



Quebec minister Yolande James, centre, stands beneath a Westmount High mural with art teacher Sylvana Anania (second from left) and the student artists. See story p. 7. Photo: Erin Stropes


WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 4 No. 3b *We are Westmount* March 9-10, 2010

City council meeting: Environmental issues dominate

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A wide range of environmental issues dominated the March 1 meeting of city council, from noise pollution to a resolution of support for retaining the Shell Oil

 **Westmount Page p. 12**

See our listings p. 18 & 19

Béatrice Baudinet
Rose-Marie Martin
Pam Davidson McLernon
Charles Pearo
Ellie Silver
Martha Tsadilas


ROYAL LEPAGE

HERITAGE

refinery in Montreal East.

As Councillor Theodora Samiotis rolled out 10 projects targeted for action under the city's 2010 plans for sustainable development (see March 2, p. 10), other initiatives made their way into regular business items or ensuing discussion.

These included the city's endorsement of Earth Hour, the recycling of sports jerseys to developing countries and, as reported in the March 2 issue, an agreement to support a request for the creation of a nature reserve on St. Joseph's Oratory land in the northern reaches of Westmount.

Mayor Peter Trent was also commended for his support of agglomeration funding to protect island-wide green spaces.

Why not land over money?

Lansdowne resident John Fretz also asked why, given the city's emphasis on sustainable development, the council had not opted to exact payment in land rather than money for the cadastral operation at 495 *continued on p. 6*

Public information session set for March 23 City to clamp down on A/C noise

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A proliferation of heat pumps and air conditioning units is prompting a tightening of Westmount's noise by-law, fuelled by the intervention of one enterprising resident and supported by several noise-conscious city council members.

The proposed changes, tabled in a draft by-law March 1, are highly technical and relate to the measurement of sound levels emitted in particular by large air conditioning systems. But the subject sparked considerable interest from citizens at the council meeting.

Mayor Peter Trent agreed to requests to hold a public information meeting given that noise is considered to be a topic of general interest. This is slated to take place March 23 at 6 pm.

"My pet peeve is noise – unnecessary noise," said Mayor Peter Trent, whose sentiments were echoed by Councillor Patrick Martin.

The by-law's objectives are to better de-


fine the term "excessive noise," further regulate the removal, limitations and installa- *continued on p. 5*

Don't Miss It
Westmount in the St. Patrick's Day parade, Sunday, March 14.
See p. 3 for details.

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INDIE BRIEFS

How to join Westmount in St. Pat's parade

Westmount's traditional float, community groups and interested residents will once again participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Sunday, March 14.

Those wishing to ride on the float should obtain a pass by March 12 from the city's Community Events office at Victoria Hall to reserve a place. Volunteer workers may call the office at 514.989.5226.

A bus is scheduled to transport participants to the staging area, leaving Victoria Hall at 11:30 am. Anyone taking it should arrive by 11:15 am, said Virginia Elliott, assistant Community Events coordinator.

The parade assembles on René Lévesque east of Fort to head east along St. Catherine.

Egg-tossers target Belvedere house

Several people threw eggs at a house on Belvedere Rd. at 7:41 am on March 7, according to homeowner Leonard Gorski.

The perpetrators were caught on camera, and Gorski used the images to file a police report and to establish a reward for "the arrest and conviction of the gang with charges including conspiracy to commit crimes, gangsterism, trespassing and damage to property."

He is also planning to file a private lawsuit against the offenders.

According to Gorski, there were several similar attacks in the area over the summer.

"On behalf of Westmount and all law-abiding citizens, I am committed to set a line in the sand and show that these gangsters – even if they are young adults – have no place in society."

Two new council members step up to marry citizens

Mayor Peter Trent and Councillor Victor Drury have agreed to stand as members of the new city council willing to perform civil marriages and unions.

Their names were put forward at the March 1 council meeting in a request to the Quebec minister of Justice to designate them for solemnizing marriages or civil unions within the territory of Westmount.

Drury told the *Independent* he was moved to accept the responsibility after hearing from former mayor Karin Marks how worthwhile the experience was. He also added he would be celebrating his own 40th wedding anniversary with his wife, Barbara, in August.

Councillors Cynthia Lulham and Nicole Forbes, who had the right to perform civil marriages and unions during the past council mandate, continue to be so authorized.

PSOs catch squirrel feeder on camera

A man reported to be a regular feeder of squirrels in Westmount parks was caught in the act on camera last week, according to Public Security officials.

Described as a local resident known to public safety officers, the culprit was spotted March 2 and 3 dishing out peanuts in contravention of the by-law prohibiting the feeding of wildlife.

A decision was expected to be made soon in conjunction with court prosecutors and police on what type of action should be taken.

Agglo complaints going to Quebec

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount city council adopted a lengthy resolution March 1 asking the Quebec Municipal Affairs minister to intervene in the massive increase in shared costs imposed on the suburbs in the 2010 agglomeration budget.

"It's an extremely important document," Mayor Peter Trent said. "It's our way to make Quebec understand the 12.6 percent increase is unacceptable."

The resolution asks the minister to look into and correct a long list of financial concerns including the allocation of quote-parts, "mixed expenses" charged to the agglo by Montreal, and the validity of \$91.9 million in charges to the suburbs related to Montreal employee pension plans.

The resolution also asks that a permanent budget committee be set up to examine all aspects of the agglo budgets, and that the committee comprise at least two mayors from the Association of Suburban Municipalities.

The resolution states in a lengthy preamble that a report from an *ad hoc* budget committee in January 2010 did not include "key recommendations" from representatives of the suburban mayors. Trent and Dorval mayor Edgar Rouleau submitted a minority report as members of the *ad hoc* committee (see story, February 26, p. 15).

The minority report would be attached to the resolution so the minister would have it "when we go to see him," Trent said.

In explaining the resolution, Trent said it was imperative for a permanent budget committee to be involved in the budget preparation process right from the start rather than after the fact.

The preamble further points out failure of the forced Montreal mergers to deliver the promised "economies of scale."

It also decries the additional tax burden of \$251 million borne by Montreal in 2010 to fund mass transit due to Quebec's withdrawal of operational funding in 1991.

The Velveteen Rabbit, starring Una Kay

The Westmount Y premieres The Velveteen Rabbit, starring Westmounters Una Kay, alongside Hollywood celebrities Jane Seymour, Ellen Burstyn, Matthew Harbour, Tom Skerritt and Kevin Jubinville. Director Michael Landon Jr. mixes live action with animation in this adaptation of the beloved children's book by Margery Williams. The play takes place Sunday, March 21, 2 pm, at Kosa Centre for the Arts, 5325 Crowley Ave. in NDG. Doors open at 1 pm, and the ticket price is \$10. Movie rating is G. Photo: Veronica Redgrave



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO REPLY TO CEDAR CONFERENCE OFFER

I refer to the March 2 article “PAC: Cedar home still too large” (p. 1), in which architect Bruce Anderson states the city is “changing the rules in the middle of the game” and which describes the rejection on February 9 by the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) of the revised plan, which he “felt ran contrary to reconciliation efforts extended publicly to Al-Musawi by one of the opposing neighbors.”

