

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 4 No. 1d

*We are Westmount*

January 26-27, 2010

**Agglo drives hefty Westmount increase**

## Tax bite up 8 to 9 percent

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmounters face a tax increase ranging from 8 to 9 percent this year, the *Independent* learned at press time before Monday night's presentation of the 2010 budget. This could boost the average homeowner's taxes by some \$800 or \$900.

This year's tax hike, the first substantial one in three years, is driven by a 12.5 percent increase in the amount Westmount must pay to the agglomeration council for island-wide services such as police, fire and transit, Mayor Peter Trent said.

Jumping from \$40.7 to \$45.7 million, this assessment alone accounts for a rise of some 7.5 percent in the tax bill, he said.

"The remaining increase applies to some modest changes in local expenses."

These were outlined by finance commissioner Tim Price as including labour costs already negotiated, sustainable development programs and the ongoing commitment to phase in a pay-as-you-go policy for capital works spending. This is aimed at reducing the need to borrow for such items as major street work.

The arena project is not factored into this year's budget other than costs related to assessment studies and design, he said.

Exact amounts of individual tax increases will vary according to the phasing-in over four years of the ..... current valuation roll, now *continued on p. 15*



*Victor Murciano and Virginia Elliott are off to the Olympics, see p. 7.*

Photo: Rebecca Murciano.

Don Wedge on Kate McGarrigle, p. 5

Westmount for Haiti, p. 4

Comin' Up, p. 9

## Olympic spirit pervades winter carnival

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

First it was the Olympic flame. Now it's the upcoming winter carnival February 4, 5 and 6, and Westmount seems filled with the spirit of the Vancouver winter Olympics.

For those who won't make the trip west in person, there is an opportunity to revel in the Olympic feeling at the carnival's theme night: a train trip to Vancouver on the "Westmount-to-Whistler Express".

Taking place on Friday, February 5, the event will feature dinner, dancing and games at the "Olympic Village" – all staged at Victoria Hall from 5:30 to 9:30 pm.

"This is the year of the Olympics in Westmount," said assistant Community

Events coordinator Virginia Elliott, who is one of the volunteers actually working at the Vancouver games.

Elliott, along with her husband, Victor Murciano, and two officers from local police Station 12 are among the latest known to be accredited to work at the world event (see p. 7).

In addition, Keren Roberts, a part-time library worker, will dance in the opening ceremonies for the Paralympics 2010.

Some 35 reservist soldiers from Westmount's three military regiments have already been training in Vancouver for their security role (see the *Independent*, October 13, 2009, p. 1).

And just like organizers in Vancouver, Westmount's winter carni- .....

*continued on p. 7*



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# Alternative vision of Quebec’s Turcot project presented to WMA

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Members of the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) got a glimpse of one of the many alternative proposals for demolishing and reconfiguring the Turcot interchange that have emerged since the Quebec Ministry of Transport announced its \$1.5 billion seven-year-long reconstruc-

tion project.

Pierre Gauthier, an urban planning professor at Concordia University, and Jason Prince, a research coordinator at Concordia University’s School of Urban Planning, presented their “sustainable” vision for redeveloping the territory under the crumbling concrete highway junction at Victoria Hall January 21.

The transport ministry plans to replace the elevated sections with a raised embankment. While Prince and Gauthier didn’t necessarily agree with the idea, some observers have suggested recycling the interchange by reinforcing it structurally from beneath with arches. Prince and Gauthier would see the former railway yard converted into a well-planned community.

They tied the issues of global warming and climate change into their project. Gauthier suggested that the volume of traffic

which passes daily over the interchange creates enough fuel exhaust to affect the health of anyone who lives or works within a distance of several blocks.

While Prince and Gauthier believe that the ministry will be largely conserving the Decarie Expressway north of the Turcot as a regular highway, it is likely that it will be converting the Turcot’s east/west alignment into something that is much more like an urban boulevard. Still, they are not satisfied with the oversized dimensions inherent in Quebec’s project.



Urban planners Jason Prince, left, and Pierre Gauthier.



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# Aldo retires from Victoria Hall

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Aldo Cipriani first set foot in Victoria Hall for his own wedding reception in 1969.

Little did he know that 40 years later he would be retiring from the very same place – as Victoria Hall’s attendant for most of his 25 years with the city. He leaves the busy social and community centre on Friday, January 29, the day before



Aldo Cipriani

his 60th birthday.

“This place is a going concern,” he said. “There are things going on all the time in all the rooms. And there have been so many changes over the years. Things have been added and taken away.”

And Aldo, as he is almost universally known to hundreds of users of Victoria Hall, has become a mainstay of the facility.

He ensures that the rooms are set up according to need for the daily Sports and Recreation programs, community groups, meetings and major events. He also takes care of minor repairs and makes coffee for functions when requested.

Recalling Victoria Hall’s change in orientation over the years, Aldo explained how he used to set up the rooms for parties and wedding receptions in the days it was rented out for social events and booked solidly months ahead.

“Sometimes we’d have a huge wedding party going on in the Concert Hall and a smaller one upstairs in the Lodge Room at the same time.”

Later, after major renovations in 1995, Victoria Hall reverted to its original use as a community centre – “a good decision,” he added. “It was being abused.”

Aldo began working in Westmount in 1984 with an initial one-month stint as a

tennis court attendant, followed by a three-month term at the arena. He was then hired full-time as an outdoor rink attendant.

“When an opening for a maintenance person at Victoria Hall became available in 1986, I applied, and I’ve been here ever since. At first, when there were two of us, we used to look after all the floors.” That’s now contracted out.

