

## City election plans halt weddings, paper ballots return

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Behind-the-scene preparations for Westmount's November 1 municipal elections swung into high gear last week at city hall, where detailed planning includes a return to the traditional paper ballots and even a halt to weddings.

With only three weeks left before the start of the official election period September 18, potential candidates will only have two weeks thereafter for filing nomination papers.

"It's only after the close of nominations on October 2 that we will know how many seats will be contested by election," said city clerk Mario Gerbeau.

The uncertainty has stopped the solemnization of all future marriages by eli-

gible city council members until after the new council is installed and those elected decide whether or not they wish to participate, he said. Ten ceremonies were held in the last year. The first one was in September 2008.

One important change in the election process this year is the Quebec-mandated return to paper ballots to prevent snags encountered with electronic voting machines. These were used by Westmount in 2001 and 2005 and in the demerger referendum of 2004. This change will likely increase the need for additional election staff, Gerbeau said.

While the city will be using the official Quebec electoral list as required, Gerbeau is sending out letters this week to all Westmount non-resident property owners explaining how they can be entered on the voters' list for the municipal election.

## Elfie retires after 40 years in Westmount



Elfie Schleich on her last day, August 15, at Salon Olivier on Greene Ave.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

She said her farewells last Saturday to tearful clients who lined up to get that final clip or curl.

After 40 years of styling hair in Westmount – almost 33 of them at Salon Olivier on Greene Ave. – the woman known simply as "Elfie" retired and headed home to Ottawa. This is where she has lived for the last six years while commuting to work Thursday and returning Saturday.

"I don't know what we'll do without her," said Nan Carlin, one of the many who have been coiffed by Elfie for more than 30 years.

"I'm sure everyone feels that way," said Dusty Vineberg Solomon. "She's such a lady."

Elfie Schleich leaves more than 120 regular customers in order to care for her husband, who is unwell. "What I will miss most is the life experience of individual people," she told the *Independent* at the height of a very busy Saturday at Salon Olivier.

From age 10, Elfie wanted to be a hairdresser. "God

 Registration for Sports & Rec. activities, see **Westmount Page** p. 7

**Tiger has been found!** p. 12

## July brings surge in thefts from cars

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The 35 reported cases of theft from cars in Westmount during July formed a three-month high, according to statistics released last week by local police station 12.

The number is double those in May and 35 percent more than last month. This is a crime that police say can largely be reduced by motorists leaving nothing visible inside and always locking doors.

July figures also show incidents of break-and-enter on the rise, with nine reported cases in July compared with three in June. This number, however, still rep-

resents a significant decrease of the 30 per month that have historically taken place in Westmount.

Graffiti continues to be a mutual concern of police and city officials, resulting in 11 reports last month.

| July 2009 – Westmount         |     |      |      |
|-------------------------------|-----|------|------|
| Type of criminal infraction   | May | June | July |
| Break-and-enter               | 6   | 3    | 9    |
| Robbery (theft with violence) | 5   | 4    | 3    |
| Theft from vehicles           | 17  | 26   | 35   |
| Theft of vehicles             | 3   | 5    | 2    |
| Sexual assault                | 9   | 0    | 0    |
| Graffiti                      | 13  | 17   | 11   |

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# Mayor impersonated online

Mayor Karin Marks won't run in the November municipal election - despite a posting from an online imposter saying she was reconsidering.

The short comment was posted on the *Examiner's* website from a "westmount.ca" email address in reply to its August 6 article on her decision not to run again. Westmount.ca appears to be run by Westmount Marketing Ltd., but it is not known

whether the poster was affiliated with that company or was able to invent the email address without having any link to it.

The posting was immediately taken down by the *Examiner*.

"It concerns me," Marks told the *Independent*, "because when somebody uses a name and purports to be you, you have no idea ... [about] the response."

She continued, "I don't think it is wonderful that there is a westmount.ca out there that someone else can use because it enables people to purport to be someone they are not. I will stand for my own statements and stand behind them, ... but I don't want to have to stand in front or behind those of an imposter."

## Scouting registration

Scouting registration will be held on Thursday, August 27 from 6 to 8 pm at Westmount Park Church. See [www.scouts.westmount.ca](http://www.scouts.westmount.ca) or phone 514.937.5527.

# Elfie: just be yourself

*continued from p. 1*

knows why!" She used to do the hair of all her friends - "anyone who would sit still." Unassuming, she refers to herself as a hairdresser, adding "hair stylist - if you want to be a snob!"

Elfie came to Canada from her native Austria in 1967. "It was the dream city," she said, recalling that Expo year. She worked for eight years at Maxime and Patrick before moving to Salon Olivier.

While she has worked through many different trends, including the big bouffants, she said "the natural look today is much nicer." But she laments the absence of the glamorous chignon.

Whatever the trend, she advises women

to adopt the look they feel comfortable with.

While Elfie has been often been called on to coiffe visiting VIPs including Jordan's Queen Noor, "name dropping doesn't mean anything to me," she said. "My number one interest is to please the client." And comfort level with Elfie's work is what has characterized her and engendered so much trust from her customers.

While she will now devote herself to her family, and her love of gardening and dancing, she said she will miss her clients and hopes they will "keep me in their memory the way I was." To all women, she says: "Take care of yourselves and always be well groomed. Looks are individual. Just be comfortable and be yourself."

