

Arena soil analysis now being translated into design

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A comprehensive analysis of the land at the site of the proposed underground arena is in the process of being translated into a final engineering design, the *Independent* learned last week.

The geo-technical report by Inspec-Sol was received by the city only two weeks ago, said Councillor Patrick Martin, who chairs the arena project committee. This is one of the reasons why a date has not yet been set for a public information meeting that had already been postponed to December.

"The good news is that this report indicates we won't have to drive piles down to bedrock," he said.

While the city has been working from the results of bore holes, the new report analyzes and extrapolates the soil quality between the holes based on the history and geology of the site's former ravines. "These were filled in about 100 years ago by demolition material from elsewhere that tends to be more inconsistent in load bearing capacity than natural soil."

An above-ground arena would have to have been supported on piles driven down to *continued on p. 2*

Renaud launches Into the Mist



Anne Renaud, in the children's department of the Westmount Public Library November 19, shows off her latest book being launched in December. See p. 6.

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PSU's 30th anniversary celebration

Founder Gervais calls for more Public Security powers

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A call for increased powers for Westmount's Public Security Unit came from its founder November 20 as the force formally marked its 30th anniversary at a celebration at Victoria Hall.

"I'm ready to go back to Quebec City to get more powers for you," said lawyer and former commissioner of Public Safety André Gervais. He said he sees the traffic "just speeding along Sherbrooke St." as he walks home from work.

Only police have jurisdiction over moving violations, a power Gervais fought for in an uphill battle from the time he launched the force in 1980. It was second

only to Hampstead by a few months.

Introduced by Mayor Peter Trent, Gervais recalled that a municipal Public Security force "wasn't an easy thing to start with the Parti Québécois in power." And, he added, "We're still very, very proud of what we started. It's done wonderful things."

Ikeman: 'Image of the city'

Current Public Security commissioner Gary Ikeman stressed the unit's "extremely high visibility," and noted that citizens probably have more contact with Public Security than with any other city department. "So in many ways, we are the image of *continued on p. 5*

Don't Miss It

Flu vaccination clinic at Victoria Hall, Friday, December 3, from 9 am to 6 pm. See p. 14.

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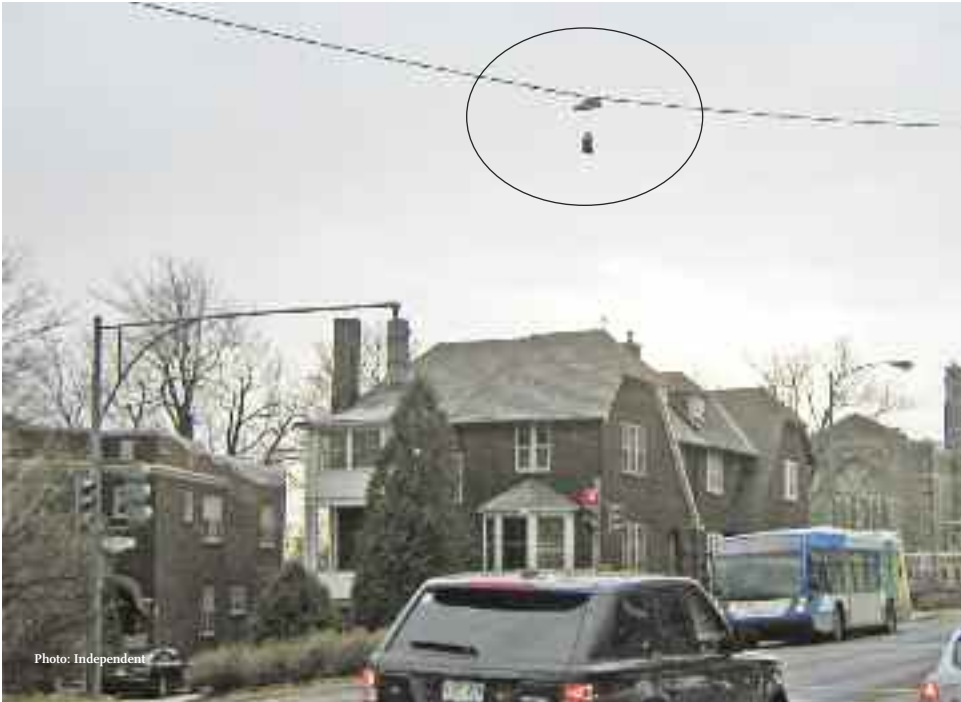
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Messageless shoes



Several theories have sprung up about the meaning of shoes that have been appearing on electrical lines (see “Running away with ideas,” November 23, p. 30). It turns out the message is not political or organized-crime related – or even much of a message at all.

Non-gang members sent the shoes airborne. The method was free throw, with no help from ladders or other devices. “Random people even helped out,” said a witness, who did not want to be identified. The shoes’ flights took place about a week ago and include resting sites on Côte

Arena probably won’t require pile driving to bedrock

continued from p. 1

bedrock as was done with the existing one, he explained.

“Now that we’ve decided to build an underground arena, we’ll be excavating down to the natural soil, deeper than the old ravines and the poorer quality landfill. This natural soil has compacted for thousands of years and should be able to support the weight of the structure.”

The new \$37-million arena/pool project is a groundbreaking one in that it is believed by the city to be the first underground arena, at least in North America.

Because the 100-foot wide roof of an ice rink cannot have supporting columns in the middle of the ice surface, its entire weight has to be borne down through the

sides of the structure to the foundation, Martin pointed out.

“Depending on soil quality, there are many factors contributing to how this can be achieved. This is what our team of architects and engineers are now doing, keeping the budget in mind.”

As a result, he said, the quality and bearing capacity of the soil dictates the type and depth of foundation as well as the stresses on the side walls. “Do we use thicker side walls or thinner ones with buttresses?” he explained. “Do we go for steel beams for the roof or concrete that could allow for a shallower excavation?”

Many of these decisions depend on the recent Inspec-Sol report in preparing the required engineering specifications, he said.

St. Antoine Rd. and Côte St. Luc Rd, west of Westmount, and ones in Westmount on Prince Albert at Sherbrooke and The Boulevard near Murray Hill (pictured).

What about some of the darker theories that are being advanced, including ones about a link to organized crime and even

the Cavallaro bombing? “It reminds me of English class when people read into things a lot,” said the witness, “Everything is the ‘universal message.’ But it’s just the plot.”



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December 4 drive seeks food and money with help of local army reserve

NDG Food Depot to come knocking this weekend

BY JOANNE PENHALE

Westmounters need not panic when they see army trucks rolling down their streets this Saturday.

It's the NDG Food Depot's yearly food drive, helped along by army reservists from the Côte des Neiges Armory.

Hundreds of volunteers in red and green scarves will go door to door throughout Westmount, NDG and Montreal West,

medication and meals, or between heating and eating.

The NDG Food Depot is not about Band Aid solutions, Keats assures. "It's about balancing emergency food relief with programs that address the root causes of poverty.

"The monetary donations will help us run programs that actually get people out of the cycle of poverty so they don't need the food bank anymore," she said, listing some of the depot's skill-building and social integration programs.

"It's fulfilling," said Captain Richard Ayoub of the Royal Canadian Hussars. For the second year, about 50 reservists from the unit will provide logistical support to the 500 volunteers going door to door.