One of Aldo’s recollections from the ice storm of 1998, when Victoria Hall was used as a shelter, was finding upstairs a storm refugee cleaning behind a stove and fridge. “I don’t know how she managed to move them,” he said with a laugh. “Apparently she wanted something useful to do! I found that quite interesting.”

Looking forward to retirement, he said he’ll now have time to help his wife, Carmen, babysit their young grandchildren. “I have a nice backyard and a workshop in the garage.” Plus, he’ll save two hours a day in commuting to and from Chateau-guay.

However, he adds, “I considered it a privilege to serve Westmount, and I want to thank everyone here for making me feel like this is a second home. I’ll be back, if I’m needed to help out.”

## Early admission at Marianopolis

Marianopolis College is now offering early admission. Students must apply before February 9 online at [www.marianopolis.edu](http://www.marianopolis.edu). Most students will be notified by the end of March. A limited number of early admission spots in Science, Social Science, Commerce and Creative Arts, Literature and Languages are available. Students who are not offered early admission will be considered after the usual March 1 deadline. An information session is being held on Monday February 8. See Comin’ Up on p. 9 for details.

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## Manoir Westmount fans give rousing welcome to Grey Cup



From left, Dorothy Baxter, Mary Sancton, Jan Morgan, George Janus, Margaret Ross and Margaret Griffin.

By MARTIN C. BARRY

If you think being a football fan means you have to be a 20-something guy, you haven’t met some of the ladies at Manoir Westmount.

Margaret Ross and Dorothy Baxter were among more than a dozen residents of the retirement home who were on hand January 20 to welcome the arrival of the Grey Cup, which the Montreal Alouettes won 28-27 over the .....

*continued on p. 13*



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## PARKING IN NO-PARKING ZONE

Welcome back from the holidays. I missed the *Independent* during your hiatus. Hope everyone had a great holiday. However, now it's back to business. In the December 15 issue of the *Indie*, it was reported that "City council has banned parking entirely on the west side of Academy Rd. north of the arena to allow easier passage for emergency vehicles." ("Parking changes at four sites", p. 3). Since then, the entire street has been full of parked cars. I pass by there at least three times a day and there are always several cars parked along there, from about 4:30 pm to almost 11 pm, right under the "no parking" sign. I have seen Public Security pass right by; no tickets issued. People are not going to respect the law if they are not reminded of it. If parking there was removed for safety reasons, why is the law not being upheld? Cars can barely pass by, never mind emergency vehicles.

BELINDA BOWES, ACADEMY RD.

## A NEW KIND OF RIP-OFF

Like quite a few Westmount residents, as public safety officers and windshield repair people can attest, we've had our car

windows smashed so that thieves could go after the coins we inadvertently left in plain sight. This week we suffered a new kind of rip-off: parking permit theft. Someone wanting free parking in Westmount's reserved zones carefully peeled off the plastic face of our permit leaving behind the white paper background. A clever but dumb scheme since we and Westmount security are now looking for a "stuck-on" permit with our old number on it. Smart way to get caught stealing. Maybe permit officials can come up with stickers that can be affixed inside the windshield rather than outside.

GEORGE RITTER, ACADEMY RD.

## CIRCLE SHOULD REMAIN UNBROKEN I

I would like to comment on the proposal being considered to permanently close the north side of the roadway that completes the circle around Summit Park.

In the January 19 *Independent* article "Councillor floats idea of closing roadway to expand Summit Park", it is presented as an experiment to see if anyone objects.

I do, strongly, as I think it would be a very thoughtless plan. Perhaps, as stated, there have been no complaints to date, it is because most people see the present closure as temporary, and expect it to open again in the spring, or whenever the work is finished. The councillor also states that

the road is used by people on Surrey Garden as a way to access Côte des Neiges, and by sightseers. Shouldn't they be welcome?

He doesn't mention the many people who use it for a peaceful walk around that part of the summit where there are no houses, where the sun is shining, the benches are welcoming, the runners and cyclists are friendly.

In other words, it's much more than "maybe a sightseer looking at the view" or a shortcut. It complements and adds to everyone's enjoyment of Summit Park. If the cost of repaving is the problem, the priority should be people, not cars.

HELEN TARSHIS SHAPIRO,  
SHERBROOKE ST.

## CIRCLE SHOULD REMAIN UNBROKEN II

Patrick Martin's suggestion that few people using the westerly route on Summit Road ("Councillor floats idea of closing roadway to expand Summit Park", January 19) other than the occasional "sightseer" or "people who live over on Surrey Gardens" – thereby possibly justifying its closure – is either an erroneous statement of fact or a baseless presumption.

tion.

It is clear that this councillor has not done his homework or possesses little knowledge of his constituents' needs and habits. Mr. Martin's apparent lack of understanding or knowledge provides little comfort and certain reason to question his title of office.

Had he performed some due diligence, he might have learned that a great number of residents living northeast and northwest of Sunnyside Ave. access this frequently-used route, bringing children to and from school as well as going to and from work.

It is incorrect to state that "much of its traffic is from outside the area," nor should Mr. Martin complacently accept its "low priority" status in the repair category.

Most residents have complained to city hall to fix the road given its constant use and have complained of property damage to their vehicles caused by failure to make those needed repairs. In hindsight, it is unfortunate that Mr. Martin's seat went unchallenged in the last electoral race. Had it been otherwise, District 1 residents might have been better served today as a direct consequence.

MICHAEL BESNER, OAKLAND AVE.