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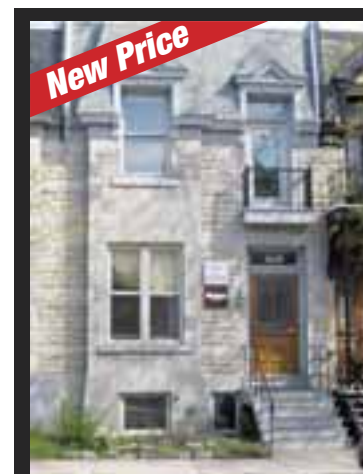
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## Cllr. Lulham: Parks master plan coming soon

A new master plan for Westmount parks will be unveiled by city council in September, Councillor Cynthia Lulham said last week.

Speaking at the Rotary Club of Westmount's August 19 lunch, Lulham, who is

the city's Urban Planning commissioner, said the report by Marc Fauteux & Associés, would be tabled in French with an English executive summary.

The news came at the end of a talk covering the history of Westmount's parks, trivia, and the future and past effects of urban-planning trends.

### History

The history of Westmount Park, to take one example, is quite complex and chronicles many changes to the park and its vocation.

Town planners assembled more than one parcel of land to form it and then carved off some portions for non-park projects (e.g. the armoury of the Royal Montreal Regiment and what is currently Westmount Park School).

A ravine leading from the park's centre to the Glen (Lansdowne and St. Catherine) was filled in to make the level surface residents see today. One effect of that decision: the current arena sits on landfill, making future building on its site tricky.

Features of Westmount Park have also changed with the times. The original a Victorian strolling park gave way to a more recreational approach, just as ponds for children's sailboats were replaced by wa-



Councillor Cynthia Lulham presents at The Rotary Club of Westmount.

## Infected leaves falling early, need special destruction

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Leaves are falling early this year, infested by fungi and insects, city officials said this week. Few species are spared, and infected leaves require special destruction.

"It was bad last year, but it's even worse this year," said city horticulturist Claudette Savaria. "A rainy June and July allowed fungi to develop quickly. It looks like an early fall."

Leaves from maple trees have black spot. Oak and ash are suffering from deforming *anthracnose*. Lilacs and many ornamentals are covered with white powdery mildew. Insects called aphids are attacking lindens and many shrubs, while the Hessian fly is affecting the honey locust.

Spider mites are attacking spreading junipers, and an unidentified cocoon is being found on magnolias.

While most of these problems are not detrimental to the health of the tree, Savaria said, steps must be taken to mini-

mize the over-wintering of fungus spores. Affected leaves – especially the maples – should be raked up as quickly as possible, bagged and put out with the green bins for commercial composting. Household composters do not generate sufficient heat to kill the fungus.

When it comes to the devastation of junipers, Savaria said the release of predator mites is the approved treatment. These can be obtained at various nurseries.

The city's cliff planting of junipers below the Roslyn lookout has been badly hit by the spider mites, causing the foliage to dry out. Evergreens need their foliage to help survive the winter.

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## Sharing garden bounty



A child in need will spend one week at the Centre Greene day camp next summer thanks to a donation from the Westmount Horticultural Society following its Hidden Garden Tour on July 7. The donation was presented August 19 by, from left Sally Cooke and Susan Zegray to Anna-Sophia Johansson, executive director, and Erica Bloom, whose garden, shown above, was one of those featured.

tered areas for playing.

On the trivia side, how many people know that the Westmount floral crest outside city hall is composed of 15,000 individual plants? Or that some species in it are nearly extinct and are only preserved by Westmount city gardeners?

### Urban planning

On the urban planning side, the trend in the last 20 years has been towards a more natural approach for all of Westmount's parks.

Lulham, for instance, has opposed concrete pads for benches.

"Why can't they sit on grass?" she rhetorically asked the assembled Rotarians.

In a similar vein, the portion of Summit Park north of Summit Circle used to be mown and kept tree-free – at considerable effort. (City workers rappelled down

the near-cliff on ropes so they could cut and mow.) That area is now left wild.

Amazing as it may seem to the current day observer, city workers once built parks' jungle-gym equipment themselves – from plumbing and sewer supplies.

Parks' regulatory regimes change, too. In reply to a Rotarian's query, she reported that the relatively recent curfew by-law has reduced the amount of vandalism at park comfort stations.

The parks will continue to be the subject of debate and concern, but, with the release of the master plan, Westmounters will soon have a little more data to craft their arguments.



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New president – at last

# Picard wants to move WMA toward consensus, getting all the facts

The Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) chose retired steel executive Jean-Pierre Picard as its new president and electronics engineer Paul Marriott as its new vice president on August 17, ending a year-and-a-half period of no president or acting president, and a few months of conflict over who would lead the municipal affairs group.

The rest of the executive roster remains unchanged from recent months, with Patricia Dumais as corresponding secretary, Henry Olders as membership secretary and Helen Rainville as treasurer.

As previously reported, Stan Grossman withdrew his name from consideration as president in early August, after twice failing to get elected.

Grossman pleased

He endorses the new head, “I’m very pleased. I was the first one who suggested him. I think things should improve now.”

Picard seems to favour a less aggressive approach to municipal issues than that of his predecessor, Henry Olders, who was often sharply critical of city council for not publishing documents soon enough or in a complete format, as well as advocating transparency and process issues generally.

Picard explained to the *Independent*, “We are a non-partisan group and if we start taking sides, we will lose our focus. But I do want to make sure that all aspects of an issue are aired.”

Regarding the substance of the debate on the proposed arena, which is currently located just across the street from Picard’s



Jean-Pierre Picard

POM-building home, he does not intend to take a side.

He does, however, have some unanswered questions on demographics and usage, “What are they? What will they be in 20 years? We went right into [the debate], but what are the needs? I don’t know.”

