

CEOs reach the pinnacle



Back row: Jim West, Chris Kuflik, Anthony Zitzman, Greg Menzies, Murray Horner, Michael Denham. Front row: Dave Stenason, Bruce Maxwell, Andrew Kerklaan, Doug Buchanan, Jonathan Goldbloom and Alan Pinchuk. For story, see p. 16.

Photo: Westmount Sports and Recreation

The Kings rule



Top row: Kippy Wiegand, Zack Feldman, Matthew Ciampini, Alexandre Dostaler, Aiden Talai and Daniel Cercone. Bottom row: Sam Pearl, Alexander Salazinski, Brandon Pinchuk, Thibault Davet, Roderick Leider, Nicholas Martin and Philip Cutler. See story, p. 16.

Photo: Patrick Martin

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 4 No. 4c We are Westmount April 20-21, 2010

Westmount to have input into aggro budget



Westmount Page p. 20

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It’s probably as much good news as Westmount taxpayers could expect to receive in terms of next year’s agglomeration budget. In fact, the good news likely extends to Montrealers as well.

At a press conference April 15, Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay accepted a recommendation from Westmount mayor Peter Trent on behalf of demerged suburbs to introduce a completely new and open process for drawing up the Montreal and agglomeration budget.

This includes extending a voice to the suburbs, starting the budget process as early as April and providing for it to be

overseen by the Finance commission. These were all recommendations made in a minority report by Trent (see story February 26, p. 15).

“This is a huge change in direction,” he told the *Independent*. “It was a pleasant and unexpected surprise.” The proposed process would give the suburbs input and reduce the Montreal’s executive committee’s control over the budget.

Trent to sit on Finance commission

As a result of the changes, Trent plans to switch his participation at that level from the Environment commission to the Finance commission.

Also revealed at the

continued on p. 23




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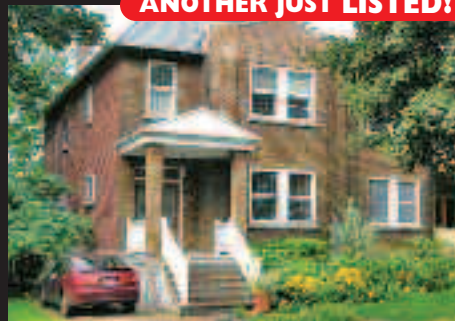
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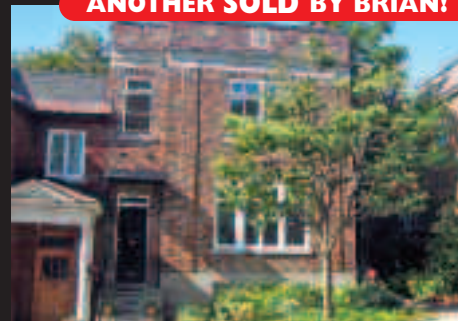
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Metro grocery store owner: Westmount's tastes are distinct



Doreen Lindsay, president of the Westmount Historical Association (WHA), listens to Graham Fletcher, owner and manager of Westmount's Metro supermarket, during the WHA-hosted event, April 15.

BY ISAAC OLSON

With a strong taste for healthy foods, Westmounters set the city apart from the rest of the province, according to Metro franchise owner Graham Fletcher, who

compared old times to new during a presentation at Westmount Public Library on April 15.

"Westmount is not the same as the rest of Quebec," said Fletcher, speaking as *continued on p. 8*

Two Grosvenor accidents one day apart Collision causes minor injuries

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Firefighters had to use extrication tools to free a 45-year-old driver from one of two cars that collided Monday, April 12 at Grosvenor and The Boulevard, police said. The victim was taken to hospital sustaining injuries reported as slight. His 13-year-old daughter in the car was not hurt.

The previous day, another accident at Grosvenor and Westmount Ave., just after noon, caused minor damage to the traffic light at the northeast corner. It was hit by one of the two cars involved, public safety officers said. No injuries were reported.

PSOs were called to help with the crossing of Roslyn School students Monday when the lights remained inoperative.

The victim in Monday's accident had been heading north around 3:45 pm when the Volkswagen he was driving was struck on the driver's door by an eastbound Jeep.

The number of emergency vehicles on the scene and its busy location attracted considerable concern among passersby and local residents. There were, however, no witnesses, police said.

The northbound driver stated he had

the green light while the eastbound driver was reported to have thought the light was yellow in that direction.

Police said it is always a safety measure to proceed cautiously when a light turns green to ensure the intersection is free of traffic before starting up.

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ROSEMOUNT – WESTMOUNT



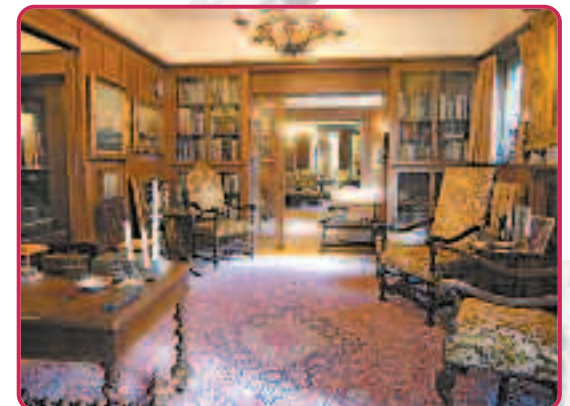
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What does it ‘cost’ to become a city councillor?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

How much did it cost to run for election as a city councillor in Westmount last November? Anything from nothing to more than \$3,100, according to election expenses tabled April 6.

And high-end spending did not necessarily translate into success on the campaign trail, as an *Independent* analysis of expenses reveals.

The highest spender was Mavis Young, whose authorized costs of \$3,188 worked out to \$10.06 per vote cast for her in District 7. This ended up being considerably lower, however, than the vote cost of \$14.41 to René Pelletier in District 5 where he spent “only” \$1,311 by comparison, also to lose the race.

Taken to the other extreme, Michael Osterland’s unsuccessful bid in District 6 cost him not a single penny in his last-minute contestation in which he garnered 160 votes.

Obtained top value

The contested candidate who received best value for money spent turned out to be Kathleen Duncan. She won District 4 with a mere \$372 to bring home the largest majority and the greatest number of votes (436) of the entire election. Each vote “cost” her 85 cents.

“Instead of spending money on promotional material, I counted on personal

contact,” Duncan said. “I called at every door and talked to people personally.”

She had a single-page card printed up to hand out at each address and placed simple ads for three weeks in the *Independent*. “Even though it looked as if I was going to be acclaimed, I started my canvassing early on and was well on the way when I was contested at the last minute.”

By comparison, the second most successful winner, Nicole Forbes in District 6, spent \$5.04 for each of her 309 votes for a total of \$1,558.

Interestingly, two of the highest spenders faced off against each other in District 8, where Theodora Samiotis spent \$2,137 to unseat John de Castell by 24 votes. This was only \$2 less than his expenditures. As a result, his votes cost \$10.70 each compared with hers at \$9.54.

Combined, the average cost of their votes (\$10.08) exceeded even the average of those in the four-way race in District 5 of \$7.14.

Refundable expenses

In general, candidates who achieved at least 15 percent of the vote in their district were eligible to receive back 50 percent of qualifying expenses from the city.

Their refund, however, cannot exceed their own personal contribution or amount of debt arising from election expenses, said city finance official Dominic Agostino.

Only one candidate failed to obtain the minimum eligibility. That was René Pelletier with 13 percent of the vote in District 5. As a result, none of his \$1,310 in expenses was refundable.

