

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 4 No. 11b

We are Westmount

November 9-10, 2010

Lansdowners: enforce no-trucking, move bike lanes

Traffic heading for 'disaster'?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Increasing traffic and the new bike lanes are becoming a "nightmare" and "designed for disaster," residents of Lansdowne between Sherbrooke and St. Catherine told the city council meeting November 1.

No-trucking signs are being ignored – even by Public Works – and new bike lanes are forcing traffic into oncoming lanes, they said. Backed-up traffic makes it difficult to exit the garage of the large condo building at the northwest corner of St. Catherine while unlit bicycles at night make it dangerous.

They asked for a number of solutions, including removal of the bike lanes, as well as the proposed vehicle and parking access from Lansdowne to the new arena complex.

"We shudder at the thought of what will be barreling down our street as the mega-hospital construction ramps up and the construction of the arena gets underway," said Lynn Herzeg.

"Lansdowne was designated as a residential street," she noted. Now it has become a thoroughfare for truckers using it to cut down to St. Jacques, including tractor trailers with flatbeds hauling cement pylons, she said.

200-name petition

Meanwhile, Georgina Smith presented a 200-name petition to the council outlining Herzeg's presentation.

It asked for aggressive enforcement of signs already prohibiting truck traffic and for illuminated ones to prevent trucks turning left *continued on p. 9*

Remembrance at the cenotaph



Don't Miss It

A talk by Desmond Morton on Canada's mission in Afghanistan, November 11, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library.

Representatives of Westmount's military units and community groups were among the many who laid wreaths Sunday, November 7 at the city's Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph. The service was shorter than usual. Among those laying wreaths were Mayor Peter Trent, MP Marc Garneau and MNA Jacques Chagnon.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

Public Security frees trapped cats

Right tree, wrong cat

It was the day before Halloween when Public Security received a call for a black cat stuck in a tree near 4278 Sherbrooke. It had been there some 50 hours, observed about 20 feet up by a city parking inspector.

SPCA was contacted but stated the cat would come down on its own. Some chicken was left on the ground as enticement.

After work, as the parking inspector walked home with his young daughter, he noticed the cat still up the tree. The little

girl immediately recognized it as the black stray they had been feeding at home and implored him to get it down.

With little choice, the parking inspector climbed the tree, managed to bring the cat down, and all three set off home together. There, waiting patiently to be fed, was "their" black cat. The rescue was returned to the location where they had found it.

No price too high

A public safety officer was called to an

For conclusion, see p. 19; other pet content, see p. 16

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A walk through Summit Woods



From left, Victor Yelverton Haines, Susan Segray, John Fretz, Cynthia Grahame, Patricia Dumais and Mansur Zadeh are among the 20 or so participants of the ecological tour of Summit Woods that took place November 6. They are looking at two white pines encroached by oak branches during a tour of the woods hosted by the Friends of Summit Woods.

Photo: Eric Bindman

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CITY COUNCIL NEWS, Nov. 1

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Public meeting Nov. 30 on new restaurants Freeze to be lifted on Greene?

A public consultation meeting has been set for November 30 to increase the number of restaurants on Greene Ave. but restrict their size and number. The meeting takes place at 7 pm at city hall.

This would allow for two new restaurants in the section north of de Maisonneuve and four new ones to the south, according to city Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier.

The proposed zoning amendment comes on the heels of a similar lifting of the restaurant freeze as it applied to the Victoria village. In both areas, the aim is to create small neighbourhood cafés less than 140 square meters in area.

The change also follows the creation of three commercial zones on Greene from Sherbrooke to St. Catherine designated as C5-24-12, C5-24-13 and C5-24-14.

This paves the way for the development of a six-storey condo building to include Les 5 Saisons at the southwest corner of

de Maisonneuve in the central or “carrefour” zone C5-24-13. It also permitted the establishment of restaurants in that zone.

As a result, the new restaurant proposal relates only to the two adjacent zones to the north and south where no new restaurants are currently permitted, though several already exist through acquired rights.

In each of these two zones, new small restaurants would be permitted up to a maximum number of six, including all existing restaurants and retail food outlets with seating.

In presenting notice of motion to adopt a rezoning by-law amendment, Councillor Cynthia Lulham told the council meeting November 1 that the situation on Greene had been reviewed in the same way it had been for the Victoria/Sherbrooke area.

The Greene merchants also had been requesting similar treatment.

Almost \$610,000 for Bixis?

How much was that to supply Westmount with Bixis? Mayor Peter Trent was asked to repeat the amount of a proposal from the bike sharing company at the November 1 council meeting.

“\$609,000,” he said, naming each number separately.

“This is unacceptable,” Trent explained after reading from a recent letter he had received from the Bixi president Roger Plamondon. “We’ll have to get back to them and renegotiate.”

He said the cost to Westmount to provide the Montreal service from the Public Bike System Company was based on a pro-

posal to set up 15 Bixi stations with 150 bicycles.

He later declined to reveal the location of the stations, saying the city had received a map pinpointing them that was no longer relevant, given the cost.

More council news, p. 5

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ROTARY: HOW DOES ONE GET IN?

An 80th anniversary milestone is indeed cause for celebration, so congratulations to Westmount Rotary on this momentous occasion. While the lifeblood and continuity of any volunteer organization is membership, Rotary's policy hangs out a "Do Not Disturb" sign on this issue.

Rotary Westmount has this knack for booking wonderful lunch-time speakers, from the worlds of finance to hockey and everything in between. But even the willingness to pay an admission fee can't get you through the door: outsiders must be invited by a Rotarian to these luncheon gatherings.

So let me ask Rotary's president and executive: what if someone doesn't know a Rotary member to snag an invite? What effect does this policy have other than to discourage potential new members? Don't you realize that opening luncheon speakers to non-members (yes, for a fee) might actually attract new recruits, especially if we break bread with Rotarians?

Not long ago, Rotary Westmount must have gone to considerable expense to publish and distribute to local households a glossy book showcasing its mission and programs. I don't know how many new members that got you. But wouldn't it be cheaper and lot more practical to encour-

age interest in Rotary and its culture by inviting outsiders in, rather than clinging to a policy that keeps us out?

DOROTHY LIPOVENKO, YORK ST.

