

Council adopts ad hoc committee's recommendations

Bike path open this winter

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's de Maisonneuve bike path will remain open this winter on a test basis, city council announced at its meeting October 4. It was one of several recommendations made by the council's *ad hoc* bike path committee that also will be implemented.

By opening the bicycle route, the city will forego \$75,000 in revenue from south-side parking meters east of Greene but it will not change existing snow removal schedules nor leave the delineating poles in place.

"It's not an ideal situation and cyclists will use it at their own risk," said Council-

lor Gary Ikeman, who chairs the *ad hoc* committee.

He announced that the city had hired a consultant to redesign the bike path's entrances to Westmount Park, devise new signage and calming devices through the park. As well, fencing and line painting would be added along the park route to differentiate it from recreational areas.

The council also supported the agglomeration's plan to create north-south bike lanes on either side of Lansdowne and Glen Rd. to link the de Maisonneuve route with the Lachine canal path via de Courcelle through St. Henri (see p. 7).

"I'm very pleased the council approved all these recommendations," Ikeman said.

In response to the changes announced for the de Maisonneuve bike route, however, Brigitte St. Laurent, presented a report responding to the *ad hoc* committee's recommendations (see p. 7).

It was prepared by the Westmount Citizens for Safe Cycling, a committee created by local de Maisonneuve residents to improve safety of the bike route for cyclists, residents and pedestrians alike.

She said the bike route was not safe by North American standards and asked Councillor Ikeman how and when the city would correct its configuration and take measures to ensure cyclists followed the rules of the road.

Enforcement was a police matter, he replied. There was also a limit to what the city could do on the street outside the park.



Trendsetting twins create their own style

Twin sisters Gabrielle and Tara Gabarino show off their collection of Luv u Always leggings. A Westmount success story in the making. For story, see p. 14.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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Fireworks found

Cardboard remnants of fireworks were found behind a house on Prospect St. October 1, according to Public Security. Officers were called to the location by a resident at 10:30 pm saying fireworks were being set off. No one was caught.

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Cherry tree planted at train station in memory of Aline Gubbay

Diana, Michelle and Sharon Gubbay, daughters of the late Westmount historian and author Aline Gubbay, attend a memorial tree planting in her honour, October 8, at the old Westmount train station at the foot of Victoria Ave. A cherry tree was planted in memory of their mother, who died five years ago. Mayor Peter Trent was among the many friends and relatives of Aline Gubbay who took part in the ceremony.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



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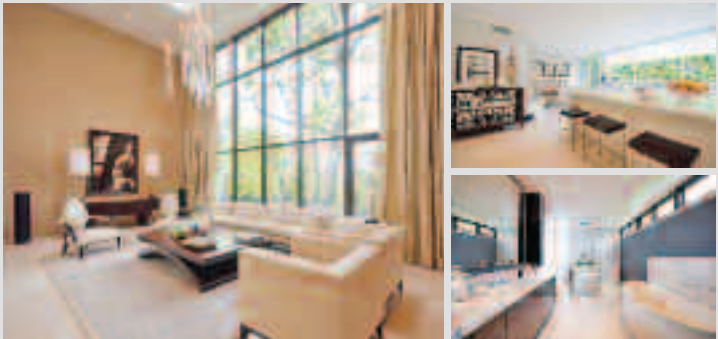
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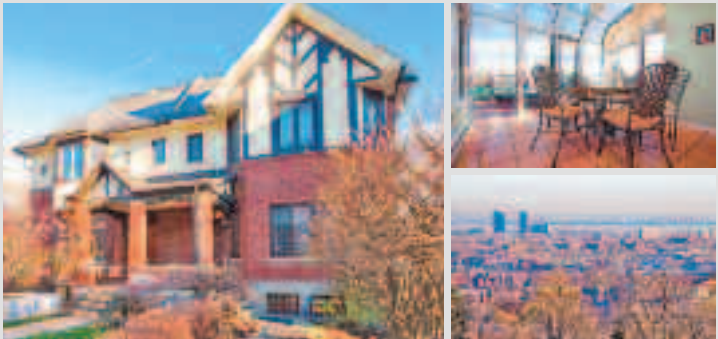
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Petition urges more off-leash time at Summit Park

Dog owners offer to pay more

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two dog owners presented a petition of some 300 names to city council at its meeting October 4 seeking extended off-leash hours at Summit Park.

The request, signed by dog owners and non-dog owners alike, as well as local residents and those of adjacent neighbourhoods, proposes opening up restricted times so dogs could run free all day on weekdays and before 11 am and after 4 pm on weekends.

In return, owners would buy a special additional municipal licence for off-leash Summit access of \$30. This would help administer the program and maintain the property “to the benefit of the entire community.”