# Westmount for Haiti

## Roslyn School

After Roslyn School students were told about the earthquake in Haiti on January 18, they spent the week collecting \$4,000 to donate to Care Canada, a long-term de-

velopment and relief work organization. Some students brought in the money collected in their own piggybanks. With the federal government's matching program, the total amount came to \$8,000, which was presented to the organization at the school's general assembly on January 22.

## Westmount Y Masters Swim Team

On Tuesday, January 26, the Westmount Y Masters Swim Team is raising funds for the Canadian Red Cross relief effort in Haiti. "Go the Distance for Haiti" is a swim challenge event that will test the endurance and stamina of the 100 members of the adult team. In a single session, each team member will swim all five competitive masters events, which include the 1500m freestyle, 400m IM, 200m butterfly, 200m backstroke and 200m breaststroke).

The event takes place at the Y (4585 Sherbrooke St.) from 7:30 pm to 8:45pm, and again on Wednesday, January 27 from 6:20 pm to 7:35 pm and 8:15 pm to 9:30 pm. Info: Robyn Ouimet 514.225.5460.



Grade 4 students Savanna Carpenter and Alejandro Casuga-Magajes, present cheque to a Care Canada representative, January 22.

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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PUBLISHER AND EDITOR: David Price  
DEPUTY EDITOR: Kristin McNeill  
CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney  
PROOFREADER: Stella Mindorff

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## Accounting

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# ‘When Kate began to sing, we were just blown away’

Last week, many people across the world – not only in Westmount – were shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of a giant in the world of folk music, Kate McGarrigle. A Westmount resident for about 15 years, many knew her, particularly those near her former home on Holton Ave.

It was a base, too, for her now-famous children, Rufus and Martha Wainwright. Kate’s sister, Anna, also lived here for some years.

But I doubt any Westmounter outside her family has a better knowledge of Kate and the McGarrigle clan than Academy Rd. resident Peter Weldon. Since moving here in 1975, he has made his own place in the community, having been a volunteer recreation coach for 12 years, in both soccer and hockey, and continues by serving on the Westmount Municipal Association board.

Fifty years ago, Weldon, now a retired university teacher, was a leader of the burgeoning folk music scene for which Montreal became a centre, and he played a key role in the early career of the McGarrigle sisters.

It was the Swinging Sixties, and a totally youth culture was sweeping the world. Weldon, who played banjo and guitar, had been a member of a group called the Pharisees. The McGarrigle sisters were in another group, the Trio Canadienne. Both groups sang in the coffee houses, schools and campuses of the time for minimum pay – \$10 or \$15 a night for the entire group.

When two of the Pharisees left, Weldon and his friend Jack Nissensen, continued as a duo. Their efforts to find replacements were unsuccessful until impresario Sam Gesser said they should try the McGarrigles, whose own group had broken up.

“When Kate walked in, it was a revela-



## Civic Alert

DON WEDGE

tion. We were stunned by her beauty and poise,” he recalled. “But when she began to sing, we were just blown away.”

### Mountain City Four

When Anna, Kate’s elder sister, joined the group a few months later they were renamed the Mountain City Four. Their repertoire was very eclectic – from Bach arias to Appalachian and Quebec folk songs, blue grass and gospel. “Kate insisted we include some Elvis Presley,” Weldon remembered.

“Despite their angelic voices, the girls could also belt out Bessie Smith blues and whatever else came along.”

Such wide interest in different musical styles was a feature of the McGarrigles, both in performing and later as they developed writing careers.

“We sang all the time,” said Weldon. “In the car, in the kitchen – anywhere and everywhere.”

The quartet was friends off-stage too. Kate and Weldon’s brother, Christopher, were first-love girlfriend-boyfriend, while Peter and Anna were an item. They married others, but have remained friends.

The group continued until 1970, when Kate went to New York, to be joined later by Anna. There she gained fame by writing songs for Linda Ronstadt, Maria Muldaur and others before being signed by Warner Records.

### Rufus and Martha

Titled simply *Kate and Anna McGarrigle*, their first record became an interna-



The Mountain Top Four recording in the sixties, from left, Kate McGarrigle, Jack Nissensen, Anna McGarrigle and Peter Weldon.

Photo courtesy of Jane McGarrigle

tional hit. Kate married American folk singer Loudon Wainwright and had two children, Rufus and Martha, who have become famous singers themselves.

When Martha gave birth in London last fall, Kate became a proud grandmother.

After her marriage ended, Kate came to live in Westmount – where her parents had made their early home. She moved from homes on Olivier to de Maisonneuve, Holton and Sherbrooke. Both children went to St. Léon School, and Martha to The Study.

Kate went back to McGill to complete a science degree that she had dropped during the coffee-house years.

While in Westmount, the sisters made their hit “Love Over and Over” and Kate’s “*Entre la jeunesse et la sagesse*”, with lyrics about Montreal by Philippe Tatarcheff, became a kind of anthem.

The songwriting continued until her death. Her last song, “Proserpina”, is a current YouTube favourite.

The McGarrigles’ family home was in St. Sauveur and, last fall, Kate was still healthy enough to dust off, with Weldon and other friends, some of the Appalachian folk songs they had been singing half a century ago.

It was also in St. Sauveur on New Year’s Eve where the Mountain City Four met together socially for the last time. “Sadly both Kate and Jack’s sickness limited the singing,” Weldon said.

He last saw Kate in her Outremont home, where the cancer finally took her life, at 63, on January 18.

“She was incredibly strong through her long illness, never giving an inch, never once saying ‘Why me?’ She was the bravest person I’ve known,” Weldon concluded.