Of the three uncontested candidates – Mayor Peter Trent, and councillors Patrick Martin and Victor Drury – only the latter had any expenses, \$289 for leaflets printed up in advance.

In the three-way fight between candidates in District 2, winner Tim Price spent \$2,117. Each of his 234 votes came at a high price of \$9.05 each compared to those of his opponents. Philip Cutler spent almost half at \$1,121 for his 192 votes (\$5.08 each) while Clare Kruyt spent \$732 for her 104 votes or \$7.04 each.

Spending ceilings for concillors ranged from \$3,296 to \$3,556 based on the number of eligible voters in each district.

Authorized expenses

Candidates in contest seats	%	Votes	Expenses	Cost/vote
District 2				
T. Price	44	234	\$2,117	\$9.05
P. Cutler	36	192	\$1,121	\$5.84
C. Kruyt	19	104	\$732	\$7.04
District 4				
K. Duncan	76	436	\$372	\$0.85
N. Smith	23	135	\$730	\$5.41
District 5				
G. Ikeman	40	278	\$1,893	\$6.81
G. Hébert	30	208	\$822	\$3.95
D. Leahey	16	109	\$871	\$8.00
R. Pelletier	13	91	\$1,311	\$14.41
District 6				
N. Forbes	73	309	\$1,558	\$5.04
M. Osterland	26	110	\$0	\$0
District 7				
C. Lulham	53	361	\$759	\$2.10
M. Young	46	317	\$3,188	\$10.06
District 8				
T. Samiotis	52	224	\$2,137	\$9.54
J. de Castell	47	200	\$2,139	\$10.70
Acclaimed				
Mayor P. Trent		\$0		
District 1				
P. Martin		\$0		
District 3				
V. Drury		\$289		

Bringing book clubs together for April 28

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Westmount Public Library’s annual wine and cheese get-together for book club members in Westmount will celebrate the popularity of these groups in the community.

Taking place at the library on April 28 at 6 pm, the event is being organized by the library for the sixth consecutive year.

“The great thing about this is the opportunity it provides for people to meet each other from different book clubs, share resources and exchange ideas,” said outreach librarian Donna Lach.

“The celebration is open to all Westmount book clubs as well as all Westmounters who belong to book clubs even through the clubs may not be located here,” she said. “All we ask is that one member from each club brings us its reading list which we can photocopy and distribute to others.”

Residents looking to join a book club are also welcome, she added. Anyone planning to attend is asked to call the library before April 26 at 514.989.5386.

While the library is aware of at least 15 book clubs in Westmount, Lach said, “we know there are a lot of them out there and some may not have received invitations, though they are included.” Fully a dozen private book clubs hold their meetings at the library.

The celebration will also enable those attending to meet library director Julie-Anne Cardella, who assumed the position October 5.

The library itself operates three adult book clubs in addition to those for teens and younger children. These include English and French adult clubs and the Readers to Readers club. The latter has no set book list.

“It enables members to hear about what others are reading and what books have the buzz,” Lach said. It sometimes sets a reading trend at the library as well. “The book *Little Bee* [by Chris Cleave] became a hit after being discussed. All of a sudden, 30 people were asking to read it.”

Lach said the library knows first hand about the great number of book club members in Westmount from the number of requests for the library’s popular “Book Club in a Bag”.

This is a service it offers, supplying book clubs with a bag containing 10 copies of a particular title along with a binder containing relevant reviews and information.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

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**Don Wedge
is working on
his next column.**

March crime statistics

Thefts in cars double, tickets up

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

While most crime barometers in Westmount remained constant in March, the number of thefts in cars rose from 10 to 21, the most recorded since 35 last July. Police said the current rash of thefts was unexplained.

Traffic control as requested by citizens and the city council continued to be a priority of local Station 12 during the month and will receive an ongoing focus, particularly concerning the bike path, said commander Stéphane Plourde.

“It’s very important for me to ensure that our officers work to keep traffic accidents as low as possible and to target problem areas,” he said in releasing crime and accident statistics in Westmount for

sented at the city council meeting April 6 asking for increased bicycle safety (see story, p. 8).

This year’s bike patrol is being drawn from a special group at Station 12 called MAP (*Module d’action par projet*), which often patrols under cover. The bike patrol will also keep an eye open for perpetrators of graffiti – another combined priority of the city and police.

Graffiti arrests, admissions

Two weeks ago, four young adults were arrested by MAP agents at St. Catherine and Atwater in connection with graffiti incidents in both Westmount and Montreal, Plourde said.

As well, two juvenile taggers from a Westmount school turned themselves in

Crime sampling from Station 12

October '09 to March '10 – Westmount

Type of crime reported	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Break and enter	15	5	6	2	3	5
Robbery (theft with violence)	2	1	3	0	2	2
Theft from vehicles	10	15	16	10	10	21
Theft of vehicles	2	2	0	5	2	1
Graffiti	17	20	6	7	11	13

March, along with identifying upcoming priorities.

A total of 451 tickets were issued in March, including 160 for speeding. This represents an overall increase from 424 the previous month when 90 were handed out for exceeding the speed limit.

Police will be paying special attention to the three most accident-prone intersections in 2009, he explained. Two of these involved Greene Ave., where nine accidents were recorded and at de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine. Victoria and Sherbrooke accounted for six.

Bike patrol launched April 13 to monitor bike path and graffiti

Announcing the April 13 start of the summer bicycle patrol, Plourde told the *Independent* the patrol would consist of three officers this year – an increase from the usual two. Their directives include cracking down on cyclists going through stop signs and red lights on the bike path, as well as speeding.

Plourde said he plans to ask Westmount to install 20 km/h signage on the bike route to conform to speed limits on the Montreal portion.

He also said he was paying close attention to a petition signed by 76 persons pre-

recently at Station 12 accompanied by their parents.

It was not yet known what action would be taken against the two groups, he said. City council at its meeting April 6 ratified an agreement between the city and Station 12 making it easier to exchange information on the identity of persons known to be involved in graffiti.

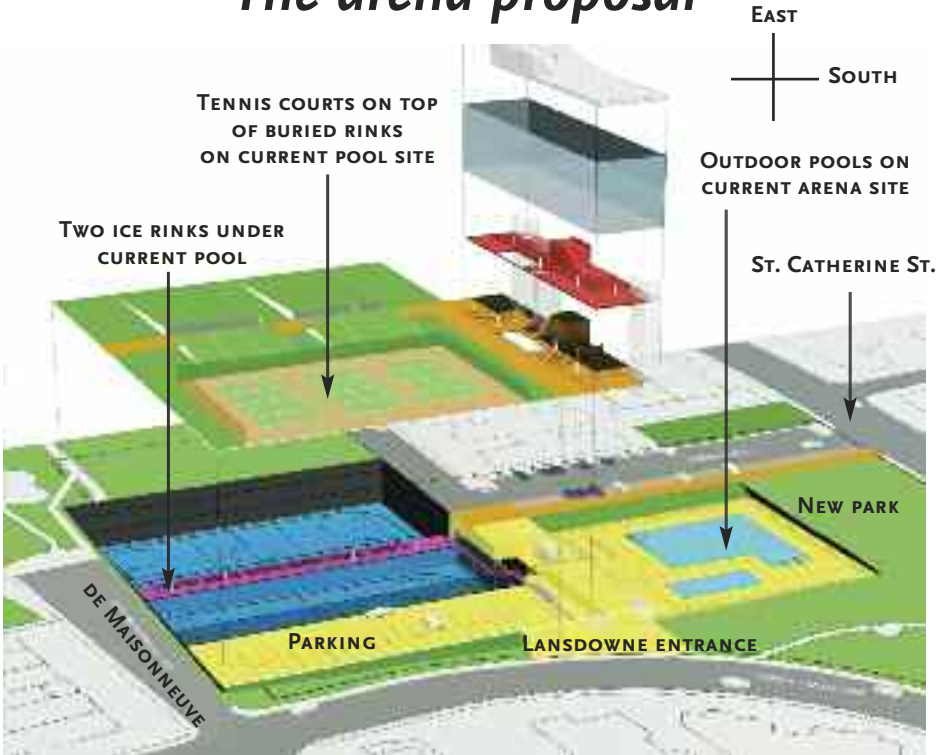
Pedestrian campaign

With the current pedestrian safety campaign underway until May 2, police will be issuing \$42 tickets to pedestrians who jaywalk and fail to obey traffic signals. Even at the controversial pedestrian crossing at Victoria and Sherbrooke, “Don’t be surprised to receive a ticket for crossing horizontally if you see a police officer standing there with a book of tickets in hand,” Plourde warned.

