# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 4 No. 11d We are Westmount November 23-24, 2010

# 5 Saisons demo to be approved, neighbours fed up with 'mess'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city council's demolition committee is expected to provide official approval for razing the 5 Saisons store following a hearing at city hall November 16, according to Councillor Patrick Martin, who chairs the committee.

"We met right after, are favourable to the plan but have to take into consideration the concerns of the neighbourhood and the comments given to us at the meeting," he explained.

Fed up with the reconstruction of Greene Ave. over the past two summers, citizens at the hearing expressed annoyance over two more years of noise, dust, traffic and parking "mess" as well as loss of light from the new project.

Demolition is slated to start in April 2011 and the entire construction process to last 15 months.

The favourable decision comes as little surprise. The project re-

> sulted from negotiations brokered a year ago by Mayor Peter Trent and the site has already been re-

"I think it should be reconsidered," said Jerry Jacob, a resident of 225 Olivier. The building will be one storey too high, he contended. He feared it would block light to the large building where he lives as well as sun to the rooftop pool. This latter point was refuted by the architect Brian Burrows.

### Wants compensation

Jacob also suggested there should be "some sort of compensation" for neighbours inconvenienced for two more years.

Another tenant of the same building said her biggest concern was with the process. The neigh- continued on p. 13



# Open Door opens its doors

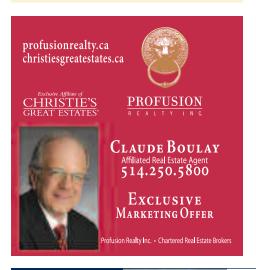
Community drop-in centre The Open Door, located on Dorchester and Atwater, invites Westmounters to come on in and spend some time during holiday season. Left, assistant director Caleb Clark and volunteer Kenny Varden. For story, see p. 8.

### INSIDE



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# Westmount's \$15.7-million hole

# City must add \$1 million to pension – for 15 years

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A deficit of some \$15.7 million in the city's employee pension plan confirmed only last month is expected to take a million-dollar bite out of Westmount's budget every year for the next 15 years, it was revealed last week.

The actuarial deficit will eat away at what was expected to have been a 2010 surplus exceeding \$1 million, said Mayor Peter Trent. This otherwise could have been used to ease the tax burden in 2011.

The first public mention of any pension shortfall came in the mayor's delivery of the city's annual state of the union address at city council's mid-month meeting November 15, when he mentioned the \$1.2 million that the city will add to the pension plan this year and next.

But he later told the Independent it would continue to take a hit on budgets for 15 years to come based on the \$15.7 million actuarial deficit determined as at December 31, 2009.

"It certainly hobbles our performance," Trent said. "But we'll still find a way to meet our goals and freeze our tax revenue for local services at the 2010 level."

To achieve this in the preparation of the 2011 budget, council has provided guidelines that call for reducing administrative costs and increasing revenues from fines, fees continued on p. 15



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RENOVATED 2,284 SQ FT MLS 8336137 DOWNTOWN | 1321 SHERBROOKE A-80 \$1,395,000



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# Speaks out against political impropriety

# Trent resigns from UMQ board – in protest

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount mayor Peter Trent resigned November 16 from the executive and the board of the Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMO) over recent conflict of interest allegations concerning its president, Marc Gascon, mayor of St. Jérôme.

"I sent him an email on Saturday, November 13, asking him for the good of the UMQ to step aside until this thing is cleared up," Trent said. "When he refused, I submitted my resignation on Tuesday."

Trent, who chaired the UMQ's Montreal caucus, did not attend a Sunday meeting of the executive, which is reported to have stood behind the president.

Gascon subsequently resigned from the presidency November 18.

This position is regarded to be symbolically important in municipal affairs, one of the reasons Trent wanted to distance himself "so no one will question my propriety."

"I'm resigning with a heavy heart because I feel it's important for me to take a stand," he explained. Trent said he was

supported by his council, and he expected to receive similar backing from the Association of Suburban Mayors (ASM), which he heads.

Westmount would retain its membership in the organization, at least while the Quebec municipal affairs minister conducts a "verification" of Gascon, he said.

He has already discussed the matter with the Quebec minister of the municipal affairs.

### Westmount hosted UMQ press conference

Trent hosted a UMQ press conference at city hall September 28 in which Gascon called on Quebec to refund a portion of the increased sales tax (QST) to municipalities (see October 5, p. 8).

Commenting further on other highly publicized allegations made by Bloc MP Serge Ménard regarding campaign funding and Laval mayor Gilles Vaillancourt, Trent said he had worked with both men and had strong respect for Ménard. "While we disagreed on some things – like sovereignty – I have no problem going on the record saying I always found him to be completely honest." Vaillancourt has denied any involvement.

Trent has said he would not return to the UMQ until Vaillancourt leaves the

At the end of last week. Vaillancourt resigned from one of his positions on the UMQ but was still on the board.

Trent said he worries about the recent swirl of alleged irregularities.

"It's deplorable. One of my goals is trying to improve the calibre of local politicians and the regard most people hold for local officials. It may be harder and harder to attract good people. I think it's a very dark day in the municipal arena."





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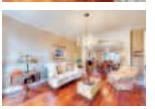


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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# ONE UP OR TWO MONTHS BEHIND?

In reference to "Broker aims to one-up competition with 'quick-reader' technology" (November 16, p. 15), we at Mc-Guigan Pepin Realty, the neighbourhood realtor, are very pleased to see our competition is up on technology, but need to point out that Sotheby's has not oneupped the competition – we have been using QR (quick reader/bar code) technology for over two months.

> Joan McGuigan. PRESIDENT, McGuigan Pepin and de Maisonneuve resident

# SURREY GARDENS (NOT) THE PLACE TO BE AFTER HOURS

Regarding "Drunk Westmount teen arrested with marijuana, suspected of hitand-run" (November 16, p. 6), for the information of police, after-school drug hours at the end of Surrey Gardens are weekdays 4:30 pm to 6 pm. Evening drug and drinking hours are more flexible, but 10:30 pm to 2 am is the most popular slot. For collectors of pill and marijuana-sized Ziploc bags, an early morning pick-up is best. Be careful not to slip on the used condoms.

> JEFF ROBILLARD, SURREY GARDENS

# LIFE AIN'T SO GOOD FOR BENCHES IN WESTMOUNT

Good grief. The life of a bench in Westmount used to be such a pleasant one.

In the past month, I have been singled out in this paper for standing in the wrong place. ("A wayward bench," October 5, p. 4). What's worse is that one of my kind was murdered (reported in "Wild WAG," October 26, p. 26).

I didn't know that bench, but it could have been any one of us.

I am thinking of moving to Hampstead – for safety's sake.

BENJAMIN BENCH, SHERBROOKE ST.

# \$16,000 SHELTER AIN'T COOL

In response to "Car tax seen as benefit to Westmount homeowners" (November 16, p. 1), I [also] read with interest the article in the Gazette about adding the additional cost to automobile registration to help cover the cost of public transit.

After doing a bit of searching, I was able to come up with the cost of vehicle registration for a midsize vehicle weighing 1,500 kgs (e.g. a Toyota Corolla) in seven of the 10 provinces. As indicated, Quebec already has the highest cost of vehicle reg-

BC: \$61; Alberta: \$69; Ontario: \$74; Quebec: \$261; Nova Scotia: \$159; PEI: \$90; New Brunswick: \$98.

We are charged an insurance fee on our registration, an insurance fee on our licence, and have to have private insurance on top of all that. So we are actually paying for insurance three times. I have a vehicle that I use only on weekends, the rest of the time I rely on BMW (bus, Metro,

Interestingly, based on the STM's 2009 annual financial report, the Société recorded operating revenues of just over \$1 billion. Expenses amounted to \$970 million, thus resulting in an operating surplus for the year of \$32.2 million before the reconciliation for tax purposes.

Even more frustrating was the article in the November 9 Gazette article "New bus shelters aim to make transit 'cool.'" "They cost up to \$16,000 each - about twice as much as a regular bus shelter, but Montreal's public transit chief says the sleek new shelters are worth it because they will make people feel that taking public transit

So we are supposed to pay an extra registration fee so that the public transit looks "cool"? I would rather keep my money, thank you very much.

Belinda Bowes, Academy Rd.

# BIKE PATH VS. WALKING PATH

I suggest having both a pictorial bike and walking sign installed in Westmount Park, at the east and west end of the paths.

On the walking path sign, you would

- 1. a person walking,
- 2. a person pushing a wheelchair,
- 3. a person pushing a baby carriage

# Correction

In regards to the Shop Westmount editorial piece on Sharyn Scott Consignment (November 16, p. 16), Scott gives a percentage to several charities and the three mentioned in the article represent the boards she sits on.

with children on both sides.

On the bike path sign, you would see a slash through each of the above pictorials.

This might help keep the bike path clear for cyclists.

I frequently cycle through Westmount Park and have been forced off the bike path by baby carriages with a child on each

> CAROLE GURBAND, FORT ST. (DOWNTOWN)



Pictorial of walking path sign as drawn by Carole Gurband.

# CURBS MAKE NO SENSE FOR WHEELCHAIRS

With all the roadwork underway, can you explain the typical design of corners whereby the wheelchair access ramp is so located as to be several inches below that of the nearby drain - thus ensuring a large puddle during each rainstorm?

Other than providing a test station for the integrity of rubber boots, I see no logic in this design.

BOYD WHITTALL, CLARKE AVE.

# LEASH YOUR DOG -AND PICK UP

On November 17, I witnessed a horrible dog attack near the corner of Kensington and de Maisonneuve. I heard a dog yelping and someone crying out "please help me."

To my horror, there was a dog on the sidewalk being attacked by two pitbull-type dogs (I cannot confirm the breed). One had the dog's head locked in his mouth and the other was locked onto his rear end. Fortunately, a few people did try to help and eventually the dogs were separated.

I believe the three dogs were on leashes, yet this horrible ..... attack [still] took place. I continued on p. 5

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

Weekly

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

Publisher & editor-in-chief: David Price EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

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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# More letters

continued from p. 4

sincerely hope the dog's injuries are not too serious, but what damage could these dogs have done to a child? If you cannot control your dog(s), please keep them off of public property.