Donations to the Kate McGarrigle Fund can be made by phoning 514.931.5656 or online at <http://www.muhaefoundation.com/en/kate>.



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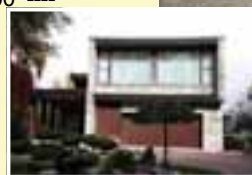
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# LE CARNAVAL D'HIVER DE WESTMOUNT WINTER CARNIVAL



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### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2010 - 8 PM TO MIDNIGHT

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## L'express de Westmount à Whistler | Westmount to Whistler Express

### LE VENDREDI 5 FÉVRIER 2010 DE 17 H 30 À 21 H 30

Salle de concert, Victoria Hall (4626, rue Sherbrooke Ouest)  
*Dîner, danse et activités familiales au village olympique du Victoria Hall.  
 Thème : Jeux olympiques d'hiver 2010 de Vancouver.  
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### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2010 FROM 5:30 TO 9:30 PM

Concert Hall, Victoria Hall (4626 Sherbrooke Street West)  
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# Westmounters take the stage

BY ERIN STROPES

## The embattled newspaper

Westmount actor Arthur Holden will be appearing in *The Daily Miracle*, a play by former *Gazette* copy editor David Sherman that gives an insider's look at the state of the newspaper industry.

Holden plays Marty, the senior editor of

an English Montreal daily paper. "He truly cares about journalism and getting out the facts about what's really going on in the world," said Holden of his character, "and the trivialization of contemporary media is quite literally driving him mad."



Arthur Holden

Holden, who was a correspondent for the *Examiner* during his years at Westmount High in the 1970s, feels that community journalism is in contrast with the somewhat bleak view presented by the play. "In the current wash of world journalism, where almost every article is about places we haven't been, community journalism stays rooted in the places we know, and touches on the things that truly affect our lives."



Howard Rosenstein

Also performing in the play is former

Westmounter Howard Rosenstein, who plays a womanizing night editor.

*The Daily Miracle* plays at the Bain St. Michel (5300 St. Dominique St.) from January 26 to February 14.

Holden's own play, *Father Land*, won the Write-On-Q playwriting competition last year and will be produced by Infinitéâtre in March. The play is set in Westmount.

## A Miller play peeks into life of an Italian-American family

Raphael Grosz-Harvey plays an immigration official in the Montreal Theatre

Ensemble's (MTE) production of Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge*. The play deals with the difficult romantic and moral issues facing a 1950s family in an Italian-American community situated under the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City.



Raphael Grosz-Harvey

Grosz-Harvey, a Westmount resident who graduated from Dawson College's professional theatre program in 2008, described the show as "timeless in essence, and truly shows the darker side of what we're all capable of." He joined the MTE for the opportunity to work with "some of the most amazing and dedicated actors and crew [he has] ever met," and will be present around Montreal's theatre scene as a writer and producer as well as an actor in the coming months.

*A View from the Bridge* plays at John Abbott College's Casgrain Theatre (275 Lakeshore Rd., St. Anne de Bellevue) from January 14 to January 30.

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Samedi de folie le samedi 6 février au parc Westmount et à l'Aréna.

## FROSTY FUN

Family Tobogganing on Thursday, February 4 at King George Park.  
Fun-filled Saturday, February 6 at Westmount Park & the Arena.

Info : 514 989-5226 [www.westmount.org/carnaval](http://www.westmount.org/carnaval)



# Local cops off to Olympics

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two officers from local police station 12 are heading to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games next week to work with hundreds of other police personnel from across Canada as part of the Integrated Security Unit.



Steven Goldberg

They are constables Steven Goldberg, a 21-year police veteran, and Anthony Cantelmi, who joined the police four years ago.

Both are part of a Montreal police contingent of 150 who volunteered for the assignment and were selected on the basis of merit, talent, mo-

tivation and a number of other criteria.

"It's an opportunity of a lifetime," Goldberg told the *Independent*. "I'm looking for an adventure – and this will be phenomenal – something different from my usual work and the chance to serve the country."

Though assignments could change depending on the level of threat or need, Goldberg expects to be living in Whistler, where he has been posted to the sliding centre for bobsleigh, luge and skeleton events. Cantelmi is assigned to event venues in Vancouver, where he will live on a cruise ship.

"It's the second Olympics I'll be working at," Goldberg said. "I was 13 during the 1976 Games."

That's when he and his family worked as crew on his uncle's boat, sailing from Beaconsfield to Kingston to volunteer at the sailing races. "We took judges and military personal onboard for the different events. I still have my accreditation card."

While Goldberg has served in West-

mount since 2003 and specializes in traffic-related problems, the younger Cantelmi is a patroller. "We're a mix of old and new," Goldberg pointed out.

They'll be armed and have been updating their uniforms and equipment to ensure they're suitable for the assignment and that their Montreal logos and badges will be clearly visible. While the special Integrated Security Unit for the games is under command of the RCMP, all police forces will be outfitted in their local uniforms.



Anthony Cantelmi

## Elliott, Murciano to work at Olympics

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Long-time Westmount residents Virginia Elliott and Victor Murciano are counting down the days until they leave February 9 to work as volunteers at the Olympic games in Vancouver.

The husband-and-wife team expects the three weeks to be an unbelievable experience as each takes on a different role based in part on their language skills.

Elliott, who is assistant Community Events coordinator with the city of Westmount, has been posted to the main international media centre in Vancouver as a venue protocol and language service assistant.

Proficient in English, French, Spanish – and speaking some German – she underwent rigorous French testing for the assignment.