“There’s plenty of time to cross both ways on the one light, and it’s not safe to allow horizontal crossing at one place when it’s not permitted and unsafe at another.”

The ongoing issue of so-called scrambled crossings had been raised once again at the April 6 council session (see story April 13, p. 6).

The arena proposal



Exploded view of proposed arena/pool complex. For more, see our April 13 issue, p. 1 Image: lemay associés

You wanted to know

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Independent readers have been swift to react to a story about the proposed plan relayed in even greater detail in a mayor’s letter and information package mailed to all households last week. This mailing did not arrive at many homes until after these questions were asked.

The *Indie* asked Mayor Peter Trent the following questions, and also received comment from Councillor Patrick Martin, who chairs the arena/pool complex.

1. Will the Lansdowne dog run disappear or be relocated elsewhere in the neighbourhood?

The plan allows for it to remain as is.

2. Will the huge tree in the dog run, believed to be one of the oldest in Westmount, be protected?

Yes.

3. “Your news article re the new arena/pool project indicated an average annual \$200 tax increase to cover Westmount’s contribution to the project cost but should also have indicated for how many years.”

The story states that financing will take over 10 years, so the \$200 increase would, of course, be added to the tax bill every year. It should be noted, however, Martin adds, that the increasing cost of operating the arena and pool in the present deteriorating condition and of renovation would add some \$150 a year to the average tax bill.

4. Will the purification facility for the pools be based on ozone or chlorine? (“The ozone method is superior but more costly and some people cannot tolerate the chlorinated pool water.”)

Such detail as this has not been worked out since the proposal is only at the conceptual stage.

5. Will the refrigeration system for the ice rinks be designed to act as a heat pump to heat the facility in winter and conserve energy?

Yes.

The mayor’s letter and information mailing, as well as additional studies regarding traffic and other issues, are available at the Westmount Public Library.

Electronic *Independents* available

Enjoy the *Indie* at supper time on Tuesdays! Sign up by writing us: office@westmountindependent.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR – ARENA, ARENA, ARENA!

STUMPED BY LACK OF DETAIL

We were promised details on the operating costs, these are missing. Does the projected \$200 tax increase also cover operating costs?

On LEED it is disappointing that only Silver is being aimed for – all new federal buildings as well as municipal buildings in Montreal must be at least Gold. There are no details on the heating system – the previous project was purported to use natural gas. This would be unconscionable in today’s CO2-challenged times, especially in a province rich in clean hydroelectricity.

Why no indoor pool? I thought the project submitted for the federal infrastructure funds was the “rink/pool project” – not the “rink/outdoor pool project”.

What happens if the fund-raising campaign doesn’t meet its objectives? Will taxpayers be required to make up the shortfall?

Finally, the survey asks for one input per household – this surely makes the male/female question misleading and redundant if the input is supposed to represent the entire family unit. Similarly, for the age question, as there should be an age range for each member of the household.

I personally cannot decide whether to support the project or not until all the missing information is supplied.

PAUL MARRIOTT, GROSVENOR AVE.

Marriott forwarded a copy to Mayor Peter Trent. Here is his response:

I don’t agree that the “mailing lacks detail,” especially when one keeps in mind (as the mailing makes clear) that we are putting forward a *proposal*: we did not wish to spend the money – and we don’t have the time – to develop detailed plans and specifications before getting a go-ahead from citizens.

Also mentioned in the mailing is that, while the arena/pool operating costs will increase, they will be more than offset by increased revenues, giving a net tax increase of \$200 per average single-family dwelling.

It is crucial to remember that if we don’t go ahead with this proposal, it will cost taxpayers a lot more than a \$200 tax increase – because we will lose the grants and the arena and pool cannot be left the way they are for very long.

The LEED certification process itself can be very costly; this is why we are being conservative in that regard and waiting until we have more detailed plans. But the whole concept of going underground is ecologically the best thing we could possibly do.

The mailing also explains why we are

not proposing an indoor pool: the grants are specific to an outdoor pool and it would double the cost to the taxpayer.

Details of the fundraising were missing from the mailing for the very good reason that the schools and foundations I have talked to so far are very interested in contributing, but are not prepared to go public with amounts as yet. If fundraising money does not come in as expected, yes, taxpayers will have to pick up the difference. But if we don’t go ahead with the proposal, we would get little or no donations at all.

Lastly, we kept the number of questions in the survey to a minimum: the more questions asked, the lower the response rate.

PETER F. TRENT, MAYOR

ARENA ‘NAYSAYER’ MAY BE COMING AROUND

I have long been one of the “naysayers” of the arena project that was proposed by the old council. My main objection to it was the lack of respect for keeping the green spaces and infringing on the people that live in the immediate vicinity. I must say that, after reading last week’s issue of the *Indie*, I may have changed my mind.

Regardless of the fact that life will be hell with all the construction going on, the plans proposed are much more acceptable than the other ones ever were. It is keeping our green space, not blocking the view of any residents and seems to be spreading the parking over more of an area instead of congesting it in one spot.

Kudos to the new council.

Just one question on my part. It is not clear if the dog run is going to be affected. This might be answered in whatever info package is coming around, plus I do not use the dog run, but I am sure many people who do are wondering. *

BELINDA BOWES, ACADEMY RD.

* See answer on p. 5

CON: AIR QUALITY AND 4-MONTH POOL ARE THE DOWNSIDE

With the position of the swimming pool, has anybody thought about the amount of exhaust fumes from the many cars driving along St. Catherine, plus the fumes from the Westmount Public Works trucks, plus the ones from the new hospital?

The first thing you do when you swim or dive is breathe deeply. Do you want our children and swimmers to suffocate?

On top of that you have placed the park-

ing in the middle of the park.* Wouldn’t it be more reasonable to switch the parking and the swimming pool?

As we are going into big expenditures, why will we have, again, a pool we use only four months a year? A covered pool with large panels open in the summer, and close, warm and usable in the winter would be more sensible.

MICHELINE VAISMAN,
UPPER ROSLYN AVE.

** Ed.’s note: It is our understanding that the parking lot is under the proposed tennis courts with vehicle access from Lansdowne Ave., and not “in the middle of the park.”*

PRO: DESIGN INSPIRING

This is an inspired design! With a stroke it opens and greens the area, while still providing two rinks, full tennis courts and a pool. It will bring functionality, accessibility and, most of all, community to our city and to our youth. Surely this is worth the \$2,000 average per household estimated cost over a 10-year period. I urge all Westmounters to endorse this plan; together we will step into the 21st century!