Also, I have noticed recently in Westmount Park (in particular the area between Westmount Park School and the bike path) that more and more dogs are running off leash and more and more owners are not picking up after their dogs. A child could be seriously hurt if run into by one of these dogs racing to catch a ball. And no one enjoys stepping in you-know-

Public Security officers can't be everywhere all the time, but perhaps a few tickets might send a clear message. Residents should be able to walk freely in our parks without worrying about being run over by a [running] dog or stepping in...

Please pick up after your dogs and keep them on leashes (it's the law), and if you can't control them, stay off of public property.

> ANN McWHINNIE. DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

# GREENE AVE. AESTHETICS **OVER EASING TRAFFIC FLOW?**

As I watch the construction taking place on Greene Ave. over a longer period of time than it took to build the Colosseum in Rome, I am concerned at what appears to be a single lane at the junction of Greene and St. Catherine.

Although that part of the street is still in the early stages there appears to be on the right-hand side several granite-type decorative slabs that will decrease the width of the street where automobiles have a choice of three directions to take.

Prior to the start of this project, under the best of times, traffic was a constant bottle neck from Sherbrooke to St. Catherine, and now aesthetics takes precedence over traffic flow?

Once the street re-opens, one can only hope that the traffic light at that corner be adjusted to reply to the directions a driver wishes to take.

WILLIAM BROWN, GREENE AVE.

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# MUHC resumes construction on Westmount side

By Isaac Olson

A building permit for a temporary parking lot was issued by Westmount on November 22 with stipulations, shortly after McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) officials beat the media war drums and claimed Westmount's stop-work order could delay construction of the \$1.3-billion hospital project.

MUHC's building of a temporary parking lot and "construction village" for workers was being conducted with the city's preliminary okay despite a lack of permit. MUHC was first issued a verbal stop-work order by Westmount on November 15 and then in writing on November 16 until a compromise was found regarding a sound and visual barrier on the Westmount side of the Glen Yards super-hospital site, according to Joanne Poirier, director of Urban Planning.

Despite the fact that project leaders appeared in various media outlets shaming Westmount for potential delays over the issue, an MUHC spokesperson confirmed the project is still on schedule while denying accusations that hospital officials baited the media feeding frenzy.

ADDRESS

AMOUNT OF DONATION

"There have been no major delays as construction on the Montreal side was still ongoing," said Julie Paquet in a phone interview the afternoon of November 19. "We organized and put all of our effort toward finding a solution as fast as we could."

### Permit approved

On the morning of November 22, Poirier said the permit for the 900-stall gravel parking lot, to be used by the hundreds of construction workers expected to arrive early next year, has been approved with the condition that an eight-foot high sound and visual barrier made of plywood panelling be erected just south of the railway tracks from St. Catherine St. to Claremont Ave., stopping at Westmount's western border with Montreal.

Construction of the gravel lot had commenced before the permit was issued in good faith that a compromise would be found regarding the barrier, said Westmount's director general Duncan Campbell. At first, the city was asking for a tall, dirt berm, but MUHC officials rejected the proposal, saying it would, among other issues, take up too much parking, he said.



Charles Chebl, senior vice president and general manager with SNC-Lavalin Construction, surveys the construction site. He was on televised news November 18 claiming Westmount's stop work order on temporary infrastructure would delay the entire super-hospital project.

Without a barrier to help block the visual eyesore, dust and noise pollution caused by the lot in the coming four years of construction, Westmount pulled the plug until a deal was made, according to Campbell. By Friday afternoon, however, he said a proposal to install rigid fencing was nearing approval.

When asked if the potential canvass for graffiti taggers was factored into the equation as the city aims to hide a not-so-pretty parking lot from view, Campbell said vandalism would need to be managed just as

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it would on any Westmount-based construction site.

After MUHC director general Arthur Porter and other top hospital brass publicly pointed their fingers at Westmount, Campbell made it clear that putting the city in the media's crosshairs every time an issue arises is not an acceptable form of negotiation. It would certainly gum up the municipality's works if every contractor started following the MUHC's lead, he added.

### Big project, more issues likely

"This is a big project, and there may be other issues down the road," said Campbell. "We have been tirelessly striving for the past week and a half to create a more formal way to discuss these issues so they don't have to go to the papers and other media every time there is a problem."

For an example of the media coverage, see the Montreal Gazette's p. 2 article on November 18 that ran the headline "Westmount issues stop-work order – Snag over permit."

### Reporters called MUHC

Paquet said reporters contacted the MUHC first – not the other way around. All of the hospital's partners from contractors on up through to the province needed to be notified of the stop-work order, she continued. Because the project is under constant public scrutiny, she speculated the story leaked from there.



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The Open Door is a drop-in centre for the poor and homeless, operating in Westmount since 1989. It is a mission of Emmaus Anglican Church, charitable registration number 831334453 RR0001.

POSTAL CODE

# Police investigating Cavallaro bombing incident



Cavallaro's front window the morning of November 18 around 7:30 am.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



Police cordon off the front entrance to Cavallaro the morning of November 18 while an investigation took place.

Photo: Ted Sancton



The scene in the alleyway that runs behind Cavallaro Café where police say a firebomb was thrown in through the back. Police are continuing investigations.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

By David Goldberg

Local station 12 police say they have a description of the suspect who fire bombed the Cavallaro sandwich and deli store at 4865 Sherbrooke St. near Victoria on November 18.

Police received a call from a tenant above the store at 4:30 am that morning. The original call was for arson, but the police and fire department soon found they were dealing with a very different crime.

"A suspect had thrown a Molotov cocktail through the back of the store," said Constable Adalbert Pimentel. "The fire department said there also might have been a second one thrown as well."

The crime was similar in nature to a rash of café fire bombings in the city in recent months. Station 12's Commander Stéphane Plourde told the *Independent* that they there is no link to those crimes, but that a connection cannot be ruled out.

"We are investigating this incident, and we are taking it very seriously," said Plourde in French. "I can tell you that no citizens of Westmount have called us concerned about their security because of this event." Pimentel said the police have talked with merchants in the area and are stepping up their patrols in Westmount's business district.

"If anyone sees anything suspicious, they should call 911 immediately," said Pimentel, who added the police do have a description of the suspect, but will not release any details to the media

For his part, Cavallaro owner Tony Russo said he has no idea who fire bombed his es-continued on p. 15



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# Drop-in centre in Westmount may be its 'best kept secret'

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Despite Westmount's relative affluence compared with other Canadian cities, it houses its own drop-in centre for the homeless and marginalized at the corner of Dorchester Blvd. and Atwater Ave. Located in St. Stephen's Anglican Church, The Open Door may be relatively unknown to most residents, who don't need its services, however this community centre is extending a special invitation to Westmounters this year to participate in a coming-together of community over the Christmas season.

Since most homeless and drop-in centres in Montreal are usually closed during Christmas week, the management at the Open Door decided last year not to close during the Christmas period, and say it was a great success.

"A lot of our clients have lost contact with their families," says Caleb Clark, assistant director. "If you don't have family to spend Christmas with, it can be a very sad time.

### Making it feel like a family reunion

"Our goal during Christmas week is to

try to make it feel like a family reunion, a family Christmas. Our doors won't be open just to the homeless. We're also asking people from Westmount to come in and get a feel for the place."

From December 23 to 30 (except December 26), the Open Door will be run entirely by volunteers. They'll be busy cooking turkeys, making Christmas meals, serving the clients, and trying to give them an enjoyable experience.

"Last year, one of the clients said it was the best Christmas he could remember," adds Clark

He says the upcoming Christmas week will be a good time for people from Westmount to drop by the Open Door to help out, or to simply chat with those who are lonely and in need.

### Be a listener

"The most important thing they can do is to come in, sit down and be a listening ear for the people here," Clark says. "Let them know they matter and they're important, and that someone they don't necessarily know is willing to spend 15 minutes or a half hour listening to their story and finding out about them.

"When they both go in their separate directions, the person will remember the time spent and will remember that someone cared about them, which is important – especially at Christmas."

In the past year, the Open Door has seen a significant increase in the number of its clients. On average, the centre serves more than 100 people per day. Most of the clients come from areas in Montreal just east of Westmount, including St. Catherine St., Cabot Square and the Shaughnessy Village.

# PSU holiday food drive launched with \$1,786

The launch of the Public Security Unit's food drive November 13-14 generated \$1,786 from the Artisans' Festival at Victoria Hall and \$100 from the unit's golf tournament, said acting captain Denis Proulx.

Containers for donations of perishable food also have been placed in most municipal buildings. The collection will go to persons in need in the community.

Touted as "Westmount's best kept secret" on its flyer, the centre is a charitable organization run by director Ramon Herrera. It offers meals, help with income tax filing, a laundry service, clothing, hair cuts, eye glasses, counselling, workshops on addictions, as well as other services for its clients. For more information, visit the centre at 4006 Dorchester, call 514.939. 1970 or email theopendoorramon@gmail.com

See photo, p. 1.

# Car crash injures two

Two people in a car were taken to hospital Friday, November 12 when the car in which they were riding crashed into a tree on the median of Dorchester Blvd. just west of Atwater, Public Security officials report.

The car was reported to have been traveling west at about 2:35 am when the driver lost control of the vehicle. Speed was believed to have been involved. The car was described as totaled; wheels were tilted out and debris was scattered all over the street. The extent of the injuries was not known but the city tree had to be removed.

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# Project updates: Côte St. Antoine, Prince Albert

# Digging uncovers problems, nest of network responsibilities

By Laureen Sweeney

While some Westmounters and motorists fume in frustration over seemingly endless road work, it turns out that hidden stories may be unfolding in the aging underground networks that only surface once the ground is broken.

To find out about two major work sites

de Maisonneuve, the city followed its usual routine, she said. As with all road reconstruction, Public Works sent out letters in the spring to all three utilities having underground networks (Gaz Métropolitain, Bell and Hydro

ing work.

In the case of the two-block reconstruc-

tion of Prince Albert from St. Catherine to

Westmount) to warn them of the upcom-

"We ask them to ensure their network meets their needs so they don't come around to dig up the street after we've paved it."

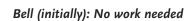
The city then proceeds with its own plan and identifies underground networks so contractors bidding on the project will know what to expect.

Sometimes years gone by, Bell conduits – pipes through which the cables are fed - have been placed too close

to the surface for reconstruction work, Zalzal explained.

"We know from experience that when the Bell conduits are too close to the surface, they can collapse or the clay can crumble when exposed." As a result, she said, the city wants Bell conduits to be 900 mm (36 inches) below road surfaces.