“Our goal is to find a way for us to have more access to the park during the day and to become more active participants in the maintenance and preservation of this precious resource,” said Paula Engels, a resident of Victoria Ave.

“We are willing to contribute.”

This was the second time in two months that the Summit Park dog issue has come before council (see August 10, p. 3). The petition has been circulating at the park since August.

Thanking Engels and Sarah Sedcole for their “civilized approach and tone,” Mayor Peter Trent said he had recently written to another resident stating the city council

was not interested in changing the current dog regulations and opening up Summit Park to greater use.

Even allowing dogs to run free at certain times in the nature reserve was an anomaly, he said, “but we’ve allowed that.”

He explained that charging a licence fee of \$100 for the use of dog runs by non-residents had been introduced 15 years ago but had not worked. As a result, the fee had not been reinstated after its elimination during the merger years when municipal facilities were open to all Montreal residents.

Under city by-laws, only dogs bearing a Westmount licence are allowed to use the city’s dog runs but licences are also issued to Montreal dogowners.

Describing Westmount with its many dog runs as “the nirvana of dog owners,” Trent reiterated council’s previous position and “responsibility” to protect the nature reserve from overuse.

It was primarily a bird and floral sanctuary used by migratory and nesting

birds and not “a free-run for dogs.” It was to be used by people without dogs as well.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham pointed out that contrary to other parks in Westmount, the entire area of Summit Park was a dog run, which required a particular balance in use.

Regulations for Summit Park allow dogs, accompanied by their keepers, to run off-leash all day between December 1



Sarah Sedcole and Paula Engels present the Summit Park petition at city council.

Cenotaph to get \$28,000 facelift

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council voted October 4 to give the cenotaph a deeper than usual facelift at a cost of some \$28,000.

The work, which was promised to be completed in time for Remembrance Day services November 7, involves stripping, cleaning and re-varnishing the bronze statue, as well as waxing and hand-polishing, explained Councillor Patrick Martin.

It will be supervised by restoration specialist Philippe Danton, who maintains

the statue of the soldier and winged angel. Typically, they are re-waxed and polished every two or three years as needed. The cost also includes ice-blasting and rental of a 45-foot boom required for the work.

A major restoration in October 1994 cost \$47,800. It involved removing the statue by crane, repairing the sinking base and restoring the statue, which had become oxidized and corroded since its installation after World War I. Granite tablets bearing the names of Westmount’s fallen were also restored.

and April 14. They must then be leashed at all times during the bird migratory period, usually April 15 to June 15. Thereafter until December 1, dogs must be leashed between 9 am and 6 pm.

A letter to city council accompanying the petition states that when free-run hours are restricted during the day, it opens the area to vagrants, drug users and teenage drinking. It also suggests that 23 to 30 percent of people walking dogs in Summit Park come from surrounding areas such as NDG, the Ridgewood area and other adjacent neighbourhoods.

“We are willing to work with you to find a solution that will benefit everyone,” it concludes.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CYCLING GROUP APPLAUDS LANSDOWNE PATH

The Westmount Walking and Cycling Association welcomes the decision by the city to build a new bike path down Lansdowne and to keep the de Maisonneuve bike path open this winter.

The new Lansdowne bike path will provide a safe link for cyclists between the existing de Maisonneuve bike path and the existing Lachine canal bike path, both of which are key east-west routes for cyclists.

Keeping the Westmount portion of the de Maisonneuve bike path open in winter will provide a safe route for cyclists through Westmount and allow them to connect to the Montreal winter bike path network which begins near Atwater Ave.

These two initiatives will help promote cycling in Westmount and its neighbouring boroughs by providing safe passage. This will encourage people to cycle, rather than take motorised transportation, and thereby improve the long-term liveability of our community.

Locally, motor vehicles have a significant negative impact (pollution-related health problems, personal injury, noise, space for roads and parking, etc.). Westmount suffers not only from high vehicle use by its residents, but even more from the thousands of cars a day transiting Westmount to get to and from downtown.

Globally, emissions from transport are a major contributor to climate change.

Looking forward, we hope Bixi will expand to Westmount next spring and, as part of the planned Master Traffic Plan, we hope less space will be dedicated to drivers and more space dedicated to pedestrians and cyclists, especially since both the MUHC and the small Turcot option will increase traffic in Westmount. We feel residents should be able to get around by bike as safely as they can by walking or driving – that means more bike paths.

DAN LAMBERT, LANSDOWNE AVE.
RESIDENT AND PRESIDENT OF THE
WESTMOUNT WALKING AND CYCLING
ASSOCIATION

DON'T DEMONIZE CYCLISTS

Coming from a small street in Westmount where many commute by cycling, coming from a household where everyone cycles to everything: the OSM, the curling club, McGill, MMFA, and having cycled in Montreal for 40 years, I am appalled at the unending attempts by some to demonize cyclists.