NO TAX, NO (RUBBER) TIRES

Mayor Peter Trent would justify a new tax on automobiles to help subsidize public transport. How much of that new tax would go to pay the outrageous premium for new Metro cars from Bombardier and the unnecessarily higher operating cost for running them on rubber tires?

JOHN D. DOREY, VICTORIA AVE.

PETITION: SAVE LANSDOWNE FROM TRAFFIC

On November 1, Mayor Trent and council met with residents of Westmount, substantially represented by residents of Lansdowne south of Sherbrooke St.

They presented a petition to the mayor and all members of council signed by 169 very concerned residents.

Demands were as follows:

1. That traffic laws be enforced, signs made more visible, speed limitations be enforced and traffic shared by other arteries;
2. That there be no exit/entrance to the proposed arena garage on Lansdowne;
3. That, no matter what a "traffic study" shows presently, the horrific impact on

Lansdowne will worsen with the mega hospital and this proposed underground arena garage with an exit/entrance on Lansdowne;

4. That the bike paths be relocated, perhaps to the most western edge of the park on Lansdowne. The present paths are a design for disaster. Return Lansdowne to a residential avenue with safer and more accessible parking;

5. That council consider the huge financial impact this project will have on the residents of Westmount.

The mayor might "shake his head," but we all know that polling is often inaccurate, biased and skewed, and does not reflected the negative feelings of many Westmounters and the majority of those that attended the meeting on November 1

TRUDY ASCH, LANSDOWNE AVE.

Publisher's note

Buy Rotary calendars, buy ads from SWAT

The *Westmount Independent* is pleased to be the sponsor of the Rotary Club of Westmount's 2011 calendar, which is available for \$15 at the Campbell Gallery, Hogg Hardware, Manoir Westmount, Scotia Bank, Westmount Stationery and the Westmount Y. The calendar features 12 photographs of Westmount donated by Westmounter, Rotarian and Indie contributor Ralph Thompson. The whole retail price is being contributed by these retailers to Rotary, whose sole purpose is to help others. This past year, Westmount Rotary contributed funds to projects in Haiti and Africa, and the West Montreal Readaptation Centre's specialized children's respite home in Beaconsfield (scheduled to open in 2011), amongst other good works.

It is pretty rare that I encourage people to buy ads anywhere other than our two newspapers, but here's one. The Senior Westmount All Star Team (SWAT) is hosting its 22nd annual hockey tournament from December 2 to 5, chaired by Jim West and Norm Richer. The tournament continues the fundraising efforts of the late Nicolas Matossian by handing over all funds raised to the Montreal Children's Hospital and the St. Justine Hospital. Matossian died from brain cancer, after being diagnosed at age 16. Westmounters can support SWAT's effort by buying ads in its program or bidding on items at its

silent auction, which will be presided over by Claude Bismuth at the Westmount arena during the tournament. – DP



Left, Merle Binmore, president, the Rotary Club of Westmount and Ralph Thompson, vice president and photographer, pose with this year's Rotary calendar.

Photo: Ted Sancton

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

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Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: David Price
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CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

LETTERS & COMMENTS:

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. If you do make amendments, please "redline" them instead of resending the whole letter. Email any letter or comments to indie@westmountindependent.com.

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Concerns over winter bike path

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A petition asking city council not to open the bike path on de Maisonneuve this winter was presented Nov. 1 by Westmount Citizens for Safe Cycling (WCSC). Signed by 15 residents of the street, the request stems from the council’s decision a month ago to keep the route open this winter without demarcation bollards or priority snow clearing.

The request is based on findings by the WCSC submitted October 4. These stated the path did not conform to best practices and certain safety standards.

As a result, its winter use would only exacerbate “an already dangerous situation,” explained Don Taddeo, the group’s representative.

The city’s own admission that cyclists would use the bike path “at their own risk”

further jeopardizes the hazards involved for all concerned, he said. These are users, pedestrians, drivers and residents trying to exit driveways.

“We will not suspend our decision,” Mayor Peter Trent replied. “This is a trial for one winter to see how things go.”

The council hopes to have a consultant’s report delivered in time to improve some parts of the path to bring it up to standards, said Councillor Gary Ikeman, who chairs the *ad hoc* cycling committee.

Dan Lambert, president of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association thanked council for the Lansdowne bike path and asked for an update on the city’s traffic master plan.

Director general Duncan Campbell said the city is planning its first draft of terms of reference for the plan. The task ahead was “to condense the scope of the project.”

Update on city’s sustainability plan

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Some 720 Westmount households participated in the Energy Wise program, earning a \$22,000 donation from Hydro-Québec for Centre Greene, Councillor Theodora Samiotis announced November 1 at the city council meeting.

The results highlighted her progress report on some of the ways the city had met its 10 action plans for sustainable development for 2010.

“We now have a road map of how to move forward,” she said.

Referring to a blueprint prepared by former sustainable development coordinator Joshua Wolfe, Samiotis said the route to follow was now to integrate sustainable development into departmental planning and “how we do things in Westmount.” Wolfe departed October 22 after completing a two-year mandate.

Among the projects realized this year is the recent Safety Walk of every street in

Westmount, organized by the Healthy City Project to represent the pedestrian point of view. A McGill masters student is currently coordinating the findings, she said.

Commercial recycling was launched last month and a pamphlet on waste disposal is being prepared. The city is also moving forward with garbage cans with solar-powered compactors.

Among a number of other initiatives, consultants are working on ways to improve the de Maisonneuve bike path, and sustainability features are being worked into architectural guidelines. These are to be included in an Urban Planning pamphlet. A pamphlet on light reduction was also prepared.

Some of the allocation for sustainability made in this year’s budget includes \$75,000 in parking meter revenue the city will forfeit to keep the bike path open this winter and \$100,000 for recycling. It also includes Earth Hour and Wolfe’s salary.

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Emily Webster, left, gets pinned with a Remembrance Day poppy she purchased on November 5 from (centre) Etienne Mellor, vice president of David A. Mellor Consultants, and Adam Lally, an agent with Royal LePage Heritage, on Greene Ave.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

The two real estate associates plan to be out several hours daily on Greene up until November 11, Remembrance Day, encouraging people to wear the symbolic plastic poppy pin as a reminder of the sacrifice men and women in the military have made.