.....

continued on p. 9

## Carnival features three days of winter fun

.....

continued from p. 1

val planners are hoping for "new fluffy snow," said Claude Danis, program and community services coordinator.

### Carnival events start Feb. 4

This year's program kicks off Thursday, February 4 with a seniors' carnival luncheon at Contactivity Centre. For information, call 514.932.3433.

This is followed by the traditional Family Tobogganing night at Murray Park from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. It features sliding, skating, a bonfire and hot chocolate.

The evening continues from 8 pm to midnight at Victoria Hall with the annual Casino Night for those aged 18 and over. This year's Olympic theme is "Après Ski

Casino". Tickets costing \$15 (from Victoria Hall) cover snacks, chips for playing roulette, blackjack, Texas hold 'em and other games, and entertainment by Team Burlesque and Under the Three, a jazz trio from Dawson College. A cash bar will be available.

### All aboard, Friday!

Tickets for the Friday, February 5 event, "Westmount-to-Whistler Express", are also on sale now at Victoria Hall from 8:30 to 4:30 pm priced at \$5 for children aged 12 and under; \$10 for everyone else.

A figure skating show starts off events on Saturday, February 6 at 10 am at the arena. "This year we have a nice mix of new skaters and others from ages 7 to 14," said sports coordinator Anitra Bostock.

"We'll have lots of fun music and bright, flashy costumes."

There is also face painting (10 to noon), a Termite mini-hockey tournament at 11 am, general skating at noon, and a puck-shooting competition at 12:30 pm. Hotdogs will be served from noon to 1:30 pm.

On the playing field at Westmount Park, old-fashioned sleigh rides take place from 10:45 am to 4 pm with a sugar shack and taffy pull from 11 am to 3 pm.

Back at the arena, afternoon skating events include a puck shooting competition (12:30 pm to 1:30 pm), fun races and games on ice (1:30 pm to 2:30 pm). The carnival winds down with family skating from 2:30 to 9:45 pm.



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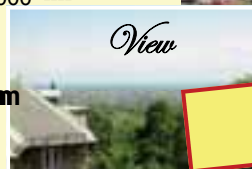
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## ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

### La galerie du Victoria Hall

**Ateliers de dessin gratuits donnés par Bruce Roberts**

Enfants de 10 ans et plus et adultes. Joignez-vous à Bruce Roberts les samedis 30 janvier et 6 février afin d'apprendre à dessiner un cheval. N'oubliez pas d'apporter un crayon à la mine HB ainsi que des feuilles blanches. De plus, profitez-en pour voir les œuvres de cet artiste qui sont exposées à la galerie du Victoria Hall jusqu'au 6 février. Info : 514 989-5521. 🌿



## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

### Conférences de 14 heures

**The Power of Magic in Ancient Egypt**

Joignez-vous à Richard James le mercredi 10 février à 14 h pour une présentation concernant la croyance en la vie après la mort et le pouvoir de la magie de l'Égypte ancienne. Info : 514 989-5386. 🌿



## SPORTS ET LOISIRS

### Cartes d'accès - installations sportives 2010

Les cartes d'accès pour l'année 2010 sont maintenant en vente au bureau des Sports et loisirs à l'Aréna de Westmount. Veuillez noter qu'une carte d'accès valide est requise pour les périodes de patinage libre et toute partie de hockey improvisée à l'Aréna. 🌿



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### The Gallery at Victoria Hall

**Free Drawing Workshops with Bruce Roberts**

Come and join Bruce Roberts to learn how to draw a horse Saturday, January 30 or February 6 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Gallery at Victoria Hall. For kids 10 and over as well as adults. Please bring an HB pencil and paper. You can also enjoy Bruce Roberts' works presently exhibited in the Gallery until February 6. Info: 514 989-5521. 🌿



## LIBRARY

### 2 O'Clock Series

**The Power of Magic in Ancient Egypt**

Please join Richard James for this presentation on Wednesday, February 10 at 2 p.m. that will explore the Egyptians' view of life after death and their belief in the power of magic. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌿



## SPORTS & RECREATION

### 2010 Facility Membership Cards

Sports Facility Membership Cards for the 2010 calendar year are now for sale at the Sports and Recreation office at the Westmount Arena. Please note that a valid Sports Facility Membership Card is required for general skating and pick-up hockey at the Westmount Arena. 🌿



www.westmount.org  
info : 514 989-5200



## DATEBOOK

### January 30 & February 6 – 10 a.m.

Free Drawing Workshops with Bruce Roberts  
Gallery at Victoria Hall

### February 1 – 8 p.m.

Council Meeting  
City Hall

### February 5 – 2 p.m.

Chess and Scrabble Club  
Library

### February 10 – 2 p.m.

2 O'Clock Series  
*The Power of Magic in Ancient Egypt*  
Library



## PUBLIC WORKS

### Christmas Tree Collection

Christmas tree collection continues through the end of the month. Make sure your tree gets composted by placing it right behind the sidewalk at the front of your property at anytime. You must remove ALL decorations and wrapping (no plastic bags). Info: 514 989-5311.

### Electronic Waste

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## Le 27<sup>ème</sup> carnaval d'hiver

Les 4, 5 et 6 février 2010

L'hiver annonce la tenue de la 27<sup>e</sup> édition annuelle du Carnaval d'hiver, ponctué d'événements ayant lieu aux quatre coins de la ville.

- Le jeudi 4 février :** Toboggan en famille au parc King George  
Soirée casino « Après-ski » au Victoria Hall  
*Billets disponibles au Victoria Hall*
- Le vendredi 5 février :** L'express de Westmount à Whistler  
*Billets disponibles au Victoria Hall*
- Le samedi 6 février :** Plaisirs givrés au parc Westmount et à l'Aréna

Veuillez consulter notre site Web pour l'horaire complet.