"Our role as reservists includes helping the community when we can," Ayoub said.

"Last year was the first year we reached Westmount, and we weren't able to comb the whole area," said Keats, of the 15-year-old food drive. "This year with army's support, we hope

to reach them all."

Saturday's volunteer mobilization will also include nearly 30 air cadets from the 1 West Montreal Squadron, based out of the RCMP building on Dorchester Blvd. "It's part of their mandatory service," said commanding officer Sylvain L'Heureux.

Food bank demand has increased in the past two years. More seniors need deliveries and more unemployed people in their twenties are in need, Keats said.

"We're really seeing ourselves filling in huge cracks in the health system," she explained.

Last year's return rate on the distributed donation bags was 16 percent, Keats said, and this year's goal is 25. The collected reserves will be used to top up the 600 to 700 food boxes distributed each week, hopefully lasting up to a year Keats said.

Residences that did not get a donation

bag can leave out any grocery bag. In case of missed pick ups, or for those in apartments, donations can be dropped off Saturday at Victoria Hall from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or anytime at the NDG Food Depot, 2121 Oxford Ave. Donation can also be made through www.amdomino.com/depotndg.

One of the food drive's sponsors is the *Free Press*, the *Independent's* sister publication in NDG and Hampstead.



Sgt. Denis Gilbert (far right) with soldiers from the Royal Canadian Hussars, unloading bags of food collected from Westmount during last year's NDG Food Depot food drive.

collecting non-perishable food and monetary donations to load into the trucks.

Donation bags have already been dropped off at Westmount houses and duplexes. Residents can leave the full bags outside their doors for the December 4 pick up, which runs from 10 am to 2 pm.

"We actually give emergency baskets [to] people who live in Westmount," said Fiona Keats, executive director of the NDG Food Depot. She spoke of seniors on fixed incomes, who have to choose between

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SWAT tournament this weekend



From left, tournament organizers Norm Richer, Peter Naylor, Jim West, Claude Bismuth and Alain Elbaz.

Photo: courtesy of SWAT

The Senior Westmount All Star Team (SWAT) is hosting its 22nd annual hockey tournament from Thursday, December 2 to Sunday, December 5. All funds raised will go to the Montreal Children's Hospital and the St. Justine Hospital.

Westmounters can support SWAT's effort by bidding on lots at its silent auction, which will be held at the Westmount arena during the tournament. Up for grabs are a variety of hockey, musical and gift items, including Canadiens tickets.

For those looking to keep up with the tournament – in near real time – www.gowestmount.ca, a community calendar website, has teamed up with SWAT to post updates.

The site lists all the silent auction items; and the game schedules, results and team standings will be posted and kept up to date throughout the weekend. Visit www.gowestmount.ca and click on the link to Sports and Recreation (at left).

Library sale raises record \$12,000

A record-setting amount of more than \$12,000 was raised over the weekend, November 27-28, at the 10th anniversary book sale of the Friends of Westmount Public Library.

While final totals were still being tallied, proceeds reached at least that amount, said co-organizer Lee Taylor, Sunday night. They are expected to exceed last fall's sale by some \$2,000 (see November 23, p. 11).

Taylor attributed the success of the two-day semi-annual sale to the large number of quality book donations received as well as newer and recent fiction and non-fiction.

Mayor's Column

Politicians, public should stand up for ethics



BY MAYOR PETER F. TRENT

There are few jobs on offer today that require absolutely no qualifications. There are two notable exceptions to this rule: prostitution and politics – and both professions involve trying to please large numbers of people, sequentially or collectively.

As well as this lack of quality control, politicians can't choose their colleagues. All through the 1990s, I worked quite closely with St. Léonard mayor Frank Zampino and Laval mayor Gilles Vaillancourt: two politicians who are now not in particularly good odour.

Yes, corruption and politics have always gone hand-in-hand; but, just as we now cure once-incurable diseases, we need to stop shrugging our shoulders at political sleaze. How? Well, getting rid of political parties would be a good start, as they demand an allegiance to a party, not to the public.

Parties create a pack, them-against-us, mentality. Parties also need to be fed with lots of money, sometimes leading to important backs that subsequently develop itches.

Plus we now have the phenomenon of the career politician – someone who has never held a “real” job; someone who has to hang onto a political post because there is nowhere else to go.

Most professions have governing bodies to ensure, or at least encourage, ethical behaviour – the Quebec Press Council, the College of Physicians, the Quebec Bar, and the Order of Engineers, come to mind. Politicians have nothing.

Mind you, local politicians could regulate themselves if the Union des Municipalités du Québec (UMQ) could be

pressed into service. And at least the UMQ should be more careful as to who sits on its board of directors.

On November 13, I emailed Marc Gascon, president of the UMQ and mayor of St. Jérôme. Gascon was under investigation as his house was rebuilt by a contractor who had contracts with the city. It's probably a case of questionable judgment, not ethics.

I wrote to Gascon: “You cannot carry out your responsibilities as president as long as a shadow of a doubt remains in this matter, especially in the current climate. It's the interests of the UMQ that must prevail: you are not just a UMQ mayor; you are its president. It's tough, but that's it.”

UMQ board rallied

The next day, in a predicable sort of tribal reaction, the UMQ board of directors rallied round their chief. So, in protest, I resigned from the board and the executive committee. Less than 24 hours after my resignation became public, Marc Gascon changed his mind and resigned.

I have yet to return to the UMQ, as I feel that the mayor of Laval should also step aside. After all, the government is asking him to quit the board of Hydro Quebec.

Meanwhile, the good and useful get smeared with the bad. Former police chief Jacques Duchesneau, while busy trying to root out municipal corruption with “Operation Hammer,” upset a lot of people, one of whom trumped up some trivial charges against him. Duchesneau immediately stepped aside.

So principled people know what to do. Unlike prostitution, easy virtue in politics should not be taken lying down.

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PSU 'family' celebrates

continued from p. 1

the city.”

The event was attended by close to 100 retired and current members of the unit including public safety officers, parking inspectors, dispatchers and office staff.

It not only culminated a round of anniversary celebrations organized by Sgt. Kim Colquhoun but also signaled the de-



Interim director Richard Bourdon presents Sgt. Kimberley Colquhoun with a plaque recognizing her contributions to the unit's 30th anniversary celebrations, including a book.

parture of interim director Richard Bourdon at the end of his contract in January.

At that time, a number of leadership appointments are expected from within the force following several years of contracting out key roles.

Referred several times as a PSU “family” event, Colquhoun’s own family prepared and served the filet mignon meal.

Former longtime director Richard McEnroe attended from Ottawa. Five original public safety officers, now retired, were presented with honorary service



PSU “father” André Gervais and former director Richard McEnroe.



Five of the original public safety officers were among those attending, from left: Mario Testa, Robert Stringer, Richard Turley, John Everatt and Chayne Barnes.

stripes, a citation inaugurated at the event. Known to many Westmounters, they were Chayne Barnes, John Everatt, Robert Stringer, Mario Testa and Richard Turley.

Former sergeant Testa loved the work so much, he said, he continues to return to the job as a part-timer when needed.