My own experience has been that they are wonderful. There are a few who are uncivilized, but they are a very small minority when compared to delinquent motorists. The number of motorized vehicles that travel within speed limits, that come to a full stops, that are not distracted by

cell phones, radios, or eating is not great.

Nor are cyclists in the same league as motorists when it comes to causing fatalities and injuries but are unfortunately at the receiving end. I've been struck by a motorist who was driving with one arm in a cast. When it comes to conservation of energy or preservation of the environment, the number of vehicles that are solar powered, electric, or even hybrid is nearly zero.

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Lamppost topples senior

An 83-year-old Westmounter was fortunate to escape serious injury when a lamppost just grazed her as it fell to the sidewalk.

The incident happened just after noon on October 7, adjacent to the Metro grocery store parking lot on Victoria Ave. A white Intercontinental-style truck driving south in the east lane was attempting to park.

"The truck was so high that it hit the lamppost," said Constable Adalbert Pimentel. "The pole fell to the ground, and as it went down, it grazed the left shoulder blade of the victim, and she fell."

Station 12 police, Westmount Public Security and Urgences Santé all responded. The woman was taken by ambulance to St. Mary's Hospital.

"Whenever there's an incident involving a senior, it's always more worrisome for us because an injury could have more serious consequences," said Pimentel. "But the victim was very lucky. The injury is not considered life-threatening, and she was taken to the hospital more as a precautionary measure."

Police say the truck is owned by Canada Inter-Province. The 41-year-old driver, who lives on the North shore, was not charged with any violation.

des Municipalités du Québec and one of its major goals is sustainability. An essential cornerstone in attaining that moral objective is active transport. Cycling is being pedestrian at an urban scale. It is the civilizing element against the past century's trend of facilitating the omnipresence of metallic vehicles in the asphalt jungle.

At times, some Westmount cycling safety associations might be construed as cycling abolitionists. I could be wrong. They might very well have approached school boards and our recreation department to institute safe cycling classes. They might be in favour of a cycling bridge in Westmount Park. They might be lobbying for a protected path down the Glen. They might be proposing a network of safe cycling pathways across Westmount. We should then owe them a debt of respect.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.

One ticketed in pellet gun, paintball incidents

A 16-year old youth from TMR was ticketed Saturday night, October 2 for discharging a pellet gun in a public place, Public Security officials said. He was part of a group of 12 to 15 that had been seen at Murray Park.

The culprit was intercepted at the east side after officers heard popping sounds. The minor received a ticket for \$68. He was also found in possession of a second air pistol.

In an earlier incident the same day, officers were called to the lane between Bruce and Columbia at 5 pm by an unidentified person stating three people were firing either paintballs or pellets from air pistols. The public safety patrol ordered two males to place the weapons on the ground for safety until police arrived.

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Turcot work could take place at night City pushes for noise, dust control

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Noise and dust from the rebuilding of the Ville Marie Expressway are reported to be the main concerns that Westmount representatives impressed upon top planners of the Turcot interchange project at a meeting September 14 at city hall.

"They told us they would be using a big, high temporary wall to keep out dust and would put equipment into sound-proof boxes," Councillor Theodora Samiotis told the *Independent* last week.

On the other hand, no commitment was made concerning the times work would be undertaken, she said when asked about night construction.

"Everyone in Westmount will be impacted because the noise will ricochet up to The Boulevard," Samiotis said. "Traffic is also a major concern."

The meeting was organized by Westmount MNA Jacques Chagnon between city council's *ad hoc* Turcot committee and the Quebec Transport ministry (MTQ).

"Mr. Chagnon reiterated our need to implement [the Westmount] sound barrier project, and the ministry representatives seemed open to it," Samiotis said. A pro-

TOTYPE section has been in place for some time at the foot of Abbott Ave.

After the final Turcot plans are unveiled in the next couple of months, she said, an information meeting is expected to take place for Westmounters.

While many different scenarios have been discussed since the original plan was revealed, the initial concept of lowering the expressway remains intact, Samiotis said. So does eliminating the Greene Ave. entrance to the expressway.

While no date is known for the actual start of work, the seven-year project will converge with construction of the MUHC hospital "which will lead to a need for us to be particularly vigilant and over which we hope we can have some influence."

Also in the same timeframe is the city's own arena/pool project, over which the city will have control, she pointed out.

Along with Samiotis and Chagnon, the Turcot meeting was attended by Mayor Peter Trent, Councillor Cynthia Lulham, city director general Duncan Campbell and Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier. MTQ officials were Alain Dubé, in charge of the Turcot project, and Bernard Caron, MTQ Montreal director.