If problems are discovered only after the road is opened up, the city may have to delay its work until Bell or another utility completes its work.



Enter Prince Albert. No work was reported to be required by Bell. The city proceeded to rehabilitate the water mains and sewers, at which time homeowners were provided with the opportunity to piggyback onto the city project to replace their lead service entries with copper. This is a lengthy process.

"It was only after the installation of the new sidewalks and the roadbed, when we were ready to pour the concrete, that I asked for final reassurance from Bell that their conduits were not blocked because they were broken," she said.

'Once they discovered their old conduits were indeed blocked, they decided to replace and lower the line on an emergency basis," she explained. This caused a major delay. It also meant that Bell had to open up a trench in the city's newly packed

In a letter November 9 informing residents of the delay, Zalzal said "consequently the pouring of the concrete road base has been rescheduled for next week once Bell's work is completed."

Added costs encountered by the city due to the delay "will have to be picked up by Bell," she told the *Independent*.

It was during the digging for Bell's work on Friday morning November 12, she understands, that its contractor severed something that resulted in the loss of service to some residents of York St.

throughout the weekend.

Three houses were affected when a cable was cut, Bell spokesperson Marie-Ève Francoeur confirmed to the Independent. Service was restored at 9:45 pm Sunday, she said. How the cable was cut remains under investigation.

During the outage, Public Security carried out more frequent patrols of the area and attempted to determine, withice, said Sgt. Kim

Colquhoun. The large Château Maisonneuve apartment building was not affected.

At least one distraught resident brought

the matter to the attention of Public Works on Sunday, whose personnel immediately reported it to Bell, and the service was re-At the start of summer and the recon-

struction of Greene Ave., Zalzal said the poor condition of Bell's clay conduit was only discovered after the start of the work. While the unexpected Bell repairs caused some confusion and rescheduling "we had so much going on that the delay did not cause a major problem," she said. However, "every intervention gets in the way."

There were other hidden problems that did complicate the project, she added. "You just never know until you start digging.'



Work continues November 19 on Côte St. Antoine at Lansdowne.

– Côte St. Antoine at Lansdowne as well as Prince Albert – the *Independent* turned to Public Works director Marianne Zalzal. who unraveled some of the mystery.

For starters, if you've been blaming the city for the work on the Côte road, think again. That's a Bell project that started out to modify a manhole chamber - a threeweek project that stretched into some three months.

'When they started the work," she explained, "they encountered a water main blocking what they needed to do, but it was not one of ours." In fact, it was a main distribution line belonging to the island of Montreal agglomeration.

"A water main isn't something you should find by surprise," Zalzal said.

In the end, the diversion of the water main turned into a complicated job carried out by Montreal personnel.

The city had reviewed Bell's original plan in order to issue the permit, she explained. In such cases, "we check out a plan to see how it affects our circulation and evaluate it from the city's point of view. But it's not our responsibility to validate the information put in these plans."

This week most of the roadway was expected to have been restored after chlorination and testing of the diverted water main.

# out a definitive an- Bell contractors work on Prince Albert near York, November 16. The trench

swer, who might be for Bell's conduits that was dug after the initial gravel grading was being without phone serv- filled in and was covered by the end of the day.

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# Filmmaker Paul Almond returns to showcase novel The Deserter



During a book launch held at Victoria Hall on November 17, retired Canadian filmmaker-turned-author Paul Almond (seated) signed copies of his latest book, The Deserter, for admirers, some of whom worked with Almond on his many films. Dividing his time now between a home in Malibu, California and an ancestral farm in the Gaspé region, Almond grew up in Westmount, where he attended Roslyn School.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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# Muriel Gold's sixth book tells of the dynamos who ran a Montreal children's theatre



Ruth Gesser, Robert and Pearl Adams display the newly published book by Westmounter Muriel Gold. A book launch held in the library of 4300 de Maisonneuve was held on November 8. The book, The Dramatic Legacy of Dorothy Davis and Violet Walters. The Montreal Children's Theatre, 1933-2009 tells the story of two dynamic women who ran the Montreal Children's Theatre for close to 60 years.

### By Lauren O'Loughlen

Muriel Gold launched her sixth published book, *The Dramatic Legacy of Dorothy Davis and Violet Waters*, on November 8 in the library at 4300 de Maisonneuve. A resident of the same street, Gold has lived in Westmount since 1967.

The book tells the story of two legendary Montrealers, Dorothy Davis and Violet Waters, who founded the Montreal Children's Theatre in 1933. Their mission was to inspire children through theatre and drama during the depression of the 1930s. Davis and Waters ran the children's theatre for almost sixty years and educated well-known actors such as William Shatner.

Gold herself was both a student and later a teacher at the children's theatre. According to its website more that 10,000

children have come through its doors since its founding.

The completion of *The Dramatic Legacy* of *Dorothy Davis and Violet Waters* was interrupted by the publication of another of the author's books and her central role in the 75th anniversary reunion of the Montreal Children's Theatre.

### Hommage to Davis and Waters

It took Gold two years to finally finish this homage to Davis and Waters with whom she had kept in contact with over the years. "I feel they made an important contribution to Canadian theatre history," she said.

To catch a glimpse of the work of Davis and Waters, archived video footage can be found on http://www.childrens-theatre.ca. Click on the "Our History" link.

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# \$147,000 raised over the years by Friends of the Library

# Weekend book sale marks 10th anniversary

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

This weekend's two-day "quality book sale" at Westmount Public Library will mark the 10th anniversary of the Friends of the Library sales in what organizers expect to be record-setting in many ways.

Judging by the largest number of books and audiovisual materials ever donated, it's anticipated that proceeds will also hit new levels, exceeding \$10,000, said Lee Taylor, who co-organizes the event with the Friends' president, Carolyn O'Neill, for many years.

This would easily boost the total earnings over the decade to well over \$150,000, she said. To date almost \$147,000 has been handed over to the library for new acquisitions and programs.

The semi-annual sale takes place Saturday and Sunday, November 27 and 28, from 10 am to 5 pm, at the library, 4574 Sherbrooke.

The Friends of the Library is a volunteer group of 80 members that raises funds for the library and organizes cultural and social events.

While several other used-book sales in

the area no longer exist, O'Neill attributes the ongoing growth of the Friends' sale to selling only material in good condition, the community's interest in reading and the perseverance of the Friends.

### Community effort

"It's really a community effort," she said, noting the number of donated books and the assistance of local students during the sale. "We've asked for help with this sale from ECS, The Study, Westmount High and École Internationale de Montréal, as well as Trafalgar and LCC."

Billed right from the start as a "quality book sale," or book fair, the first event in November 2000 netted \$5,398 and the word "quality" has become its hallmark. "We don't want to be a dumping ground for mouldy books that no one wants anymore," Taylor explained.

Most books, priced at \$1 or \$2, with children's books at 50 cents, "make great holiday gifts for under the tree or as stocking stuffers."

Many of the books are also used to augment the library's permanent collection or replace worn copies. Others are sold

throughout the year on the Friends' "toonie trolley" near the library's main circulation desk. This alone has generated \$33,000 over the years.

The Friends of the Library organization was started by the library trustees, with founding meetings taking place early in 2000 and appointment of the first directors in March. They were: Joan Albu, Gordie Burnett, Findlay, Henry Solange Marcoux, Eve Marshall, Bob Morgan, Margaret

Stronach, Miriam Tees and Derek Walker.
Anyone wishing to join the group can

obtain a membership form at the library. The annual fee is \$10.

In addition to O'Neill and Taylor, cur-



Lee Taylor sorts some of the books for the sale that takes place at the Westmount Public Library this weekend.

rent members of the board are Anne Morillot, David Gawley, Solange Marcoux, Marion Blake, Pat Machin, Miriam Tees, Wendy Scott and Josette Bayrouti.

# ONTHESHEIVES

Among the new materials at the Westmount Public Library singled out by staff

### Magazines

"A new global player: Brazil's far-flung agenda" by Julia E. Sweig in *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec. 2010, p. 173.

"Obama at midterm: grading on a presidential curve" by Gil Troy in *Policy Options*, October 2010, p. 13.

"Québec doit imposer ses conditions: Il est possible d'exploiter du gaz de schiste et du pétrole au Québec en respectant les règles du développement durable, croit le physicien Normand Mousseau, spécialiste des questions énergétiques. Mais il faut que ce soit rentable!» by François Guérard in *L'Actualité*, Dec 1, 2010, p. 20.

### Adult non-fiction - Brazil

Brazil on the Rise: The story of a Country Transformed by Larry Rohter – A fabled country with a reputation for danger, romance and intrigue, Brazil has transformed itself in the past decade. Written by the go-to journalist on Brazil, the book intimately portrays a country of contradic-

tions, of passion and of immense power.

The Last of the Tribe: The Epic Quest to Save a Lone Man in the Amazon by Monte Reel – The story of the men who ventured deep into the Amazon to find and protect the last Brazilian Indian, the book explains how business people, politicians, territorial farmers and the Indian himself marred an effort to save the original people.

## Children's fiction

Roselyne Rutabaga remue ciel et terre! by Marie-Louise Gay – Roslyne the Rabbit wakes up one morning with a brilliant idea: to dig the biggest hole on earth! This is the latest charming story by the award-winning Montreal author and illustrator.

The Legend of the Golden Snail by Graeme Base – Wilbur learns, in one of his favourite books, about a golden snail that has been banished to the ends of the earth. One day, he decides to recite a magical chant from the book, and he sets sail on a little boat to find the snail.

### DVDs

Cooking with Stella – After inheriting a household of servants, Michael, a stay-athome husband and out-of-work cook living in New Delhi, begs the cook, Stella, to teach him culinary wisdom.

Reel Injun: On the Trail of the Hollywood Indian – This documentary delves into the fascinating history of the Hollywood Indian with razor-sharp insight and humour, tracing its checkered cinematic evolution from the silent film era to today.

### Adult French – 40 years later

La constellation du lynx by Louis Hamelin – His first novel in 10 years revisits the October Crisis. In this tongue-incheek political thriller, Samuel Nihilo, a writer, launches his own investigation to check out conspiracy theories and encounters a rogue's gallery of characters.