Lally said he decided to personally help with the annual poppy campaign when he learned that Alexis Nihon Plaza was reluctant to allow the sale of poppies on its premises this year – which decision has since been reversed. He got in contact with members of the Royal Canadian Legion's branch 24-106 in NDG, who helped make arrangements for him to sell poppies on Greene Ave. "I think we owe veterans a lot of respect and recognition for their ultimate sacrifice," said Lally.

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Big Band era at Victoria Hall recalled during Ballroom Blitz



On November 6, more than 150 Westmounters got a taste of a bygone era – 60 years ago when the in-crowd flocked each Saturday night to Victoria Hall to while away the hours dancing to Big Band music. Organized by the city of Westmount's Community Events, it was the first time in six decades that a dance of this kind was held. Hot music was performed by Ballroom Blitz, a 17-piece orchestra, recalling the days when Oscar Peterson and Johnny Holmes played at the hall. A dance instructor from Centre Ballroom Dance Sport was on hand to teach a few dance basics, and refreshments were available from a cash bar.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Gallery capped with honorary degree in Irish Studies



Former mayor Brian Gallery on the occasion of his honorary doctorate from Concordia, November 1 stands with his family, from left, daughter Mary, wife Nancy and daughters Elizabeth and Ann. (See story "Gallery to receive honorary degree in Concordia's Irish Studies", October 26, p. 3).

Photo: Luigi D'Astolfo

Westmount-area volunteer positions

The Volunteer Bureau of Montreal reports the following volunteer positions are open in organizations in and around the Westmount area:

- Chez Doris, situated just east of Atwater, is looking for bilingual receptionists to welcome and register the women who use the centre and to answer the phone and direct calls. Contact Olga Grilo: 514.937.2341, ext 231 / chezdoris@yahoo.com.

- Westmount Y Centre needs bilingual

Member Services volunteers to assist front desk staff to greet members; rent towels/locks and provide information regarding programs. Contact Tracy Kamel: 514.931.6770, ext 248 / tracy.kamel@ymcaquebec.org.

- CHSLD St. Andrew's Father Dowd & St. Margaret's is looking for volunteers who are interested in assisting seniors with a knitting and/or crochet activity on Thursdays from 5:45 pm to 6:45 pm. Contact Tania Hayduk: 514.932.3630, ext 3, then 3018.

Car hits Côte St. Antoine wall



A car struck the front wall of a property at Côte St. Antoine and Lansdowne early on Sunday, October 24, as previously reported (October 26, p. 2). Homeowner Bruce Anderson took this photograph.

Comin' Up

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

- **Annual Artisan Sale and Bazaar** at Contactivity Centre, 4695 de Maisonneuve, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. Info: 514.932.2326.
- **Quilters' show** opens at the Gallery at Victoria Hall. The Westmount Quilters Guild has donated art quilts to raise funds for the Grannies for Good (Stephen Lewis Foundation). Exhibition and sale runs until December 4. Vernissage open to all November 10. Info: 514.488.9763.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Centre Greene's TGIF **youth dinner** and activities for children 5 to 12 years old. Different meals and activities are offered each evening. Cost: \$12 drop in or \$70 for fall season.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- **Westmount Artisans' Festival** at Victoria

Hall, 10 am to 6 pm today and Sunday, November 14. Admission: non-perishable food items or \$2. Info: 514.934.0294.

- **St. Matthias' Church Christmas fair**, 10 am to 2 pm. Crafts, baked goods, etc. Info: 514.933.4295.

- **Mountainside United Church Christmas bazaar and lunch**, 10 am to 3 pm. Bake table, knitted items. 687 Roslyn at the Boulevard. Lunch at noon.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15

The **Women's Canadian Club of Montreal** hosts speaker Kim Pate, director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies on "Why women are the fastest growing prison population: Why should you care?" at the Unitarian Church, 5035 de Maisonneuve, 12:30 pm. Free for members, guests \$10. Lunch from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm. Info: Carolyn 514.932.4005.

Chea celebrates five on Decarie



Westmount resident Nealy Chea celebrates five years at the Decarie location of her shop, Nealy Beauté Elle & Lui. Her space has two private rooms for skin consultation and beauty treatments such as laser microdermabrasion, waxing, electrolysis, facials, manicures and a separate space for Swedish and Chinese massage.

Photo: Marlene Eisner

Noon hour car crash, Sherbrooke/Victoria, Nov. 4



An 88-year-old male passenger from Noyan in this 2005 Saturn suffered a minor injury to his right forearm when a 2010 Subaru t-boned the vehicle just before noon on November 4 at the corner of Sherbrooke and Victoria. Witnesses told police the Subaru, driven by a 74-year Westmount woman, went through a red light on Sherbrooke. The incident, which interrupted traffic for about 30 minutes, is under investigation.

Photo: Independent

- **City council meeting**, 5 pm at city hall.
- **Centre Greene's caregivers tea and support group** for individuals who provide care, without pay, for family or friends with chronic physical, cognitive, or mental health conditions. 2 to 4 pm. By donation. Info: www.centregreene.org 514.931.6202.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

- The Westmount Historical Association Fall Lecture presents **Dan Delaney** speaking about Artlenders (Galerie Dan Delaney) at 318 Victoria Ave., from 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Free for members, guests \$5 at door. Info: 514.989.5510.

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Car painted

Someone sprayed the windshield and hood of a car with paint overnight October 30-31, according to Public Security. The paint was still fresh when the damage was discovered by a patrolling officer at 4:17 am. The owner was contacted.

Witch caught

A group of kids threw a rock at a house on Côte St. Antoine at 9 pm, October 31, but no damage was reported. One of the group was wearing a witch's hat. They were intercepted by public safety officers, who called police.