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City recognizes long service



Quarter-century honourees are congratulated by Mayor Peter Trent, centre, and city director general Duncan Campbell, far right. They are, from left: Richard Bertozzi (Public Works), Jerry Dolar (IT), Michael Hunter and Robert Guérin (Public Works), Denis Proulx (Public Security), Luis Diaz (Community Events) and Stephen Payne and Robert White (Public Security). Firefighter Claude Gagnon and Robert Durnin of Hydro Westmount were unable to attend.

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Ten Westmount employees marking 25 years of service were inducted October 7 into the city’s Quarter Century Club at its 67th banquet held in Victoria Hall.

The annual event brings together retirees who have already joined the club

with current colleagues being recognized for 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service – or more.

“I’ve only missed one banquet since 1956,” said Frances Talbot, 92, who retired in 1988 as secretary to the director general. She used to help coordinate the event and said she

continued on p. 14



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Lansdowne bike route work begins

Work, if not already started, is expected to begin this week to create north-south bicycle lanes on Lansdowne/Glen Rd., city director general Duncan Campbell said last week. These, one on each side, would connect with bike paths on de Maisonneuve and the Lachine canal.

The work to smooth pavement, line paint and install signage had already started on de Courcelle in St. Henri and is being carried out by Montreal as an agglomeration project.

Survey: Bike path and cyclists fail to comply

Only 2.5 percent of cyclists on the de Maisonneuve bike path in Westmount actually respect stop signs, a summer survey at various locations found. Fully 42 percent ran red lights for a global non-compliance rate of 88.5 percent.

The findings were made by urban planning students from the University of Montreal commissioned by Westmount Citizens for Safe Cycling. They are contained in a report presented to city council by the committee October 4.

The research also revealed the bike route contravened “best practices” in major urban centres and as promoted by Vélo-Québec, the Quebec ministry of Transport, the Institut national de la santé publique du Québec and, in some cases, the American Association of State Highways and Transportation Officials.

It was a two-way route on a one-way street, of “sub-standard” width, on the wrong side of the street and positioned next to the curb rather than outside parked cars. It was also located on a street with many stop signs and traffic lights though little traffic. This encouraged non-compliance with rules of the road.

These findings require a readdressing of the route, the report concludes.

It recommends the city establish a permanent task force to address increases in cycling for sustainability and to provide infrastructure that reflects “best practices.”

It also urges the city to seize the opportunity to assume a leadership role in Montreal and Quebec to contribute “in a constructive and positive manner.”

Concerning various standards for bike routes, city director general Duncan Campbell said the city has been working with Vélo-Québec and has engaged a specialist as a consultant on the path.

He also pointed to other two-way bike paths on one-way streets: Hutchison St. downtown and several in the West Island.

Where will sustainability go after Wolfe?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The imminent departure of the city’s Sustainable Development coordinator, Joshua Wolfe, has generated concerns for the future of the city’s sustainability program.



Joshua Wolfe

The news about Wolfe was made public at the October 4 meeting of city council by Sheila Mason, representing the environment committee of the Healthy City Project, who led off the question period wanting information on the program.

She asked how the 2010 action plan was being implemented as well as how funding set aside in the city’s 2010 budget for sustainability was being used.

Wolfe was hired on a two-year contract in May 2008 to develop and launch the sustainability program – a priority of then mayor Karin Marks. He leaves the city October 22 by mutual agreement, despite a contract extension to year end.

“I had hoped that Westmount could have gone further in the time I was here,” Wolfe told the *Independent*. He said he would be continuing his work in sustainability with other communities.

Replying to Mason’s concerns, Councillor Theodora Samiotis, the city’s environmental commissioner, said she would be providing an update on the 2010 action plan “probably at the next meeting.” She then referred the matter to city general director Duncan Campbell.

Now that Wolfe had created the action plan of 10 initiatives for this year, Campbell said, it was the responsibility of city departments to implement them. Some, such as adding bike racks, were easier than those requiring longer term work such as Urban Planning legislation.

Some \$300,000 that was allocated to a sustainability fund in the city’s 2010 budget included Wolfe’s salary.

Mason, a professor of philosophy at Concordia who has taught environmental ethics, later said the Healthy City committee lacked information on progress being made under the 2010 action plan. “We don’t know what’s happening. Has the plan been put on the back burner?” She later said the environment committee’s role as a watchdog group to encourage the community to adopt environmental pro-

grams required information in order to work effectively.

“The committee is unsure who will fill Wolfe’s position and wants to know: will the city follow up with enthusiasm on the work he has done? My understanding is that they will fill the position from within.”

The committee and the community, she said, need someone with his expertise and broad knowledge of what is being carried out elsewhere in sustainability so as not to “reinvent the wheel.”

Pug mugs – what’s not to love?