It is rather disingenuous for Anderson to refer to my suggestion when he was well aware that neither he nor his client responded to us on such overture.

Anderson was not satisfied with PAC’s preliminary requirements and requested that the demolition committee review his plans. However, after having caused the city to incur expenses to institute the demolition committee’s hearing process in December 2009, Anderson then requested that council, the final city arbiter, render a decision, which it did on February 1.

Anderson now attempts to cast criticism on councillors by implying he was misled by “the tone of what councillors had said they would be prepared to accept” when they articulated that the replacement building was “absolutely massive;” and “siting and massing needed to be worked on;” the city has “guidelines for ensuring that the new construction harmonize with

the area;” council has a responsibility “to protect the architecture and integrity of the community;” “a house of 19,000 square feet was not in keeping with the area... (of) 3,000 to 5,000 square feet”, etc.

Notwithstanding this conduct, I am still prepared to meet to attempt to find a solution.

HOWARD HOPPENHEIM, THE BOULEVARD

TRANSPARENCY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Don Wedge recently wrote “To be fully transparent, taxpayers must be aware of the decisions made for them.” (February 16, p. 7). Peter Trent then replied “... a few regular council-goers have been on about memorializing what is said at the question-and-answer period at council meetings. They want to go back to written summaries. I am not sure what this matter really has to do with transparency, as all exchanges are now audio-recorded and freely available on our website.” (March 2, p. 4).

Transparency is about easy access to information without having to request it. The Q&A session is an integral part of council business, and it’s important that it is recorded in a permanent and accessible form.

As much as the audio recording gives a simulacrum of transparency, there are problems with the medium used. First, it

is stored in an encumbered proprietary format (shockwave flash), which may or may not work in the future. Second, there is no way to search the archive for actual questions and answers as would be the case with a text format, and, third the audio recording is only available online – there’s no way to save it to one’s computer for listening at leisure.

A truly transparent process would record the question, the answer, any subsequent action to be performed and, in later minutes, the result of the action taken. This recording should take advantage of the digital age and use a searchable format such as plain html or even PDF (which is an open format). Then, interested citizens would be able to transparently track this important aspect of the workings of our elected representatives. It has nothing to do with “memorializing” and everything to do with being open.

PAUL MARRIOTT, GROSVENOR AVE.

TRAVELLING DOWNTOWN VIA PUBLIC OR PRIVATE BMW?

The average Westmounter lives 3 kilometres from Place Ville Marie. If he commutes there, that’s 6 km round trip per day for a total of about \$3 for an average private car. Pretty cheap, even compared to public transportation.

But fold in the hassle of driving on our ever-increasingly crowded, often slippery roads full of pot holes, as well as parking downtown. Is there any real justification not to take public transit? You can also get a nice short walk at either end to/from the bus/Metro, plus you can relax more, even reading on the move.

Then there’s the hidden cost to the planet – costs that are heavily subsidized by our governments, who insist on keeping the price of fossil fuels at artificially low levels. True values are closer to \$7 a litre for regular gasoline, if you add in the damage that is being wreaked on the biosphere and its contents, including our own health.

Why do we knowingly continue to pollute the same air that we and other living organisms need for survival?

How easy is it to take a bus or Metro downtown? At worst (best, if you enjoy an additional short walk), you are never more than a 15-minute walk away from a bus or Metro station in Westmount.

Bus schedules are available on-line or in the Société de transport de Montréal pamphlets at city hall and elsewhere. More and more, bus users report that the buses really are reliable, with friendly and helpful drivers.

Even better, though, what about using a bicycle (10 minutes) or walking (an hour) all the way?

In any case, consider leaving your BMW (Bavarian-Motor-Works) at home and, especially for short trips to downtown Montreal, take Bus-Metro-Walk, Bicycle-Move-Well or Body-Muscle-Wander ... and enjoy it to boot!

TONY MOFFAT, SUNNYSIDE AVE.

SAFE PASSAGE FOR CYCLISTS

The following paragraphs enlarge upon George Bowser’s “forked” ruminations on the bicycle (February 16, p. 9) by adding a few interesting facts derived from an exhibition at the Château de Ramezay last year.

When bicycles arrived in Montreal in the 1860s they became instantly popular. By 1869, there were 15 bike races held per year with prizes of up to \$200 – a fortune in those days.

The 1899 world championship bike races in Montreal attracted some 30,000 spectators and a certain “Major” Taylor established a new world record for the mile. This is all the more astonishing because Taylor was black. Some people think that blacks were not allowed to compete against whites in professional sports in North America until Jackie Robinson broke that colour barrier in the 1940s, with a career that began with the Montreal Royals, but evidently the colour barrier was broken in professional cycling a half century earlier, again in Montreal.

Women cyclists braved a number of taboos and in doing so were in the vanguard. Photos around 1900 contrast women in encumbering dresses of the époque to other women in “bloomers,” trousers made for cycling. Bicycles thus also had much to do with the emancipation of women in Canada.

Here’s a bit of science as regards to the need for separating cyclists from vehicles. Momentum is mass multiplied by velocity, or the power residing in a moving object. A car at 40 km per hour has a momentum 50 times greater than a cyclist at 20 km per hour.

Moreover, if a cyclist and a car collide, it is not cyclist meeting driver, but cyclist colliding with heavy metal. Thus the need to physically separate vehicles and cyclists on any street that is not residential is more than obvious.

No citizen will adopt urban cycling as part of his or her lifestyle without a guarantee of “safe passage,” which is what physically separated ways represent.

ROGER JOCHYM, 122 LEWIS AVE.

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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

Westmount Library's 2 O'Clock Series presents "How He Lied to Her Husband" with the Golden Stagers. Westmount Room, 2 pm. Info: dlach@westmount.org

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

West Hill Grandmothers Group presents a concert of Celtic music with the Arisaig Trio at Westmount Park Church (4695 de Maisonneuve), 2 pm. Refreshments, suggested donation \$15. Proceeds go to the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Info: 514.932.1383.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

- **St. Patrick's Day Parade**, 12 noon. Bus leaves Victoria Hall at 11:15 am to bring people to the float downtown. It returns to Westmount after parade. Volunteers welcome. Info: 514.989.5265.
- **Westmount Antiquarian Book Fair** at Selwyn House, 95 Cote St. Antoine Rd., 10 am to 5 pm. Cost: \$2. Info: 514.935.9581 or www.defreitasbooks.com.
- **Anne Lindsay** is at Bon Appétit bookstore (388 Victoria Ave.) with her new cookbook *Lighthearted at home*, 2 pm. Register: 514.369.2002.

MONDAY, MARCH 15

The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal Lecture Series presents James Torczyner, on "A Grassroots Project in Israel, Palestine and Jordan" at the Unitarian Church, 5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd., 12:30 pm. Open to all. Free for members; visitors \$10. Sandwich lunch available for \$5 at 11:30 am. Info: Carolyn Roper, 514.932.4005.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

A public meeting on plans to refurbish Greene Ave., 7 pm at Centre Greene (1090

Greene Ave.).