Les plages de l'exil by Jacques Lanctôt – Lanctôt, who started the October Crisis when, with other FLQ members, he kidnapped James Cross, recounts his years of exile. He first went to Cuba, which he found not to be the worker's paradise he

was hoping for, and eventually returned to Quebec, where he served a jail sentence. Later in his life, he founded a publishing house.

### Reference

Hollywood Representation Directory Hollywood Creative Directory Le guide 2010 Choisir université: tout ce

qu'il faut savoir pour franchir les portes de l'université.

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# Justin Trudeau tells students to get political – now

By Joanne Penhale

Youth leadership was MP Justin Trudeau's key message when he spoke at Marianopolis College on November 18.

He appealed to students to become involved in politics, and to translate their concerns and interests into actions that are relevant to society – and to do it now.

"I hate that phrase 'leaders of tomorrow,'" said the MP for Papineau. He encouraged the audience of more than 60 youth to become leaders today, not wait until they had academic degrees.

"There are profound injustices in this world that we can not simply push aside anymore," Trudeau said.



MP Justin Trudeau spoke with Marianopolis College students for nearly two hours on November 18 at an event organized by the school's dehate club

He repeated that priorities needed to shift away from immediate short-term return

"The only thing that is going to be good for the economy in the coming years are the things that are going to steward our environment," Trudeau said, after criticizing the Conservative government for lacking leadership on environmental issues.

Questions from Marianopolis students touched on the environment, the gun registry, continued on p. 13

# 5 Saisons demolition

continued from p. 1

bourhood was already a "nightmare" with parking on both sides of Olivier, "cars racing through alleys, double parking and obstructing driveways."

Residents were also ill-informed of work in the area, she said.

Demolition committee member Theodora Samiotis, who represents the district on city council, said citizens should be kept up-to-date on what to expect when and be inconvenienced as little as possible.

Gordon Jekubik, representing owners of the historic "de B." building at the northwest corner of Greene and St. Catherine, questioned the construction process and its impact on the building from trucks using a narrow adjacent

Developer Jacob Attias, a longtime Westmount resident, later told the Inde-

# Justin Trudeau

continued from p. 12

the recent provincial petition for Liberal premier Charest to resign, bilingualism, access to education and how to create an "alternative Canada."

Asked for examples of Conservative government actions he was opposed, Trudeau discussed Bill C-49 and his disagreement with calling refugees "queue jumpers." He said Conservatives were exploiting Canadians' fears around immigration.

One question drawing some laughter from the crowd was: "How can parliament get away with behaviour that would put a kindergarten class to shame?"

Trudeau responded by discussing what he called the Conservative government's divisiveness, and the problems of using parliament for manufacturing sound bites rather that seeking complex solutions to complex problems.

Trudeau, the opposition critic for youth, citizenship and immigration, frequently spoke of young people using the pronouns "we" and "us." The politician, former high school teacher, and first son of former prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau is 39 vears old.

After a lengthy question-and-answer period, Trudeau was given a gift by members of the Marianopolis Debate Society, which hosted the event. Proceeds from the \$5 event will be used toward travel expenses for students in the 60-member team to debate across Canada.

pendent he would work with the city over traffic construction concerns. The completed project should improve traffic flow on Greene, he explained. It would be "more regulated" by the elimination of two parking lots.

The current 5 Saisons parking spots off de Maisonneuve will become a public square. The parking lot to the south of the existing building will be built upon, thereby blocking cars cutting through from Greene.

The new building will block off northsouth vehicle access from St. Catherine to de Maisonneuve. The only lanes that will exist are a truncated one running north from St. Catherine and an east-west passage from the rear of the buildings to Olivier.

Asked by councillor Martin about the proposed construction timeline, architect Burrows said with demolition starting in April, the shell of the new building would "hopefully" be enclosed by the fall.

"That quickly?" asked Martin, a project



As the demolition hearing adjourns, Councillor Patrick Martin, committee chairman (left), listens to resident Gordon Jekubik (right) and developer Jacob Attias.

manager by profession.

Before the hearing, preliminary plans for the development had already been recommended by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), explained its chair, Carole Scheffer.

In presenting an overview of the 1947 structure built for Steinberg's she said: "The building has no particular architectural features to preserve."

Burrows presented details of the new building stepped back from de Maisonneuve at two levels with a terrace at the second storev.

In response to a question from Councillor Kathleen Duncan, he also showed how delivery trucks to 5 Saisons would enter a recessed loading dock from a 45foot-wide driveway off de Maisonneuve. This will also lead to the first of two parking levels. This one, for public parking, will have inside access to the store. The second parking level for residents only will be accessed off Greene.

Burrows also said the garage space provides for two spaces per apartment unit.



Jerry Jacob: worried about light, wants compensation

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# Wong shaves head for cancer



Annie Wong, October 22, with her freshly-shaved

Westmounter Annie Wong, with the help of family, friends and staff of Motronics Circuits International Inc., the Montreal-based electronics company where she works, raised just over \$9,000 for the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation in this year's Shave to Save with Virgin Radio.

Wong, who recently moved to Westmount, shaved her head on October 22.

Over the last decade, the Shave to Save campaign has raised over \$3.7 million for the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation, which funds breast cancer research, education, awareness and support.



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# Pension deficit

continued from p. 1

and other sources to avoid property taxpayers shouldering the burden.

But however one slices the pie, cutting expenses and finding new revenues, an additional \$1 million will now be gobbled up by the pension fund rather than being used to reduce taxes or debt, or in other ways.

While the city's pension plan lost 7.5 percent in the stock market meltdown in 2008, Trent said it was important to point out that much greater amounts were lost by Montreal (at 16 percent) and other plans (averaging 17 percent).

Westmount's loss was first mentioned in the city's 2009 audited financial report by KPMG, he explained. A subsequent actuarial analysis of the pension plan was undertaken by consultants Normandin Beaudry and presented to city council members in October.

"According to the law, we can amortize it over 15 years," Trent said.

While the amount of the deficit had not been determined in time for preparation of the 2010 budget of \$86-million, the budget does have a \$1.2-million "provision for uncontrollable" expenses in addition to the \$46 million sent to the island-wide agglomeration.

Asked if this provision might be related to the deficit, director general Duncan Campbell said only that it might be used in part and the remainder found elsewhere for this year. "But it is a major concern," he said of the deficit.

In addition to the economic downturn in 2008, Trent listed four other reasons for the pension fund losses: assumptions made five to 10 years ago that were "too rosey," the plan's 70-percent investment in bonds that have not done well, the number of employees retiring early "and leaving the world late," and increases in salaries on which pensions are based.

"I would hope we'd move to a type of pension plan that was more equitable in the long haul," he said.

At the end of the state of the union address, which listed the city's overall debt at December 31, 2010 to be \$38.8 million, Trent read out the 2010 remuneration of council.

This year, the mayor receives from Westmount \$43,934 plus \$14,759 as an expense allowance, as well as \$10,221 as a member of the agglomeration council and \$1,554 as a member of its environment, transport and infrastructure committee.

Each councillor receives \$14,645 from Westmount and \$7,322.50 as an expense allowance.

# Vic Market supporting the Generations' milk program

By Lauren O'Loughlen

The next time you are at the Vic Market at 378 Victoria Ave. make sure you pick up some milk. As well as providing meals for residents of Westmount, Vic Market is now also helping to contribute to healthy meals for school children all over Montreal.

When you purchase a glass bottle of organic milk from Vic Market, you have the option to donate your \$2 deposit to the children's charity Generations Foundation. All the money raised through the donations goes to provide warm, healthy breakfasts, snacks and lunches to over 6,500 children throughout Montreal, according to the Generations Foundation website (www.generations foundation.com). So far, Vic Market has raised \$400 on milk bottle deposits. The program has been running at Vic Market for the last five months. The milk itself is sourced from Ontario.

Previously the president of the Generations Foundation and now a partner at Vic Market, David Lisbona presented his business associates with this concept earlier on in the year.

### Nellie Philanthropy Foundation

"We jumped on right away," said head chef Robert Stutman. The milk program is co-ordinated by the Westmount based, Nellie Philanthropy Foundation. Lisbona says he hopes with more exposure he will be able to expand the project in the coming months.

In the past, Vic Market has helped other children's charities through its activities. "We did some fundraising for LOVE, which stands for Leave Out ViolencE," said Stutman. LOVE is a non-profit organisation aimed at raising awareness against violence in schools and communitites.



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Vic Market head chef Robert Stutman encouraging Westmounters to come and buy more milk.

# Cavallaro

continued from p. 7

tablishment, but he said his customers have been volunteering their own theories.

"We were open the next day after cleaning up, and all our customers have returned and they've been great — God bless them," said Russo. "A lot of them believe this is some sort of copycat crime. There has been so much attention about the fire-bombings in the media, that maybe someone wanted to get some attention."

A witness to the crime told police the suspect left the scene on a bicycle.

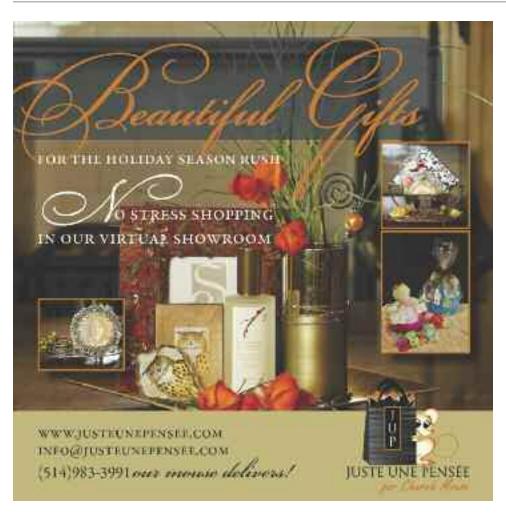
"Do you think that if this was for real, a gangster would make his getaway on a bike?" asked Russo.

He added that damage to his store could have been far worse. As it is, smoke damage and his broken back door and front window are estimated at \$10,000.

Russo, who has owned the store for 14 years, said he will be taking measures as result of the incident, including installing security cameras at the front and rear of the store.

"But honestly, I don't feel unsafe here," he added.





# 60 years (and a new reno) later

# Westmounters continue tradition of support for MGH gift shop

The estate of Westmounter Carmen Hope recently contributed \$50,000 to the renovation of the Hospitality Corner's gift shop at The Montreal General Hospital. The shop and its snack bar were founded in 1950 by Margaret McGill, another Westmounter, at what was then the Western Hospital.