AREN PRUPAS, PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

ARENA SHOULD ONLY SERVE LOCALS; REDUCE TRAFFIC

Having just read “Going Underground” (April 13, p. 1), I must congratulate the current administration for having addressed most of the concerns relating to the new arena complex.

There are two issues, however, that are part and parcel of the basic concept of the two full-sized rink solution that must be carefully considered by Westmount citizens.

First and foremost is cost. Do Westmounters truly want to increase taxes and the city’s indebtedness to the extent that is necessary in order to achieve an aesthetically appealing solution to the problem of shoe-horning a large facility in a limited space? The current estimates are for a total cost of \$37 million, which will most likely end up to be quite a bit higher.

The other issue is one of increased traffic load for the local residents. While there is a question as to whether the real hockey needs of the community justify such a large project, presumably if in fact these needs are overly optimistic then there will not be any additional traffic load. I think it would be important that the city administration provide a commitment to the local residents that the hockey facility be reserved for community use only.

If the real community needs have been overestimated and there is spare capacity,

it should not be rented out to cover the costs to operate the facility or to service the debt. That would definitely increase the traffic load, making the local residents bear the consequences of a project too large for the community’s own needs.

ALDO VESNAVER, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

PRO: BETTER FOR KIDS’ HEALTH

As a health-care professional, I am writing to urge that Westmount residents get together and strongly support starting construction of the new arena project ASAP.

I am not currently a user of the arena, but I will certainly become a user of this new one when it is built.

Obtaining federal infrastructure funding for expanded, beautiful new athletic facilities for the city struck me as a real coup! It also seemed a gloriously opportune chance to begin to remedy the negative impact that our modern era has had on our children’s fitness and health. Our kids’ backsides have widened, their jeans have ballooned, and their average weights, cholesterol levels, glucose levels and blood pressures have soared!

Today’s kids are submerged beneath a veritable tsunami of junk food, of empty calories, and of gallon-sized soda-pop containers containing ever higher levels of high-fructose corn syrup. It was a shock for me to discover that extra-large drinks in European cinemas did not reach the size of the “small” containers at our local cinemas!

Activities that our kids consider to be “cool” have become increasingly sedentary. Zealously overprotective parents now drive their overscheduled kids back and forth the five or six blocks to their schools and activities, overburden them with homework, and ban them from moving about freely outdoors for nebulous fear of bad things happening to them!

Hey people, only about 175 children get abducted by strangers yearly in Canada while we have approximately 800,000 children 5-14 years of age who are overweight and, as a result, are likely to live 15-30 years less long than those who are not!

For example, one in every three children born in 2000 will develop Type 2 diabetes if current trends continue.

When I started practising medicine in the 1970s, diabetic comas, strokes, heart attacks, and leg ulcers due to venous insufficiency were rare in patients under 20 years of age – today they are not! Please let’s get our priorities straight and put no further impediments
in the way of a project

continued on p. 7

Arena-debate regulars weigh in on newest proposal

CON: COST LIKELY TO RISE

The headline in the April 13 issue of the *Independent*, “Going Underground!”, gives readers a powerful, yet ironic image of the “latest arena concept” with an “estimated cost of \$37 million.” Why? Because the “ultimate green roof” described in the city’s mailing can mask the economic reality underlying this latest plan.

Mayor and council have done a very good job addressing citizen concerns, and they have produced a plan aesthetically superior to anything preceding it.

Nonetheless, citizens should cast a cold look at the exponential curve of rising expenditures for this project: \$16 million, \$24 million, \$36 million. It is a familiar Quebec story: increase the baseline of any estimated cost by at least 50 percent to get the real, final amount.

The *Independent* article ends with the idea that a quick citizen response is needed because interest rates “are on the rise” and the new super-hospital means “construction costs could increase.” Precisely. And this council, even as it tries to do the right thing now, will not be able to contain the mathematical logic that has driven this project from inception.

The ultimate cost of the latest plan, I believe, will be much more than the \$37 million we are presented with. There is a hint of inflated future costs in the money already spent in contracts for Lemay (\$1.3 million), Ipsos, Sodem, soil-sampling, the traffic study and fees ancillary to the major lobbying effort to get government funds.

True, Westmount will have a stunning, hockey centre where even the Canadiens would be able to play, “unique in North

America,” as the *Independent* points out. But is that an arena and pool project for the community? And will its cost be one that taxpayers wish to assume? The choice is ours to make – and pay for.

PATRICK BARNARD, MELVILLE AVE.

PRO: THINKING FOUND SOLUTION

Congratulations to council and to all those who contributed to create a fantastic revised arena project. You are the reason Westmount remains the best city in Canada. Once again, our community has proven, in the words of Voltaire, that “no problem can withstand the assault of sustained thinking.”

Twenty years from now, just as with the library renovation project 20 years ago, all Westmounters will be extremely proud of what was achieved today.

ADAM CUTLER, WESTMOUNT AVE.

CON: NEW ICE TO CAUSE MELT-DOWN?

The mayor along with his council, including the four holdovers from the previous council, unveiled a third “new” (sic) set of expensive architectural plans for a multi-level hockey arena. It appears that Westmount citizens are now being asked to pay for an architectural project never having been done anywhere in North America, which is to “shoe horn” into a small space two full NHL-size underground hockey rinks, along with the fumes of the world’s first underground Zamboni.

Sadly, the mayor and his misguided

council couldn’t give up the pork-barrel dollars offered by Quebec, which, itself, is running an embarrassing, monstrous, crippling deficit along with an all-time low in public support.

All of the above is taking place while governments and municipalities around the world are facing increasing taxes along with Draconian cuts in services. A front-page story in the *Wall Street Journal* of April 13 said “Strapped City, Cuts and Cuts and Cuts” its services. This is happening across North America, while the Westmount council members holds their noses and spend and spend and spend.

To help sell the idea for this costly project, guaranteed to increase traffic congestion, the plans include some “cookie cutter” newly cropped, patio-style green grass pretending it to be a natural left-alone green space area.

The entire two full-size underground hockey rink idea now competes with the synthetic toxic turf boondoggle for worst council decision of the decade, but this one will lead to a ruinous financial and neighbourhood meltdown.

LARRY KLEPPER, ST. CATHERINE ST.

More arena letters

continued from p. 6

that can only increase the fitness level and the health of not only children in Westmount but our aged selves as well! Please exercise your vote in favor of the new arena!

DR. DALIUS BRIEDIS, THE BOULEVARD

PRO – LET’S GO FOR IT!

I would like to add my support for the exciting new arena-pool project.

The city has done a great job of addressing citizens’ concerns, and we can all look forward to a beautiful new avant-garde sports facility that all Westmounters will be proud of!

PATRICIA DUMAIS, GREENE AVE.

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**Exploring
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Sweet potatoes and club soda hot items at Metro grocery store

.....
continued from p. 3
one of the Westmount Historical Society's spring series lecturers. "Our tastes are different."

Westmounters don't want foods high in sugar, Fletcher said, they want healthy foods and specific products. He has to make special requests to get certain items, like Marmite, on the shelves and the store's organic section takes up a tenth of the floor space.

Fletcher, a lifelong grocer, bought the Steinberg franchise in 1990 and remained a managing owner when Metro took over in 1992. Company staff were at first surprised by orders such as 80 cases of sweet potatoes around Christmas time or the regular 60 cases of club soda, he said, because the hot-selling items were not nearly as popular everywhere else.

He described the 23,000 transactions a week as "a lot for a store of that size" and he said just keeping the milk stocked requires full-time attention from one of his 150 employees. However, Fletcher said city building codes mean his 21,000-sq. ft. store, built in 1952, isn't getting any larger.