Current PSOs and parking inspectors presented with stripes by training officer Jean-Yves Mailloux were:

25 years: Stephen Payne, Dave Sedgewick, Denis Proulx and Robert White.

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Renaud’s 4th historical book launches Dec. 11

Empress of Ireland comes alive for young readers

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The story of the *Empress of Ireland*, and the thousands of immigrants the ocean liner brought over to Canada in the early 1900s, will be hitting the shelves for older children just in time for the holidays.

Into the Mist: The Story of the Empress of Ireland by Westmounter Anne Renaud is to be launched December 11 at 2 pm at Babar en Ville on Greene Ave. and has already been received at the Westmount Public Library.

It’s Renaud’s fourth historical book aimed at readers aged 9 and over. Most of her books are based in large part on Irish immigration to Canada.

Renaud, who is known to many Westmounters in her role as executive assistant

to Mayor Peter Trent at city hall, has been writing for children for 10 years.

But, she notes, “Adults have read my books and told me they learned something from them, too. I put the same amount of research into them as I would have writing for an older audience.”

Into the Mist chronicles the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway in Canada and how it led to the company commissioning the state-of-the-art ocean liner as a way to deliver the mail from the UK and Europe to Canada and then across the country to Japan and China.

Fast and elegant

Described as one of the fastest and most elegant of the trans-Atlantic liners of the Edwardian era, the *Empress* carried more than 115,000 immigrants to Canada between 1906 and 1914, playing a significant role in the building of western Canada in particular, Renaud explains.

With photos and other illustrations on almost every page, the book’s presentation helps bring the story alive. The pages also contain “time capsules” that provide back-

ground information on various related topics and are of interest to readers of all ages.

Renaud tells the story of the passengers, including those rescued and lost on the night of May 29, 1914. That’s when the *Empress*, with 1,489 aboard, collided in heavy fog with a coal freighter in the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. She sank in 15 minutes taking 1,012 passengers and crew, a death toll greater than the *Titanic*.

When Renaud chooses a subject to write about, it must have historical and cultural value, she says. It also must fill a void in the juvenile market and be one she is personally passionate about.

Of Irish descent, Renaud says: “I try to focus on the Irish immigrants as much as possible. My books also act as a vehicle to preserve voices that would have otherwise been lost. They live on in the written word.”

Her other history-based books are: *Pier 21: Stories from Near and Far*, *Island of Sorrow: the Story of Grosse Île*, and *A Bloom of Friendship: The Story of the Canadian Tulip Festival*. All are available at the Westmount

Public Library.

She has also written two storybooks for children aged 4 to 8.



Empress Steamers advertising poster as shown on p. 34 of Renaud’s book.

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Mixed feelings from merchants on Greene Ave. refurbishment

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The official reopening of a section of Greene Ave. last week following a lengthy period of refurbishment was welcomed by

business owners along the northern end of the street, although some further south are displeased since it will be another two years until work in their area is completed. *continued on p. 18*



From left, front, councillors Victor Drury and Theodora Samiotis, West End Gallery owner Michael Millman and councillor Nicole Forbes are seen here with singers from Groupe Vocal Diversion during the official re-opening November 25 of a section of Greene Ave. following its re-construction.

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Jacques Chagnon

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Au nom de l'Association libérale de Westmount-Saint-Louis, nous désirons souhaiter un merveilleux 25^e anniversaire de vie politique à monsieur Jacques Chagnon, Député de Westmount-Saint-Louis et Vice-président de l'Assemblée Nationale.

Saul Polo, président

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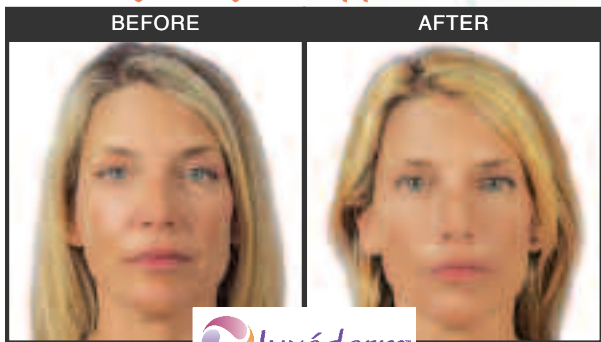
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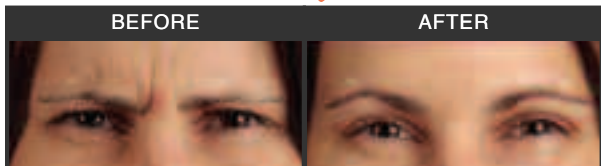


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Carrier's The Hockey Sweater makes it into space

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Westmount author Roch Carrier got quite a surprise recently when he received an email from a Canadian astronaut, who spent six months in space last year.

Robert Thirsk, who was a member of the Expedition 20 mission to the International Space Station, said that among the small number of personal objects he was allowed to take aboard was a French-language copy of Carrier's famous work *Le*



Astronaut Robert Thirsk in space with his copy of *Le Chandail de Hockey*.
Photo courtesy of Canadian Space Agency

Chandail de Hockey (The Hockey Sweater).

Part of Thirsk's email to Carrier read "Bonjour M. Carrier. I am Canadian astronaut Robert Thirsk. I had the privilege last year to fly aboard the International Space Station for six months. This spaceflight was a personal thrill and the highlight of my professional career. I had the opportunity to fly a small number of personal objects in space with me. Since astronauts are advocates for literacy, I chose to fly a copy of your book *Le Chandail de Hockey*. This book is a classic within our national culture, and you are a great Canadian author..."

Thirsk and Carrier plan to meet at some point in the near future, possibly for the purpose of furthering the cause of literacy.

The Hockey Sweater has another Westmount connection: it was first published in 1979 by Tundra Books, which was founded by former Westmount mayor May Cutler.



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Suspect uses flower pot in \$220K Upper Lansdowne break-in

BY DAVID GOLDBERG

Police say a suspect used an Upper Lansdowne resident's flower pot in a break-in that netted a haul of approximately \$220,000 worth of items.

The crime happened between 5 and 9:50 pm on November 20. A family friend, who was keeping an eye on the house, called the police after realizing that someone had broken in.

"The resident was out of town when this happened," said Constable Adalbert Pimentel. "The suspect went to the side of the house first, then to the back where he threw a cement flower pot through the back-door window."

Police say the suspect then searched the entire house.

"In the basement, he stole four hunting rifles, two Berettas and two Perazzis, each valued at at least \$30,000," said Pimentel. "On the second floor, the suspect took two watches, one Cartier and one Breitling, as well as three [mink] jackets."

The home did have an alarm system, but no motion detectors. The alarm contacts were on the doors, but not on the windows, so it was never activated during the break-in.

"The suspect got the rifles but no ammunition," said Pimentel. "When you store guns, you must keep them locked, and you never store the ammunition with the weapons."

Pimentel said officers canvassed the area, but there were no witnesses. The police did, however, find fingerprints on a television set in the home, and those prints have been sent to the police crime lab for analysis. The investigation is ongoing.

Anyone having information about this incident is asked to call Info-crime at 514.393.1133.

Asked about the importance of home-

owners having security alarm systems in the residences, Pimentel offered the following advice.