Underdog

MARY LAMEY

Gerdy’s Rescue adopted Billie Jean and Flo out to the same home a few years back. Unfortunately, their human companion has developed a respiratory condition that forced her to give up these pint-sized clowns.

Once a Gerdy’s dog always a Gerdy’s dog. Rather than see them turfed to the pound, Gerdy took them in again, but she’s eager to find this vivacious pair a forever home, ideally together or, if absolutely necessary, apart.

Billie Jean, five, is the younger of the two. She has a wonky front leg, probably a birth defect. It doesn’t slow her down or cause her any pain. There’s something Elizabeth Taylorish about this little diva, perhaps the eyes like limpid pools, perhaps the way she’s carrying around a few extra pounds. She’s initially timid, but quickly warms up. When she does, its kisses and rapturous gazes, à la Liz and Dick on the set of *Cleopatra*!

Flo, a senior dog, has a sore hip that isn’t getting any better trundling her 24-lb frame about. She needs someone to put her on a sensible diet. Glucosamine and cartogen injections would help, too, Flo can’t run, jump or do stairs too well. She’s a great cuddler who loves dogs, cats and especially people. She’ll happily doze in your lap all day, if you let her.



Billie Jean and Flo

Photo: Gerdy’s Rescue & Adoptions

Both dogs have been spayed and had their basic shots. Could Billie Jean and/or Flo be the pooch you have been waiting for? Contact Gerdy’s Rescue at www.gerdysrescue.org or 514.203.9180 to find out more. You can also find out about these and other deserving Underdogs at www.underdogclub.org. Or drop us a line at info@underdogclub.org. Or donate?

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An international and personal view Westmount student travels north

BY JESSICA MAGONET, GUEST COLUMNIST



Hikes through glacial valleys in search of caribou, lectures on everything from climate policy to biodiversity, Inuit throat singing under the Northern Lights – that was just the tip of the iceberg.

This summer, I went on the greatest adventure of my life. And I didn't even leave the country.

From August 4 to 20, I sailed through Canada's Arctic with 80 students from around the world. Through a polar education program called "Students on Ice," (SOI) we went to witness the Arctic's staggering beauty, and to learn about the dangers it faces.

We learned not only from the exquisite wildlife and geography that surrounded us, but also from polar experts who joined us aboard. Inuit elders, researchers, government representatives, activists and journalists offered their knowledge of the region to us, answering our incessant questions about contentious issues like climate change, conservation and resource development.

I had learned about "Students on Ice" through my involvement with the Sierra Youth Coalition (SYC), Canada's largest youth environmental organization. As an environmental advocate with endless curiosity, I could hardly contain my excitement when a fellow member of SYC's executive committee sent me an expedition application. I believed the experience would allow me to gain a better understanding of the environmental issues that captivated me, and a deeper connection to the natural world. When I learned in May that I had *continued on p. 17*



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Plans unveiled for Library Week

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmounters who love to read now have an opportunity to become one of the many poster faces to promote the Read/Lire literacy campaign being featured by the Westmount Public Library during the celebration of Public Library Week.

The posters, a popular feature launched last year, will be repeated as one of several attractions planned by the library starting Saturday, October 16 until October 23. "We've planned an exciting time with something for everyone," said Donna Lach, programming and outreach librarian.

Events in the Westmount Room are limited by size to 70, so reservations should be made in advance, she explained.

The Giller Breakfast, October 16 at 10:30 am, features a discussion of Canadian fiction, moderated by arts journalist Shelley Pomerance. Five library staff members will argue why each of the five short-listed novels nominated for this year's Giller Prize should win.

Call Lach at 514.989.5386 to reserve. The books are: *The Matter with Morris* by David Bergen, *Light Lifting* by Alexander MacLeod, *This Cake is for the Party* by Sarah Selecky, *The Sentimentalists* by Johanna Skibsrud and *Annabel* by Kathleen Winter.

The *Despicable Me* film, October 16 at 4:30 pm, will be shown for the entire family ages 4 and up as a pre-release DVD presented to the library by Friends of the Library. Tickets may be obtained at the children's desk.

Drama excerpts from *Henry V*, October 20 at 2 pm, will be presented by the cast of Persephone Theatre, whose founder

and artistic director is Westmounter Gabrielle Soskin. Call Lach to reserve at 514.989.5386. The entire production takes places November 4 to 13 at the Monument National (1182 St. Laurent St.).

The English book club will open its doors to prospective members October 19 at 7 pm.

"How Animals Prepare for the Winter" will be presented October 21 at 4 pm for ages 4 up.

Sci-Fi Night, October 23 at 7 pm, will feature the film *Splice*. Tickets may be picked up at the main circulation desk for those aged 13 and over.