The rejuvenated store "realized a dream," said longtime volunteer Marnie

Blundell, a former Westmounter. It has already had a positive effect on sales.

The shop is run mainly by the volunteers of the hospital's auxiliary, which donates profits from all its activities to the hospital. Hospitality Corner also benefits patients and their families as well as hospital staff by offering them items that would not otherwise be available on site.



From left, Margaret Stavert, Betty Panet-Raymond, Nancy Daly and Marnie Blundell.

hoto: Auxiliary of the Montreal General Hospit





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# Volunteering in and around Westmount

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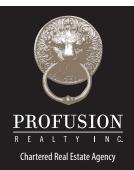
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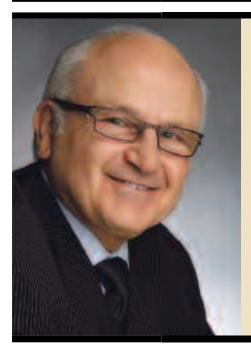


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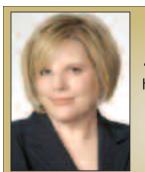
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# Avis de dissolution

Prenez avis que la compagnie 9095-7309 Quebec Inc demande sa dissolution à Revenu Québec. le 23 novembre 2010 There are no assets and no liabilities.

# Shaw takes ladies tennis championship



At age 17, Lexington Ave. resident Kiefer Shaw (right) became the second youngest person to win the ladies singles championship in the history of the Monkland Tennis Club. Referee Creighton Wilson presented the trophy after her victory in September. Shaw was also a finalist in the ladies doubles.

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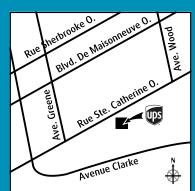
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# **Priory's SWAT collects cartridges** and cell phones to plant trees

The Priory School's SWAT Team (Students Working to Advance Technology) recently launched an environmental fundraiser that, instead of raising money, collects empty print cartridges and unused cell phones from the school's community. Their aim is to help offset the negative impacts of cartridges consumption and improper disposal.

Through the "Think Recycle" program, for every 24 print cartridges or cell phones

collected, a tree will be planted on the school's behalf with Tree Canada.

Think Recycle is a free print cartridge and cell phone recycling program that allows participants to earn money while helping the environment. It works with more than 20,000 members, across Canada and the US, including the Lion's Club, Habitat for Humanity and Computers for Kids. For more information, visit www.thinkrecycle.com.



From left, David Wyzykowski and Chaz Doherty.

# LE CONCERT DE NOËL



à Saint-Léon de Westmount

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Animation pour les jeunes à 14 h 30 Apportez une décoration pour le sapin de Noël



# Au programme



En première partie En seconde partie l'Oratorio de Noël des cantiques traditionnels de Saint-Saëns et des chansons populaires par le Chœur Saint-Léon chantés tous en chœur

Direction musicale et animation: François Panneton Une invitation à porter du rouge ou du vert

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# MUHC supporters aim to build new generation of allegiance

In an effort to generate a new generation of allegiance to the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), one of what will amount to many, community-based information sessions throughout the area was held in a Westmount couple's home on November 15.

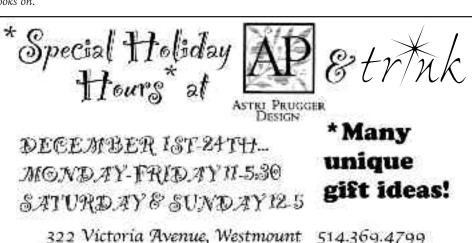
Of the \$1.6 billion in MUHC improvements, ranging from the renovation of Lachine General Hospital to the construction on Glen Yards, the public-private partnership (PPP) is relying on \$300-million worth of fundraising, explained former Westmounter Dr. Richard Cruess. The Best Care for Life campaign is taking a three-pronged approach to fundraising by attracting corporate, internal and community donors.

"We need to get our community involved," said Cruess, who noted revamping the medical facility network has been in the works for over a decade. "It's taken so long, people almost forget it's going to happen.'

One of the ways volunteers are working to attract support from young, middle- to upper-class families, is by hosting information sessions within the community that not only educate locals about the renovations, but also give them a chance to hear medical practitioners discuss their field, said Cruess. Nine of these West Island sessions, which started last month, are already on the slate, said Jill Harrington, a Westmounter with Friends of the MUHC. More hosts are welcome to choose a topic and invite ..... family, friends and neigh- continued on p. 27



Dr. Sylvia Cruess (left) speaks to the crowd on November 15 while her husband, Dr. Richard Cruess



# Action Centre soirée honours Arthur Porter



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Arthur Porter, director general and CEO of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) was honoured by the Action wife Rosemary, was the witty auctioneer for the live auction that raised over \$200,000. Film producer Denise Robert with hubby director Denys Arcand, Bruce Hills, COO of Just For Laughs and Marie DuPont, director general of the International Economic Forum of the Americas, donated themselves in the "Classe Affaires" portion of the live auction, providing an opportunity to the highest bidder to purchase a day to shadow one of these pro-



Arthur Porter, Gilda Abdulezer and Westmounter Joanne Heward, Action Centre Executive Director. Centre in mid-October for his philan-

Former Westmounter Ginger Petty (chair of Action Centre), attended with Westmounters, including Joanne Heward (executive director) and Geoffrey Heward (soirée co-chair), Sophie and Andrew Pepper (co-chair), Sandra Schlemm, Connie and l'Oréal CEO Javier San Juan, Jodi Lafrenière and Scott Pritchard, Amanda Jelowicki-Dunn and Adrian Dunn, Susan and Karel Nemec, Anna and Phil Belec, Chantal Marquis-Culver, Patrick and Jennifer Lavoie, Christina and Craig Miller, Paul and Andrea Beattie, Eddy Miller, Anna Goth, Derek Lindsay, Chil and Ginny Heward.

Mel Hoppenheim, attending with his

fessionals.

A chic pre-cocktail for donors pledging gifts of \$2,500 was hosted by past Soirée honourees John Rae and David Culver.

The event raised a total of \$200,000 for the Action Centre, a fully bilingual day centre in Montreal for severely physicallychallenged people living below the poverty

For more photos, see p. 23.

# Missing person found

A person missing from Nôtre Dame Hospital was reported found in Westmount Park Saturday afternoon, November 13, Public Security officials said. A passerby spotted the individual acting strangely and alerted public safety officers.

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Westmounter Andrew Pepper and Action Centre chair Ginger Petty.



Westmounter David Culver

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# COMMENTAIRES DU MAIRE SUR LA SITUATION FINANCIÈRE DE LA VILLE DE WESTMOUNT SÉANCE DU CONSEIL DU 15 NOVEMBRE 2010

Chers conseillers, Mesdames et Messieurs, bonsoir,

À cette première étape du processus de préparation et d'adoption du budget 2011, la loi m'oblige à présenter aux résidents un rapport sur la santé financière de notre ville en général.

En juin, le conseil s'est doté de quatre objectifs à atteindre relativement à la taxation, les infrastructures, la circulation et l'aménagement urbain.

En matière de taxes, nous nous sommes fixés l'objectif suivant :

« Geler le revenu fiscal global de 2011 perçu pour les services locaux. Soutenir les efforts du maire en vue de contrôler les dépenses d'agglomération. Geler les dépenses locales pour 2011 (à l'exception des coûts d'emprunt), et travailler à maintenir un gel semblable en 2012 et 2013. Ce gel des dépenses sera atteint principalement en misant sur la réduction des coûts administratifs (qui ont monté en flèche depuis la fusion) et sur une plus grande efficacité administrative. Il ne doit y avoir aucune diminution du niveau des services aux citoyens associée à ces mesures. ».

Notre situation financière pour 2010 s'annonce favorable à ce moment-ci, avec un modeste surplus de fonctionnement projeté.

Dans le rapport qui est déposé ce soir, mes commentaires porteront notamment sur les quatre questions financières suivantes:

- ➤ les résultats de fin d'exercice 2009;
- > les prévisions préliminaires des revenus et dépenses de la ville pour 2010;
- > l'état de la dette de la ville ainsi que les façons de la gérer;
- ➤ l'orientation générale du budget 2011 et des dépenses d'immobilisations pour la période de 2011 à 2013.

### Résultats de fin d'exercice 2009

Le budget total de fonctionnement pour l'année 2009 était de 79 820 900 \$. Les états financiers vérifiés de fin d'exercice ont confirmé un revenu total de 86 059 119 \$ pour l'an dernier; des dépenses de fonctionnement qui se sont élevées à 80 908 281 \$ et des affectations additionnelles au montant de 4 390 000 \$. L'excédent budgétaire de fonctionnement en 2009 s'est élevé à 760 838 \$.

Au cours de l'année 2009, les dépenses d'immobilisations se sont élevées à 7 207 115 \$, parmi lesquelles un montant de 2 325 133 \$ a été couvert par notre mode de financement *pay-as-you-go* (avant les « fusions », l'ensemble de notre programme annuel de travaux d'immobilisations courants était financé selon la méthode *pay-as-you-go*). Le solde des projets 2009 a été financé au moyen de règlements d'emprunt qui ont totalisé 3 642 277 \$ et de subventions au montant de 1 239 705 \$.

Les vérificateurs externes de la Ville de Westmount, *Pratte, Bélanger*, ont déposé leur rapport cette année, lequel comportait une note indiquant que Westmount avait contesté les 21,9 \$ millions figurant dans les bilans de clôture 2005 et d'ouverture 2006. Ce surplus accumulé non retourné à la Ville de Westmount provient de deux sources, à savoir les revenus de taxes destinés au financement des dépenses d'immobilisations, pour un montant de 16,2 \$ millions non utilisés à ces fins, ainsi qu'un montant de 5,6 \$ millions pour un certain nombre de dépenses d'exploitation, telles la caisse de retraite et les paiements à la Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail. Cette question fait toujours l'objet d'une action devant les tribunaux que nous tentons de résoudre dans les meilleurs délais.

