, you must have all the essentials to make it memorable. The party begins with a decent

mix of good food and wine, great dancing and above all else, amazing friends and family to make all that planning worth it.

#### Plan ahead

A well-chosen food and bar menu is essential in the planning. Start with the quantity calculation. Most guests will consume one to two drinks an hour, slightly higher if all guests have a hotel room on the premises, and many establishments tend to pour about five glasses of wine and six glasses of bubbly from each bottle.

#### Match-making

The meal should never overpower the wine and vice versa. While it is "your day," you should realize that not everyone likes a burly Australian Shiraz with chicken and the higher the alcohol content in the wine, the worse Aunt Millie gets on the dance floor.

Choose a white that is light- to medium-bodied and not heavily oaked, like a Pinot Grigio from Argentina or unoaked Chardonnay from Niagara. The red should have an alcohol content hovering around 13 percent. Choose Loire or Bordeaux, Pacific Northwest Meritage or Pinot Noir and lighter Zinfandels from California. Chilean Cabernet blends are equally delicious and match all kinds of meat and some fish.

Bubbly always depends on budget.

There are amazingly fresh and delicious sparkling wines that don't have to come from the Champagne region. Try a Cava from Spain or one of French houses who have set up shop in California.

And one more thing on the beverage checklist: some people just don't like wine (sad but true) so make sure to have a selection of beer, vodka, gin, rum and scotch at the bar as well as a non-alcoholic punch for those who like to celebrate without the hangover. Let's taste.

#### Hungaria Grand Cuvee Brut, Hungary. SAQ#00106492. \$12.10

A wonderful bubbly from Hungary! It has wonderful texture and tiny bubbles and matches well with cheese, fish, creamy desserts and light poultry.

Available at press time: Pepsi Forum, Victoria, across from Atwater Market, Westmount Square.

#### Chardonnay/Chenin Blanc, Arniston Bay, South Africa. SAQ#10669453. \$12.90

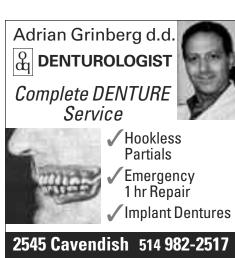
It has a light to medium body and is fruity yet dry and crisp. This will match any fish dish and some BBQ chicken or ribs (dry or citrus rub). Choose a goat or sheep's milk cheese and grilled vegetables with a nutty olive oil.

Available at press time: Westmount Square, Forum, Victoria.

#### Domaine Laurent Mabileau, Bourgueil, France. SAQ#00557504. \$15.85

This is a light- to medium-bodied red that can match with any meat, whether it is grilled, roasted or braised. I love pairing this with heavier fish dishes and the cheeses from around the area like Le Grande Chouffe, Peau Rouge or Miranda.

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





#### Simple summer recipe: Barley salad with fresh vegetables

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Summer offers plenty of reasons to fire up the grill and eat on the patio. Season or marinate some fish, chicken or meat. Throw together some salads early in the day, and dinner is ready as soon as you've taken the main course off the grill.

Try this easy barley salad, followed by fresh fruit or ice cream for dessert and enjoy!

Serves 6.

I cup pearl barley I quart chicken broth

2 cups water

1/2 cup chopped scallions (don't add until

1/2 cup each diced red, green and yellow

1/2 cup diced celery

I cup diced tomatoes 1/2 cup chopped parsley I cup herb vinaigrette

Simmer barley in chicken broth and water until done, about 40 minutes. Drain

Add scallions, peppers, celery, tomatoes and parsley.

Chill until ready to serve.

To prepare the herb vinaigrette, mix: I cup olive oil

1/4 cup white wine vinegar 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley 2 teaspoons chopped fresh cilantro I teaspoon Dijon mustard salt and pepper to taste

Mix ingredients in a blender until smooth.

Stir in the vinaigrette.

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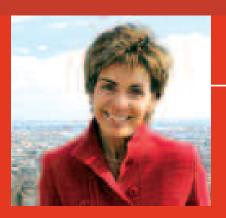
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