Poster photos will be taken:

- Saturday, October 16, 12 to 4 pm
- Monday, October, 18, 10 to 11 am
- Tuesday October 19, 3:30 to 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, October 20, 3:30 to 5:30 pm
- Thursday, October 21, 3:30 to 5:30 pm
- Friday, October 22, 10 to 11 am.

Bring your favourite book or choose one from the library. Posters will be displayed at the library and on the website.



Giller Prize panel with the five book candidates, from left: (front row) Donna Lach, Colette Connors and Mai Jay; (back row) Wendy Wayling and Gayle White.

Photo: Lora Baiocco



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**Dionne
launches first
book**

Westmounter Michèle Dionne, launched her book of photographs, *Missions* (Les éditions La Presse, \$49.95), September 30, with an attendance of about 100 people at the Loft Hotel. The book is of photos and descriptions from her volunteer work as a fundraiser for the Quebec branch of the Canadian Red Cross. Ten dollars from each sale will go to the organization. Dionne started volunteering with the Quebec division of the Red Cross in 1999.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

Storytellers tell tales at library

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Do you sometimes long for a bygone era where there was no television or computers to distract you, where people provided their own entertainment during small gatherings or even at home?

“There’s something about witnessing a live performance, not only with children but with adults too,” said Paola Tonelli, president of the Montreal Storytellers’ Guild, which meets at the Westmount Public Library at 7 pm on the second Thursday each month from September to June.

The guild was founded 20 years ago as a means of trying to preserve the time-honored tradition of telling stories orally, which the teller recalls from memory.

“We don’t read stories from a book,” said Tonelli. “It can be a fable or a folktale or a legend or a personal anecdote from any culture or part of the world.”

She said the group chose to call itself a “guild” partly because of a tradition among professional tradesmen and

Middle Ages who formed such organizations. “At one time, storytelling was considered a profession. People actually earned their room and board from it.”

The guild members have been meeting for almost six years in the Westmount Room at the library, after having tried a few other venues. According to Tonelli, they find the room’s intimacy conducive to telling stories.

More information on the Montreal Storytellers’ Guild is available at www.mtlstorytellers.ca.



Caroline Parry tells a story during a meeting of the Montreal Storytellers’ Guild on September 23 at the Westmount Public Library.

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Westmounters participate in MUHC's campaign to rally volunteers

By ISAAC OLSON

Several Westmounters led a rally last week that celebrated past McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) volunteers and auxiliaries while looking to a future that will demand even more generosity.

"In the fall of 1987, 23 years ago, I began what is becoming a lifetime commitment as a volunteer to the McGill University Health Centre," Westmounter Gwen Nacos told the crowd of about 100 people gathered in 5100 de Maisonneuve (the Aeroplan building) on October 6. "After a diagnosis of advanced bladder cancer, intensive surgeries and treatments, I was fortunate to return to good health."

From there, recounted Nacos, the experience inspired her to begin her career as a full-time volunteer, helping patients through the

same hardships she experienced over two decades ago.

Nacos, founder of the Cedar Institute's CanSupport program, served as the rally's emcee. She invited fellow Westmounters Kitty Lackenbauer and Marie-Claire Holland to discuss the Friends of MUHC, which is comprised of individual auxiliary groups that raise funds for the health centre.

"Over the past 10 years, the auxiliaries have collectively raised \$10 million," said Lacken- *continued on p. 18*



Westmounters from left: Jill Harrington, Marie Claire Holland, Beth Marchant, Kitty Lackenbauer, Alex Paterson, Gwen Nacos and Jonathan Golbloom.



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Same fine, different tastes

Two persons were issued tickets for \$214 last week when they were found in possession of alcohol in city parks in two separate incidents, Public Security reports.

One was a 20-year-old man from downtown, who attempted to hide a bottle of Jack Daniels when approached at Summit

Park September 25 at 10:04 pm. The other was a 23-year-old woman from St. Lazare who threw a bottle of beer over her shoulder when a public safety officer approached a group of young people in Westmount Park, September 28 at 12:08 am.

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TRENDSSETTERS

GABRIELLE AND TARA GABARINO

By VERONICA REDGRAVE

STYLE

How would you describe your personal style?

Tara: Urban chic with a girly twist! I'm attracted to new trends, but I always make it my own.

Gabi: I'm more laid back and casual, but I'm always put together.

What is your favourite way of dressing? Relaxed, disco?

Tara: I love getting dressed up for a night out but never too over the top. I'd have to say I prefer to be relaxed in a pair of our leggings or jeans, a cute T-shirt and a good little jacket.

Gabi: Definitely relaxed. It's fun to get really dressed up here and there, but I much prefer casual wear.

On weekends, what do you like to wear?

Tara: Jeans, leggings, T-shirts and sweaters with a cute pair of flats. At night to go out I usually wear a dress or leggings with boots and a good going-out top.

Gabi: Same way I dress every other day:

relaxed!