## 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival

February 4, 5 and 6, 2010

Winter is here, and with it, Westmount's 27<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Carnival, with events across the city, including:

- Thursday, February 4:** Family Tobogganing (King George Park)  
Westmount "Après Ski" Casino (Victoria Hall)  
*Tickets available at Victoria Hall*
- Friday, February 5:** Westmount to Whistler Express (Victoria Hall)  
*Tickets available at Victoria Hall*
- Saturday, February 6:** Frosty Fun at Westmount Park and the Arena

Consult our Web site for the complete schedule.



# Elliott: Olympics bound

continued from p. 7

"I'm supposed to be greeting people from around the world – members of the international press and families of athletes," she said. But she'll only know exactly what the role entails after her training on arrival.

Murciano, a communications technician with Hydro Quebec, will work in security at the snowboarding venue at Cypress Mountain. He speaks English, French and Yiddish.

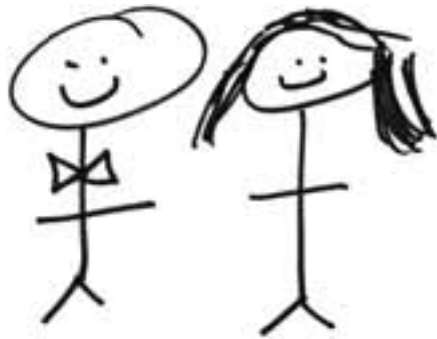
"I'm getting to a point in my life where you want to give back, and I'm in a position to do so," Elliott said.

"I've always had civic pride in what Canada does and when the call went out for volunteers, it seemed like a wonderful opportunity." She then persuaded her husband to apply as well. Both are using vacation time and accumulated hours from their regular work to make the trip possible.

Elliott has a long record of volunteer service and is currently the area commissioner for Scouts Canada. While she originally wanted to stay for the Paralympics, the two-week gap between the games meant too long an absence.

Keren Roberts, a part-time worker at the circulation desk of the Westmount Public Library, will be working at the Paralympics. She has already left for Vancouver to rehearse for her role as a dancer in the opening ceremonies.

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## Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27

• **Senior's luncheon** at Centre Greene, 12:15 pm. Cost: \$5. Reserve: 514.931.6202.

• Atwater Library Lunchtime series presents musicians **Maria Demacheva**, violinist; **Viviane Gosselin**, cellist; and **Fiona Stuart**, Yiddish singer, accordionist, and guitarist. 12:30 pm. Free, donations invited. Info: 514.935.7344.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

Contactivity Centre presents Thurza Dufresne on "**Elderabuse: detection and prevention**" at 4695 de Maisonneuve. Lunch at 1 pm for members. Non-members welcome for after-lunch talk at 1:30 pm. Reserve: 514.932.2326.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

TGIF at Centre Greene: dinner and games for **ages 5 to 12**. From 6 to 8:30 pm. Cost: \$12/child or \$90/season. Info: www.centregreene.org or 514.931.6202.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

Speakeasy Productions present **Lydia Lockett and Ian Ferrier** at London Bus Café, 4126 St. Catherine St. W. 6 pm. Cost: \$15, Info: 438.886.0967.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

**Council meeting**, 8 pm at city hall.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

ArtNow speakers are artists Bruce Roberts and Pierre Lessard, RCA. Westmount Library, 7 pm. Free.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4

Westmount's Annual Winter Carnival begins. Tobogganing, skating, casino evening and more. Continues through Saturday, February 6. For complete schedule, see www.westmount.org.

• Marianopolis College Alumni Association hosts annual silent auction and reunion from 6 to 9 p.m. at Marianopolis College, 4873 Westmount Ave. Info: 514.931.8792, #202, or www.marianopolis.edu/groundhog

• Local **Sherlock Holmes** club's bi-monthly meeting. All potential sleuths invited, optional quiz on "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton". Westmount Library, 6:30 pm. Info: 514.935.9581.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6

Fundraising bake sale and **Cat & Kitten Adoption Day**, held by Moustache Rescue at Naturalanimal & Pawtisserie (4932B Sherbrooke St. W.), from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. Proceeds go to help rescued animals.

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# A thrill of a night for the Miriam Foundation



## Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

It was a dark and stormy night for the hugely anticipated Miriam Foundation's "Thriller of a Night" gala. The successful fundraising soirée, which raised \$60,000, was held to support children and adults with intellectual disabilities and autism.

Knowing that a Michael Jackson impersonator would perform, guests were dressed to dance! Adding to the mood were black fedoras, aviator sunglasses and white gloves that were given away in his memory.

Committee co-chairs were **Pearl Bratin** and **Terri Sims**, supported by committee members **Erna Benjamin**, **Mara Greenstone**, **Julie Katz**, **Nancy Maklan**, **Marcy Seidman**, **Maydie Wolofsky**, **Linda Zunenshine** and **Harry Kloda** whose party premises hosted the sold-out bash. Linda's son **Robbie Zunenshine** spoke beautifully about the cause.

***We bet your newborn is cuter than this! (And your stroller probably looks better in a photo, too.)***



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Co-chairs and committee members kicked off the night, dancing fabulously to Jackson's famed song "Thriller". **Thierry Marceau** – impersonating Michael Jackson – and his team wowed the crowd with their quick-stepped performance, including of course, Jackson's inimitable moonwalk.