"Nothing is 100 percent, but alarms are another layer that you can add," he said. "But you must have an adequate system. In the case on Upper Lansdowne, there were no contacts on the windows, there were no motion detectors and there were no shatter detectors for the windows."

Pimentel said robbers are faced with "fight or flight" issues when entering a home where the alarm system is triggered.

"The fight is against time. If the alarm goes off right at the moment of the break-in due to the shatter detector or even later from the motion detector, the thief only has so much time before the police arrive or the alarm draws the attention of neighbours, who will then become witnesses when he leaves," said Pimentel. "In the case on Upper Lansdowne, had the alarm gone off, I don't believe the suspect would have had time to search all over the house, taking the amount of items he did."

Alarming advice

Pimentel said it is best to have alarms that are linked to a central company, so

that if the alarm wiring is cut or compromised, the company can call the police immediately.

"You should also install lights in the back of your home with motion detectors," said Pimentel. "And you should never keep any items outside of your home that can be used to break into your home. Those would include flower pots, shovels, heavy tiles and especially ladders."



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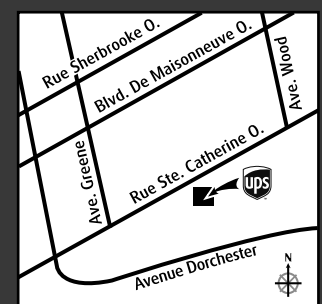
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ARENA MUST HAVE LEED

At the November 1 council meeting, I raised a question concerning LEED and the new arena project. The council was decidedly non-committal in its response.

The LEED standard is the internationally accepted benchmark by which projects are evaluated for their environmental and energy impact. As many of us realize, hockey played on indoor ice has the highest ecological footprint of any sport. It is therefore imperative that this footprint be kept to its lowest possible size. To do this, the project must counter with a very high LEED certification. Placing the rinks underground does not exempt them from being considered by LEED.

A combined indoor pool/hockey rink, rather than two NHL rinks, would have facilitated the task of meeting a high LEED accreditation for the design team. They could have employed a solution of energy transfer from the cooling of the ice surface to preheating the inflowing water of the pool and all the related synergies. Unfortunately, that option was never put before the public.

At the arena project's next presentation to the public, the design team should be

asked to indicate what level of LEED will be reached and what will be the projected LEED scorecard. Simply reaching the lowest LEED level, that of certification, would be insufficient. Gold should be the goal.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.

REMEMBER THE VETS, PRAISE LALLY

Re: "In the business of selling real estate and ... poppies" (November 9, p. 6), it was very impressive to see a young man remembering the veterans and responding to the silliness of a shopping mall decision, which was fortunately changed.

Congratulations, Adam Lally, we need more citizens like you!

EDWARD KUBACKI, SHERBROOKE ST.

WAS MURDER DONE HERE?

At least 11 police cars came skittering to a halt outside my neighbour's house a few weeks ago. OMG! There were sniffer dogs, the street was blocked off and multitudes of uniforms were combing the backyard shrubberies with their high-powered flashlights...what were they looking for? We draped ourselves over the balcony waiting and hoping for some action. I con-

fidently told the kids it had to be a murder, or a double murder/suicide – or at the very least a terrorist cell!

But no. In the end, it seemed that all this action was because of a lowly break-and-entry and the intruder had tripped the alarm.

My goodness, what a colossal waste of taxpayer's money. It beggars belief.

SUSANNAH PRINCE, KENSINGTON AVE.

Ed.'s note: For more on the incident, read Police Beat (second item), November 16, p. 6.

ITALIANS, UNITE

Windows shattering at a trendy café in Westmount in the early morning of November 18 was an undeniable sign: No one is safe from the perniciously violent actions of organized crime, and the perpetrators feel invincible as they take on the owner of a Westmount business. Cavallaro was fire bombed leaving most of the stock untouched, the signature of a well-coordinated attack by professional mobsters.

Police and journalists aren't the only ones raising critical questions, and waiting for news of arrests and public inquiry into corruption and crime. But, to no one's surprise, we've been treated to the standard "Why me?" expressing shock and dismay by the owner, while the police carry out yet another investigation. The greater Montreal region, and the Italian community, have yet again, become collateral damage in this illusive battle run by powerful vested interests.

The Italian community is collectively seething with anger; its reputation tarnished by virtue of association, in name only, with the Calabrian and Sicilian mobs as they wage messy and deadly battles for control over territory, services and people. Well-educated and hard-working Italians, contributors to Quebec's rise as an innovative and prosperous province, have reason to be angry. They are tired of being the butt of jokes. Theirs is a proud heritage, and at this seminal time in Quebec history, they should take the lead, organize and lead a rally, demanding action on effective crime busting. Reminiscent of other historical times and circumstances, the Italian community, not necessarily a cohesive entity, is well-placed to demand a public inquiry into corruption.

Noi refutiamo! Refuse, unlike Charest's refusal to open the corral gate that promises to let loose wild broncos – and no longer remain the silent majority of good citizens.

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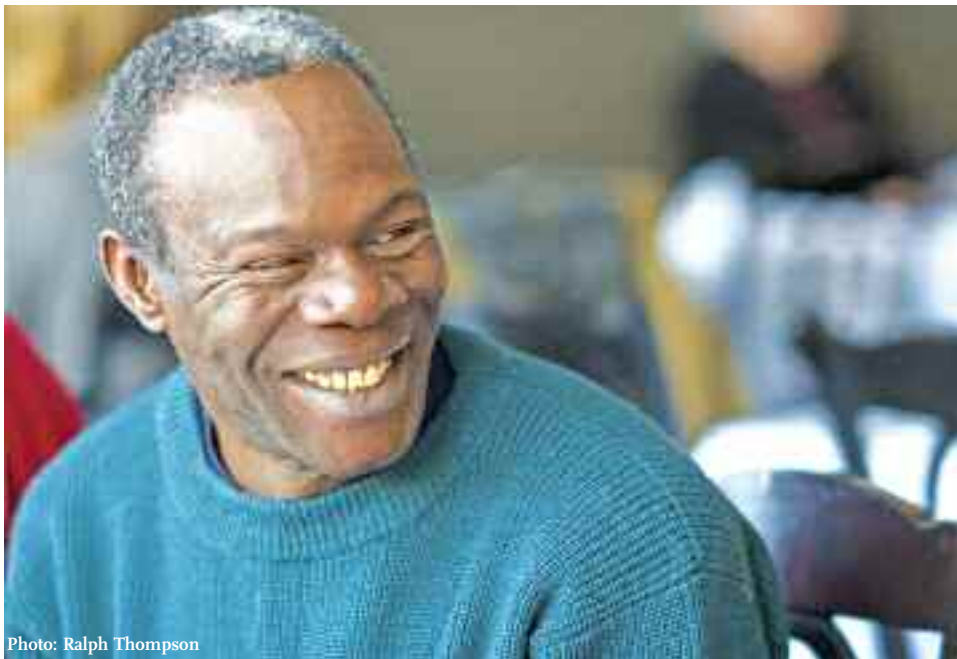


Photo: Ralph Thompson

Tony Wallace, a familiar face to many Westmounters, was treated to a birthday lunch November 28 by Loy and Peter Denis at Tao Restaurant on Victoria Ave. They were joined by nine other friends of Wallace's choosing, including Ann and Terry Rigelhof, Maxine Cuttler, Linda McDiarmid Aiken, Janet and Courtney Brais, Sonia Hildesheim, Betsy Dugas and John Fretz. Wallace is known in the Victoria village community for panhandling, keeping a look-out over some Victoria Ave. shops on behalf of merchants (as such he was noted by one merchant as being "head of security" for the Victoria Ave. retailers in a letter to the editor, November 10, 2009) and being hired by a Côte St. Antoine resident to encourage motorists to obey traffic laws along that road (November 3, 2009 issue, p. 3).