"In the old days, you used to wrap your lunch with wax paper or tin foil," he said. "There were no baggies, sandwich wraps, zipper locks, little Tupperware containers or any of these things. Where were we going to find the room for all these things? The walls aren't made of elastic, yet it squeezed in."

The way products are placed on the shelves is designed with computers by Metro, he said, and then the company sends a team to lay it out. To bring in new products, lower-selling items are often removed from the shelves or the store builds shelves higher.

Fletcher said the store sells 750 kg. of cheese, 250 cases of bagged lettuce and over 8,000 litres of milk a week.

When given the opportunity, audience members peppered Fletcher with questions and comments.

"We always, at least I do and I'm sure other do too, feel very, very comfortable in your store in the way that we're treated," said Betty Shannon. "It's really a comfortable place to shop."

de Maisonneuve residents ask for safer bike path Petition raises speed issue

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Calls for a safer bike path from Westmount residents living along or near the de Maisonneuve route have raised a new issue. Just how fast is too fast on the recreational route that has become a transportation corridor to and from downtown?

In presenting a petition of 76 names to city council April 6, a new group called Westmount Citizens for Safe Cycling (WCSC) requested that "immediate action" be taken to improve safety measures on the bike path.

These include strict enforcement of the highway code and clear regulations that establish rights-of-way especially at street corners and driveway entrances. It also asks for creation of a task force with resident representation.

The petition came just in time for the launch of the police bicycle patrol April 13 and preparations of the Public Security patrol starting mid-May.

Meanwhile, however, speed limits on the bike path are being studied by the city's Administrative Traffic committee, city officials told the *Independent*.

"I received the petition with 76 names at the council meeting and we are going to be enforcing speed," police commander Stéphane Plourde told the *Independent*. He stated this as being 20 km/h on the Montreal route but said he would be discussing the matter of signage in Westmount.

There is currently no posted speed limit on the Westmount path. The speed limit for cars on much of the street is 30 km/h.

The WCSC petition cites the quality of life that brought many residents to Westmount and the favourable use of bicycles as an alternative mode of transportation.

"But now that the bike path on de Maisonneuve has become a transportation thoroughfare, we request that the city put in place measures required to ensure it is properly regulated and adequately structured."

The former recreational path from Wood to Claremont has become, it suggests, "the Wild West...mount."

Measures requested to remedy the situation include monitoring and control of the path, assessment of the implications resulting from increased traffic and ways to enhance safety, as well as creation of the task force.

The WCSC may be contacted by email at wscs2010@gmail.com. A different address in the presentation brief and petition to the city is not functioning.

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Please contact the *Independent* with your information.

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.



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Blue Met literary festival opens for 12th season

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Blue Met participants can expect to hear stories in many different languages and from many different points of view, according to its founder and director Linda Leith, who gave a preview of the festival at the Atwater Library April 15.

The theme of this year's festival, now in its 12th year, is "Reading the World" and takes place from Wednesday, April 21 to 25 at the Delta Centre-Ville Hotel.

When Blue Metropolis was launched 11 years ago, about 1,500 people attended. Since then, the festival has grown annually with last year's attendance reaching 17,000. This year's event features some 250 writers, translators, musicians, actors, journalists and publishers from around the world. According to Leith, it is the largest literary festival of its kind in Canada.

Initially a festival for French and English literature, today Blue Metropolis features authors and events in Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and other languages. In addition to the \$10,000 Blue Metropolis International Grand Prix Quebec award, writer Dany Laferrière will be receiving in recognition of a lifetime of literary achievement, the Blue Metropolis Foundation will be awarding the 2010 Al Majidi Ibn Dha-har Arab Literary Prize to Lebanese poet Joumana Haddad on April 22.

Established in 2007, the \$5,000 prize honours a leading Arab writer working in Arabic or another language. Born in 1970 in Beirut, Haddad is a poet, literary translator, magazine publisher and journalist who speaks seven languages. The complete Blue Metropolis Festival 2010 programme can be viewed on their web site: www.bluemetropolis.org.



Linda Leith at the Atwater Library, April 15

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Westmounters feeling Blue ... Met

The following Westmout authors will be giving talks at the Blue Metropolis literary festival. All events are at the downtown Delta (777 University Ave.). Tickets can be purchased through the Admission Network, as well as at the Salle Pierre Mercure/Pierre Péladeau Centre, the Blue Met website and its ticket office.

Catherine McKenzie (*Spin*). Becoming a Writer, Saturday, April 24, 12:30 pm, Verrière AB room (\$5). • **Anne Renaud** (*A Bloom of Friendship: The Story of the Canadian Tulip Festival, Island of Hope and Sorrow: The Story of Grosse Île, Pier 21: Stories from Near and Far*). Percer le marché très

recherché de la littérature jeunesse, Sunday, April 25, 2:30 pm, Victoria room (\$5). • **Joan Carter Roberts** (*Joan & Goodridge; My Life with Goodridge Roberts*). Becoming a Writer, Saturday, April 24, 12:30 pm, Verrière AB room (\$5). • **Claire Holden Rothman** (*The Heart Specialist*). Reading the World From Montreal, Saturday, April 24, 8:30 pm, Régence room (\$5). • **Alan Silberberg** (*Milo: Sticky notes and Brain Freeze Pond Scum*). Breaking Into the Red-Hot Kidlit Market, Saturday, April 24, 4 pm, Victoria room (\$10).



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Police beat

Rushed bank robber leaves clues behind

By DAVID GOLDBERG

A suspect who held up the Scotia Bank branch at 1326 Greene Ave. at gunpoint left a few clues behind, as well as being caught on at least two surveillance cameras.

The suspect entered the bank at 2:25 pm on March 25 and went directly to the counter. He told a male teller in French, “Give me the \$1,000 and \$100 bills.”

“However, the teller told him there were no \$1,000 bills,” said Constable Adalbert Pimentel. “The suspect was holding a

black pistol, which he pointed at the teller, then placed on the counter.”

The teller handed over \$50 and \$20 bills, but apparently not quickly enough for the suspect.

“Dammit, you’re slow,” he said, also in French. Finally, he took the money and placed it in a beige bag. He then fled on a bicycle, going south on Greene.

“There were several witnesses in the bank during the robbery, and the suspect’s image was caught on the bank’s security camera,” said Pimentel. “Two of our constables found the toque he was wearing

several minutes after the hold-up, at de Maisonneuve and Greene, on the bike path. It was a red toque with a yellow smiley face on it.”

Pimentel said the suspect’s image was also captured on a surveillance camera in the Alexis Nihon Plaza at 2:30 pm. And at 4:05 pm, officers found the suspect’s bicycle chained to a wall next to 1 Wood Ave.

“We kept the bike under surveillance for a while, but when the suspect didn’t return for it, we seized the bike and had it dusted for fingerprints,” said Pimentel.

The suspect is described as a white male, 5’9” and 190 lbs. He wore a white sweater with red writing on it, believed to be “Calvin Klein”, jeans and sunglasses.

“With all the information and clues we have, we believe it’s only a matter of time before we make an arrest,” said Pimentel.

Taxing suspects arrested

A 15-year-old Westmount boy was able to avoid being the victim of a taxing (robbery) incident, and then gave police descriptions that led to the arrest of five suspects.

They boy was accosted by five youths on the corner of Metcalfe and St. Catherine at 4:42 pm on April 14. A few of the suspects pushed the boy, asking him for his money and iPod, and they searched his backpack.

“The suspects didn’t find any money or an iPod and they left, but they were arrested minutes later in Westmount Park,” said Pimentel. “The suspects were searched and detained for robbery.”