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

Westmount Historical Society's offers a lecture on **Westmount Station** and the Canadian Pacific Railway with urban planner Justin Bur. Westmount Library, from 7 to 9 pm. Cost: free for members, non-members \$5 at door. Info: 514.989.5510 or 514.932.6688.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

Information session for YMCA's "Dance with Michelle," a program for 6 to 9 year olds offered as part of a Master's **research study on dance** for people with and without a physical disability. Westmount YMCA, 3 pm. No charge but space is limited. Info: michelle.zitomer@mail.mcgill.ca or 514.812.4184.

- Mountainside United Church hosts **Maenad Ensemble** with mezzo-soprano Irene Feher, who will perform works by Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Honegger and Andrew MacDonald. 4000 The Boulevard, 3 pm. Cost: \$15, \$12 for students and seniors. Tickets on sale at the door.

MONDAY, MARCH 22

Mid-month council meeting to approve **building permits**, 5 pm at city hall.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

- A **public information session on noise**, 6 pm at city hall.
- Information and discussion on **transportation and seniors**, 2 pm at Contactivity Centre (4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd.). Free. Info: 514.932.2326.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

- **Free mini-facials** and hors d'oeuvres at Modica MediSpa, 320 Victoria Ave., from 10 am to 6 pm. RSVP by March 23: 514.667.6886.

Noise: simplify by-law

continued from p. 1

tion of air conditioner units and heat pumps, and "to no longer recognize acquired rights for any such units that violate the new regulations."

Grosvenor Ave. resident Jon Breslaw, who took his concerns and technical information to the city's Urban Planning department a year ago, commended the city's effort to tighten the regulations.

By-law 'convoluted'

But the proposed new by-law, Breslaw said, "does it in a convoluted manner."

Martin explained that the changes were based largely on recommendations from consultants and precedents from other municipalities that could be defended in court.

Paul Marriott, a member of the Healthy City environment committee, was one of those asking for a public meeting. A straw vote among the audience indicated at least eight would attend one.

Breslaw, who carried out a significant amount of research that he has given the city, later told the *Independent* he felt that sound levels in the by-law had to be able to be measured easily on the spot "by pub-



Jon Breslaw at the mic.

lic safety officers at 1:30 am. A number of municipalities have simple by-laws," he said.

Measuring the level of mechanical sound against ambient noise, especially in a city, is a major challenge.

While sound level readings are measured as an average over a range of frequencies, Martin explained, they do not necessarily reflect the negative impact of frequencies buried in the average.

Hogg Hardware is open!

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

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The grand opening of our new location will be in May 2010: 4855 Sherbrooke St. W. (corner Victoria, old SAQ location)

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Don Wedge is on assignment.

Council meeting proceedings go 'green'

continued from p. 1

Lansdowne (see story, p. 2).

"The city can't own little strips of land all over the place," replied Mayor Trent.

Had it adjoined Westmount Park instead, the city would have jumped at the opportunity, he added. In fact, the objective of the land contribution option is for the enlargement or creation of a park or playground, or preservation of a natural area.

Earth Hour, March 27

A resolution for the city's active participation in, and promotion of, the global campaign for Earth Hour 2010 was adopted with an invitation from the mayor to join him and others in a celebration and sing-along at the Summit Lookout from 8:30 to 9:30 pm on March 27.

For the second consecutive year, astrophysicist Tony Moffat of the Healthy City environment committee plans to guide attendees through an exploration of what is hoped to be a darkened sky as residents are urged to turn off all lights. Members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada will bring telescopes to the sum-

mit through which Mars and Saturn will be visible, weather permitting.

Recycling soccer jerseys

In moving the approval to purchase 1,530 new soccer jerseys for Sports and Recreation in a total amount of \$23,930, Councillor Kathleen Duncan said the city had adopted a new look for its teams. In the past, jerseys from the previous year have been given to travellers to developing countries for distribution there.

Anyone planning such a visit and willing to participate is invited to contact the department.

Duncan later said, "I would like to see us find a way to recycle the jerseys – certainly those from the younger children – so we could use them again for our own teams rather than spending money to buy new ones every year."

Greenhouse gas emissions

Council adopted a resolution mandating Montreal on behalf of the island-wide agglomeration to apply for financial assistance regarding greenhouse gas emissions under a Quebec government program called "Climat municipalités".

Westmount would be eligible to receive a maximum of some \$73,000 related to its action plan for sustainable development.

The program provides for funding to municipalities to implement or update a greenhouse gas emission inventory, for the elaboration of an action plan aimed at their reduction and climate change adaptation plans.

Shell Oil resolution

City council also agreed to request the agglomeration council to designate as a top priority the prevention of the Shell Oil refinery closure in Montreal East and to ensure that administrative and legal resources are available to assist Montreal East with its ongoing efforts "to find a reasonable and permanent solution to this serious situation."

Councillor Victor Drury explained that Westmount shared the concerns that closure of the refinery "would have a devastating effect" both economically and socially on Montreal East and the Montreal region in general.

To a suggestion by resident Paul Marriott that the resolution contradicted the one on greenhouse gas emissions, Councillor Theodora Samiotis, Environment commissioner, said it was about "trying to keep jobs." A direct loss of 350 to 550 positions is anticipated and 2,000 supplier jobs affected.

Public meeting on Greene March 16

The city will hold a public meeting as an information exchange on plans to refurbish the streetscape on Greene Ave. this summer, Samiotis announced. The event takes place Tuesday, March 16 at 7 pm at Centre Greene. This follows a similar meeting with merchants held on February 17.

Samiotis was replying to a suggestion

by Paul Marriott to "pedestrianize" the area around Les 5 Saisons. Mayor Peter Trent said the city was in discussions with the developer of land at the southwest corner of Greene and de Maisonneuve to retain the terrasse.

\$80,000 for park paths

Notice of motion was given to adopt a loan by-law to provide for an \$80,000 loan for landscaping of parks and green spaces.

The work will include improvement of paths in Westmount Park and Murray Park and enable the city to "look at" the closure of a portion of roadway on Summit Circle, explained director general Duncan Campbell. All are capital investments as outlined in the city's capital works budget.

Record year for Marianopolis College admissions

With 2,010 potential students seeking admission this fall, Marianopolis College has received a record number of CEGEP applications this year.

The deadline was March 1 and, according to director general Len Even, the school traditionally receives approximately 1,200 applications each year.

The application numbers are the highest Marianopolis has seen in its 100-year history. School officials attribute the record to the fact that students are now able to apply directly to the institution rather than go through the Montreal Common Application System, which includes several area CEGEPs.

This year, Marianopolis pulled out of the common system while exploring ways to accept more students than usual. Currently, the school has 1,800 students.

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Poetry and beats breakout at local café every Sunday

BY JOANNE PENHALE

What started as small talk about a lap-top at the London Bus Café turned quickly into an idea of hosting poetry readings there each Sunday night.

Within 10 days, the weekly series was a reality.

“We like supporting the arts,” said Jeremy Searle, co-owner of the casual British-style café and recent independent candidate in the Côte des Neiges-NDG municipal elections. “People need venues to support their work.”

Lydia Lockett – a jazz poet who writes and records her own music for her own back-up – was using the café’s wireless internet last November. “Jeremy couldn’t get over the size of my laptop,” she said. “He said as a writer he could never use something so small.”