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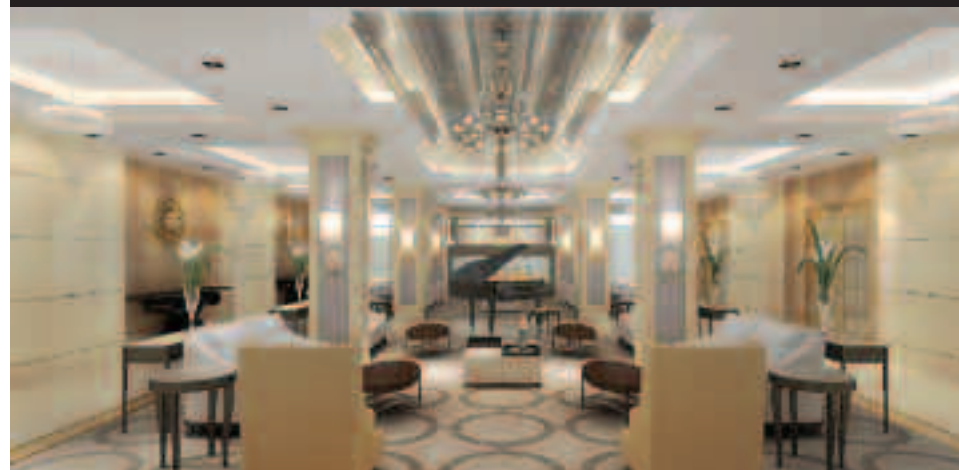
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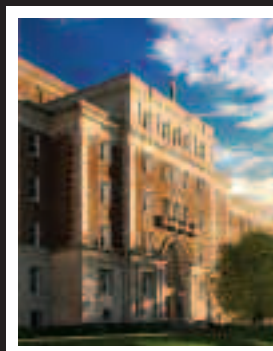
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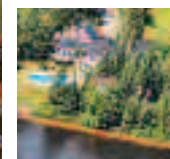
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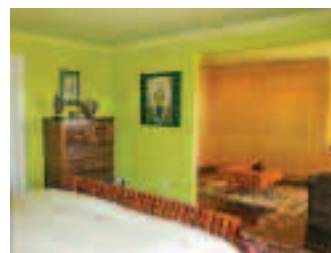
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- **Chanukah at Temple**, community candle lighting and temple party. First candle lighting, 4:30 pm at city hall, followed by party at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 5:15 pm. Info: Anita 514.937.3575.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

- Annual **super bazaar** at St. Leon Parish, 330 Clarke Ave., noon to 6 pm.
- Westmounter **Linda Leith** launches her new book *Writing in the Time of Nationalism* at Nicholas Hoare bookstore, 1366 Greene Ave., 6 to 8 pm.

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.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

“Christmas Celebration of Music” at **Mountainside United Church**, 4000 The Boulevard, 4 pm. Free will offering. Info: 514.486.1165.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

- **City council meeting**, 8 pm at city hall.
- 7 pm, Christmas lighting of city hall and the tree, starting inside and finishing with refreshments at lawn bowling clubhouse.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

The Montreal Children’s Library celebrates 30 years at the Atwater Library and 40 years at Richmond Square. Admission is free; guests are encouraged to bring a new or gently used children’s book. Raffle prizes, food and drink, live music. 5080-A St. Ambroise, 5 to 7 pm.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

Jazz keyboardist **Vanessa Rodrigues** and friends present seasonal music, 12:30 pm, 1200 Atwater. Free; donations invited. Info: 514.935.7344.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

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December at the art galleries

Galerie de Bellefeuille

Fabien Jean: paintings. Exhibit continues to December 1. Gordon Young: paintings. Exhibit December 4 to 15. 1367 Greene, 514.933.4406.

Gallery at Victoria Hall

Quilters' Show: continues to December 4. 4626 Sherbrooke, 514.989.5226.

Han Art

Andrew Lui: paintings. Exhibit continues to December 12. 4209 St. Catherine, 514.876.9278

McClure Gallery – Visual Arts Centre

Richard Deschênes "Les atomistes": paintings. Exhibit: December 3 to 22. 350 Victoria, 514.488.9558.

Photography exhibit: **John Hill** at 4300 de Maisonneuve W., until January 3.

Contactivity Centre's mini bazaars continue Mondays and Wednesdays between 11 am and 2:30 pm until Monday, December 13. A variety of hand-knit clothing, toys and handicrafts are on sale at 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Info: 514.932.2326.

Wagner and friends showcase another year of art 'at home'

Flora-Lee Wagner hosted her biannual "Art at Home," vernissage November 25 at her house on Claremont. This is the 5th year that Wagner has opened her home to artists she likes. From left: Flora-Lee Wagner, Wayne Larsen and Sheryl Constantine were three of the exhibiting artists. The others included Anna Gedalof, Jennifer Goddard, Chris Oosenbrug and Bruce Roberts.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



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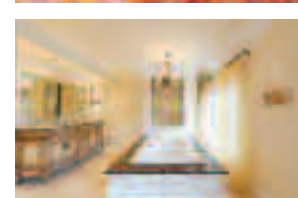
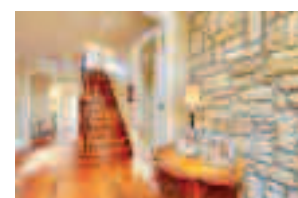
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See story "\$1,000 donated for crime-fighting fund," March 30, p. 6, for details.

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

Rebels' reminder: The Holidays are coming

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Desmarais co-chairs help raise \$533,000 at CCA



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounters **Hélène** and **Paul Desmarais Jr.** co-chaired the CCA 2010 fundraiser with **Julie** and **Pierre Pomerleau**.

Held at the end of October, “Du Chapiteau au Château” took place inside the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA), unlike other years when a massive tent housed the party outdoors in Baile

Park.

The cocktail reception décor was orange roses hanging from the ceiling, and rows of orange CCA bags arranged geometrically on the walls. Tables, set up in unusual locations, such as the bookstore and the library, were decorated with archival architectural drawings.

The evening's theme was designed by architect **Benoît Dupuis**. **Peter Rose**, the architect of the CCA and senior partner at Peter Rose + Partners in Cambridge, Massachusetts, amused the guests as he shared anecdotes with CCA director **Mirko Zardini** and **Phyllis Lambert**, founding director and chair of the board of trustees.