Where do you like to shop? St. Denis St.? New York City?

Tara: NYC! I love shopping when I'm out of town! I do love TNT and Holts.

Gabi: Buzz Jeans on Monkland, and I also prefer to shop out of town in NYC or Paris.

What are your favourite shoes? I see you love Louboutin heels. What a smart idea he had to make the soles red!

Tara: They're my obsession! I absolutely love all his shoes. Shoes are a big passion of mine.

Gabi: Me too!

Do you ever wear flats?

Gabi: All the time.

Tara: Yes, every day, but when I go out or go for a nice dinner I throw on some heels. They always make an outfit better!

Running shoes? Keds? Converse? Adidas?

Tara: Vans! There is one style we always wear. They're the best! And look amazing with our leggings.

For a while, I have noticed two long-legged young ladies around Westmount. It turns out they are twins: Gabrielle (Gabi) and Tara Gabarino! They are students and designers. Their "jeggings" (tight and tapered pants, which are a combination jeans and leggings) are sold under the label Luv U Always. We chatted about today's styles.

Gabi: Vans are my favourite too, but I love Nikes, cool hightops and Jordans.

LIVING

If you had a choice, where would you live in the world (money being no object)?

Tara: NYC. I plan on moving there in the future.

Gabi: Tokyo. The fashion there is amazing.

Why?

Tara: I lived there [NYC] for a month this summer and did a design class at Parsons's, and I fell in love with that city. I dream of moving there and designing for our line.

Gabi: It [Tokyo] seems like a really cool place to live.

Who would you invite to a dinner party if you could have anyone in the world and from any era. A musician? A fashion designer?

Tara: Audrey Hepburn. She is the definition of class and simplicity. She fascinates me and was a very good, charitable person.

Gabi: Marilyn Monroe. She's an icon, and I would just love to talk to her about life.

FASHION

Fashion is changing fast. The elegance of haute couture is almost a thing of the past. What do you think of today's fashions?

Tara: Even though we are young, I wish we lived in another time like the '50s when

women were so put together. High-waisted skirts, detailed blouses, hats....and gloves! I enjoy that I don't always have to be decked out, but it would be nice to live in a time like that where designs were unique and not mass produced.

Gabi: I like today's fashions. I like that you can dress to your personality. It's a nice form of self-expression. I don't love that I see duplicates of other people's design's. It really ruins the original design for me.

Do you have a favourite designer(s)?

Gabi: Alexander Wang. He makes the best basics, good quality, good fit.

Tara: Christophe Decarnin (designer at Balmain and Pucci).

Which Quebec designer do you like?

Gabi: Marie Saint Pierre.

Tara: Andy Thé-Anh.

You can view their clothing at www.luvualwayscollections.com.

City honourees

continued from p. 6

looks forward every year to seeing so many old friends.

Public Safety Officer Stephen Payne, one of the 25-year honourees, thanked the city for providing them with the opportunity to "reconnect with our larger family." That, he explained, "is what makes this event so special."

Son of the late George Payne, a long-time Westmount police officer, Stephen said he has experienced firsthand the "dedication, professionalism and passion" of employees of which his father often spoke.

Among some 140 people attending were former Westmount mayors Brian Gallery and Karin Marks.

Along with the quarter century celebrants photographed, another 11 were recognized for long service, as follows.

30 years: Stéphane Daoust and David Poupart (Hydro Westmount) and James O'Connell (Urban Planning).

20 years: Leonardo Cauzo (Hydro Westmount), Harald Eggert, Domenic Iorio and Claudette Savaria (Public Works), Helen Jay (Library) and Hélène Mitko (Community Events).

15 years: Wendell Bailey (Fire) and Ron Harris (Community Events).



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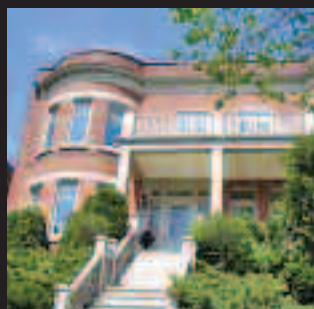
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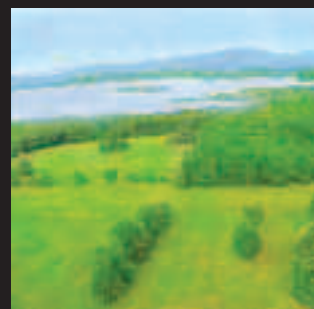
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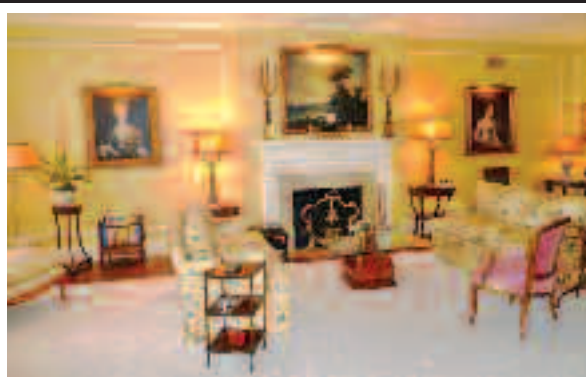