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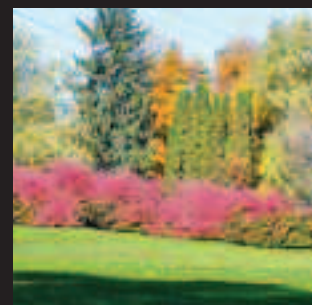
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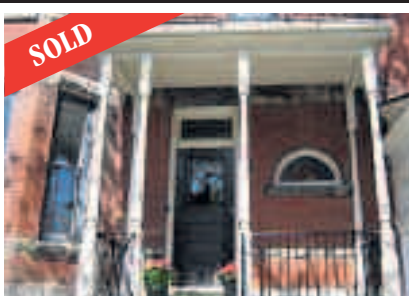
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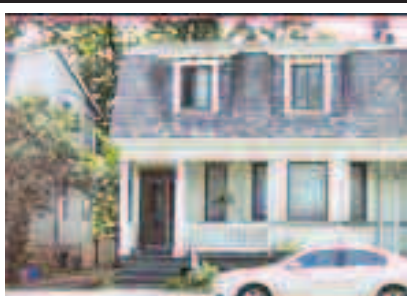
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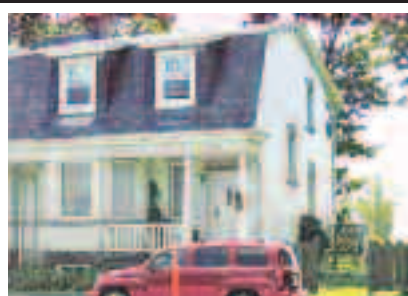
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Mayor on Lansdowne: ‘Won’t rob Peter to pay Paul’

continued from p. 1

off Sherbrooke onto Lansdowne. The petition also asked for police to ticket offenders and Public Works trucks to use main arteries. It further requested a discussion process be started with residents.

Mayor Peter Trent immediately asked local police commander Stéphane Plourde



Annette Pankrac

(who was in attendance) for a crackdown on truck use and “report back to us.” Plourde said this was the first he had heard of the trucking issue.

“When we try to get out of our garage at 200 Lansdowne, it’s a nightmare,” explained Annette Pankrac. Cyclists whiz past at night without lights. “It’s a hazard.”

Trent said the situation was similar to what residents of de Maisonneuve were experiencing. He said the new agglomeration north-south bike route along both sides would be monitored for a year to determine how it was working out. “It’s important to try things.”

Cyclists, he added were “their own worst enemy” in terms of encouraging bicycle use and toleration.

Councillor Patrick Martin, a transportation engineer, said the city was seri-

ously studying traffic on Lansdowne and comparing it with historical data. “I think it will sort itself out.” The narrowing of the street by the bike lanes should act as a deterrent to traffic and speeding, he said.

Trudy Asch, also of 200 Lansdowne, said the street was “designed for disaster.” She suggested the bike lanes be moved to the east side along the park and that the street be made one-way.

Patrick Barnard of Melville Ave., asked that solutions to Lansdowne be done in context with the master traffic study and not at the expense of neighbouring streets.

Trent said the city had learned that les-

City consulting on sound barrier

The city has hired a consultant to explore options for reducing highway noise now, during and after construction related to the Turcot project and particularly in respect to a sound barrier.

The news was revealed by Councillor Theodora Samiotis at the November 1 city council meeting in reply to a request from a resident of Irvine Ave. for consideration of a (green) living wall.

Roger Jochym of Lewis Ave. noted how badly scratched and graffitied the transparent prototype wall had become at the foot of Abbott Ave. and suggested the alternative.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham suggested a living wall might be feasible in certain places if the highway were lowered sufficiently to make this possible.

At the current level, a living wall would have to be so high that would be unacceptable to residents of Riverview, a one-house, east-west street running from the bottom of Abbott to Irvine.

The good news was that the Ville Marie Expressway is expected to be dropped substantially in places, she said.

son, not to “rob Peter to pay Paul,” many years ago in traffic complaints between residents of Cedar and The Boulevard.

David Asch of 200 Lansdowne said that putting the arena entrance on de Maisonneuve had previously been ruled out because of the bike path. Now there was one on Lansdowne. The prior council’s arena plan had all traffic going in and out of Lansdowne, Trent noted. Now both Lansdowne and St. Catherine would be used.

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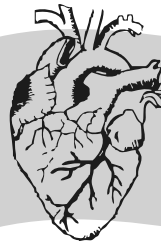
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Hurtubise land stretched down the ‘petite montagne,’ in 1699, WHA learns

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Guest speaker Jacques Archambault spoke about Westmount’s storied Hurtubise House, located at the corner of Côte St. Antoine and Victoria Ave., during the Westmount Historical Association’s second Fall Series lecture.

“The Hurtubise House is one of Quebec’s most important heritage homes,”



Jacques Archambault, of Canadian Heritage of Quebec, points out the multiple layers of linoleum on the floor of Hurtubise House.

said Archambault, the general manager of The Canadian Heritage of Quebec, October 21 at the Westmount Public Library.

In 1699, the Sulpiciens du Séminaire de St. Sulpice de Montréal, who were les seigneurs de Montréal, granted land rights to Louis Hurtubise, son of Marin Hurtubis, in exchange for land near their mountain mission. The long strip of terrain (3 x 20 arpents – an arpent equals 192 feet) was unusual in that it did not extend from the river but extended from below St. Catherine St. up to the top of the mountain, known as “la petite montagne”, he explained.

In 1739, Louis’ sons, Jean and Pierre Hurtubise, constructed a stone farmhouse facing the Côte St. Antoine Rd. The land was nicknamed “la haute folie” because of concerns that natives might attack this remote area.

The house remained in the Hurtubise family for six generations, representing over 200 years. However, in 1955 it was sold to Colin Molson, his sister Mabel and their friend friend James Beattie. In 1961, they transferred it to Canadian Heritage.

Although small by today’s standards, the original house would have been considered quite elegant and the Hurtubise family were not paupers, Archambault said. The front balcony, coach house and the extension on the east side were added later.

“The house had many interesting features” he stated. He described a single night light that illuminated three rooms, a panel to regulate heat from the fireplace, ventilation holes in the basement (mistakenly considered by some to be gun ports), a built-in armoire, three 30-foot whole trees supporting the ground floor and “ingenious” roof structures.

Many of the early elements of the house have been preserved including wallpaper from 1885, several layers of linoleum and other artifacts. The first restoration work since Canadian Heritage took over management of the property was to do the roof and foundation walls, said Archambault. More restoration will be done inside on the ground floor and outside on the walls, windows and veranda – in 2010-11.

The house and land were designated historical monument and site in 2004 by the Quebec government.