Noted in the interesting mix of figures

in the arts, business and design were **Helen Fotopulos**, **Charles Lapointe**, president and CEO, Tourisme Montréal, with Westmounter **Cornelia Molson** and **Senator Serge Joyal**, sitting with Westmounters **Marie Chévrier** and **Richard Gervais** at the head table with **Claudine** and **Stephen Bronfman**, and **Brian Bronfman** with his wife **Marcia Wetherup**.

Also seen were Sauvage sisters **Danielle** and **Suzanne**, **Luc d'Iberville Moreau** and **Maurice Forget**.

Major sponsors were BMO Financial Group and Power Corporation of Canada, Letko Brosseau and Associates, Claudine and Stephen Bronfman, National Bank Financial Group, Lavery, Pomerleau, Tourisme Montréal and the Liz and Tony Comper Foundation.

The soirée raised \$533,000, which funds the CCA programs that help build awareness of the role of architecture in society, promote scholarly research and stimulate innovation in design practice.



Peter Rose, Mirko Zardini and Phyllis Lambert.



Westmounters Hélène and Paul Desmarais, Jr.



Westmounters Claudine and Stephen Bronfman

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North part of Greene Ave. re-opens, south part waits for 5 Saisons

continued from p. 7

A weekend of special events to mark the re-opening was kicked off on November 25 with a brief ceremony held near the corner of Greene and Sherbrooke.

Councillors Nicole Forbes and Theodora Samiotis congratulated all those who helped make the project a reality, with

a special tip of the hat to the merchants for their patience. The two then threw a switch to turn on some of the newly-installed lighting. Councillors Timothy Price and Victor Drury also turned up.

The work, costing around \$2 million, included the installation of a new electric conduit bank along the west side of Greene. (This was the only element of the

project that took place all the way up to St. Catherine.) The roadway was rebuilt in some spots and repaved in others, new light standards were installed, the public parking was revamped, and trees were planted at intersections and at pedestrian walkways.


West End Gallery owner Michael Millman, a key player in the local merchants' association, said he was pleased generally. "Overall I like it," he said. "I think it's a

more pedestrian-friendly street." One of his only suggestions was that the city give Greene a makeover every 20 years rather than 30.

But at the other end of Greene, the reaction wasn't as laudatory. "We're very disappointed," said Marilyn Lally, a real estate agent at the Royal LePage Heritage office south of de Maisonneuve. Not only were the past few months hard on businesses like hers when Greene was excavated for the electrical work, she continued, but the city will only be putting in new sidewalks and other finishing touches at this end in 2012.

"Why we're not doing that portion of Greene is because of the impending construction work on the former 5 Saisons property," said director general Duncan Campbell, referring to the condo development that will require the demolition of the food store's existing building. According to Campbell, the city judged it inappropriate to renovate Greene south of de Maisonneuve if it was only going to be torn up for the construction project.

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Retail Watch

BY LAUREN O'LOUGHLIN

Bead It makes a move

Bead It, currently at 4912 Sherbrooke is relocating to 4930 Sherbrooke. When



Owner's daughter Jessical Sigler organising Bead It in time for the big move.

asked about the move, owner Steve Sigler said, "the lease is up here, and we just prefer to move to another space." The store will not be closing at any point. The move is due to be completed by December 1. In the meantime customers are asked to come "help us out" said Sigler, by partaking in the stores' big clear-out sale.

Bistro on the Avenue under new ownership

Bistro on the Avenue at 1362 Greene Ave. temporarily closed its doors on October 23. After a brief phone conversation with Paul Kripesh on November 11, he confirmed that the closure was not due to renovations but because of a change of ownership. The re-opening of the Bistro was delayed, according to Kripesh, because of "official paperwork." He was reluctant to share the names of the restaurant's new owners, simply explaining that it was a business partnership of four individuals. Kripesh said he was glad to announce that all of the restaurant's staff would remain on board, and that it would be "the same old Bistro." The Bistro is now open for business.

Itsy Bitsy – A new arrival on Greene Avenue

Itsy Bitsy is a children's fashion boutique opened by sisters Lea Klein and Rivky Labowitz from Outremont. They decided to open the store specifically on Greene Ave. in August 2010 because "Greene Avenue is known for exclusivity," according to Klein. Itsy Bitsy carries a line

of European designer brands catering to ages 6 months to 12 years. They also carry a range of accessories, such as headbands and jewellery for girls. Klein describes their selection as "one-of-a-kind and beautiful pieces." The boutique at 1355 Greene Ave. is on the second floor.



Inside Itsy Bitsy.

Posh Tots new kids clothing store on Sherbrooke

Previously based on Jean Talon, Posh Tots moved to Westmount (4918 Sherbrooke) in June. This designer fashion store for children 0 -14 years also offers a range of services, such as "spa birthday parties," where little girls can make their own lotions, lip glosses and bath salts at home. A customized gift basket service offers delivery to any home or hospital, and for a gift with a twist, one can also purchase a four-tier diaper "cake". When asked about the move to Westmount, store



A glimpse of the Posh décor at Posh Tots.

owner Jennifer Arriola said "Westmount was always our first preference...and once a suitable location became available my partner (Angie Triassi) and I jumped on it."

The content in Retail Watch and Business Watch is researched and written by the Independent. Businesses that appear do not pay for or approve what is written.

Business Watch

Transitions Management aims to make moving easier

Former Westmounter, Diana Martin has been running Transitions Management from her home office in St. Henri since August. She personally helps people to organize and downsize during a big move. "I help people organize what they need and what they don't want to take with them." Martin helps clients sell unwanted items and has contacts with various organizations which co-ordinate the dona-



tion of furniture and other items to charity. Martin also helps elderly people make the transition to care homes by helping families pack and part with old memories. Her business also helps with relocating to holiday homes and other personal organizational needs. Transitions Management is currently a one-woman business and has yet to set up a website, but Martin hopes that as demands grow the business will expand and require employees.

– LO'L

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On Saturday, June 5th at the Windsor Ballrooms, an evening candle light wedding took place uniting Miss Catherine Mass and Mr. Justin Sannella.

Catherine is the daughter of Yvonne and Allan Mass of Westmount; Justin, the son of Lee and Michael Sannella of Rosedale, Toronto.

Catherine is a graduate of Miss Edgar and Miss Cramp's School and the University of Western Ontario; Justin is a graduate of Upper Canada College and The Ivey School of Business. The wedding ceremony was conducted by the uncle of the bride, The Honourable Justice Israel Sonny Mass of the Superior Court of Quebec. Maid of Honour was the bride's sister Dr. Vanessa Mass of Antananarivo Madagascar and the Best Man, Mr. Matthew Sannella of Toronto. Bridesmaids and groomsmen were from Montreal, Toronto, Los Angeles Whistler and New York.

Following the wedding ceremony, a cocktail reception was held followed by a dinner dance. Catering was by John D'Ambrosio of Bon Appetit and music and vocals by Paul Chacra and his orchestra "1945". After the wedding celebrations, Catherine and Justin vacationed on the Greek Islands and in Istanbul. They are presently residing in Toronto along with their new puppy "Hank".