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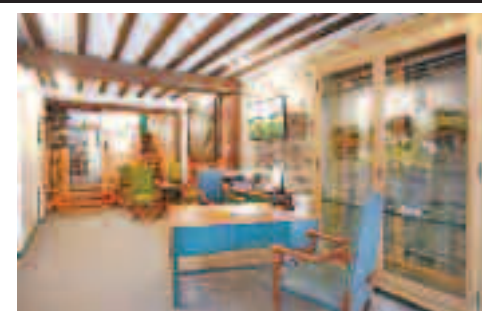
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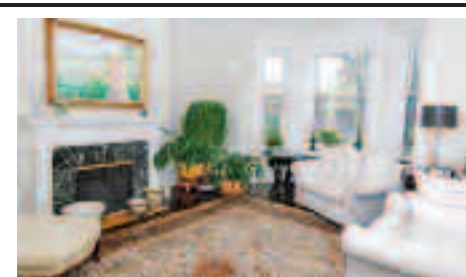
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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

- Benjamin Perrin, author of *Invisible Chains*, speaks on **human trafficking** in Canada at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 7 pm. Free. Register: www.invisiblechains.ca/montreal.
- A film about the mass exodus of Jews from Arab countries and Iran in the 20th Century. Presentation by **Mayra Levy**, hosted by Cummings Centre. 7 pm, 395 Elm Ave. Cost: \$20. Info: 514.342.1234, ext. 7201.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

- Robert Landori, author of thriller *Havana Harvest*, on “**Understanding the Cuban Revolution**,” 12:30 pm, Atwater Library. Free. Info: 514.935.7344 or www.atwaterli-

brary.ca.

- Roger Latour speaks on **urban biodiversity** at the Westmount Horticultural Society, 7 pm at Westmount Library. Guests welcome. Cost: \$5.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

Centre Greene’s TGIF **youth dinner** and activities for children 5 to 12 years old. 6 to 8:30 pm. Cost: \$12. Schedule: www.centregreene.org/pdf/tgif.pdf.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

- **Rummage sale** at St. Matthias’ Church: clothing, linens, books, kitchenware, toys. 10 am to 1 pm, 131 Côte St. Antoine Rd. Info: 514.933.4295.
- **Household Hazardous Waste Collection** in the parking lot of the Westmount Li-

brary, 9 am to 5 pm. Used clothing and electronics included. Info: 514.989.5390.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18

- **Charlotte Grey** speaks on “Panning for Gold in Canada’s Past” at Unitarian Church, 5035 de Maisonneuve, 12:30 pm. Info: Carolyn Roper, Women’s Canadian Club of Montreal, 514.932.4005.
- Centre Greene offers a **Caregivers Tea and Support Group** for individuals who provide ongoing care, without pay, for family or friends in need of support due to

chronic physical, cognitive, or mental health conditions. 2 to 4 pm. By donation. Info: www.centregreene.org or call 514.931.6202.

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Magonet goes north to learn

continued from p. 8

earned a full scholarship from International Polar Year to partake in the expedition, I was ecstatic.

We were a great group of adventurers on the SOI expedition, and like all adventurers, we were on a quest. We were after one of the world's rarest resources: wonder. And we found it at almost every turn. It lay in the sharp curve of an iceberg, in the bright faces of polar bear cubs. In the moments ashore where we attempted, so futilely, to capture the limitless landscape in our journals.

Yet the feeling of amazement that became so familiar during the expedition

was not always welcomed. In Auyuutuk National Park, we saw piles of debris left behind by receding glaciers. Inuit elders in Cape Dorset told us fearfully about changing weather patterns. For the first time during an SOI, we encountered no sea ice. The signs of climate change were everywhere.

When I look back on my photos from those two magical weeks, I remember the words of environmentalist Baba Dioum: "In the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught." I left my heart in the Arctic this summer, but I will never forget what I saw. The program gave me the op-

portunity to experience the beauty of our biosphere, and the resources to understand how we are destroying it. Now that I'm home, I will continue my advocacy work with the Sierra Youth Coalition and The Climate Project with rekindled passion for this planet.

Jessica Magonet graduated from The Study, and currently resides on Strathcona Ave. She travelled to the Arctic with Students on Ice, an organization based out of Gatineau



that has been bringing students to the Arctic and the Antarctic for 10 years to teach them about polar issues.

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