Within the WMA, he does not want to “impose his views,” but does want to pare down the list of priorities to two or three.

What motivates Picard? Why has he taken on the sometimes tricky task of WMA president? “It is one way to give back and help keep my mind going.”

# Letters to the Editor

## AN OUTDOOR SOLUTION TO HOCKEY DEMAND

What a quandary: adding additional hockey space in a city where there is no unused space to spare. The last couple of years there has been a skating area on the grass plateau across from the washroom facilities in Westmount Park and south of the library. Why not install a cooling plant under this plateau with the necessary piping? In the early fall the cooling can be activated to allow skating. The addition of boards around the sides will allow hockey to be played for several months, from the middle of September to the middle of April or May, possibly nine months of the year.

Come the warm weather, the grass will re-grow and, voilà, back to park space. The kids will learn to like playing hockey outdoors. When we were kids we played hockey on the tennis court, which reverted back to tennis in the summer. Mind you that was way back in the middle of the last century, when we often had to fend for ourselves as far as sports were concerned, and we surely did.

I hope that the powers to be will consider this idea as a method of using the little space that we have here in Westmount for dual purposes, at much less cost.

FRANK MOLLER, STANTON ST.

## NEW ARENA MUST BE HANDLED BY PRO

In the *Independent* of July 14, there were 15 letters supporting Councillor Patrick Martin and his plan to build the new arena in the southwest corner at the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG), cutting \$8 million from the \$35-million estimated cost. That volume of reader response has to be unprecedented in local weekly publications. There’s a rule of thumb: one letter in a newspaper represents the opinion of a hundred who don’t write. It looks like a groundswell.

Three weeks later, the mayor said she’d had enough in a conference orchestrated by a PR firm, with a carefully selected audience that didn’t include the local press, who went anyway. If it weren’t that she’d told her family four years ago, the announcement would have seemed strangely coincidental with those 15 letters and the rumours that Martin might stand for the mayoralty. As an engineer and project planner, he is the only one on council qualified to oversee the work. It’s a safe guess that a large number of voters would feel comfortable with him in the mayor’s chair.

Then, in the August 11 issue (p. 1), came an interview with a former mayor, Peter Trent, who is quoted in the first

paragraph as “very seriously considering offering himself for the mayor’s job.” By the end of the interview he’d apparently come to a decision. “I’ve been away long enough.” The presumption in that announcement would be humorous if it weren’t so serious, tossing aside even a fig leaf of awareness of democracy.

The Trent interview begins with the writer’s unsubstantiated claim: “People have been calling for his return.” None of those people are identified in the story. Who are they?

The former mayor is careful to assure: “I’m not going to take a position on the arena at this point... it has to be done with a council and citizens who are solidly behind it – as we did with the library. I would apply the same style.”

If that’s a promise, it’s cause for alarm among citizens. The \$7.5-million library reconstruction was a disaster. The library is always referred to favourably by people who never go into it, except for maybe an occasional meeting. The building has 20 percent less space than the old one. Of the available space, much is taken for meeting rooms, as though Victoria Hall were not next door, and study tables. No one knows how many books were destroyed for lack of space or given to other libraries; the figure went between 20,000 and 30,000. Questioned about it at a council meeting, Trent famously said, “You can’t put old books on new shelves.”

To create all this, Trent, for obscure reasons, had retained an architect with no experience in library design. There were no objections from city councillors (there never was debate, through his terms), but many objections from citizens. A committee of librarians living in Westmount and working in various libraries gave their objections. They were ignored. The library director gave her objections and was fired by that mayor in the grubbiest, most contemptible action taken against a conscientious manager in citizens’ memory, and one that brought a candlelight procession of protesters along Sherbrooke St. and into a council meeting. Disgusted at the firing, several hundred stopped using the library immediately. If that style were used on a new arena, there’d be a riot of hockey sticks at a council meeting and anything could happen.

A couple of years ago, Councillor Kathleen Duncan, the library commissioner, asked for suggestions to increase membership, which had dropped from 11,000 at the renovation to just over 7,000. A few months ago it was claimed that 900 people a day were going into ..... the library (visitors in- continued on p. 14

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## Civic Alert

# Surprise! Complete sustainability plan accepted by council

BY DON WEDGE



It was the end of the beginning. After a three-hour closed-door meeting August 19, council approved almost unchanged the plan to give the city a new orientation prepared by city sustainable development (SD) coordinator Joshua Wolfe.

Once again Westmount is poised to join the vanguard of being one of only a few towns in Quebec, or Canada for that matter, to have developed such a comprehensive SD concept.

It enshrines actions on policies discussed for many years – among them energy-efficient buildings, use of rainwater, safe streets and parks, a sound barrier, local farm products, more use of buses, expanded bike paths and recognition of a zero-waste objective.

Wolfe had identified more than 200 action items after his world-wide research and local consultations. They are detailed and their significance is discussed in a 92-page report. The action items have been reduced to 30 priorities for 2010.

All are due to be posted on the city web site, and public comments are encouraged both through the internet and in person at a Victoria Hall meeting scheduled for Thursday evening, September 10. The plan will then be formally accepted before the present council disbands on Oct. 2.

"It's like going on a journey," Mayor Karin Marks told council as they wrestled at first with the plan. "You know where you are starting from and where you want to finish. But you can't study the route options forever – you must get started.

"That's what we have now done."

### Three types of actions

Marks sees different categories of actions. Some are being worked on now, but

could be made more effective. One example is the street infrastructure, which was largely frozen during the forced merger. "Not to keep up its maintenance would certainly not be sustainable behaviour," she said.