When the conversation turned to writing, Lockett unknowingly seized the opportunity. “You know, this place would be lovely to do a poetry show.”

“Let’s do it!” said Searle, known for being action-oriented throughout his

eleven years as a city councillor.

Now, Lockett recruits poets from near and far to perform each Sunday night. Starting at 6 pm, at a cost of \$15, guests are served soup and salad, quiche or a sandwich, and tea or coffee – all made on the premises by co-owner Jeannie Oh – then the show begins.

On February 28, nine performers – some with instruments – spanned from sultry to spiritual, and from comical to intellectual. There was even an Irish drinking song.

The event is liquor free, wheelchair accessible, and adult only. It’s primarily English, but Lockett says she hopes to bring more diversity into future shows.

“It’s still small attendance, but these things take time to grow,” Searle said.

And he’s interested in showcasing more arts at the café. “Music, theatrics, whatever,” he said, anyone can make him a proposal. The London Bus Café is located at 4126 St. Catherine St.

For more information about the Sunday jazz poetry nights, contact lydialockett@yahoo.com.



Mike Pak, visiting Montreal from Hawaii, accompanies Diarmuid Good, who is visiting Montreal from Ireland perform at London Bus Café. The two met at a downtown hostel, ran into Lydia Lockett at a music shop on St. Catherine Street and were invited to perform at the February 28 show.

Art for art

Westmount High mural on display at fundraiser for Haiti

BY ERIN STROPES

Art students at Westmount High had a brush with the political sphere when Yolande James, Quebec minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities, attended Painting A New World’s exhibition of student murals (see p. 1 for photo).

The “Gift of Art” exhibition, which took place February 25 at the Tourist Hall of the

a unique project,” she told the *Independent* before her keynote speech. “I hope there will be a ripple effect where others pick up on the idea of using their creativity to help people around the world.”

Westmount High vice principal Steven Erdelyi was also on hand to support his students. He expressed appreciation for art teacher Sylvana Anania, who saw the group through the long evenings of their



Mural created by Westmount High students.

Olympic stadium, included murals on the theme of children’s rights by students of 10 Quebec schools.

As reported previously (December 1, 2009, p. 14), Painting a New World is a charitable non-profit organization founded by Montreal-based artists André Chatelain and Agnes Jorgensen. The group raises funds to build art centres and provide art supplies for children in developing countries.

Grade 10 student Natasha Solomon-Roy admitted she had not realized their mural would have such a high-profile exhibition. “It feels really special,” she said.

The Westmount students had a chance to speak with James, the event’s guest of honour, when she came to look at their mural, which juxtaposes a serious image of many children’s current reality with a hopeful vision of the future, bridged by the steps necessary to reach that future.

James was full of praise for both the Westmount mural and the project as a whole. “[The Gift of Art initiative] is such

creative process. She said that the Gift of Art project was a great match for his school, which values both artistic development and global awareness.

According to Chatelain, the event raised approximately \$5,000 through sales of art and jewelry as well as donations. The money will be placed in a special fund to help build an art centre in Haiti. Marie Emile Martineau-Joseph, vice-consul of Montreal’s Haitian consulate, was one of the public figures present at the exhibition.

The event also drew Simon Nabukwesi of the Kenya High Commission in Canada, who drove in from Ottawa for the occasion, and Mary Deros of the executive committee of the city of Montreal.

The murals themselves were not sold at the exhibition, but will be on display at the schools until the Montreal Millennium Summit (April 20 to 22 at the Palais de Congrès), where they will be available for purchase.

Répertoire des activités : Avez-vous reçu votre copie?

Sinon, procurez-vous en un dans un édifice municipal, ou consultez notre site Web pour accéder à la liste complète des activités offertes.

Have you received your copy of the Activities Guide?

If not, pick up a copy at any municipal building, or consult our Web site for a complete list of activities.



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ON THE SHELVES

Among the new arrivals at the Westmount Public Library singled out by staff:

Adult reading – Computer skills 101 and beyond

“How To Do Just About Anything on a Computer” in *Reader’s Digest* – This introduction to using a personal computer (with the Windows Vista operating system) covers the gamut from physical and virtual setup to applying new skills to solve

problems. Throughout are detailed full-colour illustrations and clear step-by-step instructions with mostly Canadian examples.

Publishing a Blog with Blogger by Elizabeth Castro – Whether you’re going on vacation and want to share stories and photos, are expecting a new member of the family and want to create a virtual baby book, or just want to keep an online diary, then creating a blog may be for you. This collection of step-by-step projects is a great way to learn blogging by example.

Adult French – Earthly matters

Les guerres du climat: pourquoi on tue au XXI^e siècle by Harald Welzer – Natural resources are becoming more rare across the planet, and Welzer predicts a rising number of wars as populations will try to secure food and water from ever-dwindling supplies. This essay about the 21st century also analyzes historical situations

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OÙ et QUAND / WHERE and WHEN:

Le Manoir GYM, 5319 avenue NDG (NDG & DECARIE):

SAMEDI, 20 MARS/SATURDAY MARCH 20, 2010 (10H00-15H00)

+ \$50 Frais d'inscription tardive après 20 février – compétitif, 20 mars – récréatif

+ \$50 Late registration fee after February 20-competitive, March 20-recreational

RÉCRÉATIF / RECREATIONAL (2006-1987)

(2006-2004) \$150, (2003-1993) \$195, (1992-1987) \$125

Année Complète/Whole Year (2006-2004) \$220, (2003-1993) \$265

COMPÉTITIF/ COMPETITIVE – Année Complète/Whole Year

(2002/2000) \$385 (1999-1992) \$395

SENIOR COMPÉTITIF/ COMPETITIVE (1991+)

Masculin: \$295 Féminin: Div.1/AA \$295, Div.2/A/Metro \$265

Année complete/Whole Year: + \$60

Pas d'inscription sans: Carte d'assurance-maladie • Preuve de résidence (Hydro; Bell; bulletin scolaire; etc.) Doit porter le même nom de famille que l'enfant • Trois photos – grandeur 1.5 x 2.5

No registration without: Player's Medical Card • Proof of residence (Hydro; Bell; report card; etc.)

Must contain the same FAMILY name as child • Three recent photos – size (1.5 x 2.5)

Aucune inscription par la poste ne sera acceptée. Inscription en personne seulement.

Please note – mail-in registration will not be accepted

Formulaire d'inscription disponible chez / registration form available at:

WWW.NDGS.COM Sport Au Gus & Play it Again Sports



of human conflict caused by scarcity.

Nouveau climat sur la Terre: comprendre, prédire, réagir by Hervé Le Treut – Written in layman's terms by a scientist, this book paints a global picture of the mechanics and effects of climate change and describes the actions that have to be undertaken to avert catastrophe. Le Treut discusses topics such as energy conservation policies and the development of alternative energies.

Books for children – Animals

Never Smile at a Monkey by Steve Jenkins – Did you know that it is dangerous to pet a platypus or to swim with a squid? Using beautiful collage images, the author explains what you should never do if you encounter certain animals.