Suzanne Masson, a descendant of the Hurtubise family also attended the lecture.

Annual Atwater Library fundraiser

PHOTOS BY ROBERT J. GALBRAITH

Atwater Library supporters showed up in force at its annual benefit cocktail party November 3. Money raised from the \$100 tickets go to the library’s community educational and cultural programs. The Atwater Library attracts over 90,000 user visits per year and is a national historic site.



From left: John Dinsmore, Betty McLean, Helen Fortin, guest of honour Alex Paterson, Nicholas Hoare and Wilson McLean.



Some fun and chatter amongst library supporters, from left: Rosalind Davis, Paul Grenier, Marina Boulos and Todd Richards.

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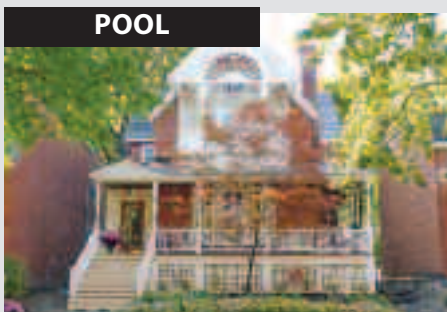
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Fall flower show at the conservatory welcomes new residents



← The city's annual Fall Chrysanthemum Show was officially opened November 3 at a reception held at Victoria Hall to welcome newcomers and recognize community volunteers. New residents included, from left: Sharon and Andrew Tiebe, and Senia Rapisarda and François Lecavalier. The flowers are on display at the conservatory weekdays 10 am to 9 pm and weekends 10 am to 5 pm.

Among community volunteers invited were Chris Goodyer (left) and Elaine Meunier (right) of St. John Ambulance and Scouter Dan Mehta. →

Photos: Laureen Sweeney





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Westmounters celebrate the late Eva Prager



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

In mid September, a commemoration was held at Westmount's Bistro on the Avenue for local resident and artist **Eva Prager**, who passed away this summer. Her son, **Vincent Prager**, had painstakingly collected old and new photos of his mother, depicting all aspects of her almost-98-year life: Eva with celebrities, Eva painting, Eva as a child, and a wonderful black and white photo of her wedding day with Richie, her beloved husband who predeceased her.

Vincent presented guests with doggie bags – an amusing reminder of Eva's penchant for never wasting food. The bag held a drawing from Eva's sketch pad, a few small stones and a Kinder egg – all some of Eva Prager's "favourite things."

Noted amidst the overflow of friends and family were Westmounters **Mayor Peter Trent, Margie and Bob Ross, Margaret Lefebvre, Constance and Marc Médalsy, Martha and Mark Op-**

penheim, Cornelia Molson (wearing über-fashionable black glasses), and **Rosemary Christienson**.

Also noted were Musée des Beaux Arts curator **Hilliard Goldfarb, Robin Quinlan, David Angus, Robert Menegati** and **Brenda Norris**, as well as Eva's caregivers and helpers going back 30 years.

The look of the moment was smart chic: suits were the order of the day, with men in shirt and tie and ladies, for the

most part, in skirts. Guests sipped and snacked on delicious hors d'oeuvres, including smoked salmon (Eva's favourite!), as they recalled being painted by Eva, chatting with Eva, or simply enjoying her always effervescent character.

It was fitting that the event was held at the Bistro: Eva was a lady who lunched there almost daily. It was, indeed, a moment full of memories.



Westmounters Robert Vineberg, Sally Aitken and Rhoda Vineberg.



Westmount resident Diana Nicholson with Vincent Prager.



Maria and Jonathan Birks.

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In Conversation

Artist Tom Hopkins: On symbols and seascapes



In Conversation

HEATHER BLACK

Westmounter Tom Hopkins was guest of honour at this year's Canadian Hadas-



sah-WIZO (CHW) Art Auction on October 19. I spoke to the artist, a newcomer to the area, at his Westmount home.

Futuristic space

This year, Hopkins is donating "The Water (Preface)", a textured oil on linen painted in rich hues. Here, a red bowl filled with water dominates the composition. Set against a tree-lined river and cityscape in the background, the water bowl is "a symbol of cleansing."

Strong solids and delicate structures create a fantasy setting. And the artist is quick to point out that the bridge, if real, would collapse. Yet it is this depiction of both the man made and the natural that creates an other-worldly charm.

Capturing his worldview at that moment, his message is "let the viewer judge."

Allegorical art

But Hopkins often turns his storytelling style to the figure, creating strong, beautiful and memorable images. One earlier series revealed a man with a fish, another with a tortoise and another with a swan. Here, believability is stretched – "a man would not be able to carry a 7,000-pound tortoise on his back."

The artist's goal was to capture the elements of earth, air and water and convey "autonomy, dominance and liberty." For Hopkins symbols are "how we know ourselves."

The muse and the drummer are both recurring subjects. Painted in strong colours of pinks or blue, the subject sets the scene, engaging the viewer.

The theme of water dominates many of his works. Seascapes with painted dories in rich scarlet with red flecks scattered across the canvas conjure up an idyllic past. Others in rich blues elicit a sense of peaceful harmony.

Hopkins is originally from the Maritimes, and the dories first emerged while teaching at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design one summer. Attracted first to the shape, it is a subject that the artist has returned to again and again.

For Hopkins his dory scenes are exer-



Tom Hopkins with "The Water (Preface)"

cises in changing light and colours, and "endless permutations." A compelling image in oils or as a print, for viewers they speak of transitions and transformations.

As Hopkins exhibits at Galerie de Bellefeuille on Greene Ave., his classic imagery is well known to Westmounters. Strong colours and rich textures identify his work, creating contemporary icons.

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Westmount agent Marovitch opens new bistro



Left, chef Brad Davis, Tracey Hill and Joe Marovitch, ReMax Westmount real estate agent, at the celebration of the opening of Café Theatre at 1832 St. Catherine St. (cross street St. Marc). The restaurant, open seven days a week, features bistro-style food, live music and art exhibitions. For more info, call 514.564.4440.