### Prévisions pour 2010

Le budget de fonctionnement 2010 de la ville fut établi à 86 284 100 \$. Pour la deuxième fois, le budget incluait l'affectation de l'agglomération. À la lumière des résultats disponibles à ce jour et des revenus et dépenses prévus pour le reste de l'année, nous estimons terminer l'exercice 2010 avec un modeste surplus, une fois que nous aurons mis de côté les fonds pour atténuer l'impact des coûts financiers d'emprunt et des déficits des régimes de retraite que nous devons, en vertu de la loi, résoudre. Cependant, ce surplus pourrait changer considérablement d'ici la fin de l'exercice, notamment s'il devait y avoir des chutes de neige abondantes ou un bris d'aqueduc important d'ici là.

### **Dette**

En date du 31 décembre 2010, l'endettement net de Westmount sera de 38,8 \$ millions, incluant « l'achat » forcé du réseau local d'aqueduc et les dépenses annuelles d'immobilisations des années 2002 à 2010. Ce montant ne comprend pas les 37 \$ millions nécessaires au projet de l'aréna-piscine que nous devrons financer en partie à l'aide d'une subvention d'environ 20 \$ millions versée par les gouvernements provincial et fédéral.

### Budget 2011

Conformément aux objectifs financiers décrits précédemment dans ce rapport, je suis heureux d'annoncer que nous serons à la hauteur du défi que nous nous sommes fixé en tant que conseil. À l'exception de l'impact d'un déficit actuariel du régime de retraite des employés de l'ordre de 1 200 000 \$ et de l'augmentation proposée de la taxe de vente provinciale, nous n'augmenterons pas les dépenses municipales pour les opérations de Westmount en 2011. Cependant, nous ne connaissons pas encore le montant final que l'agglomération devrait nous faire payer en guise de contribution à son budget 2011 et nous ne le saurons pas avant la fin décembre. En outre, comme environ 84 % de nos recettes proviennent des impôts fonciers, le conseil cherchera à augmenter les revenus provenant d'autres sources, tels les tarifs de stationnement et les amendes, les permis et les frais reliés à divers programmes.

Le conseil se réunira bientôt pour finaliser notre stratégie globale et en venir à adopter notre budget de fonctionnement et d'immobilisations plus tard en décembre.

### Rémunération des élus municipaux

La loi prévoit que le maire doit faire état de la rémunération que la ville et les organismes paramunicipaux versent à chaque membre du conseil. Ainsi en 2010, le maire reçoit de la ville de Westmount une rémunération de 43 934 \$, en sus d'un montant de 14 759 \$ à titre d'allocation de dépenses, d'une rémunération de 10 221 \$ à titre de membre du conseil d'agglomération de Montréal et d'un montant de 1 554 \$ à titre de membre de la Commission de l'environnement, des transports et des infrastructures. Chaque conseiller reçoit pour sa part de la ville une rémunération de 14 645 \$, en sus d'un montant de 7 322,50 \$ à titre d'allocation de dépenses.

### Transactions au-delà de 25 000 \$

Comme l'exige la loi, je dépose la liste des transactions dont le montant cumulatif total dépassait 25 000 \$ entre le 1<sup>er</sup> octobre 2009 et le 30 septembre 2010.

Peter F. Trent Maire





# THE MAYOR'S COMMENTS ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15th, 2010

Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening:

As the first formal step in the 2011 budget preparation and adoption process, I am required by law to report to residents on the general financial health of our City.

In June, Council adopted 4 goals regarding taxes, infrastructure, traffic and urban planning.

In terms of taxes, we set the following goal:

"Freeze the City's total 2011 tax revenue levied for local services. Support the mayor's efforts to control Agglomeration spending. Freeze local expenditures for 2011 (not including borrowing costs), and work towards a similar freeze in 2012 and 2013. This spending freeze can be achieved mainly by reducing administrative costs – which have risen steeply since the merger – and by increasing administrative efficiency. There must be no concomitant reduction in the level of services provided to citizens."

Our financial picture for 2010 looks quite positive at this point with a modest operating surplus projected.

In my report that is being tabled tonight, I will be commenting further on the following and other financial issues:

- > The 2009 year-end results;
- > The preliminary forecast of the City's 2010 revenues and expenditures.
- > The state of the City's debt and the action taken to manage it.
- ➤ The overall direction of the 2011 Budget, along with the capital expenditures planned for 2011 through 2013.

### 2009 Year-End Results

The City's 2009 total operating budget was \$79,820,900. The year-end audited statements confirmed that total revenues last year were \$86,059,119; operational expenditures amounted to \$80,908,281 as well as additional appropriations in the amount of \$4,390,000 were established. This resulted in a net 2009 operating surplus of \$760,838.

During 2009, capital expenditures amounted to \$7,207,115, of which \$2,325,133 was covered by our 'pay-as-you-go' funding (prior to the merger, our entire routine annual capital works program was funded on a pay-as-you-go basis). The balance of the 2009 projects was funded by loan by-laws in the amount of \$3,642,277 and grants of \$1,239,705.

The City of Westmount's external auditors, *Pratte, Bélanger*, filed their report this year which included a notation that Westmount had contested the \$21.9 million as recorded in the 2005 closing / 2006 opening balance sheets. This accumulated surplus, not yet returned to the City of Westmount, comes from 2 sources, namely, \$16.2 million representing the tax revenues for financing of capital expenditures that were not used for this purpose, plus \$5.6 million for a number of other operating expenses, such as pension fund and *Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail* payments. This matter remains before the courts and we would like to resolve this situation as quickly as possible.

### 2010 Forecast

The City's 2010 operating budget was established at \$86,284,100. For the second time, this budget included the apportionment to the Agglomeration. Based on the results to date and the projected revenues and expenditures for the balance of the year, we expect to close 2010 with a modest surplus, once we have set aside funds to alleviate the impacts of the increasing costs of borrowing and of pension plan deficits that we must, by law, resolve. However, the surplus could change between now and year-end, especially if we experience significant, unforeseen events such as a higher-than-average snowfall or a major water main break.

### Debt

As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010, Westmount's net debt will be of \$38.8 million, including the legislated takeover of the water network and the annual capital expenditures for 2002 to 2010. This does not include the \$37 million for the new arena/pool project that we will need to finance in part with a grant of approximately \$20 million from the provincial and federal governments.

### 2011 Budget

Consistent with the financial goals outlined earlier in this report, I am pleased to announce that we shall meet the challenge that we set out for ourselves as a Council. With the exception of the impact of an actuarial deficit in our employee pension plan of \$1.2 million and the proposed increase in the provincial sales tax, we will not increase the municipal expenses for Westmount operations in 2011. However, we do not yet have the final amount that the Agglomeration will be charging us for our contribution to its 2011 budget and we will not know this until late December. In addition, as around 84% of our revenue comes from property taxes, the Council will seek to increase revenues from other areas such as parking rates and fines, permits and program fees.

We will be sitting down shortly as a Council to finalize our overall strategy and adopt our operating and capital budget late in December.

### **Remuneration of Elected Municipal Representatives**

The law stipulates that the Mayor has to report on the remuneration that each Council member receives from the City and from inter-municipal bodies. Thus in 2010, the Mayor receives from the City of Westmount a remuneration of \$43,934, plus \$14,759 as an expense allowance, as well as \$10,221 as a member of the urban agglomeration council of Montreal and \$1,554 as a member of the Commission de l'environnement, des transports et des infrastructures. Each Councillor receives from the City a remuneration of \$14,645, plus \$7,322.50 as an expense allowance.

### **Transactions Exceeding \$25,000**

As required by law, I am filing the list of total cumulative transactions exceeding \$25,000 from October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Peter F. Trent Mayor

# Megacity mergers increased corruption, Trent tells Rotarians

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Westmount Mayor Peter Trent says there is a "real problem with morality and principles" among elected officials today – and "it's not just corruption."

Addressing the Rotary Club of Westmount on November 17 during the service organization's weekly lunch-hour meeting, the title of his talk was the "Montreal Megacity Hoax."

Trent, who was at the forefront of the demerger battle, which culminated on January 1, 2006 with the reconstitution of Westmount and 14 other island of Montreal municipalities, said he thinks it's important that "when you get elected, you tell your citizens what you believe in and you stick to those beliefs."

He maintained that the megacity mergers exacerbated public corruption, because "it's easy to have rats in a rats' nest, if you get my drift. The more complicated, the more bureaucratic, the bigger the city, the more you can hide things.

"The problem with corruption in Montreal, which blew up with the water management contract scandal, is a deep-seated

problem. What we're seeing now more recently are mayors caught with either a hand in the till or doing something that's



Trent on politics and corruption during the November 17 lunchtime today because of the someeting of the Rotary of Westmount called law requiring ethics."

questionable."

The day before the Rotary presentation, Trent resigned from the board of the

Union des Municipalités du Québec (UMQ), a municipal lobby group. Trent said he quit when St. Jérôme mayor Marc Gascon, who is the UMQ's president, didn't immediately step down from his post when questions arose about him having a conflict of interest.

"I don't want to be with colleagues who behave in that manner," said Trent. (Gascon did resign the day after Trent made these comments.)

All the same, Trent insisted, "You can't legislate ethics. Try as you might, you just make it more complicated to give out contracts. Cities are becoming almost ingérable [unmanageable] today because of the so-called law requiring ethics."

In an ironic twist, Trent now finds he feels more comfortable with megacity mayor Gérald Tremblay, rather than certain off-island and politically tainted mayors like Gilles Vaillancourt of Laval – "which of course makes strange bedfellows," he said, "because I fought with Tremblay through the whole demerger battle."

Trent admits, "I get along very well with Tremblay ... He's a transmutation from what he was before ... He's fundamentally a very principled and moral man."

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### Wednesday, November 24

- Poetry and prose reading, with Westmounter Julie Keith and others, at the Visual Arts Centre-McClure Gallery, 350 Victoria Ave. Doors open 7 pm, show starts at 7:30 pm. Cost: \$5 at door. Info: www.visualartscentre.ca or www.qwf.org.
- Manoir Westmount's annual bazaar to benefit Montreal charities from noon to 2 pm. Info: 514.937.3943.
- Lt Gen. Sir **Alistair Irwin** gives a talk on "A Military Scot at Home and Abroad Some General Reflections" at the Atwater Library, 12:30 pm. Free. Info: www.atwaterlibrary.ca.