SOS espèces menacées by Éric Baccaga – Children who love animals will appreciate this book with over 140 photographs of endangered animals and information on how we can help protect their fragile ecosystems.

DVDs

Bottleshock – In 1976, one small Napa Valley winery and its workers show the French that the world's wines will now come from the other red, white and blue.

Helvetica – From storefronts, street signs, product packaging, government

forms to advertisements, it is guaranteed that after viewing this scintillating documentary on typeface, you will be scanning the world examining Helvetica's continuing impact.

Magazines

“The planet versus Monsanto: Monsanto's first round of attackers said its seeds were evil. Now the charge is that Monsanto's seeds are too good” by Robert Langreth and Matthew Herper in *Forbes*, January 18, 2010, p. 64.

“Why Haiti Matters: In the tragic aftermath of Haiti's 7.0 earthquake, images of the disaster break our hearts and remind us of the fragility of life. What America must do now – and why” by Barack Obama in *Newsweek*, January 25, 2010, p. 20.

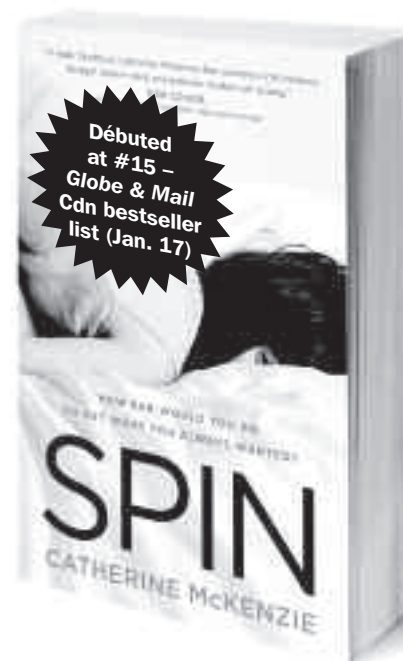
“La malédiction d'Haïti: frappée par un violent séisme mardi dernier, la République d'Haïti, déjà dévastée en 2008 par une série de cyclones, n'en finit pas de compter ses morts” by Katia Clarens in *Le Figaro*, January 16, 2010, p. 24.

Reference

Encyclopedia of Global Warming.

World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change.

Dictionnaire de la mode.



AVAILABLE WHEREVER
BOOKS ARE SOLD

He oughta' be in pictures

BY CHRISTINA BROWN

You know those movies that start with the hero in the saddest of circumstances? The ones where you already have a lump in your throat even before you've reached for a second handful of popcorn? But then a pretty lady like Sandra Bullock or a nice man like Tom Hanks comes along and saves the day?

Well, this may be one of those stories, only it's up to you to write the ending.

Cut to the cutest little darn dog in the world. An 8-month-old chocolate lab, all ears, feet and worried eyes. He's lying alone and afraid in a parking lot in the dead of winter in Montreal. His owners have abandoned him, and he sure doesn't know why. And to add insult to injury: he has two broken elbows, so he can't move at all.

When the SPCA discovered the furry little guy in their parking lot, they couldn't help him until the money was there for his



operation. And he needed an operation badly. It was already three weeks overdue. So Gerdy's Rescues and Adoption stepped in, and he got the surgery he desperately needed. Today he is on the slow road to recovery.

We called him Trooper because, well, it's pretty obvious, isn't it?

His story doesn't end here though. His wounds may be healing, but he has extensive physiotherapy ahead of him and more than anything needs a fabulous leading lady or man to step in and finish this story.

Whether it be a contribution towards his surgery or his adoption, you can play a part in turning this scary opening act around. We can hear the last line of the movie already: "I thought I was saving Trooper. It turns out he saved me."

Pass the Kleenex.

If you would like to help Trooper out, call Erika at 514.938.8114 or visit underdogclub.org. (Yes, donations can be made online.) Dog bless you.



Trooper, post operation.

photo: Marilyn Gelfand




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NEWS YOU CAN USE

Clear Out the Clutter: The Road to Happiness

Are you fed up with clutter? Physical clutter only serves to complicate our already-busy lives. Let's take command of the clutter we can eliminate – the clutter in our closets, basements, garages, and storage sheds.

Not only will you feel better, but by planning ahead you can help others out during these tough economic times by donating unwanted items.

Free Up Space: De-cluttering is the fastest way to free up space without adding cost or upkeep. In fact, less stuff means less cleaning. If you haven't used items within the past year, then it's time to toss them.

Possession Perspective: Save time and money by keeping a healthy perspective on your possessions. Many people are surprised by the sense of newfound freedom achieved by keeping a healthy attitude about belongings. Allow them to complement – not compete – with your life. Not only will you spend less by breaking the shopping habit, but it's often easier to organize and enjoy the things you keep without the headache and hassle associated with cluttered closets.

- Book donations can be made to the **McGill Book Fair** (514-398-5000), which raises funds for their worthy scholarship fund.
- **Share the Warmth**, 625 rue Fortune, Pte St-Charles (514-933-5599) will pick up household items, but no furniture. This organization gives directly to needy families. info@partageonstespoir.ca
- For more valuable items, think about **Galerie M**, a consignment specialty store. (514) 564-3600 www.galeriem.ca