Another group is basically policy options which would involve little or even no cost implications. Marks pointed to more recycling of debris after a demolition as an example.

Thirdly, the city has to show the way, such as buying hybrid vehicles when possible.

That set a good example to citizens, she believes, but is disappointed that the city didn't publicize the fuel savings and other benefits.

"We have not gone as far with SD as I hoped we would by now," the mayor confessed. "The first year's priorities are now accepted by council, and I hope there will be a lot of public discussion of them on September 10. Citizens' input is needed to ensure the development as a sustainable city."

Councillor John de Castell has been part of the plan's steering team with the mayor, director general Duncan Campbell and Wolfe. He had expected a contentious meeting as councillors narrowed down their priorities.

"In fact, they became more enthusiastic as they got into the discussions," he recalled. "It was one of the best exchanges I have participated in as a councillor." He now looks forward to "guiding citizen ownership of the plan."

### Community driven in future

In the future, the plan should be community driven, de Castell argued. "But it was our duty to put it together and get it off the ground."

Councillor Kathleen Duncan, who had been publicly skeptical of taking on too many priorities, maintained her target of

three large objectives. However, she has now suggested a trio – the complete energy overhaul of city buildings (a likely cost saver), the arena-pool project, which "brings huge opportunities to the SD concept," and renewal of Summit Park.

Councillor Patrick Martin also highlighted the arena-pool, calling for it to be "a creative showplace of SD." He wants the city to show in its daily activities that it is aware of its responsibilities.

Martin is expressing concerns about the failing infrastructure as a future capital cost for taxpayers: missed years of road maintenance, unpainted rusted guardrails and hydrants, condemned stairs, uncleaned sewers, flooding of basements, breaks

in water pipes inherited from Big Montreal (10 in two weeks, he says) and an electricity network that is not keeping up with new technology.

"They are not only a huge financial burden, but part of our sustainability, too."

Council also discussed whether it was necessary to list obvious priorities on which action had been agreed, such as the expansion of recycling collection into commercial areas or the planned campaign against junk mail.

"We just asked the director-general: 'Do it as soon as you can,'" Marks said.

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



Among the new arrivals at the Westmount Public Library:

### Adult French – Two new novels by Quebec authors

*Tarmac* by Nicholas Dickner – The much awaited follow-up to the award-winning Nikolski presents the unique case of a family whose members, when they reach adolescence, have the revelation of the date of the end of the world.

*Uashat* by Gérard Bouchard – Set in 1954, this work of historical fiction tells the story of a young sociology student who is sent to an Innu community that is about to be expropriated. A book about the conflict between the expansion of cities and the preservation of traditional ways of life.

### DVDs

*Yummy in my Tummy* – Dietician Louise Lambert-Lagacé gives expert advice on how to build a lifetime of healthy eating habits from your baby's first bite.

*Frozen River* – Two women faced with

desperate circumstances are drawn into the world of border smuggling across the frozen waters of the St. Lawrence River.

### Magazines

"Apollo's unfinished business: after 40 years, the moon still matters" by Dana Mackenzie in *NewScientist*, July 11, 2009, p 30.

"L'objectif lune: l'aventure continue. Alors que l'on fête les quarante ans du premier pas de l'homme sur la Lune, une nouvelle ère de la conquête spatiale est programmée" by Christophe Doré in *Le Figaro*, July 11, 2009, p. 37.

"Flipping the Taliban: How to win in Afghanistan" by Fotini Christia and Michael Semple in *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2009, p. 35.

### Reference

*Battlefield: Decisive conflicts in history* by Richard Holmes.

*Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment.*

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Living Sustainably

The environment within – our children today and tomorrow

By EVE ASPINALL

There has been a spate of articles and letters in the *Gazette* and other papers regarding the generation born since 1979. This Generation Y was described as feeling “entitled, invincible, and superior” in a *Gazette* article (July 7, 2009). Others have described them as self-centred, lacking honesty, greedy and oblivious to how their actions affect other people.

Some parents believe that instilling high self-esteem in their children is a priority. Self-esteem is not self-importance, but frequently parents do not recognize the difference. Self-esteem is defined in the dictionary as “a good opinion of one’s character and abilities.” A less formal definition is being comfortable in one’s own skin.

Self-importance suggests feeling superior to others, that your accomplishments are somehow greater, and your ideas, opinions and wishes outweigh those of others. Our attitude about ourselves significantly influence the way we behave and the way people react to us.

Problems that interfere with developing a good sense of self are issues of competency, power and intimacy.

We must have realistic expectations of ourselves, such as the recognition of our level of abilities and limitations. Many children have been taught that they can do anything or be anything if they really want to, regardless of their ability. The failure to achieve these goals can diminish their self esteem while if they learned to gain satisfaction from achieving at a level commensurate with their actual competence, they

would take pride in themselves.

Part of the image we have of ourselves is determined by our value system. What and how are we teaching our children these days? The Golden Rule says “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” but is this practised? Are our children taught honesty, courtesy, obedience, ethics, respect for the law, and for the rights of others?

If parents flagrantly break the law such as talking on their cell phones while driving, double parking, speeding, crossing the streets on red lights, what are they teaching their children?

What is essential for positive self-esteem is to have ethical values that are consistent with our own moral and spiritual beliefs and the recognition that we cannot impose our values on those who think differently.

The need for power is so prevalent in the world today and we tend to instil this goal in the next generation, but what power do we really need? We need to feel we have some control over our own lives, to be able to voice our own opinions and

stand up for what we think is right without the fear of impotency, to be independent and not be dependent on others’ opinion of us.