# Comin' Up

• Marianopolis' speaker series presents Mourad Debbabi on "Safe Surfing: online privacy vs. Global security," 7 pm. Refreshments, parking on campus. 4873 Westmount Ave. Free. Info: www.marianopolis.edu/AU/speakerseries.php.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25

- Storytelling by Patrick McLaughlin at Westmount Library, 7 to 9 pm. Free. Coffee and cookies provided. Info: Montreal Storytellers Guild, contact: mtlstorytellersguild@gmail.com or 514.593.9947.
- Grand opening of **Greene Ave.**, from 4 pm. Tree Lighting, live music, hot cider, contest and cookies. Also on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 26 and 27 from 11 am.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27

- Westmount Public Library's quality used book sale, 10 am to 5 pm. Also on Sunday, Nov. 28. Info: 514.483.5604.
- Harmonia Westmount choir's mini holiday concert, 2 pm at Victoria Hall. Cost: \$5. Baked goods on sale.
- **Shopping Greene contest**, as part of grand opening (see Nov. 25), drawing at 4 pm.

### Tuesday, November 30

• Public consultation meeting to rezone parts of Greene Ave. for new restaurants, 7 pm at city hall.

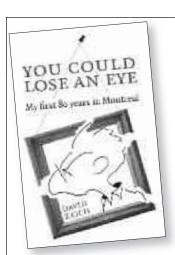
• The film "Wondrous Oblivion" at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 425 Metcalfe, 7:30 pm. Cost: \$10. Info:514.937.9471.

## Wednesday, December 1

- The Montreal West Operatic Society performs "Trial By Jury" and other **Gilbert & Sullivan** songs at Victoria Hall, 7:30 pm. Cost: \$20, students \$12. Tickets: 514.990.8813 or tickets@mwos.org. Info: www.mwos.org.
- Chanukah at Temple, community candle lighting and temple party. First candle lighting, 4:30 pm at city hall, followed by party at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 5:15 pm. Info: Anita 514.937.3575, ext. 212
- George Wall's Shakespeare series "The Tragedies" concludes with *Romeo and Juliet*, Atwater Library, 11 am. Cost: \$20. Info: 514.935.7344.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

• Flu vaccination clinic at Victoria Hall, 9 am to 6 pm. CLSC Metro will provide free vaccinations to: Anyone aged 60 and over, infants aged 6 to 23 months, anyone with a chronic illness and those who may come into frequent contact with the people listed above. Bring Medicare card and wear short sleeves. Info: 514.934.0354.



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# **Echenberg honoured for community work**

A former Westmounter, Lynne Echenberg, who grew up on Sydenham Ave., has been honoured by the John and Terry Levin Center for Public Service and Public Interest Law at Stanford Law School.

The Miles L. Rubin Public Interest Award was, during an on-campus ceremony last month, given to Echenberg for her advocacy of foster-care youth in NYC's

continued from p. 22

bours to participate, she said.

This session was hosted by Chesterfield Ave. residents Nicholas Martire and Willa Leus, co-owners of Pretty Ballerinas in Victoria Village.

Leus asked for an orthopaedic surgeon's presentation because it is a field she is interested in learning more about, she said. But, as a local resident and business owner, she was also interested in learning more about the super-hospital under construction just south of the Vendôme Metro station.

"The new hospital is right in our backyard," said Leus. "I am interested to see how it is going to affect the neighbourhood as a whole."

Among his positions, Cruess served 14 years as dean of the faculty of medicine at McGill University. He spoke to the gathered crowd of nearly two dozen alongside his wife, Dr. Sylvia Cruess. They both stressed the importance of having improved medical infrastructure that incorporates contemporary medical technology in an advanced facility design that better caters to traffic flow and efficiency.

"To say we are excited is very much an understatement," Richard Cruess told the audience. His wife added, "We know that when you're in a nice atmosphere, you heal better and you don't have to stay as long."

Dr. Michael Tanzer, an orthopaedic surgeon, explained advancements in hip and knee replacement procedures that, thanks in part to the MUHC's contributions to technological advancement, are less invasive, longer lasting and have a much faster recovery time.

While 34-year-old Heather Sokoloff found the medical presentation mildly infamous ough, the Bronx.

According to a press release, the award is given to Stanford Law School alumni who have demonstrated courage while promoting positive solutions for social change. The release states Echenberg, class of '02, is the cre-



ator and director of the Bronx-based Next Generation Centre and that she has devoted her legal career to at-risk youth.

teresting, she said learning about all the construction was a real eye opener for her.

"Even with all the digging taking place, I guess I never actually believed it was going to happen," said Sokoloff, a friend of Leus and fellow Westmounter. "It is reassuring and exciting to hear that it is actually moving ahead."

# Tipline

Rewards of \$250 will be awarded for tips regarding crime, mischief or intended crimes in Westmount that lead to arrests, until the fund is exhausted.

Please contact the *Independent* with your information.

See story "\$1,000 donated for crimefighting fund," March 30, p. 6, for de-

Tipline will run any reward-for-information notices being offered by residents, whether as part of the fund mentioned above or directly.



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# Mullins-Kruyt, Wiltzer recognized as volunteers of the year

By Isaac Olson

Two Westmounters were honoured on November 15 during an annual event hosted by Quebec's local Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP).

The event is held every year on Canada's 25-year-old National Philanthropy Day, designed to recognize the impact philanthropy can have on the world. As many from around the region were recognized in their respective categories, the two selected Westmounters were nominated and then found by a jury to be "outstanding volunteers of the year."

Claire Mullins-Kruyt is a mother of three daughters who graduated from The Study and a fourth who is currently still studying there. Nominated by the school, she was recognized for her 18 years of active involvement at the school and for her charity work around Montreal. Mullins-Kruyt ran for a position on Westmount city council in District 2 in the last municipal election.

Edward Wiltzer was honoured for his \$200-million "You Have the Power to Heal" capital campaign for the Jewish



Claire Mullins-Kruyt, left, receives "Le Prix Hommage au bénévole exceptionnel de l'année" from Claude Krynski during the November 15 award ceremony.

General Hospital and other philanthropic endeavours near and far.

"Ms. Mullins-Kruyt has been very dedicated to The Study, students and youth causes," said president of AFP's Quebec chapter, Claude Krynski, speaking in French. "Mr. Wiltz has been extremely dedicated to Jewish General through his campaign and other activities."

# Green-eyed Dana and extra-toed Baptiste – young cats looking for homes



9 Lives

LYZANNE

Dana was abandoned as a kitten at the side of the road on a scorching hot summer day. With only a short time spent in foster care, here we now have a wonderful,



Dana

affectionate charmer with exquisite green eyes.

The handsome long-haired grey tiger-



Baptiste

striped ball of affection gives cuddly kisses to both feline and human friends!

If you are looking to adopt a young cat with a sweet disposition, Dana is the one for you. Very healthy, he has received all his shots and is sterilized.

Baptiste is a two-year- continued on p. 29



Ville de Westmount City of Westmount

# EMPLOIS D'ÉTÉ

Soyez avisés que les formulaires pour les emplois d'été 2011 seront disponibles sur le site Web de la Ville ainsi qu'à la réception de l'hôtel de ville de Westmount à compter du mercredi 1er décembre 2010, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

Veuillez compléter et retourner la demande d'emploi avec toute documentation requise au :

Service des ressources humaines Ville de Westmount 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest Westmount (Québec) H3Z 1E2

Veuillez noter que la date limite pour soumettre votre candidature est le lundi 31 janvier 2011.

Les postes seront octroyés selon les qualifications et l'expérience de travail et seules les personnes retenues seront rencontrées pour une entrevue.

# SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Please be advised that the 2011 Summer Employment forms will be available on the City's Web site, as well as at the reception desk of Westmount City Hall starting Wednesday, December 1st, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Kindly complete and return the application form, along with any required documentation, to:

Human Resources Department City of Westmount 4333 Sherbrooke Street West Westmount, Quebec, H3Z 1E2

Please note that the deadline to submit your application is Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

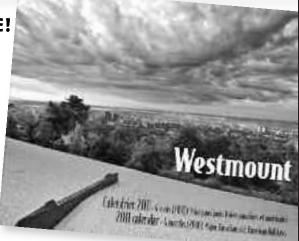
The positions will be awarded to candidates with the appropriate qualifications and experience and only those selected will be interviewed.

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# 9 Lives

continued from p. 28

old, short-haired striped grey with special (and lucky) feet: he has extra toes! He also has the most amazing personality: he loves other cats, dogs and every human he

Baptiste is calm, cool and collected, and adjusts well to any situation.

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Because Dana and Baptiste are both in

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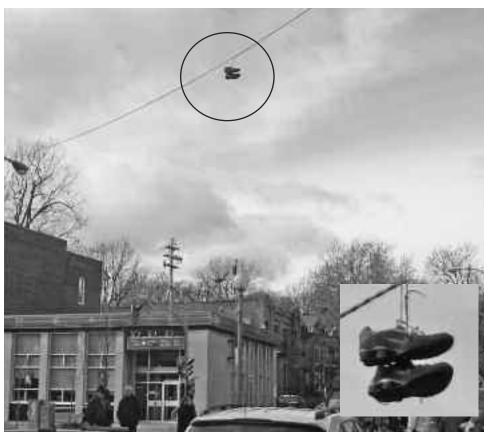


# Sic transit gloria mundi



The well-known and well-loved cottonwood on the western border of Westmount Park, between de Maisonneuve and the Westmount Public library, was being cut down by contractors on November 16, as previously planned and reported ("Look up...", July 13, p. 1).

# Running away with ideas



Looking north from where Prince Albert dead-ends into Sherbrooke, November 18, these shoes (see inset) were hanging on an electrical wire. Is this a political message: "Run for it, you corrupt politicians"? Or a new kind of health advisory: "Get running, Westmounters"? Or just a bully who tossed some poor victim's shoes out of reach? In the spring and early summer, a set of shoes hung similarly from a wire crossing Côte St. Antoine, just west of the Westmount border.

# **History quiz: The Summit**

BY DOREEN LINDSAY

**Question**: Is Westmount Summit an urban forest or a woods or a park?

Answer: It is called Summit Park but should more correctly be called Summit Forest or Summit Woods.

The city of Westmount bought 46.2 acres of land on the top of our mountain in 1940 for \$300,000 from McGill University. The city cleaned out the underbrush, cut paths and set free 50 Laurentian pheasants.

Residents had been using this naturally wooded area over the years for recreational activities. A long toboggan slide ran from the summit down to Côte St. Antoine Rd. at one time. Since then our summit has endured 70 years of walkers, bird watchers, bikers, skiers and dog walkers. Skiers used the hills during the 1930s. It remains a wild flower and bird sanctuary today.