Two of the suspects who were complicit with the crime but not directly involved in the search of the boy told police, “We’re sorry for what happened. They’re (the other three suspects) stupid.”

The five suspects are all around 15 years of age, and come from NDG, other Montreal districts and Montreal West. The investigation into their actions is ongoing.

“What’s important here is that the victim did everything correctly,” said Pimentel. “He didn’t resist, he cooperated and didn’t let the situation escalate, and he called 911 right after the suspects left and gave the police an excellent description.

“Taxing is not a very big problem in Westmount, but it does tend to be more prevalent in Montreal, especially around the Metro stations. When we speak to Westmount students about bullying, we try to touch on the taxing issue, so hopefully that’s having positive results.”

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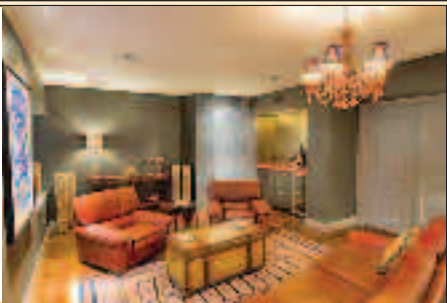
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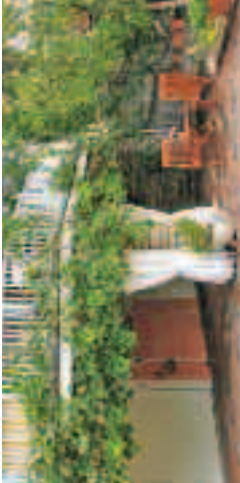
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Atwater Library hosts community group open house



Accordion player Dino Leoni provided the music during an open house for community groups held at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre April 15. Westmount-area groups such as Contactivity Centre, Centre Greene and the Thomas More Institute were invited, as well as the Santropol Roulant and the Yellow Door Coffee House in Montreal, as a way to meet each other. During the event, the Independent received an interesting bit of news from Thomas More Institute coordinator Irene Menear: former NDG Liberal MP Warren Allmand has agreed to serve as the institute's next board president.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Batshaw laughs for a cause



From left, event organizers Karma Hallward, Tina Khan and Cricky Brodhead. Not pictured: Barbara Molson.

The Batshaw Foundation's Comedy and Cocktails fundraising event will be held Tuesday, May 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at St. Henri's Corona Theatre. The foundation supports the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, which are headquartered in Westmount. Comedians David Pryde,

Heidi Foss and Jessica Salomon will perform. Tickets are available for \$75 to \$100 and can be purchased by calling 514.989.1885, ext. 1013 or visiting www.batshawfoundation.ca/Fundraising-Cocktail.html.

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Yves Jean Lacasse shows stellar collection



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmount fashion designer **Yves Jean Lacasse**, of ENVERS, showed his fall/winter 2010 collection to a standing room-only crowd during Montreal Fashion Week early last month. Like every year, hordes of black-clad, stiletto-shoed fashionistas queued outside the Bonsecours Market for a glimpse at glamour.

People lined up everywhere – even outside to smoke. Lacasse's creations for fall were a refined take on other cultures. This season, he was inspired by the Mongolian traditions of the nomads, "who have revered the holy mountains since the dawn of time." To enhance his pretty pieces, Lacasse teamed up with milliner **Elaine Saucier**. Her hats were designed in felt, a nice nod to the theme of the nomad, whose huts are traditionally covered in felt.

Lacasse has participated in fashion shows around the world. He premiered in Brussels in 1999. In 2004, he was a finalist for the prestigious Rising Star Award in New York, and was invited to show in Munich. In 2005, he participated in an exciting event in Boston, chaired by the internationally renowned designer of everything fabulous **Philippe Starck**. Lacasse celebrated the 10th anniversary of ENVERS at a benefit for the McCord Museum Foundation in 2005.

Each summer he creates exclusive garments for the top women and men tennis players competing in the Rogers Cup. Today, Lacasse communicates his vision as a professor at the Montreal Centre for Contemporary Textiles, where his artistic dreams are shared with Montreal's rising young creative talents.

Westmounters enjoying his show included **Joséane Brunelle** and **Tristan Tondino**, **Suki Park**, **René Le Clère** and **Lynne Schafer**.



Dario Bivona and Yves Jean Lacasse.



Quebec media celeb Francine Grimaldi and retail guru David Simons.



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Hockey championships

CEOs win exec. play-offs

Sparked by Michael Denham's two goals and the stellar goaltending of Doug Buchanan, the CEOs defeated the CAs by a score of 2-1 to win the Westmount Executive League playoffs in a hard-fought game on April 12. The CEOs, who were undefeated during the playoffs, also were the regular season champions. See photo, p. 1.

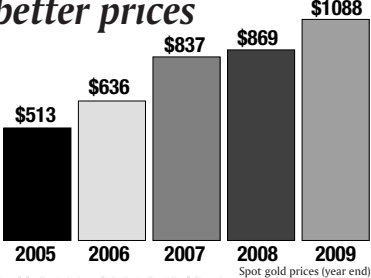
Kings win Senior A play-offs

The 2009-2010 Senior A Kings built upon a dominant regular season campaign (26-4-3) to win the city championship April 14, with a 5-1 victory in the third and deciding game of the finals against the resilient and hard-playing Westmount Blues.

It was standing room only for those who watched the Kings make their way to the cup with goals from Philip Cutler, Roderick Leider, Zack Feldman and a pair by Brandon Pinchuk. The team played in front of a strong defensive unit, back-stopped by goalie Matthew Ciampini. The Kings broke the scoring early in the second period and held the lead from there on.

At the end of the evening, arena staff marked the season's end by turning off the generators and beginning the process of removing the ice in preparation for summer activities. See photo, p. 1.

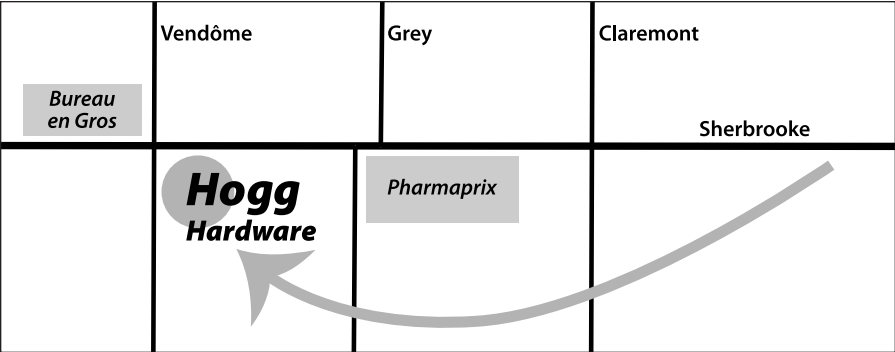
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No change to our Nuns' Island location: 7 Place du Commerce – (514) 761 4441

Sustainable gardening in the city

BY ERIN STROPES

Sustainable gardening was the focus of the second installation of the Healthy City Project's breakfast speaker series, held on April 15 at Victoria Hall. Westmount gardening enthusiasts Marci Babineau and Clarisse Thomasset spoke to about 20 residents, including city council members Victor Drury and Theodora Samiotis, about local food production, urban planters and recycling materials.

"If you walk around Westmount, you'll see a lot of nice green spaces just sitting empty," said Babineau, who has been gardening organically since 1979. Citing the example of the town Todmorden in the United Kingdom, Babineau promoted the idea of growing edible herbs and vegetables in public planters.