Main sponsors were Delmar Cargo, Reitmans (Canada) Inc. and Heenan Blaikie.

Guests posed with "Michael Jackson" and, before they went into the night, they received their portraits as a framed memory of a magic moment.

Westmounters present included **Judy and Arthur Sanft**, **Linda and Terry Smith**, **Erika and Louis Ludwick**, and **Nancy Maklan** and **Martin Smith**.

Delicious delights, catered by Simon Toledano, were eagerly devoured all.



Westmounters Rosalie Jukier and Lewis Dobrin with "Michael," impersonated by Thierry Marceau.



Westmounters Gail and Alan Marcovitz.



Westmounter Lois Alexander

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Westmounters Martin Smith and Nancy Maklan with "Michael".

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# Lucky down on his luck



9 Lives

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Lucky

Lucky was one of the cats from Gerdy's Rescue who was in need of adoption a few years ago. He was adopted by a very kind gentleman who has now had to move into a nursing home. It is now time for this faithful companion to join another family.

This cat is a male domestic shorthair (a "velvet cat") with striking light green eyes. At 8 years old, he is a gentleman of a cat who enjoys attention and affection. In fact, he is quite the purring machine. He is very healthy, neutered and up-to-date with his shots. He is ready to join a loving family who will reserve a spot for him on the couch and in their lives.

If you would like to know more about Lucky, please contact Gerdy's Rescue and Adoptions at 514.203.9180 or email [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org).

Your neighbour,  
Lyzanne

PS: Great news! Jasmine, the lovely 15-year-old senior cat we featured in our last issue, has been adopted by the family who fostered her. If you want to help a pet in the short term, there is also a great need for transition homes in order to promote adoption.

Artwork by Laura S. Cohendet

## Hogg Hardware is open!

In order to get our new Westmount location ready, we have moved to the corner of Vendome Ave. and Sherbrooke St. (5128 Sherbrooke St. W., near À Votre Santé)

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# Colin No endowment 60% funded

BY ISAAC OLSON

An annual alumni basketball tournament aimed at honouring a late Selwyn House School (SHS) graduate while raising awareness about an endowment fund established in his name bounced through the school's Speirs Building on January 21.

Soon after his untimely death in 2002, Colin No's friends initiated an endowment fund intended to give less-privileged students a chance to attend the private, K-11 boys school. Now, six years in the making, fundraising is still \$10,000 short of the \$25,000 goal.

But Toby No, Colin's identical twin, is confident the money will materialize in the coming year as his classmates, who graduated with him and his brother in 1997 and continue to be the fund's most generous supporters, are able to make larger donations as they get older and become more financially secure.

"We'll get there, I don't doubt that," Toby said. "Hopefully, that goal will be obtained by next year."

Toby said that, despite the recent headline-sparking controversies, he believes strongly in SHS and he hopes that someday the endowment fund will allow at least one student the same experience he had by attending the school – a school he describes as a "fine institution."



Toby No (left) poses with Alfie Paoletti, SHS coach and physical education teacher.

Colin, who suffered a brain aneurysm at age 22, was still actively involved with the school's alumni association when he died.

Director of advancement, and music teacher for 33 years, James McMillan, who remembers having the "popular brothers" in his class, said fundraising for the scholarship fund continues all year round and

donations can be made at anytime via the school's website.

"Colin was one the nicest guys you'll ever meet," said Alfie Paoletti who, in his 25 years as a physical education teacher and coach at SHS, had the "inseparable, hard-working" twins on his basketball, rugby and football teams. "They were tough, gritty players."

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# Westmount for Haiti

continued from p. 4

## Rotary

The Rotary Club of Westmount will provide two immediate donations of \$25,000 to the Canadian Red Cross and \$25,000 to Shelter Box Canada. The club will also match any donation for Haiti relief made by its members who can direct their contribution to the Red Cross, Shelter Box or Doctors without Borders.

Shelter Box is a Rotary initiative out of the UK. It provides temporary shelter and relief for up to ten people. The kit comes equipped with a tent, ten sleeping bags or thermal blankets, two treated mosquito nets, water purification tablets, water con-

tainers, multi-fuel stove, kitchen utensils, tools and children's school supplies. For more information on Rotary's initiative, call 514.935.3344, and for information on Shelter Box, visit [www.shelterbox.ca](http://www.shelterbox.ca).

## The Priory

During the week of January 18, students at The Priory were asked to do a chore at home each day for a week, and their parents were asked to contribute a toonie for each completed chore. The initiative named "Hug Haiti" was the school's "way of sending a hug," according to a letter sent home to parents. Contributions were collected January 22 and will go to the Red Cross for its relief efforts in Haiti.

# Grey Cup at the Manoir

continued from p. 3

Saskatchewan Roughriders in Calgary on November 29. In the months since the victory, Als officials have been taking the trophy on tour all over Montreal. Manoir Westmount was one of many stops.

Baxter, who has been a football fan as long as she can remember, pointed out that many people lost interest in the Als/Roughriders showdown before the game was even over. They missed the climax when Montreal surged at the last moment to beat Saskatchewan by a single

point.

Ross can say she has not only been a football fan for decades, but she actually used to play the sport. "I loved football. I had my own football when I was a kid," said the former Forden Crescent resident. She was not surprised by the 2009 Grey Cup's outcome, saying the Als victory was "very overdue."

As for next year, she predicts the team's fortunes will depend on the kind of shape its lead quarterback is in. "We'll see how Calvillo goes," she says. "As he goes, so does the team."