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Bought & Sold: Real estate transferred since October 27

Address	Price	Evaluation *	Buyer	Seller	Date
37 Surrey Gardens	\$3,800,000	\$2,429,800	Sam Benatar	Jean Saine & Lise Gohier	Nov 9
4 Hudson Ave.	\$2,250,000	\$1,453,500	Andrea Whitworth & Robert Kriebel	Suzanne Fortier & Stephen MacCulloch	Nov 2
530 Grosvenor Ave.	\$1,870,000	\$1,092,600	Noah Stern	Ofer Tal	Nov 1
434 Metcalfe Ave.	\$1,450,000	\$1,017,600	Suzanne Fortier & Stephen MacCulloch	Jennifer Miller & Andrew Kerklaan	Nov 11
611 Belmont Ave.	\$1,375,000	\$1,206,000	Michel Greiche & Alexandra Dawson	Malgorzata Plech	Nov 1
62 Aberdeen Ave.	\$1,300,000	\$1,006,700	Regina Husa & Dev Jayaraman	Maria-Athena Paradissis	Nov 1
33 Rosemount Ave.	\$1,200,000	\$1,442,900	Martin Roy & Emily Watt	David Nicholson	Nov 22
457 Elm Ave.	\$1,030,000	\$897,800	Sylvie Pouliot	Artashes Toumanov	Nov 22
4700 St. Catherine St. Apt # 414	\$995,000	\$720,500	Monica Wolf	Estate of Madeleine Oulimar	Oct 29
426 Wood Ave.	\$985,000	\$770,000	Pamela Rosenberg	Sajida Malik & Sabir Alvi	Oct 27
465 Mount Pleasant Ave.	\$960,000	\$829,900	Harry Grivakis & Amanda Tsatsoulis	Richard Gervais & Marie Chevrier	Nov 2
63 Arlington Ave.	\$870,000	\$780,800	Nancy Carroll & Kevin Ryan	Arielle Elmoznino	Nov 18
433 Wood Ave.	\$830,000	\$627,600	Luc Saint-Arnaud & Julie Bernier	William Weintraub & Magdalena Landau	Nov 15
222 Metcalfe Ave.	\$800,000	\$556,200	O. Rodriguez & M-J. Godbout	Eric Shoubridge	Oct 27
563 Grosvenor Ave.	\$800,000	\$713,600	Geracimos Hionis & Cynthia Campbell	Nancy Willis-Gallop	Nov 19
4175 St. Catherine #1201 + pkg	\$670,000	\$630,700	Ernestine Shapera	Brian Sutton	Nov 1
507 Claremont Ave.	\$650,000	\$725,400	Charles Moryoussef & Mélisa Hakim	Nadia Nabavi	Nov 4
4633 & 4633A Sherbrooke St.	\$589,000	\$530,000	Oleg De Vreeze & Ludmila Egorova	Joseph Kholam & Abdolmajid Tandel	Nov 18
535-537 Prince-Albert Ave.	\$570,000	\$487,400	Gregory Baizer	Martin Roy & Emily Watt	Nov 17
65 Hollowell St.	\$510,000	\$509,900	Elizabeth Hasse	Steven Joo & Julie Robitaille	Nov 4
4855 de Maisonneuve Blvd. #503	\$487,000	\$438,500	Phyllis Legatos	Mary Wolfkill	Nov 1
343 Clarke Ave. #4 + pkg	\$465,000	\$381,400	Anne Vézina	Sharon Harvie	Nov 2
399 Clarke Ave. #2D	\$425,000	\$335,400	Michael Farley	Gregory Baizer	Nov 10
4410 St. Catherine Apt #3B + pkg	\$399,900	\$337,500	Saul Feirerra	Jane Tamor	Oct 27
Strip of land beside 534 Lansdowne Ave	\$150,000	\$117,100	Benthom Investments Inc.	Catherine Gerols	Oct 29

*Based on 2009 evaluations.

Real estate by the numbers

	December 1	November 2
All transactions (number)	\$1,017,236 (25)	\$988,333 (15) ¹
Detached	\$2,290,000 (3)	\$1,371,000 (5)
Semidetached	\$1,171,750 (8)	\$1,220,000 (1)
Townhouse	\$903,000 (5)	\$722,667 (3)
Duplex/triplex (one unit)	\$540,000 (2)	\$475,833 (6)
Condo	\$573,650 (6)	\$527,000 (1) ¹
Upper Westmount	\$3,800,000 (1)	\$1,371,000 (5)
Mid-Westmount	\$1,054,938 (16)	\$909,333 (3)
On the flat	\$593,988 (8)	\$748,857 (7) ¹
Average price/evaluation, arithmetic	1.23	1.35 ¹
Average price/evaluation, \$ weighted	1.27	1.22 ¹

Data is by newspaper reporting date, not registration. The dividing lines between the three geographic areas are the middles of The Boulevard and Sherbrooke St.

¹ Excludes possible related-party transaction at 35 percent of evaluation.