While concerns about this type of system must still be addressed (maintaining the plants and protecting them from animals and vandals were mentioned), Babineau stated that she is speaking with Claudette Savaria, a horticulturalist and member of the city's client committee overseeing the planning of Westmount's green spaces, about the possibility of adopting a similar program in Westmount.

Thomasset, a member of the Montreal Permaculture Guild, spoke about "permablitz" – an unusual approach to urban gardening that sees experienced gardeners come into a home and, in a single day, design an efficient organic garden.

The group uses natural or recycled materials, and minimizes the use of electricity, tap water and other resources by using solar power, rainwater, as well as other natural sources of energy. Thomasset stated

that these sustainable gardening practices could benefit Westmount gardens, both by lowering maintenance costs and by reducing the city's environmental footprint.

Both presentations focused on the concept of permaculture – a way of living that encourages sustainability and taking advantage of the natural cycles of the earth. "It takes some planning and hard work at first," said Thomasset, "but in the end everything takes care of itself."

Babineau will be teaching a course in sustainable gardening practices from April 12 to June 23 at Victoria Hall. Spaces are still available. More information about the Montreal permablitz movement is available at permablitz.montreal.blogspot.com.

The next breakfast speaker meeting will take place in Victoria Hall, Thursday, April 22 at 8:15 am. The subject is "Post-Copenhagen cities: What Westmount can do to fight climate change," and the speaker will be Nigel Roulet, a professor at the McGill School of Environment who contributed to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's report on the world's climate.

Doors open at 8 am, and coffee and pastries will be served. The meetings are free and open to all.



Clarisse Thomasset describes the process of building a sustainable garden.

'Good' used books requested for library sale

Friends of the Westmount Public Library request donations for their upcoming used book sale, April 24 and 25, 10 am to 5 pm.

Books in good condition on all topics may be dropped off at the front desk of the library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. Pick-ups are available. Proceeds go towards purchasing new books. Info: 514.483.5604.



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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

- A **public consultation meeting** to update Westmount's building by-law, city hall at 7 pm.
- A register is open at city hall during business hours for signing by anyone opposed to the three **loan by-laws** adopted by city council April 6.
- "Whatever Happened to Heroes" dinner and class at **Temple Emanu-El Beth-Sholom**, 5:45 pm for dinner, 6:15 to 7:15 pm for study class. 395 Elm. Reserve one week in advance: Rosie, 514.937.3575.
- Children's author **Bonnie Farmer** reads her book "ABC in the Library" for 5 to 7 year olds. Children will be invited to make their own alphabet pages. 10:30 to 11:30 am in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Library.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

- Children's author **Jane Barclay** reads from her book "Going on a Journey to the Sea" for 6 to 8 year olds, 10:30 to 11:30 am at Westmount Library.
- Westmount Healthy City Project: Post-Copenhagen Cities: What Westmount can do to fight climate change, 8:15 am at Victoria Hall. Free. Info: 514.486.7723.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

South African wine tasting evening hosted by François Pelletier, with cheese and bread and video on South African Wines, 7:30 pm, Westmount Park United Church, Webster Hall, 4695 de Maisonneuve. Cost: \$22. Profits to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada. Reserve: 450.671.6244 or CL205@hotmail.com.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

Marc Garneau invites the community for spring brunch at the Hotel Maritime Plaza, 1155 Guy St., 11 am. to 1:30 pm. Cost: \$25 for adults, \$10 for youth 12 to 16, free for 12 and under. Reserve: 514.982.1744.

MONDAY, APRIL 26

Public consultation meeting at city hall, 7 pm on **restaurant zoning** changes. For more information, see April 13, p. 6.

- Montreal branch of the Royal Commonwealth Society holds an open meeting, with speaker Reverend Chris Hingley on "Living and Working in Zimbabwe," 7 pm at the Westmount Library. Info: 514.935.1674.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

Wine and cheese for Westmount **book**

club members, 6 pm, at the library. Reserve before April 26: 514.989.5386. For story, see. p. 6.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

Exhibition of **Pamela Stewart's** paintings and figurines "Faces and Forms" at the Gallery at Victoria Hall, from April 29 to May 21.

SATURDAY, MAY 1

Mozart Requiem presented by The Stewart Hall Singers with Paul Jabara directing at Mountainside United Church, 4000 The Boulevard, 7:30 pm. Tickets at door: \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors. Info: 514.697.8884.

MONDAY, MAY 3

- **Council meeting** at city hall, 8 pm.
- The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal presents speaker **Judith Woodsworth**, president of Concordia University, 12:30 pm at The Unitarian Church, 5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Free for members; \$10 for visitors. Info: 514.932.4005.

Operatic society stages Mikado in India

Westmounter Andrew Macdougall will play the Mikado in the Montreal West Operatic Society's production of one of Gilbert & Sullivan's best-known musicals of the same name.

Other local performers include David Herz and violinist Nigel Penney along with Cameron MacLeod and Robert O'Brien, who are in the process of moving to Westmount. "Our production is set in India rather than Japan and is being billed as the Bollywood Mikado," Macdougall said. "Some purists are shocked by this but most people are excited by the idea. They are right. It will be a lot of fun."

The 10-day run opens April 29 at the former Wagar High School, 5785 Parkhaven, in Côte St. Luc. A performance will also take place at the Haskell Opera House in Stanstead on May 15. For more information on times and tickets, visit www.mwos.org.

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Bungee: He's springy, not clingy



Underdog

BY MARY LAMEY

Ever meet a dog who knows exactly who he is? That's Bungee, a five-year-old Jack Russell terrier mix whose jaunty walk and nose-to-the-wind gait tells you everything you need to know about him.

Bungee has no worries, even though he was given up by an owner who didn't have time for him and has spent too long in foster care. He's cute in that John Goodman way, which is to say he's carrying a few extra pounds on his small frame.

What this pooch needs is a forever home where people will indulge his love of long rambles and games of get-the-squeaky-toy. During his down

time, he'll sit companionably at your side. Once he gets to know you, it'll be cuddle, cuddle, cuddle and would you rub my tummy?

Small dog, big personality. He's sociable with other pups and gets along great with cats. He has no problem with separation anxiety and isn't a barker. It's probably best that he not live in a family with small children. If you think Bungee is the four-legged friend for you, call Erika at 514.938.8114 or visit underdogclub.org. (Yes, donations can be made online.)