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<div></div> <div>Westmount vous informe... Westmount vous informe... Westmount Page</div>		<div>www.westmount.org info : 514 989-5200</div> <div></div> <div>Vol. 4/05 Publié par Westmount • Published by Westmount</div>	
<div></div> <div>ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES Galerie : appel de dossiers La galerie du Victoria Hall lance un appel de dossiers pour sa programmation de la saison 2010-2011 (septembre 2010 à août 2011). Ce concours s'adresse aux artistes émergents ou professionnels qui habitent Westmount. Les artistes peuvent aussi appliquer pour l'exposition de groupe. Période d'inscription : du 15 février au 15 avril de chaque année. Les dossiers doivent être envoyés au soin du Comité de sélection, Victoria Hall, 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest, Westmount, H3Z 1E2 ou déposés au 4626, rue Sherbrooke Ouest. Info : 514 989-5521 ou victoriahall@westmount.org. Défilé de la Saint-Patrick Joignez-vous à nous le dimanche 14 mars à midi pour le 186^e défilé de la Saint-Patrick. Les laissez-passer pour monter à bord du char de Westmount sont disponibles au Victoria Hall seulement. Vous pouvez aussi vous joindre à notre groupe de marcheurs. Un autobus partira du Victoria Hall à 11 h 15 pour se rendre au site de départ. Info : 514 989-5226. Pièce de théâtre : Les habits neufs! La Division des événements communautaires est fière de présenter une pièce de théâtre s'adressant aux enfants de 2 à 4 ans en collaboration avec le Théâtre L'Illusion et le Conseil des arts de Montréal le mardi 23 mars à 11 h. Entrée libre. Info : 514 989-5226. 🌿 Bibliothèque Atwater : Conférences du midi Le jeudi 11 mars à 12 le Dr Hugh McQueen, professeur émérite en génie à l'Université Concordia, présentera un exposé sur le pont Victoria de Montréal à l'occasion du 150^e anniversaire de son inauguration. Le mercredi 17 mars à 12 h 30 le groupe CRAIC-ATAC souligne la Fête de la Saint-Patrick en jouant de la musique irlandaise traditionnelle avec joie de vivre. Le jeudi 11 mars à 19 h, le Atwater Poetry Project, sous la direction du poète Katia Grubisic, présente des lectures par Anne Compton et James Langer. Club de lecture de la Bibliothèque Atwater : le 17 mars à 19. Discussion : Earth and High Heaven de Gwethalyn Graham. 🌿</div>		<div></div> <div>DATES À RETENIR Le 13 mars – 16 h Fête d'Alice au pays des merveilles (4 ans et +) Bibliothèque   SPORTS ET LOISIRS Nouveau en 2010 – la démarche d'inscription aux activités a changé! Dans le but de vous offrir une démarche souple et sans complications, la Ville de Westmount prolonge la période d'inscription, vous garantissant ainsi une place aux programmes de votre choix. Finies les files d'attente aux Victoria Hall. Consultez notre site Web pour les nouvelles modalités d'inscription. Info : 514 989-5353. 🌿  BIBLIOTHÈQUE Conférences culturelles – Dossier mode : la maison Dior Joignez-vous à l'historienne Pamela Grimaud le mercredi 24 mars à 19 h pour un diaporama sur le couturier français Christian Dior. Info : 514 989-5386. Conférences sur la santé – Ce que toute femme devrait savoir: détection du cancer des ovaires Joignez-vous à la docteure Lucy Gilbert, directrice de l'équipe multidisciplinaire du groupe de gynéco-oncologie du CUSM qui parlera du projet DOVE et de la découverte d'une méthode permettant de poser un diagnostic précoce du cancer de l'ovaire. Cette présentation aura lieu le mercredi 17 mars à 19 h. Info: 514-989-5386. 🌿  TRAVAUX PUBLICS Projet de réfection de l'av. Greene : Séance d'information pour les résidents Le mardi 16 mars 2010 à 19 h au Centre Greene, 1090, av. Greene. 🌿</div>	
<div></div> <div>COMMUNITY EVENTS Gallery call for projects The Gallery at Victoria Hall announces a call for projects for its 2010-2011 exhibition season (September 2010 to August 2011). Emerging or professional artists who are residents of Westmount are invited to apply. Artists may also apply to participate in a group exhibition. Registration period: February 15 to April 15 of each year. Please forward your project to: Gallery Selection Committee, Victoria Hall, 4333 Sherbrooke St. West, Westmount, H3Z 1E2 or deliver it to 4626 Sherbrooke St. West. Info: 514 989-5521 or victoriahall@westmount.org. St. Patrick's Parade Join us for the 186th St. Patrick's Parade on Sunday, March 14! Board the Westmount Float or join the walking contingent. Passes are available at Victoria Hall only. A bus will transport participants from Victoria Hall to the float on Sunday at 11:15 a.m. Info: 514 989-5226. Theatre Performance: Les habits neufs The Community Events Division is proud to present a free puppet show for 2 to 4 year olds in collaboration with <i>Théâtre L'Illusion</i> and the <i>Conseil des arts de Montréal</i> on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 11 a.m. Info: 514 989-5226. Atwater Library: Lunchtime Series Thursday, March 11 at 12:30 p.m. Dr. Hugh McQueen, Concordia University emeritus professor of engineering, gives a presentation on Montreal's Victoria Bridge for its 150th anniversary. Wednesday, March 17 at 12:30 p.m. to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the group CRAIC-ATAC performs traditional Irish music with joie de vivre. The Atwater Poetry Project, Thursday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. led by poet Katia Grubisic, presents readings by poets Anne Compton and James Langer. The Atwater Library Book Club, Wednesday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. Author Mary Soderstrom leads a discussion of Earth and High Heaven by Gwethalyn Graham. 🌿</div>		<div> SPORTS & RECREATION NEW FOR 2010 – Activity registration is changing! The City of Westmount is extending the sports and recreation registration period to provide you with a flexible, hassle-free process with guaranteed access to your favourite programme. No more line-ups at Victoria Hall. Consult our Web site for details on how to register. Info: 514 989-5353 🌿  LIBRARY Cultural Lecture Series – Fashion Files: The House of Dior Join Pamela Grimaud for this visual presentation on iconic French fashion designer Christian Dior on Wednesday, March 24 at 7 p.m. Info: 514 989-5386. Health Lecture Series - What Every Woman Should Know: Detecting Ovarian Cancer Early Dr. Lucy Gilbert, Chief of the Oncology Division and the Director of the Multidisciplinary Gynecologic Oncology Team at the MUHC will discuss the DOVE program for early detection of ovarian cancer on Wednesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌿  PUBLIC WORKS Greene Ave. Refurbishing Project: Information Session for Residents Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 7 p.m. at the Greene Avenue Centre, 1090 Greene Ave. 🌿</div>	

Fanning the fitness flame



At Second Glance

HEATHER BLACK

The Vancouver winter Olympic games have come and gone, but will Olympic gold prompt Canadians to keep fit? As research shows that diabetes, heart disease, dementia and even school performance are worsened by inactivity, can we fan the fitness flame?

Fitness factor

As escalating inactivity and obesity rates also affect children, parents are encouraged to endorse team sports. A recent study by Duke University and Baylor College of Medicine found that when parents are supportive, physical activity in grade 5 students increases and excessive media use decreases.

But while many families encourage moderate to intense activity for boys, girls are often ignored. Lead researcher Cheryl Braselton Anderson recommends that parents “adopt a positive attitude toward all types of vigorous physical activities for boys and girls, and know that girls can and want to do them.”

Yet other research indicates that there is a fine line between parental pressure and encouragement.

Own the dream

Prior to the Olympics, a local study indicated that youth are more likely to pursue sports and other pastimes if they choose the activity and “nurture their own passion.” Published in the *Journal of Personality*, the McGill, UQAM and the Université de Montréal study distinguished between a healthy interest and an obsessive passion.

Researchers found that “controlling adults” – parents or coaches – often only show approval for performance excellence. For lead author Geneviève Mageau, this attitude creates an obsessive passion: “An activity then becomes highly important for self-protective reasons that don’t necessarily correspond with a child’s true desires.”

Being passionate about an activity then is not a personality trait, but “a special relationship one develops with an activity.” In other words, it is important for individuals, young or old, to own their dream.

Good policy

But while much has been made of Own

the Podium’s annual \$11-million price tag, if the Olympics encourage Canadians of all ages to exercise, it will be worth the cost. Take diabetes for instance. Sedentary lifestyles and obesity are two factors that contribute to Type 2, which afflicts 90 per cent of all diabetics.

According to the Canadian Diabetes Association, the annual cost for medicine is between \$1,000 to \$15,000 per person. By 2020, the estimated 3.7 million diabetics will cost our healthcare system – and Canadian taxpayers – \$16.9 billion a year. And those figures do not include the costs of hospital stays, sick leave or reduced GNP.

But the success of the Vancouver games might well change our sedentary ways. Last week, 39 percent of CTV respondents stated that they were now inspired to get fit. And if only 10 percent actually do improve their fitness levels, the savings to our health system would be huge. What is needed are programs and policies to encourage fitness.