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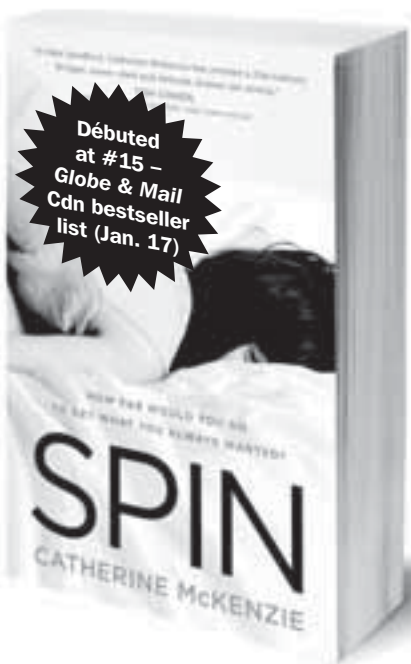
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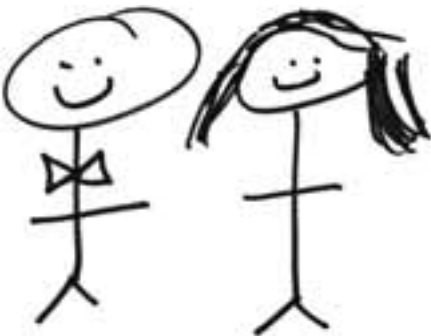


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# Trent aggro report queries transit deficit, pension losses

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A major portion of increased agglomeration spending borne by Westmounters this year results from pension fund shortfalls and transit deficits, Mayor Peter Trent said after examining the \$4.3-billion Montreal/agglo budget as part of an ad hoc review committee.

Planning to file a minority report Monday on behalf of the Association of Montreal Suburban Mayors (ASM), Trent said he had “grave concerns over the lack of control on endemic spending in Montreal” and “questionable” downloading of its expenses onto the agglomeration.

Trent, as president of the ASM, and Dorval mayor Edgar Rouleau were the only two suburban leaders included on the committee of Montreal representatives, which met January 15 to 22.

And while it would have been more useful to have been involved earlier in the budget process, he said he was pleased that aggro “partners” were included. “It helped me understand a little more and gain insight into trends such as the pen-

sion fund increases.”

He also found it curious that so much of the pension fund shortfall from stock market losses in 2008 was being charged to the aggro compared to Montreal. “I find the numbers very high and questionable, and especially when we know the market was improving in 2009.”

He was also “furious” the committee was excluded from examining the fire budget now that the department has been “lumped in” organizationally with police, who historically claimed special budget privileges in the name of security.

Police and fire costs have risen this year by 19 and 15 percent respectively and together represent 40 percent of the aggro budget, he pointed out.

Trent expressed added concern over the legality of the STM’s \$40-million deficit and the efficacy of Montreal’s freeze on new capital works. “It’s accounting in never-never land.”

While Trent made many suggestions during the budget review, he said, one he was especially pleased about was agreed to on the spot: it was to detail the numbers

of management personnel separately from white-collar workers to allow for closer scrutiny of new hires. “We also agreed on the need to re-examine the amount allocated to the protection of green spaces.” This was lower than what had been ex-

pected.

He is also calling for a five-year list of spending trends and comparisons of budgets to actual spending, and the prioritizing of capital works projects.

## Scots mark Robbie Burns Day at Atwater Library

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A few dozen Scots from all over Montreal gathered at the Atwater Library January 21 for a celebration of Scotland’s greatest national poet, Robert Burns, whose birthday is marked on January 25.

Peter McAuslan, president of the St. Andrew’s Society of Montreal and a Westmounter, wore his kilt to deliver a talk on Burns’ poetic legacy, while George Barclay recited one of Burns’ most famous works of verse, “Address to a Haggis”, standing over a platter of the traditional Scottish dish.

McAuslan may have raised a few questions about whether or not he himself is a “true Scotsman.” According to Scottish lore, a “true Scotsman” eschews wearing undergarments beneath his kilt. Prior to delivering his address, McAuslan offered a glimpse of what he had on underneath. “This particular Scotsman is wearing a Stanfield plaid under his kilt,” he said, as the audience erupted in laughter.

“Robbie Burns continues to fascinate,” said McAuslan, noting that nearly 25,000 Canadian web pages turned up in a Google search he did about 2010 Robbie Burns Night dinners. There were 2.6 million pages worldwide on the same topic. He compared Burns, who wrote in Scots dialect, to the Quebec playwright Michel Tremblay, who produced many of his works in French *joual*.



Peter McAuslan, left, and Hugh McGuire, past president of Atwater Library board.

## Taxes revealed in 2010 budget

continued from p. 1

in its last year.

Given last year’s average homeowner’s tax bill of \$10,184, an increase in the range of 8 or 9 percent could add \$800 to \$900. Last year’s comparable figure was \$101.

The valuation of the average single family dwelling for 2010 is \$1,023,249, an increase of 7.58 percent over 2009.

This first budget of the new council reflects the priorities of the former council which left office near the end of the budget process, Price explained. The new council had to deal with the effect of the agglomeration increases which weren’t known

until just before Christmas.

“We’re very concerned about the lack of control over aggro spending and how it might impact our local spending over the long term,” he said. “We’re going to take a hard look at everything before next year’s budget. This includes other sources of revenue, from recreation fees to parking fines and costs of permits. We’ll also examine what other municipalities are doing.”

Price said he felt it was “unfortunate” that tax increases in Westmount over the last three years had not kept pace with the cost of inflation because “it’s a hidden cost if you defer to the future some costs such as infrastructure repair.”

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