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<div></div> <div>ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES Illumination du sapin de Noël Venez en famille à la fête de l'illumination du sapin de Noël 2010 qui se tiendra à l'hôtel de ville de Westmount le lundi 6 décembre à 19 h pour y écouter des contes et des chants, et participer à des jeux et couronner le tout d'une tasse de chocolat chaud. Info : 514 989-5226.</div> <div>Fête de la Hannoukah Le Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, la Congrégation Shaar Hashomayim et la Ville de Westmount invitent la collectivité à l'illumination de la première chandelle de la Hannoukah, la fête des lumières, qui aura lieu à l'Hôtel de ville, 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest le mercredi 1^{er} décembre à 16 h 30. La cérémonie sera suivie par une fête communautaire au Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom au 4100, rue Sherbrooke Ouest de 17 h à 18 h 30. Bienvenue à tous. Info : 514 989-5226.</div> <div>Clinique de vaccination contre la grippe Le CLSC Métro offre gratuitement le vaccin aux personnes âgées, bébés et autres de son territoire. Une clinique aura lieu le 3 décembre de 9 h à 18 h au Victoria Hall, 4626, rue Sherbrooke Ouest. Info : 514 934-0354.🌿</div> <div></div> <div>TRAVAUX PUBLICS Collecte de feuilles mortes Afin de s'assurer que les feuilles seront ramassées, s.v.p. utilisez des sacs en PAPIER ou en plastique COMPOSTABLES. Les feuilles tassées en vrac en bordure de rue NE SERONT PAS RAMASSÉES. Déposez vos sacs de feuilles en bordure du trottoir avant 7 h du lundi au vendredi pour être ramassés à l'intérieur de trois jours ouvrables. Info : 514 989-5390.🌿</div> <div></div> <div>BIBLIOTHÈQUE Célébrez Barney's Version Joignez-vous à nous le vendredi 17 décembre à 19 h pour une soirée célébrant <i>Barney's Version</i> : le film, le roman et l'auteur, Mordecai Richler. Le maître de cérémonie pour la soirée sera Peter Duffield. Bill Brownstein, Charles Foran et William Weintraub seront les conférenciers invités. Les billets sont gratuits et disponibles au comptoir de prêt. Info : 514 989-5386.</div>		<div></div> <div></div> <div>COMMUNITY EVENTS Christmas Tree Lighting Bring the family to the 2010 Christmas Tree Lighting Party at Westmount City Hall, Monday, December 6 at 7 p.m. Enjoy Christmas stories and carols along with a refreshing cup of hot chocolate. Info: 514 989-5226.</div> <div>Chanukah Party Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, Congregation Shaar Hashomayim and the City of Westmount invite the community to the lighting of the first candle for Chanukah, the festival of lights which will take place at City Hall, 4333 Sherbrooke Street West on Wednesday, December 1st at 4:30 pm. A community celebration will follow at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 4100 Sherbrooke St. West from 5 to 6:30 pm. Open to all. Info: 514 989-5226.</div> <div>CLSC Flu Vaccination Clinic The CLSC Métro will be offering free influenza (flu) vaccines to certain people residing in its territory. A clinic will take place on December 3 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke Street W. Info: 514 934-0354.🌿</div> <div></div> <div>PUBLIC WORKS Autumn Leaf Collection To make sure your leaves are collected, you must use PAPER bags or COMPOSTABLE plastic bags - leaves piled loose WILL NOT BE PICKED UP. Place the bags of leaves behind the sidewalk by 7 a.m. Monday through Friday for collection within 3 business days. Info : 514 989-5390. 🌿</div> <div></div> <div>LIBRARY Celebrate Barney's Version Join us on Friday, December 17 at 7 p.m. for an evening that celebrates Barney's Version: the book, the film and the author, Mordecai Richler. Master of ceremonies will be Peter Duffield. Special guests include Bill Brownstein, Charles Foran and William Weintraub. Free tickets are available at the main circulation desk. Info: 514 989-5386.</div> <div>Extreme Trekking Vlad Lancheres' story is about commitment, courage and adventure. Of the eleven men who attempted to climb Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, only three succeeded – and not without incident. Please join us on Wednesday, December 15 at 2 p.m. to see stunning photography that captures the ascent, and to</div>	
<div>DATES À RETENIR Le 1^{er} décembre à 16 h 30 Fête de la Hannoukah Hôtel de ville Le 1^{er} décembre à 19 h 30 Théâtre : <i>Trial By Jury</i> Victoria Hall Jusqu'au 4 décembre Exposition : <i>Visual Colouring</i> - courtépointes pour l'Afrique La galerie du Victoria Hall</div> <div></div>		<div>DATEBOOK December 1st – 4:30 p.m. Chanukah Party City Hall December 1st – 7:30 p.m. Theatre: Trial By Jury Victoria Hall Until December 4 Exhibition: Visual Colouring - Quilt Art for Africa The Gallery at Victoria Hall</div> <div></div>	
		<div>hear Vlad's tales of endurance. Info: 514 989-5386.🌿</div> <div></div> <div>PUBLIC SECURITY When seconds count! The 9-1-1 Emergency Centre serves as a clearing-house for all emergency calls made on the island of Montréal. It is the number to dial to reach emergency services such as Police, Fire Department and Ambulance.</div> <div>Holiday Food Drive This holiday season, support Public Security's annual food drive by donating non-perishable food items for the needy. Collection bins are now available in the following municipal buildings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Westmount City Hall - 4333 Sherbrooke Street W.• Centre Greene - 1090 Greene Avenue• Police Station 12 / Public Security - 21 Stanton Street• Victoria Hall - 4626 Sherbrooke Street W.• Westmount Public Library - 4574 Sherbrooke Street W.• Westmount Arena - 4675 St. Catherine Street W.Cash donations are also encouraged. Please give generously. Needy Westmount families who would like to receive food baskets must contact the CLSC Métro Social Services Department at 514 934-0354, ext. 348 or 352. Baskets will be distributed after December 15, 2010.🌿</div>	

Grossmann and Hirst: Exposed



Westmount Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

This month, two exhibits shed light on contemporary culture. At Galerie D'Este, Angela Grossmann displays pieced-together personas, while at Galerie de Bellefeuille, Damien Hirst's prints, montages and sculptures reflect life and death.

Angela Grossmann at Galerie d'Este

Grossmann's striking photographs – painted in subtle overtones – are personal yet universal. "In Pieces" a young woman in jeans and clogs strikes a casual pose yet worried pose.



Composed of a multitude of images pieced together – one hand to her lips, and two in her pockets – the artist creates the action of putting hand to mouth.

Although Grossmann often portrays young women, street life dominates in this exhibit. In "Blondes", two young teens – one posed in short shorts with hand on hip – convey a very familiar scene.

Yet in "Three thistles", a more psychological perspective is seen.

Here a young man – a woman draped over his shoulders – is set against several thistles. The many images pieced together, describe an incohesive yet multifaceted



Damien Hirst "Large Spot Clock"

personality.

The scene in "Crutch (Too Young to Die Old)" is more ambiguous. Here a young man, – seated in a wheelchair – stares outward. Reflecting Grossmann's narrative style, this image is mounted on an old canvas tent.

A skilled storyteller – playful yet perceptive – Grossmann is one of Canada's

more influential contemporary painters. The exhibit continues until November 28 at Galerie D'Este, 1329 Greene.

Damien Hirst at Galerie de Bellefeuille

In this exhibit, this world-renown artist's "Self-portrait" consists of two x-rays of his head mounted on a lightbox. The two views – one in profile, the other straight on – reveal an implanted tooth and capped teeth. Oddly intimate, yet distant, bones become a shared commonality.

Hirst's colourful skull sculptures are also one of a kind. Each painted in unique pattern, the artist appears to both beautify and mock death. Prints of shelves lined with pills continue this theme. First 3-D models, then paintings and prints of paintings, compositions like "Two Pills" are surprisingly elegant.

But Hirst goes beyond the obvious. In "Histidyl", colour spots represent molecules of the popular British antihistamine. These colour spots reappear to replace numbers on his "Large Spot Clock". An attractive graphic, the artist suggests that our hours may not be numbered.

Hirst's work also implies renewal rather than death. Butterflies are a recur-

ring subject. Some etchings are detailed and colourful etchings like "Regeneration". Others form patterns for mandellas like "Psalm Print: Coeli Enarrant (Diamond Dust)". Still others – real butterflies – are pinned to spotted displays with blood-filled syringes.

Continually returning to science, philosophy and religion for inspiration, Hirst alternately offers beauty and shock with pizzazz. The exhibit continues until December 6 at Galerie de Bellefeuille, 1367 Greene.

Photographs matter



Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

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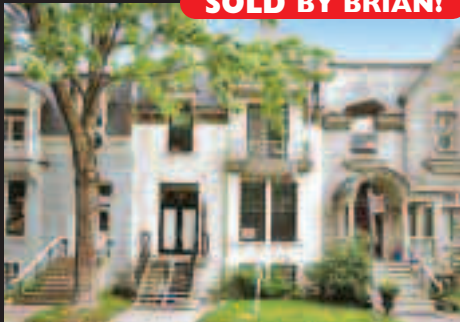


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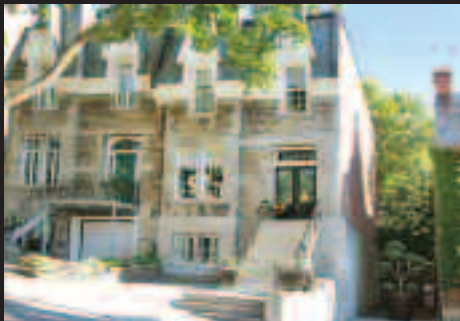
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