Photo: Independent

Pain lecture at library Nov. 10

The Westmount Public Library will mark National Pain Awareness Week (November 7 to 13) with a lecture by Dr. Catherine Bushnell on "How the Mind Can Alter Pain." Bushnell, a McGill professor in dentistry, neurology and anaesthesia, is president elect of the Canadian Pain Society. The event takes place Wednesday, November 10 at 7 pm in the Westmount Room. A selection of the library's pain management books and DVDs is currently on display along with a pamphlet listing all items in the collection.

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Lost your dog in Westmount? Call PSU, SPCA

Matching dogs by computer – by breed, gender

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

With some 700 Westmount dog licences issued so far this year, the \$15 fee brings dog owners more benefits than many may realize.

It enters their pets into the city's database so that Public Security can trace them by breed, street, permit number, gender or colour in the event they slip out a gate, under or over a fence, or out of their collar, leaving their tags behind.

"If someone finds a dog running loose, we can search for those matching the description or living in the neighbourhood where the dog was found," said Public Security Sgt. Kim Colquhoun.

Interestingly, however, fewer licences are being issued than 10 years ago when 1,283 were reported, even though merger-era policy remains in effect. This means licences may be sold to non-Westmount dogs so they, too, can use the city's dogs runs.

Under city by-laws, only wearers of Westmount licences may use the dog runs, including Summit Woods.

The challenge for dog-owners tracking

a lost dog is to report it as quickly as possible to both Public Security and the SPCA. Public safety officers and parking inspectors can keep their eyes out for run-aways. They are also called by residents who have found a dog.

Efforts are made to contact owners when dogs are picked up wearing identification tags or can be traced through the database. All are usually kept at Public Security headquarters for a while – but not a lengthy time – in case their owners report them missing, Colquhoun said.

Unclaimed dogs taken to SPCA

All unclaimed dogs are then taken to the SPCA's 24-hour shelter on Jean Talon. This is a change from previous years when known Westmount dogs were taken to the Westmount Animal Hospital. The change was made so that owners could pick up their dogs at any hour of the day, she said.

And a note to finders: remember to call Public Security at 514.989.5222. There may be a frantic dog owner scouring the neighbourhood in a desperate search.



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An underdog meant for you



Underdog

BY: MARY LAMEY

PHOTOS: NICOLE LEGER

Abbey wants to trust

Somewhere along the line someone broke Abbey's heart, and now this young pitbull with the sad eyes is learning to trust again. She's been at the SPCA since June, the height of moving season. Her friends at the shelter say she is shy and a little skittish with strangers. She'll bark and back up when first approached though she is never aggressive. It doesn't take long for Abbey to get over her fear and then it's kisses and undying friendship.

Our best guess is that Abbey is between one and two years of age. She's looking for a forever home or foster with experienced dog handlers who will be patient and kind with her. All she really needs is a little



Abbey

more confidence – and she'll be the best dog ever.

Abbey has already been spayed. She is house- and crate-trained and has had all her shots. She's waiting patiently at the SPCA Emergency Shelter, 7314 Mountain

Sights, for you to come and find her. Visitors are welcome daily from 11 to 8 and weekends from noon to 5.

Shane (and his duckie) need a home

Happy-go-lucky Shane has become a favourite among staff and volunteers since



Shane

arriving at the SPCA in July. No one can understand why such an affectionate, energetic and cheerful pooch can't find a home.

This pitbull mix loves toys, especially his stuffed duckie, which he carries with him everywhere. How scary can a guy who carries a stuffed duckie be, anyway?

Shane spends part of each day curled up in an office at the SPCA, supervising paperwork and listening in on telephone conversations. He loves human company and, given half a chance, will offer up his belly for a rub or rest his head in your lap adoringly. He's big on kisses, too.

Shane is friendly and plays well with other dogs in supervised one-on-one situations, rather than in a dog-run group. Cats are a problem, mostly because he likes to chase them. Nobody's perfect but Shane comes pretty close.

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He is housetrained and always asks for the door when he needs to go out. He's also crate-trained and has had all his shots. He's looking for a stable, active and affectionate family to call his own. If you'd like to find out more, you can give the SPCA a call, or better yet, drop by the shelter at 5215 Jean Talon W.

Beebo, not made for apartment living

He's one part beagle and one part boxer, which makes Beebo 100 per cent beaxer, we suppose. His beagle side means that Beebo is a vocal dog who will sometimes bay at the top of his lungs when he hears an unexpected sound or is left alone too long. That's what brought this petstore pup to the SPCA in the first place.

Bright as a new penny and good-humoured, Beebo would do best in a single-family home, where his bow-wowling



Beebo

won't bother the neighbours. He loves company and would be so happy to live with someone who worked from home or is retired. It's not that he needs a ton of attention, but he likes to keep his eye on his people. He likes to have projects to do, whether chasing squirrels out of the yard or gnawing on a chew toy. Here's a dog who likes to get stuff done.

He's crate-trained, housetrained, up to date on all his shots and will be neutered before he leaves the shelter. Could Beebo be the dog for you? Drop by the SPCA to find out more about him.

Every week the *Indie* profiles members of the *continued on p. 20*

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for a decent life.*



*Many of you who visited
the Underdog gallery,
may remember this 'Happy'
little guy from Gerdy's!*



*He's now called **KEFTI** which is
Greek for 'You've got your
mojo' and he sure has!*

*This is
Smokey
Born and raised
in Westmount.
Smokey just
celebrated her 19th
birthday on Nov 1.
Looking good at 19!*



Finnigan,
4 year old rescue
dog is a wonderful
little guy. He is
a therapy dog
and visits patients
in hospitals.

FLETCHER

*August 1998 –
September 2009*



McGwire (left) **Phoenix** (right)

*Phoenix just celebrated his
1st Birthday with his big
brother McGwire! Now you
wouldn't know but there is
an 11 year age difference
between the two!
And what a pair they are!*



**Everyone should have
a "best friend"**



*We wish the
same for you
and yours.*

**Boris and
Victoria**

*and our humans,
**Susan Spencer
& Tom Egli***

The tributes on pages 18 and 19 were purchased by our readers to raise funds for The Underdog Club and Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions – thanks to all who participated.



Ellen Kharlanov
with her
handsome
Rocky and his
cute girlfriend
Emma Rose

*Summit Park
Friends*



**Laura
Stojak-Cohendet**
and her
adorable
Labrador
Taz

Trapped cat

.....
continued from p. 1

apartment October 27 for a cat stuck in a wall. On arrival, Sgt. Bob White found the pet trapped between a kitchen counter and the radiator.