Parents can destroy their children’s sense of control by running interference, solving their problems or acting as safety nets. Each of us must learn the consequences of our own actions.

We all need love, affection and approval as we grow up and mature. This enables us to be able to feel and show the same to others. Parents play a crucial role in this area if children are going to be comfortable with intimacy. If not resolved there is a struggle between seeking warmth and affection from everyone and the fear of rejection. This allows us to accept criticism and accept compliments comfortably.

Parenting is probably the most demanding occupation. Although we try our best, we are human and we make mistakes. We have to accept that perfection is not attainable and forgive ourselves for our lapses. Although we would like to believe that our children are perfect, they too are not.



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Green Strategy

Avis important  
Tache goudronneuse

Plusieurs érables à Westmount sont affectés depuis le printemps par la tache goudronneuse de l’érable.

**Comme lutte préventive, les résidents sont priés de se débarrasser des feuilles contaminées UNIQUEMENT lors de la collecte hebdomadaire des résidus alimentaires et de jardinage de la Ville.**

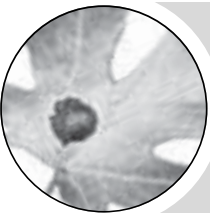
Surtout, il faut éviter de les mettre dans votre compostage domestique car la température maximale atteinte lors du processus de compostage ne détruit pas les spores du champignon.

Important Advisory  
Tar Spot Fungus

Since the spring, many maple trees in Westmount have been afflicted with tar spot fungus.

**As a preventive measure, residents should dispose of contaminated leaves in the City’s weekly kitchen and garden waste collection ONLY.**

Contaminated leaves should NOT be added to backyard composters, as these do not reach temperatures high enough to destroy the fungus spores.



Les dommages sont surtout d'ordre esthétique mais une infection sévère peut causer une chute prématurée des feuilles.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter notre site Web.

While damages due to this fungus are generally esthetic in nature, severe cases may result in premature loss of leaves.

For more information, please consult our Web site.



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Vol. 3/16

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## HEURES D'AFFAIRES

### Bureaux administratifs Retour à l'horaire normal

Les heures normales d'ouverture, soit du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30, reprennent le lundi 31 août, l'horaire estival ayant pris fin. Veuillez consulter notre site Web pour la liste exhaustive des heures d'ouverture des installations municipales. 🌿



## TRAVAUX PUBLICS

### Tache goudronneuse

En raison du nombre élevé de maladies affectant les arbres à Westmount, les résidents sont priés de se débarrasser des feuilles contaminées UNIQUEMENT lors de la collecte hebdomadaire des résidus alimentaires et de jardinage et de NE PAS les ajouter au compostage domestique. 🌿



## ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

### Assemblée publique sur le développement durable

Venez partager votre point de vue avec nous ! Joignez-vous à d'autres résidents afin de discuter des objectifs et priorités pour le développement durable qui seront présentées lors d'une rencontre spéciale qui aura lieu le mercredi 10 septembre à 19 h au Victoria Hall. Pour de plus amples renseignements consultez le [www.westmount.org/durable](http://www.westmount.org/durable).

### La galerie s'expose!

Venez célébrer le 10<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la galerie du Victoria Hall. Dans le cadre de cet événement, une exposition-rétrospective regroupant 57 artistes sera présentée du 10 septembre au 3 octobre. Info : 514 925-1403. 🌿



## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

### Club d'échecs / jeux de sociétés

Aimez-vous jouer aux échecs et/ou au Scrabble? Notre prochaine rencontre est le vendredi 11 septembre à 14 h. Nouveaux joueurs bienvenus ! Info : 514 989-5386.

### Readers to Readers

Aucune liste de lecture imposée et aucune date limite, seulement des discussions au sujet des livres que vous

## DATES À RETENIR

### Le 8 septembre – 20 h

Séance du conseil  
Hôtel de ville

### Du 10 septembre au 3 octobre

Exposition : *La galerie s'expose!*  
La galerie du Victoria Hall

### Le 11 septembre – 14 h

Club d'échecs et de jeux de sociétés  
Bibliothèque

### Le 15 septembre – 10 h 15

Club de lecture *Readers to Readers*  
Bibliothèque

### Le 16 septembre – 18 h 30

Club de lecture française  
Bibliothèque

avez lus ! Prochaine rencontre : le mardi 15 septembre à 10 h 15. En anglais seulement. Info : 514 989-5386.

### Club de lecture française

La prochaine rencontre du club de lecture française se tiendra le mercredi 16 septembre à 18 h 30 pour discuter de vos lectures estivales. Info : 514 989-5386.

### Conférences d'automne

Joignez-vous à l'écrivaine Claire Rothman qui lira des passages de son nouveau livre *The Heart Specialist* le mercredi 23 septembre à 19 h. Info : 514 989-5386. 🌿



## SPORTS ET LOISIRS

### Inscriptions automne/hiver

Les inscriptions pour les activités sportives et de loisirs se tiendront les 26 et 27 août au Victoria Hall, de 18 h à 20 h :

- le mercredi 26 août : *hockey/patinage seulement*
- le jeudi 27 août : *toutes autres activités*

Veuillez noter que toute inscription après le 27 août doit s'effectuer à l'Aréna de Westmount. Info : [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) ou 514 989-5353.