As competitive races or games often spark a fitness goal, why not institute Olympic games for all ages at the municipal level? And why not here in Westmount?

The winning spirit

Local games would encourage individuals to set their own fitness goals. And as individuals develop their fitness program, “Own the Dream” would replace “Own the Podium.” And all Westmounters would benefit.

Heather Black is a Westmount communication designer. Contact her at: blackheajea@gmail.com.

Rotary calls for peace studies fellowship applicants

As part of Rotary District 7040, the Rotary Club of Westmount is seeking candidates for fellowships that sponsor graduate and post-graduate students. Application deadline is Wednesday, March 31.

The Rotary World Peace Fellowship, a \$70,000 scholarship, allows a winner to pursue a master’s degree in international studies, sustainable development, peace studies or conflict resolution at one of six Rotary Centers for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution. In addition, this year, applicants may select the three-month peace and conflict resolution certificate program at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

The Rotary district is also continuing its Ambassadorial Scholarship program that awards a one academic year scholarship of \$26,000 towards a master’s or PhD.

Applicants, who must meet criteria ranging from holding a bachelor’s degree to three years’ worth of relevant work experience, are selected based on their ability to have a significant impact on world peace and conflict resolution during their careers.

District 7040 includes 66 Rotary clubs in eastern Ontario, western Quebec and northern New York state.

For information, consult www.rotary7040.com or email the Rotary Club of Westmount info@rotarywestmount.org.



Appel aux artistes

Les artistes de Westmount sont invités à soumettre leurs dossiers pour la 11^e saison d'exposition de la galerie du Victoria Hall qui se tiendra de septembre 2010 à août 2011.

Ce concours s'adresse aux artistes émergents et professionnels résidant à Westmount. Les candidatures sont acceptées pour des expositions solo ou partagées.

PÉRIODE D'INSCRIPTION ANNUELLE
du 15 février au 15 avril

Invitation to Artists

The Gallery at Victoria Hall welcomes proposals from Westmount artists for its eleventh exhibition season, which will take place from September 2010 to August 2011.

This competition is open to emerging and professional artists residing in Westmount. Applications are considered for solo and group exhibitions.

ANNUAL REGISTRATION PERIOD
February 15 to April 15

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Special dance program offered to children as part of research study

A new dance program slated to get underway this month at Westmount's YMCA is touted as the first of its kind on the island of Montreal.

Part of a McGill University graduate student's thesis study, the free, "integrated dance" program welcomes children, ages 6 through 9, with or without physical disabilities, to learn new dance techniques together every Sunday between 3 and 4 pm from March 28 until June 13.

Zitomer describes integrated dance as an inclusive, also known as mixed abilities dance "in which participants with and without a disability participate together." She explained that all group members

have the same opportunity "to explore movement potential and collaborate with others to enhance the creative and learning process."

Michelle Zitomer, completing her master's degree in adapted physical activity, invites parents and other interested parties to an information session on Sunday, March 21, at 3 pm at the Westmount YMCA (4585 Sherbrooke St.). Consent forms will be offered to parents interested in enrolling their children in the dance program.

For more information, contact Zitomer at michelle.zitomer@mail.mcgill.ca or call 514.812.4184.

Ovarian cancer talk at the library

Dr. Lucy Gilbert will give a talk about the McGill University Health Centre's DOVE project (Detecting Ovarian Cancer Early) at the Westmount Public Library on Wednesday, March 17 at 7 pm.

The lecture is called "Detecting Ovarian Cancer Early: What Every Woman Should Know."

The DOVE team has set up what is reported to be the world's first ever rapid access diagnostic center for the early

detection of ovarian cancer at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

Since stage I ovarian cancer is curable by surgery alone over 90 percent of the time, the key to saving lives is to increase the proportion of women diagnosed in stage I, say event organizers.

To reserve a place or for more information, contact Monica McDougall at 514.934.1934 ext. 71243 or monica.mcdougall@muhc.mcgill.ca.

avenue Greene Greene Avenue



Projet de réfection

Rencontre d'échange
d'information pour les citoyens

Refurbishing Project

Exchange of Information
Meeting

La Ville de Westmount procèdera à la réfection de l'avenue Greene entre les rues Sherbrooke et Ste-Catherine en 2010. Ce projet portera sur la chaussée, les trottoirs, le mobilier urbain et les éléments de verdure.

Vos commentaires et suggestions sont essentiels à l'amélioration de cette artère patrimoniale. Une rencontre publique aura lieu :

le mardi 16 mars 2010 à 19 h
Centre Greene, 1090, av. Greene

The City of Westmount will undertake a major refurbishing of Greene Avenue between Sherbrooke and Ste-Catherine streets in 2010 encompassing the roadway, sidewalks, street furniture and greenery.

Your comments and advice are essential to the enhancement of this historic artery. A public meeting will take place on:

Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 7 p.m.
Greene Avenue Centre, 1090 Greene Ave.



Westmount

Service des travaux publics
Public Works Department

Info : 514 989-5268
www.westmount.org

Mother and daughter torties



This wonderful mother-daughter duo of gorgeous tortoiseshell cats is being fostered together, after being saved from a shelter, and it would be best if they went to their next family together as well.

Holly is the mother cat and Ivy is her female kitten. They both get along with dogs and other friendly cats, so they would fit into a home routine very easily.

Holly is one-and-a-half years old and loves to be fussed over. She is delightful, curious and trusting. She loves to play and nap in a patch of sunlight. She is healthy, now



Ivy



Holly

spayed and up-to-date with her vaccinations.

Daughter Ivy, is about 8 months old. She is friendly and affectionate. And judging by her level of interactive play with toys on a stick, she is a bright kitten. She is very healthy, spayed and vaccinated. She really enjoys a home setting where she can look out the window at birds and passersby. Ivy is also a closet explorer, like so many other kittens!

For more information on these striking torties, Holly and Ivy, please contact Gerdy's Rescue and Adoptions at 514.203.9180 or email her at info@gerdys-rescue.org.

Please write to us!

For consideration, letters to the editor must be identified as "for publication," be under 300 words and have authors' customary first and last names, and street names, all of which will be published. Please also include contact information (for follow-up purposes only). We do not publish letters regarding consumer complaints or inter-neighbour disputes. Letters will be edited for length, content and style. Please check your letter carefully. We may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. If you do make amendments, please "redline" them instead of resending the whole letter. Send them to indie@westmountindependent.com



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14 mars 2010

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Entrée
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Admission

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Westmounters attend U of T reunion



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Earlier this year, the University of Toronto (U of T) hosted a cocktail party for 100 out-of-town and in-town alumni at the venerable Mount Stephen Club.

Organizers referred to the club as “one of Montreal’s grand houses” and selected the venue especially to show alumni a location of significance in Montreal.

Arriving from Toronto were **David Peterson**, former premier of Ontario, and chancellor of U of T; **Rivi Frankle**, assistant vice president alumni and stakeholder relations and **Teo Salgado**, manager, regional programs.

Delicious delights created by club chef **Frank Barbusci** were enjoyed by all guests.