Advising the frantic cat owner he would have to remove a small section of the counter to retrieve the animal, she told him to go ahead. After the cat failed to emerge, he left the woman with several recommendations to entice it out. If nothing worked, officials said, he promised to return to disassemble the counter.

Almost five hours later at 9:45 pm, the call came. White returned to the apartment on Sherbrooke to discover the cat trapped under a baseboard. This time, he took apart a cupboard and freed the cat unharmed.

PSU: Remember to pick up from leaves, Summit leash hours in effect till Dec. 1.

With the onset of winter, Public Security officials are reminding dog owners of the responsibility to pick up all droppings. Covering them with fallen leaves only creates a problem when the snow melts.

The city's by-laws require the keeper of dogs to scoop up after them. It is also important to not chuck the used doggie bags into the sewers. Tickets for failing to pick up are \$75.

Summer leash hours are still in effect in Summit Woods until December 1. These are from 9 am to 6 pm. The park is closed from midnight to 6 am. From December 1 to April 14, dogs may run unleashed during park hours accompanied by a keeper. During bird migration period, April 15 to June 15, dogs must be leashed at all times.

9 Lives special – what a choice



9 Lives

LYZANNE

Beautiful Stacey is one-and-a-half years old and loves to chat! She was the hostess of the room when she was at the shelter, greeting and cuddling. Sweet Stacey is



Stacey

gentle and calm, a bit reserved, yet very affectionate.

Adorable Fitty is a tiny tornado of fun, at three-and-a-half months old.

She is an energetic young kitten with such happiness

when playing games!

Both cats are very healthy and have been completely vetted. They are in foster homes at the moment, waiting for their new families.

To meet Stacey and Fitty, please contact Cindy at the SPCA Montérégie at 514.386.5960 or at info@spcamonteregie.com.

Mia is a 5-year-old Tonkinese who needs a forever home. Her previous owners did not have time for her and it would be wonderful for her to have some stability. She is such a strikingly beautiful girlie, with a loving and affectionate personality to match. She is an indoor-only cat, as she is declawed.

Oreo is a 6-year-old black and white "tuxedo," *continued on p. 22*

ON THE SHELVES

Among the animal-related materials at the Westmount Public Library singled out by staff are:

Adult non-fiction

Citizen Canine by Mary R. Burch – Badly-trained dogs quickly get a bad reputation, particularly in urban areas, which often reflects unfairly upon their breed. This American Kennel Club guide to the 10 skills that every well-mannered dog should know includes lots of techniques and ideas for teaching your own canine companion these essential aptitudes.

The Dog Selector by David Alderton – This lovely, very well laid-out book features a page per breed with a large photograph, descriptions and a table describing its most important characteristics. Each chapter covers a grouping of dogs by their main attribute, such as whether they are super-smart, hypoallergenic, family-friendly, etc.

French books

Assis! couché! pas bouger! by Gwen Bailey – This book shows the dog owner how to raise a well-trained animal. Photographs show step-by-step instructions to illustrate the training techniques. There is also information on choosing the right breed for you.

Magazines

"Condo canines: how to make it work"

by Gillian Ridgeway in *Dogs in Canada*, Oct/Nov. 2010, p. 25.

"A treat by any other name: positive reinforcement is in the eye of the beholder" by Patricia B. McConnell in *Bark*, Sept/Oct 2010, p. 49.

DVDs

Mine – This documentary follows New Orleans residents as they attempt the daunting task of trying to reunite with their pets, who have been adopted by families all over the country after Hurricane Katrina. It chronicles the custody battles that arise when two families love the same pet. Who determines the fate of the animals and the people involved?

Wallace & Gromit, the Complete Collection – No-one makes animated mayhem like crackpot inventor Wallace and his faithful dog, Gromit. Join the Oscar-winning sensations for four madcap adventures the whole family will enjoy!

Picture books about dogs

Stanley's Little Sister by Linda Bailey – Stanley the dog is a little upset when his people bring home a cat to be his new sister. How is he supposed to know that he isn't allowed to chase her?

Snifsnif! By Haruko Ostergren and Eva Eriksson – Ponté the dog loves to sniff everything even if it gets him into a little bit of trouble.

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Author Reich, at 82, launches first book



Summit Cr. resident David Reich autographs a copy of his first published book, *You Could Lose An Eye: My first 80 years in Montreal*, for Westmounters Rhoda and Mayer Blostein, during a book launch held in Old Montreal on November 7. At 82, Reich offers readers an insider's view of Montreal's vibrant and historic Jewish community, as well as a powerful description of what happened to his relatives who were left behind in Eastern Europe. The title comes from an expression Reich's mother often used for those she loved.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Shining a light on the underdogs

continued from p. 17

Underdog Club, the world's first marketing agency created to help underloved dogs find good homes. We shine a light on the so-called old, ugly and unpopular dogs who often get overlooked at Montreal's an-

imal shelters. To find out more, visit www.underdogclub.org, send an email to contact@underdogclub.org or call 1-877-43 DOGGY. Please consider fostering a dog. Donations are always gratefully accepted.

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Holiday craft sales and gatherings are just around the corner

By MARYLIN SMITH CARSELEY

The month of November marks that awareness of the proximity of those December holidays. Once the remnants of Halloween decor are swept away, a subtle spiritual feeling begins to permeate the air.

Many organizations have been readily demonstrating their yearly anticipation of Christmas and Hanukkah with bazaars, and fairs. In addition, attending these pleasant events is a convenient way to accomplish some early shopping.

When this time of year rolls around, Westmount always participates charitably in raising funds for those in need.

Here are some events:

- Thursday, November 11: **Contactivity Centre**, located at 4695 de Maisonneuve, will be hosting its Artisan Sale and Bazaar, from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. There will be an array of Christmas gifts, home baked items, crafts, second hand jewellery, books and a hot dog stand for a snack while shopping!
- **Westmount Artisans' Festival** takes place at Victoria Hall, 10 am to 6 pm on Saturday, November 13 and Sunday, November 14. Admission is a non-perishable food item or \$2.