### Fermeture de la piscine

La piscine extérieure de Westmount fermera le mardi 1<sup>er</sup> septembre. Veuillez noter que, pour les 31 août et 1<sup>er</sup> septembre, la piscine sera ouverte de 12 h à 20 h seulement, en raison de la disponibilité des sauveteurs. 🌿



## OFFICE HOURS

### Administrative Offices Return to Regular Hours

Regular office hours resume on Monday, August 31 in all Westmount municipal buildings. Administrative offices will be open from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For a complete list for all municipal installations, please consult our Web site. 🌿



## PUBLIC WORKS

### Tar Spot Fungus

Due to high levels of disease affecting trees in Westmount, residents should dispose of contaminated leaves in the City's kitchen and garden waste collection ONLY. Contaminated leaves should NOT be added to domestic composters. 🌿



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Public Meeting on a Sustainable Westmount

Make your opinion known! Join fellow Westmounters at Victoria Hall on September 10 at 7 p.m. for a special meeting to discuss sustainable development objectives and priorities. For more information, consult [www.westmount.org/sustainable](http://www.westmount.org/sustainable).

### The Gallery Celebrates!

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is proud to present a retrospective collection of works from 57 artists for its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The exhibition will run from September 10 until October 3. Info: 514 925-1403. 🌿



## LIBRARY

### Chess and Scrabble Club

Do you enjoy playing chess and/or Scrabble? Our next meeting is on Friday, September 11 at 2 p.m. New players welcome! Info: 514 989-5386.

### Readers to Readers Book Club

Join our morning book club with a twist to talk about great books recently read. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, September 15 at 10:15 a.m. Info: 514 989-5386.

## DATEBOOK

### September 8 – 8 p.m.

Council Meeting  
City Hall

### September 10 to October 3

Exhibition: *The Gallery celebrates!*  
The Gallery at Victoria Hall

### September 11 – 2 p.m.

Chess and Scrabble Club  
Library

### September 15 – 10:15 a.m.

Readers to Readers Book Club  
Library

### September 16 – 6:30 p.m.

French Book Club  
Library

### French Book Club

Join the French Book Club at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16 as we discuss summer readings. Info: 514 989-5386.

### Author Lecture Series

Join us for an evening with author Claire Rothman on Wednesday, September 23 at 7 p.m. as she reads from her new book, *The Heart Specialist*. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌿



## SPORTS & RECREATION

### Fall/Winter Registration

Registration for fall and winter sports and recreation activities will take place on August 26 & 27 at Victoria Hall from 6 to 8 p.m. as follows:

- Wednesday, August 26  
*Hockey and Skating only*
- Thursday, August 27  
*All other programmes*

Please take note that registration after August 27 will take place at the Westmount Arena. Info: [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) or 514 989-5353.

### Pool Closure – September 1

After another great summer, Westmount's outdoor pool will be closed as of Tuesday, September 1 for the year. Please note that on August 31 and September 1, the pool will be open from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. ONLY due to the availability of lifeguards. 🌿

**Westmount, à votre portée.** Pour toute question ou commentaire, veuillez nous contacter :  
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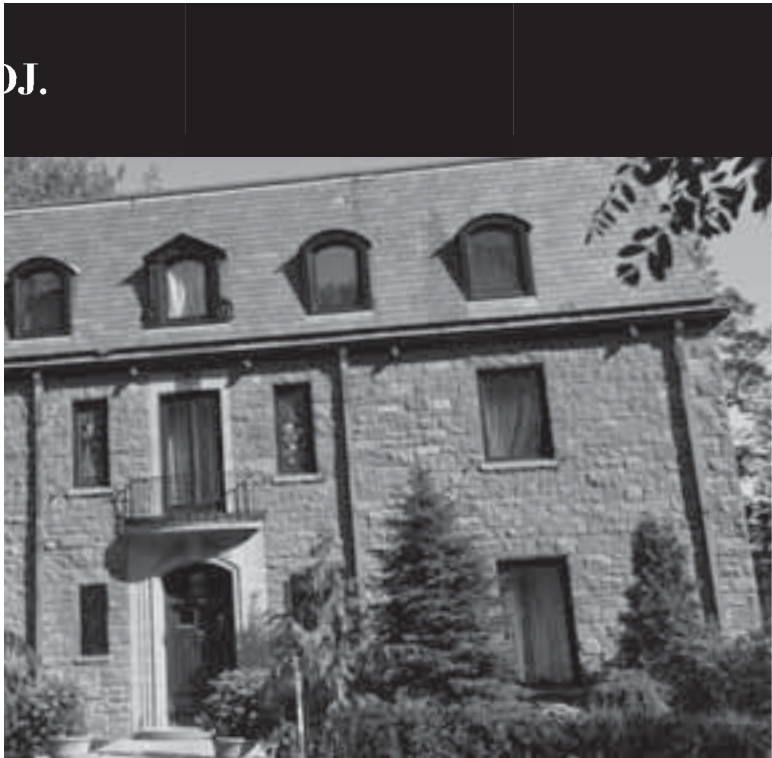


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## Personality: Richard Gervais

# A Westmouter receives international tribute

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

I met Westmouter Richard Gervais, a founding partner and the president of GGA Communications, years ago when I worked with Jeanne Sauvé, then governor general of Canada.

Richard and his wife, Marie Chevrier, were very close to the Sauvés – personally and politically. In fact, Gervais was an honorary pallbearer at Jeanne Sauvé's funeral.

One of the Gervais' famous parties was held in honour of the GG. Guests were welcomed to a black-tie, sit-down dinner in the Gervais' triple garage – a nice touch was the vice regal flag flying on the roof of their Westmount home.

Gervais is the honorary consul of the republic of Mauritius in Canada and was recently honoured with an award never before presented to a non-Mauritian.

When were you named honorary consul of Mauritius?