Bungee

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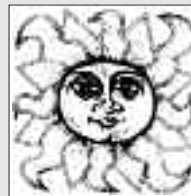
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<div></div> <div>ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES La galerie du Victoria Hall La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les œuvres de Pamela Stewart du 29 avril au 21 mai. Info : 514 989-5521</div> <div>Salon des métiers d’art de Westmount – Appel d’offres La 12e édition annuelle du Salon des métiers d’art de Westmount aura lieu les 13 et 14 novembre 2010 au Victoria Hall. Les artisans westmountais sont invités à présenter trois ou quatre échantillons complets de leurs œuvres au comité de sélection le mercredi 12 mai entre 14 h et 18 h au Victoria Hall, 4626, rue Sherbrooke O. Info : 514 934-0294 ou 514 484-1974. 🌿</div>		<div>DATEBOOK</div> <div>April 22 & 29 – 8:15am HCP Breakfast Speaker Series Speaker: Dr. Nigel Roulet (April 22) Speaker: Paul Grenier (April 29) Victoria Hall</div> <div>May 5 – 7pm Cultural Lecture Series Speaker: Victor Breedon Library</div> <div>May 12 – 2pm 2 O'clock Series Speaker: Doreen Lindsay Library</div>	
<div></div> <div>BIBLIOTHÈQUE Les Amis de la bibliothèque - Vente printanière de livres Les Amis de la bibliothèque tiendront une vente de livres dans la salle Westmount les samedi et dimanche 24 et 25 avril. Si vous possédez des livres en excellent état dont vous aimeriez vous départir, veuillez les apporter à la bibliothèque dès aujourd’hui. Tous les profits de cette vente serviront à acheter de nouveaux livres pour la bibliothèque. Info : 514 989-5386</div> <div>Échange de livres Dans le cadre de la journée mondiale du livre, la bibliothèque sera l’hôte d’un échange de livres le mercredi 28 avril à 19 h. Apportez vos livres et échangez-les! Info : 514 989-5229</div> <div>Conférences culturelles Joignez-vous à Victor Breedon qui vous transportera à travers les méandres de la Tamise parsemée de prés magnifiques jusque dans le Londres historique le mercredi le 5 mai à 19 h. Info : 514 989-5386</div> <div>Conférences de 14 heures Joignez-vous à la photographe Doreen Lindsay qui vous démontrera que les photos de famille sont plus que de simples images et qu’elles lèvent le voile sur notre histoire le mercredi 12 mai à 14 h. Info : 514 989-5386. 🌿</div>		<div></div> <div>SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE Parc Summit - période migratoire Rappel aux propriétaires de chiens : pendant la période migratoire des oiseaux, soit du 15 avril au 15 juin, les propriétaires promenant leurs chiens au parc Summit doivent les tenir en laisse en tout temps. Les officiers de la Sécurité publique patrouilleront le secteur et émettront des contraventions de 75 \$ aux personnes qui ne respecteront pas ce règlement. 🌿</div> <div></div> <div>SPORTS ET LOISIRS Inscription aux cours de tennis Les inscriptions aux cours de tennis auront lieu le mercredi 28 avril de 18 h à 20 h à l’aréna de Westmount (4675, rue Ste-Catherine ouest). Les inscriptions pour les activités sportives auront lieu à l’aréna de Westmount alors que celles relatives aux activités qui se déroulent au Victoria Hall se tiendront à cet endroit. Info : 514-989-5353</div> <div>Proposition aréna-piscine Nous rappelons aux résidents de bien lire les renseignements à propos de la proposition Aréna-piscine envoyés par la Ville et de retourner le questionnaire rempli dans les deux semaines suivant la réception soit en utilisant l’enveloppe fourni ou en répondant sur le site Web www.westmount.org. N.B. : vous devez employer le NIP qui paraît sur votre questionnaire. Info : 514 989-5240. 🌿</div>	
<div></div> <div>LIBRARY Friends of the Library – Spring Book Sale The Friends of the Westmount Library will be holding its Spring book sale on Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25. Contemporary novels, non-fiction, art and children’s books in prime condition may be left at the library for the sale. All proceeds from this sale go towards the purchase of new books for the Library. Info: 514 989-5386</div> <div>Book Swap To celebrate World Book Day, the Westmount Library will be hosting a book swap on Wednesday, April 28 at 7pm. Bring books you want to exchange and pick up a few for yourself. Info: 514 989-5229</div> <div>Cultural Lecture Series – The River Thames Join Victor Breedon for a multimedia adventure that explores the River Thames as he meanders through lush meadows toward historic London on Wednesday, May 5 at 7pm. Info: 514 989-5386</div> <div>2 O’clock Series Join Doreen Lindsay on Wednesday, May 12 at 2pm for this presentation that explores how family photographs provide valuable insight into decoding your history. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌿</div>		<div></div> <div>PUBLIC SECURITY Summit Park Migratory Period Dog owners should take note that during the bird migratory period - April 15 to June 15 - dogs in Summit Park must be kept on leashes at all times. To ensure that this regulation is respected, Public Security Officers will be carrying out random patrols and issuing \$75 fines to any violators. 🌿</div> <div></div> <div>SPORTS & RECREATION Registration for tennis lessons Registration for tennis lessons will be held on Wednesday, April 28 from 6 to 8pm at the Westmount Arena (4675 St. Catherine West). Registration for all sports activities takes place at the Westmount Arena while registration for all Victoria Hall activities takes place at Victoria Hall. Info: 514-989-5353</div> <div>Arena/Pool Proposal Residents are reminded to read the information package on the Arena/Pool project and return the completed questionnaire within two weeks of receipt by using the enclosed return envelope or the City Web site at www.westmount.org. You must use the PIN number provided on your questionnaire. Info: 514 989-5240. 🌿</div>	

Local author explores origins of words

By ISAAC OLSON

Veteran author Howard Richler separates facts from myth as he explores the origin of words in his newly launched “Strange Bedfellows: The Secret Lives of Words.”

Finding a need for an intellectual yet ac-

cessible examination of word origins, Richler, who has lived on Ramezay Rd. for more than five years, investigated terms with surprisingly unexpected roots or associations and compiled them into what is now his sixth book.

Using the words “porcelain” and “avocado” as an example, Richler said they were both once used to describe the human body’s “nether region.”

“There are a lot of word origins that are quite funny,” said Richler, noting he incorporated light humour into the book. “The first section of my book is: ‘10 words you never knew came from unmentionable body parts.’”

The book is divided into chapters which cover specific areas ranging from religion to food, he said.

Richler admits launching new books

will never feel quite as exciting as his first. However, he said he is optimistic the book will do well south of the border – a not-so-easy feat for Canadian writers.

Howard Richler



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Gaming grandmothers

The West Hill Grandmothers is getting ready for the group's games night fundraiser, to be held Saturday, April 24 at 4400 West Hill in NDG from 1:30 to 4 pm. Participants should bring their own game. The proceeds of \$15 per person will support the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign in Africa. Since the campaign's inception in 2006, more than 220 groups of Canadian grandmothers have raised over \$7 million. The foundation directs these funds to community organizations in 15 sub-Saharan countries, which in turn provide African grandmothers with food, housing, school fees and grief counselling. Tea and coffee will be served, and there will be a raffle and door prizes. For more information, phone 514.931.5011.



Westmounter Sheila Denton of the West Hill Grandmothers is getting ready for the group's games night fundraiser.

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Trent: \$400M deficit 'attention-grabbing' only

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continued from p. 1

Tremblay press conference, Trent said, was an unexpected \$43-million windfall by Montreal from a court case involving "certain taxes on quasi-government properties." This could be expected to offset much of an anticipated shortfall of some \$53 million in this year's aggro budget, he explained.

Trent dismissed an announced projection of a \$400-million deficit in next year's combined Montreal/agglo budget. "It's always been this way," he explained. "Montreal advertises a large shortfall. I think it's somewhat of an attention-grabbing technique."



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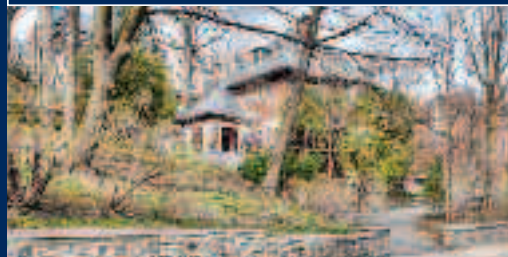


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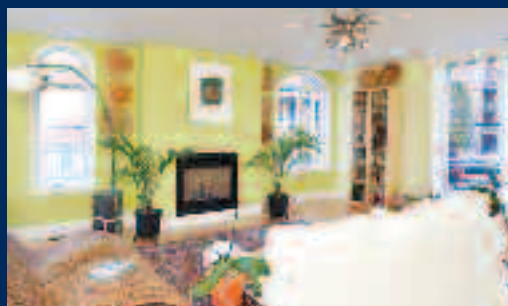


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