- Also on November 13, **St. Matthias** will host its Christmas Fair 10 Church Hill, from 10 am to 2 pm. Shoppers can find attic treasures, baked goods, Christmas cakes, puddings, jams and jellies, crafts, jewellery and books. Lunch will be served.
- A third event on November 13 is a special Christmas bazaar and lunch hosted by **Mountainside United Church** at 687 Roslyn from 10 am to 5 pm. An eclectic display of art, antiques, collectibles, toys and lunch will be offered.
- Saturday, November 20: From 10 am to 3 pm, **Centre Greene**, at 1090 Greene Ave., will be hosting Treats and Treasures Craft Sale. Admission is free and the day includes a bake sale, items from over 30 crafters' tables, children's activities and a raffle. All proceeds will be directed to the centre's community programs.
- **Manoir Westmount** at 4646 Sherbrooke St. will be prepared for its Wednesday, November 24 bazaar day from 12 to 2 pm with a display of seasonal crafts, a nearly new table and jewellery.
- Feeding the hungry is an ongoing dilemma and **Mazon Canada** is committed to help alleviate this desperate problem. Involved volunteers with Mazon

assume this responsibility and depend on generous donations. This year on Tuesday, November 23, the **Congregation Shaar Hashomayim** will be hosting Marché Mazon from 6 pm 8:30 pm. Tickets are \$100, and visitors can stroll down improvised streets named after Montreal chefs and sample food specialities.

- This year, Hanukkah is earlier than usual, arriving on December 1. The Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue along with the Temple Emanu-El will be participating in the Community Candle Lighting at Westmount city hall at 4:30 pm on December 1. Following the ceremony, the Shaar will have a Hanukkah event called the "Hanukkah Factory/Workshop." This is catered to all ages and includes themes surrounding arts and crafts, candle making, doughnut decorating, Jeopardy and even karaoke for the adults.

At the Temple, the community can join in

their party. Everyone is asked to bring their own menorahs. There will also be a third candle lighting at the Temple on Friday December 3, and additional Hanukkah parties on December 5 from 10:30 am to 1 pm at \$10 per family.

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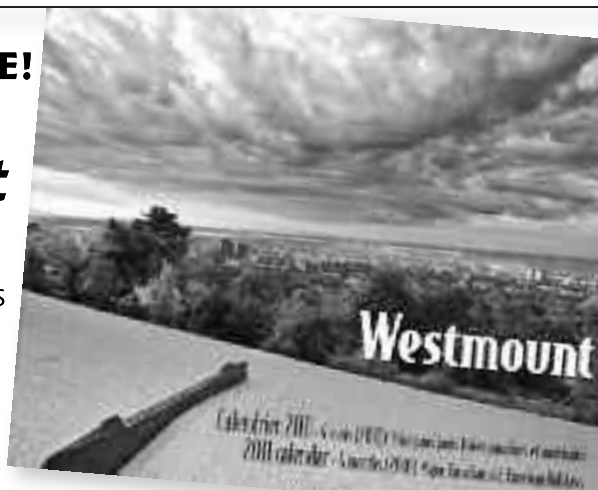
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Westmount Independent, 310 Victoria Ave., #105
Westmount Stationery, 4887 Sherbrooke St. W.
Westmount Y, 4585 Sherbrooke St. W.



Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount

SÉANCE EXTRAORDINAIRE DU CONSEIL DU 15 NOVEMBRE 2010

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné par le soussigné, greffier de la Ville de Westmount :

- 1° qu'une séance extraordinaire du conseil aura lieu le lundi 15 novembre 2010 à 17 h à la salle du conseil située au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest;
- 2° que les sujets suivants sont notamment inscrits à l'ordre du jour :

Approbation des plans d'implantation et d'intégration architecturale
Rapport du maire sur la situation financière de la Ville

- 3° qu'au cours de cette séance, les délibérations du conseil et la période de questions porteront uniquement sur ces sujets.

DONNÉ à Westmount, le 9 novembre 2010.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 15, 2010

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, City Clerk of the City of Westmount, that:

1. a special Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 15, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber located at 4333, Sherbrooke St. West;
2. the items listed on the agenda will be amongst other things as follows:

Site Planning and Architectural Integration Program Approval
Mayor's report of the financial position of the City

3. during the course of the meeting, the deliberations of the Council and the question period must deal exclusively with these items.

ISSUED in Westmount, on November 9, 2010.

Mario Gerbeau
Greffier de la ville / City Clerk



9 Lives features four cats looking for homes

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continued from p. 19



Oreo

dly and warmhearted, looking to be petted and talked to. He is also an indoor-only cat, since he is declawed as well.

Both cats are very healthy and have been completely vetted. They are in foster homes at the moment, waiting for their

mittens and boots” cat. He is an easygoing fellow who had bad luck: he was given up by his family when they had a baby.

Oreo is cud-



Mia

new families.

To meet Mia and Orea, please contact Cindy at the SPCA Montréal at 514.386.5960 or info@spca-monteregie.com.

Senior cats still hopeful for home

I am sending this adoption information to everyone a second time because this could happen in any family with pets. Serious health concerns of the foster family make it impossible to keep 13-year-old grey tabby Emma and 18-year-old Tortie Tulip. Both are calm and sweet with great personalities and in good health. All they need is a caring family who would enjoy quiet, older pets.

Since Emma and Tulip were my neighbors' cats and their constant companions for years, it would be great if they could have a home in this neighbourhood once again. Please contact Catherine at 514.525.9183.

Your neighbour, Lyzanne
Drawing: Laura S.Cohendet

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Local

Prenez note que 9194-3431 QUÉBEC INC. a l'intention de demander sa dissolution au Registraire des entreprises

Prenez avis que Marguerite Warda, dont l'adresse du domicile est le 604, avenue Grosvenor, Westmount, présentera au Directeur de l'état civil une demande pour changer son nom en celui de Maggy Warda. Westmount, le 6 octobre 2010. MARGUERITE WARDA 35924-42-2

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"Her professionalism, knowledge of the market and great ideas all put her head and shoulders above the other agents I met" E.D

"Your continued support made the whole process so much easier. You're our #1 agent & would not hesitate for a fraction of a second to recommend your services" F.A & S.Y.