That was 16 years ago now, and it is a benevolent function. Mauritius has been independent for 41 years and was previously, like Canada, a French and later a British colony. It is now a republic, composed of roughly 100 islands and islets [in the Indian Ocean].

Mauritius is a member of the Commonwealth and of the Francophonie.

What are some of your duties as honorary consul?

My duties are principally to represent the republic with the Quebec and federal governments...

Secondly, it is to assist the 10,000 Mauritians that are here, particularly the 5,000 that live in the Montreal area. Canadians do not need a visa to go to Mauritius, so I don't have to issue any. But I act as an important support to the government in a great number of areas.

For instance, I was a member of the Mauritian delegation at the Sommet de la Francophonie in Quebec City in October 2008... Since then, I have been discussing an agreement (Accord-cadre) between

Mauritius and Quebec, and Mauritius and Canada...

Do you travel there often?

I visit every four years or so. And many Mauritians come this way... Mauritius is a paradise; a beautiful island with fabulous weather all year round.

The population is a combination of descendants from two areas of India as well as those originating from an area north of Hong Kong. So it is not unusual for some Mauritians to speak up to six languages. Nor is it unusual to see Protestant and Catholic churches in the same village as a mosque and a Hindu temple.

Recently you were honoured with an extraordinary title. Please tell us about it.

After 15 years of service, many thought I should be recognized. But the announcement came as a real surprise.

Prime Minister Ramgoolam recommended to the president of the re-

public that I be made a Grand Officer of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (GOSK), which is the highest award in Mauritius and very prestigious in that part of the world. Grand Officer is the second highest degree of this award.

I am the first Canadian ever to be decorated and the first non-Mauritian to become GOSK. It also comes ..... with lifelong privileges. I *continued on p. 14*



Richard Gervais

## Wine: What's In Store... Summer lovin'

BY CAROLA PRICE



My summer travels have brought me to an Old World region that I have fallen in love with... again. I enjoyed the Loire region when I was first testing the waters, so to speak, but then began drinking New World wines and that area sort of fell by the wayside. I realize now that the light and flavourful wines of the Loire are just perfect for summer sipping.

### Les terrasses en mas

What's not to love about a warm, breezy evening on a piazza sipping rosé and watching the world go by? I also love the fact that everywhere you go in Europe, Coke seems to cost twice as much as wine or beer. So what's a girl to do but drink more wine?

I will be checking out all the rosés the SAQ has to offer all year round because, as I see in Europe, rosé is about enjoyment as an aperitif especially with the myriad of fish dishes that are eaten here. This wine is a staple, and I for one am going to uphold the European tradition with pride.

Let's sip three rosés.

**Merlot/ Pinot Noir, Brancott East Coast, New Zealand SAQ code: 11104809. \$16.40**

Made by famed producer Montana Wines and owned by Pernod Ricard, this winery has been making top quality Sauvignon Blanc since 1979.

While it is by no means a sweet wine, there is a sweet fruit component that you may find quite refreshing. Acidity is also there, making it a great match for halibut, trout or tilapia with a citrus sauce or fruit salsa. Cheese? Well pick anything and it

will marry well because of the fruit. Think strawberries and cherries with some lime.

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

**Arniston Bay, Stellenbosch, South Africa.**

**SAQ code: 11104673. \$9.95**

This rosé is from the Shore Series, which is simple, easy drinking wine, and the price reflects it. The blend of varietals is unpublished, and also I am led to believe that they blend the wine to house style rather than fuss with certain grapes every year. It is slightly sweet, very fruity, reminding me of peppered strawberries. Matched with the cheeses coming out of New Brunswick and grilled vegetable salad, it was delicious.

Available at press time: Westmount Square, across from Atwater Market. I bought it at the Express store in NDG so you should be able to find it anywhere.

**Cabernet blend, Croix Saint Martin, Bordeaux, France SAQ#10795572. \$12.55**

This rosé is more vegetal and slightly less acidic than the other two. I would pair this with grilled chicken and pork chops; brisket was even a sound match. Pick any cheese that you would with your red Bordeaux, like Brie and Brillant Savarin. There is some fruit-like cassis and the same peppered strawberry but there is more of a herbaceous flavour, so don't hold back the vegetables with this wine.

Available at press time: All Westmount locations.

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# Tea and sympathy for SPCA Montréalégie

From left, Westmounters Alison Marks, Cynthia Grahame, Christina Borsu, Annika Horner-Borsu, Stephanie Williams and Alexis Horner-Borsu enjoying a fundraising tea party, held in Sutton on August 15 to benefit the SPCA Montréalégie no-kill animal shelter.

## Tiger the cat found!

There is at least one happy couple in Westmount these days. Richard and Tammy Edelstein have found their cat Tiger.

Over the last five weeks, the couple mounted an intensive search for him, catching the attention of many with the potential reward of \$5,000. The bounty was promised on liberally ..... distributed posters and two

Tiger

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# Pelc fulfills his 'Armstrong' promise *Underdog*

Westmount travel agent Sam Pelc has two big challenges: kidney cancer and the Tour de Lance, which requires both fundraising and a 100-kilometer bicycle ride in Mont Tremblant. The event takes place on September 11.

Pelc was originally diagnosed with cancer in early 2004. After his second diagnosis, he noted that he was one away from the same number of cancer bouts survived by renowned cyclist Lance Armstrong.

He joked to family and friends, "One more cancer and I will go into training."

Then in late 2008, his doctors discovered a new kidney metastasis and performed surgery for the fourth time in five years. Said Pelc, "True to my word, I signed up for the Cedars Tour de Lance."