McGill University originally bought the land in 1895 from six different owners on the advice of William Macdonald of to-bacco fame, who encouraged McGill – or as it was known then The Royal Institute for the Advancement of Learning – to use the "mountain top" as an observatory. The McGill Survey School did in fact maintain

meridian telescopes from 1906 to 1928 set into concrete blocks to survey stars.

Students slept in sleeping bags inside small shacks during the spring and fall sessions. You can see the blocks to the left as you walk along the path above the entrance across from the Westmount look-

The Scouts used the land in 1921. CFCF broadcast over Montreal from a mast erected by the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company in 1922.

In 1987, M.J.D. MacArthur made a report on the condition of Summit Park with recommendations for its management. It was found that "an unusually large number of features combine to support the opinion that this area is a truly priceless example of what an urban forest should be. There are trees of all ages present. The area of some 20-25 acres permits true forest ecosystems to occur. There are several examples of forest ecosystems present. Variations in topography result in variations in trees, shrubs and herbaceous vegetation. Here and there, interesting examples of local geology appear in rock outcrops.

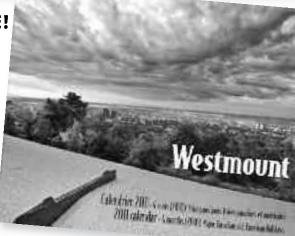
"As more and more ......
people used the summit, continued on p. 33

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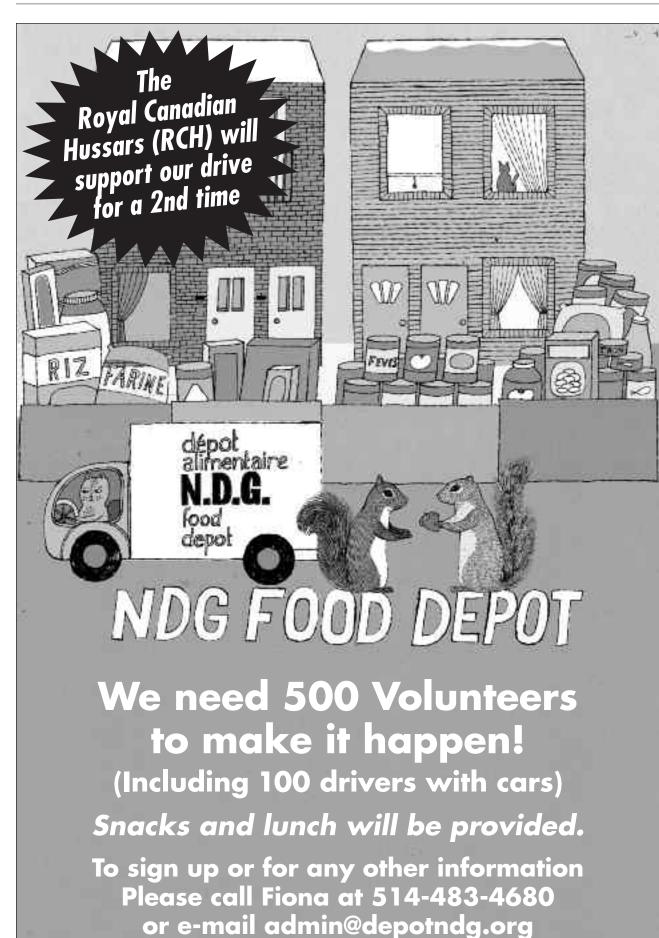
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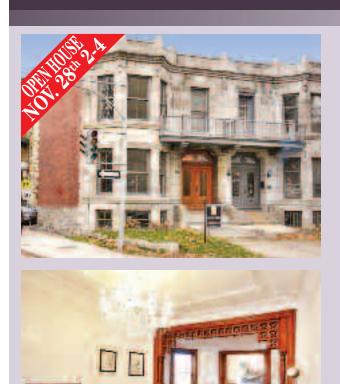
# Neighbours Helping Neighbours! Annual Holiday Food Drive

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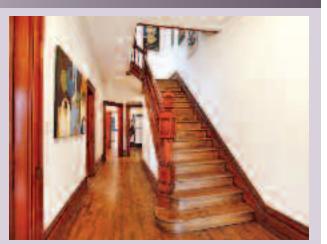
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### # What's permitted BUILDING PERMITS

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at the November 1 meeting of city council.

30 Surrey Gardens: to build a twostorey extension at the rear, a new entrance vestibule, replace all windows and doors, modify window openings and replace existing brick by new brick and stone insertions:

4229 St. Catherine: to install a control gate on the north property line, parallel to

215 Edgehill: landscaping to include a new fence and spa in rear yard;

New lot on Surrey Gardens: to build a new house;

724 Upper Belmont: to replace existing brick veneer by stone, to replace all windows and modify some openings, and to establish a new basement entrance on the

3200 The Boulevard: to replace the front balcony door;

485 Roslyn: landscaping to include a new wood fence and pathway;

543 Lansdowne: to build a patio, stairs, privacy screen to a deck and a rear fence;

441 Mount Pleasant: at a Category I house, to repair existing staircase and add a new handrail provided the railing around the landing matches the railing on the third floor balcony;

40 Roxborough: to install a swimming pool, erect a fence and landscape;

529 Lansdowne: to replace windows

and some doors and modify a rear door window;

5 Murray: to erect a new rear fence and repair an existing retaining wall;

5 Hudson: rear landscaping to include changes to the terrace, new privacy screen

702 Upper Roslyn: to replace some win-

580 Côte St. Antoine: to replace some windows and storms;

626 Belmont: to replace some windows;

416 Wood: modifications to the rear balcony to accommodate a ramp leading to a barrier-free lift;

172 Edgehill: to rebuild a retaining wall and erect a rear fence;

431 Mount Stephen: to replace some windows;

473 Argyle: at a Category I house, to repair the front entry stairs and repair and extend the second floor balcony to create a canopy over the front entry;

667 Belmont: to replace rear windows and doors;

1248 Greene: to replace some windows and a door of the front and side southeast corner, and install a new veneer and signage to accommodate a temporary basement sales office;

69 Stayner: to replace two front windows;

438-440 Mount Stephen: to replace some windows at a Category I apartment

# Billy Jack, the Pirate Dog



Underdog

BY: MARY LAMEY

His friends at Gerdy's Rescue say this jolly little mop top has the look of a pirate about him. Perhaps it's the permanent wink and jaunty cock of his head that say "Avast matey! Be there any biscuits in your pocket?"

Billy Jack is a bichon frise and lhasa apso cross, about two years old and 15 pounds. He was found sick and wandering the streets with an injured and infected eye. Nobody claimed him at the pound, so Gerdy took this tiny Underdog in and gave him another chance at life.

The vet tried valiantly to save the injured eye, but ultimately it had to be removed. That slowed Billy down not at all. He bounced right back and now greets the world with a grin and a wag, the past be-

# Summit history

continued from p. 30

problems developed in that the existing trails increase in width and smaller secondary trails begin to appear."

It was suggested then, and I personally would enjoy seeing, "identification of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants along trails." Information explaining the natural processes of forest dynamics could be posted at the entrances to the summit. Guided walks could be conducted. A new tolerant hardwood forest is in the final stage of replacing the old one.

This new forest consists of a mosaic of young stands or groups made up of oak, maple, ash, birch and black cherry – an excellent example of hardwood forest succession, a sort of changing of the guard."

A three-year rehabilitation project was carried out in 1990 under the direction of landscape architect Sandra Donaldson.

Westmount summit is 630 feet above sea level and is one of the three peaks making up the geological formation of Mount Royal, one of a group of mountains known collectively as the Monteregian

It is separated from the two peaks by steep slopes to the north and Côte des Neiges to the east. It is a natural ecosystem within the urban surroundings of the city of Westmount that we must treasure and maintain forever.

He's a great companion, housetrained and sociable. He likes other dogs and revels in the company of humankind. Like all of Gerdy's dogs, he's had all his shots, has been heartworm-tested and is out of the puppy-making business. Snip, snip!

Could Billy Jack the Pirate be the dog you've been waiting for? Why not give Gerdy a page at 514.203.9180? You can also drop her a line at info@gerdysrescue.org or visit www.gerdysrescue.org to learn about more good dogs needing

To find out about other dogs needing homes, especially the ones low on the totem pole, visit www.underdogclub.org, email contact@underdogclub.org or call 1.877.43.DOGGY.

The Underdog Club is dedicated to helping the older, the unpopular and the less attractive dogs get a second leash on life. Online donations are always welcome.

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# Bon Appétit

BY ETTY B.

Soup makes a wonderful addition to any meal, and once you make a pot or two, you'll discover it isn't really that hard to make. This minestrone can be served with parmesan cheese or pesto.

### Minestrone soup

Ingredients:

1/3 cup olive oil(or less)

2 medium onions, diced

3 medium carrots, diced

1 large potato, diced

3 stalks celery, diced

1/4 pound green beans, cut into 1 inch

2 medium zucchini, diced

1/2 small cabbage, shredded 1 medium clove garlic, minced 6 cups chicken or beef stock 1 can (28 ounces) Italian plum tomatoes, pureed or chopped up salt, pepper 1/2 tsp dried basil 1 bay leaf 1 can (1 pound) cannelloni beans (op-

tional)

Directions

Heat olive oil and sauté onions until soft and golden, stirring occasionally.

Stir in carrots and potato, sauté 5 minutes. Stir in celery and green beans and sauté for 3 minutes.

Add zucchini, sauté for 3 minutes.

Add cabbage and garlic.

Stir in salt, basil, pepper and bay leaf. Add stock and tomatoes.

Heat to boiling, reduce heat to low. Simmer covered, stirring occasionally for one and a half hours.

Rinse and drain beans, add to soup. Cook uncovered over med-low heat until soup is thick – about 30 to 40 minutes.

Remove bay leaf before serving. Best made one day ahead.



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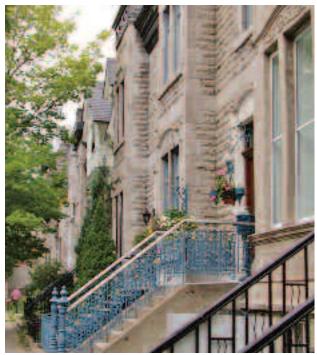






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