The event was part of a series of receptions that will be hosted by Chancellor Peterson, who has a law degree from U of T. He also studied at the University of Caen. In 1994, he was awarded France’s prestigious Knight of the Order of the Legion of Honour. Peterson is currently senior partner and chairman at the Toronto law firm of Cassel, Brock & Blackwell.

The purpose of the event was to introduce the chancellor to Montreal-area alumni and to reacquaint them and their friends with the University of Toronto.

The reception also provided an opportunity to talk about what is believed to be the current underfunding for post secondary education in Canada and the importance of private support.

There are 2,700 U of T alumni currently living in Montreal.



Westmounter Reford McDougall and U of T grad Rae Turley.



David Peterson, chancellor U of T.



From left, Westmounters Marvin Epstein and Annette Hellmeister, with Milica and Michael Vachon.



From left, Westmounters Marielle and Michael Wertheimer, with Rivi Frankle, U of T assistant VP alumni relations.

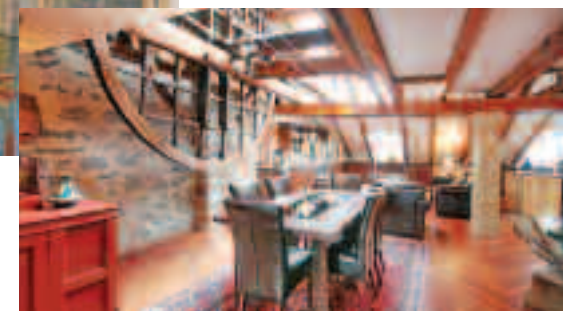
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Banishing loneliness through neighbourhood parties

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Mary Major has a mission. Although the Victoria Ave. resident has helped hundreds of emotionally distressed people through a therapy group she leads, formerly known as Mary's Recovery, she's now out to banish loneliness altogether with neighbourhood gatherings to which everyone is invited.

Since last summer when she first started, Major has hosted a half-dozen informal get-togethers in her home. In so doing, she has helped bring together residents on Chesterfield, Victoria, Grosvenor, Winchester, Windsor, Somerville, York and Claremont.

Loneliness in Westmount

It was while serving as a volunteer animator at the Westmount Y for the recovery group that she concluded there was a lot of loneliness in and around Westmount.

"People live in communities of two if they're lucky enough to have a partner," she said.

"But if they keep to themselves as they age, they can end up completely lost. More and more people live isolated – in a kind of bubble. They don't socialize with others. They're only with each other. So it's very traumatic when they lose their partner."

Major, who retired a decade ago after a long career as a cognitive behavioural specialist with the RCMP and Canadian

Forces, initially experimented with holding block parties on the street, but decided it was too much trouble to close access to traffic. Since her home sits on a large lot set far back from Victoria, she decided to hold her gatherings in the front yard.

Few expenses

According to Major, the expenses involved in staging one of the parties are relatively few. "Potluck can be a lot of work to people who are already cooking for their own families, so I just tell them to bring a sample of their favourite cheese and a bottle of wine," she said, adding that the wine can be non-alcoholic. If the guests want to make tea on her stove, they can.

On average, about 40 neighbours attend. In order to encourage people to get to know each other, she has everyone wear a tag on which they have written their name, address and up to five life interests.

Having come from a family of 11 children, Major said she has always had a gregarious nature and she gets a lot of enjoyment out of staging the parties.

"The research in neuroscience, which is my passion, says that the more stimulating people you meet, the more creative you are," she said.

"We've discovered so many fascinating people. Sometimes I've had more than 100 people come to my house. Where else could you meet that many wonderful people, so easily, for so little cost?"



Mary Major outside her Victoria Ave. home, where she stages gatherings for residents from nearby streets.



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If Quebec is to succeed in hockey, checking must be taught younger



Off-Sidel

NOAH SIDEL

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Ask people what the highlight of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games was, and I'd bet a brand new one-piece stick that a majority will choose Sidney Crosby's gold medal-winning overtime goal against the US.

But while I truly believe this was the best Olympics I've ever seen and this edition of Team Canada was unbelievable, there was one negative that stood out for me throughout the competition.

Why was there only one Quebec-born non-goalie on the team?

Take a look at this year's edition of Team Canada: Aside from defensive zone face-off specialist Patrice Bergeron – who was on the bubble to make the team at all – there were no other players from La Belle Province on the team who didn't come in goalie format.

Indeed, while Bergeron was the only Quebecer represented outside of the crease, all three net-minders were Quebecers.

cers.

At least we get that part of the game right.

The answer, as far as I'm concerned, is because checking is not properly taught in this province.

The lack of checking until Bantam double letters kills Quebec's ability to develop top-notch players at the same rate as the rest of Canada. It is an essential part of hockey as we know it, and the development of our players is suffering greatly because we don't teach it properly.

Now, I'm not talking about fighting. Let's be very clear – this has nothing to do with fighting. That's one thing I would ban from the game the world over, but that's another subject altogether.

There's nothing like a good hit in the corner to free up the puck and pass it out in front of the net for a one-timer. Or an open-ice Scott Stevens-on-Paul Kariya-style melée that teaches people to skate with their heads up, which in turn opens up the game.

Take a look at the women's game, and you can tell there's a certain something missing from the action – contact.

Clean hitting has always been and always will be a fundamental part of the men's game, and as a province, we've fallen – and are continuing to fall – even further behind.

The problem is that kids in Quebec don't

continued on p. 18

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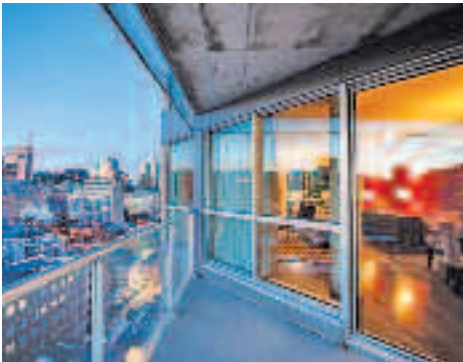
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Checking in hockey

continued from p. 17

learn to hit, so they don't develop as well at the higher level. Kids in Ontario and a handful of other provinces teach how to hit as low as the elite Atom level, and then others teach it at the higher house league levels in Peewee. Take a look at the development of American hockey players over the last 10 to 15 years. They also start hitting at a very young age, and in many areas, at the higher house league levels.

Basically it comes down to a safety issue. Hockey Quebec has deemed that hitting isn't safe and therefore should be avoided until the higher levels, and even then should only be practiced at an elite

level.

Well that's unacceptable if we as a province want to develop high-level players. The game has changed, and if you can't hit or take a hit properly, the odds will be stacked against you at the highest levels.

There are ways of teaching hitting that make it for the most part safe, and I'm not advocating hitting for low-level hockey.

Kids need to learn how to play the game properly, and if we're not going to teach it that way, then we'll have to get used to having little to no representation at the higher levels.

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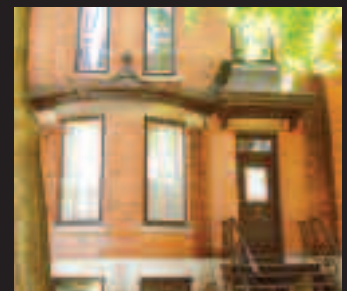
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