Pelc is thankful to the Cedars Cancer Institute and its commitment to psycho-oncology (psychology as applied to cancer patients), the inspiration of Armstrong himself, and the support of his family and friends, whom he collectively calls his "pillars of sanity, and the source of many



Sam Pelc in training.

laughs – even in the darkest moments."

To support Pelc and Cedars, go to [www.tourdelance.ca/bio/pelc.html](http://www.tourdelance.ca/bio/pelc.html). You can also follow him on his blog <http://goingforthejersey.blogspot.com>.

## Tiger...

*continued from p. 12*

advertisements in this newspaper, as well as mentioned in the *Independent's* 9 Lives column. The Edelsteins received over 300 calls, but no Tiger.

In an odd coincidence, Tiger was found by Edelstein's cousin, who had never seen the cat and who learned he was missing from the public campaign. Tiger had made it from upper Westmount to Royal and Monkland in NDG. He had lost two pounds.

Said Edelstein, "We've been so blessed with a second chance at life with Tiger. It's my birthday next week, something I was dreading and could never have celebrated with this dark cloud hanging over us. If I

could think of one thing in this whole world as a gift, it would be to have my Tiger home safe and sound."

# Jamie: If it's broken, dump it

By FERN BRESLAW



We are keeping the writing short this week because the photo of Jamie honestly does a better selling job than we ever could in words. When we saw him we nearly fell off our chair – he was so cute, like a grown-up with a permanent puppy face and yet, even with his good looks, Jamie's first home was with a family who managed to neglect him, even when he was sick and suffering.

Jamie was dumped at the SPCA with an inverted eyelid: a condition that causes the eyelash to rub against the eye and causes incredible pain, irritation and infection. The shelter couldn't assume the costs of operating so Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions picked him up, accepted that they would forever be in debt in this line of work and paid to have him fixed. Voilà: Good people = happy dogs.

He recovered like a rock star but will continue to need prescription eyedrops for the rest of his life which, in the grand scheme of things, is no big deal. The only drawback is that he needs to be an only dog in the home (to avoid accidental eye injuries) which means fewer potential



Jamie

adopters will be able to help him.

Jamie is only a year old and a mash-up of lab, boxer, Boston terrier, etc. We don't know what he is for sure, only that the end results are cute! He is good-natured, playful and has had all of his vetting: worming, vaccines, and all his odds and ends taken care of. Now all he needs is someone with a good heart and a lot of love to take him home.

Find out more about Jamie or to set up a doggy date, please contact Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions at 514.203.9180 or email [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org).

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## Letters to the Editor...

continued from p. 4

cluding members). They were being recorded on electronic counters in new security gates. Clearly, most of the visitors were going in with their laptops to use the 4 wireless internet or, if they didn't own a computer, to use one of the nine computers provided for anyone who comes from outside Westmount (the Côte St. Luc library offers only one computer for non-residents). The front-line library staff members do their best with what they have, but the building is against them.

The arena, whether it goes into a corner at the WAG or into an expansion of the existing space, must be handled by a professional. The city can't afford a larger-scale library disaster.

D. O. NEWNHAM, METCALFE AVE.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** To the best of our knowledge, library space increased 64 percent with the renovation. The city's 1995 annual report states: "The 1959 [library] annex was demolished and replaced by a three-storey \$3-million building that increased [total net] usable floor space to 29,600 feet from 18,000."

## Gervais...

continued from p. 11

am very honoured. I was greeted royally when I travelled there for a very moving ceremony. The medal itself is a gem, made in London, England.

You have known many people in what C. P. Snow called "the corridors of power." Can you elaborate please?

Politically, I started my career with prime ministers Pearson and Trudeau. My wife is the daughter of the late Hon. Lionel Chevrier, a senior minister under King, St. Laurent and Pearson, the "father of the Seaway," a former high commissioner to the United Kingdom and a former commissioner general of Montreal's International Exhibition in 1967. So Marie has also had a considerable number of contacts. I have been privileged to know no less than 10 prime ministers of Canada, five of them personally. Pierre Trudeau was a friend of ours, often visiting our home.

I have also known 11 premiers of Quebec and I can say six of them are, or were, friends. I have also known other Canadian premiers - Peter Lougheed and Joey Smallwood, David Peterson and Bob Rae.

We have also known every governor general since Rolland Michener, and we hosted Governor General Adrienne Clarkson in our home.

At the international level, I have met or worked closely with many heads of state: presidents Bongo of Gabon, Tandja of

Niger, Gbagbo of the Ivory Coast, two prime ministers of the Bahamas, HRH Prince Salman of Saudi Arabia and several others.

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## Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

# Segal Centre for Performing Arts Premieres Festival

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE



In celebration of 50 years of The Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre, the Segal Centre for Performing Arts presented the first ever Montreal International Yiddish Theatre Festival in partnership with the city of Montreal. The inaugural gala took place on June 17 and premiered the first gathering of the world's Yiddish theatres.

Guests attended from Australia, France, the US, Israel, Austria, Poland, Romania and, of course, Canada.

Festival honorary co-chairs, Westmounter Leonor Segal and Manuel Batshaw, were awarded plaques of recog-

nition for their inspiring work, as was Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay in appreciation of his support of the festival.

A nice touch was the opening of the fes-



Westmounters Pauline and Jeff Segal



Westmounter Jeremy Reitman and Penny Rudnikoff

tival by the third generation of the theatre. Yiddish theatre artists from around the globe mingled with scholars who came to the festival as part of their participation in a symposium presented in collaboration with McGill University.

The elegant eve ended with an Olympics-style salute to each of the participating countries.



Alvin and Leonor Segal, Gérald Tremblay

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