

## Ipsos final report delivered

# Arena analysis just released

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A final report on the arena/pool survey with detailed analysis maintains the 83-percent approval rating previously announced but breaks down the support within subgroups and provides some of the comments for and against.

Those most inclined to support the project were “consistent with what we would intuitively expect,” stated the Ipsos polling firm, which compiled the data and feedback in a report released by the city to the *Independent* May 20.

These were regular users of the facility, households of three or more members, those whose members who were aged 25-44 or had children under 18.

Interestingly, of all 2,218 respondents, 126 expressed a desire for an indoor pool

but only 34 of them voted down the proposed \$37-million facility that calls for two underground ice rinks and outside pools.

“What impressed me most about the results was how widespread the approval was along various demographic plains,” said Mayor Peter Trent.

“There was uniformity between genders, and homeowners and tenants. Considering that homeowners pay the lion’s share of the taxes, this is very encouraging.”

He also was surprised by an 81-percent approval from persons over 65 years of age and a 73-percent rating among non-users. In both cases he expected it would have been “much lower.”

By the May 7 deadline for return of the surveys sent to 8,062 ..... addresses, 2,218

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## Annual plant exchange has perennial appeal



The Perennial Plant Exchange took place in the arena, May 19. Gabrielle Pilot, one of the organizers, assists Lorraine Krupa in her selection of *coreopsis grandiflora* baby sun.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

# City council’s search to curb light pollution continues

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A longstanding issue of directing street lighting downward to reduce light pollution took a small step forward at the mid-month meeting of city council May 17, but not to the satisfaction of dark-sky advocate Tony Moffat.

While council voted to approve the purchase of so-called “second-generation” luminaries with deflectors for the Washington-type streetlight standards, it did so while the search continues to find a more effective “third-generation” globe, Mayor Peter Trent explained.

“At least the balls are rolling,” Moffat

told the *Independent*.

“The purchase of the 59 luminaries was hoisted from the agenda two weeks ago,” Trent recalled. But with the upcoming refurbishment of Greene Ave. this summer and other installations of new street lighting, “we can’t afford to keep looking for a new light source.”

In the meantime, however, he said he had met with Moffat, Hydro Westmount and other city officials “to discuss the whole issue” of reducing light pollution that involves the city’s 1,800 Washingtonians. Most of these use the regular “first-generation” globes ..... that have no deflec-

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Life is a journey



# AGM honours volunteer Macklem, hears about Haiti

## WMA back to more civil style

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

There was a distinctly different atmosphere pervading this year’s annual general meeting of the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) from the cat calls and accusations a year ago over a contested slate. And it was a change that a smiling president, Jean-Pierre Picard, could not help noting during the event May 17 at Victoria Hall.

“It was much better than last year, wasn’t it?” he told the *Independent* following the recognition of Janet Macklem as volunteer of the year, a talk about Haiti by journalist Sue Montgomery and adoption of a slate of 18 officers and directors, including seven new members.

The WMA is a volunteer citizen watchdog organization that has over the years been a learning ground for city council candidates. But in a rare occurrence this year, no city council members were able to attend the meeting since it was held at the same time as the council’s regular mid-month general committee meeting.

In welcoming more than 100 members and other local residents, Picard stressed the importance of transparency at the municipal level. He said that while it was the WMA’s role to promote “good, responsive local government,” it was not intended, however, to be the opposition to city council.

### Membership totals 220

Among several brief business items, membership chairman Henry Olders reported the WMA’s paid-up membership



Janet Macklem, centre, receives the WMA’s volunteer of the year award at the annual general meeting May 17 at Victoria Hall. Congratulating her are Jean-Pierre Picard and Patricia Dumais.

for the last year at 220.

Recognizing the value of volunteerism to the community, Marie-Claire Holland introduced Janet Macklem, her longtime friend and recipient of this year’s Derek Walker Volunteer of the Year Award.

Macklem, she said, was “low-key, gra-

cious and has the energy and ability to get things done. The award definitely belongs to you.”

She traced Macklem’s efforts from the age of 18 with the Junior League that evolved into numerous ..... roles with the support of *continued on p. 3*

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# Macklem: 'I have been inspired by so many'

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her husband, Richard Macklem.

These included her work with St. Mary's Hospital, the Church of Ascension of Our Lord, Meals on Wheels, the Sacred Heart Convent and the Women's Canadian Club (see story May 11, p. 6).

Macklem said she felt "very humbled" to have been selected and considered it a privilege to be a volunteer. "I have been inspired by so many," she explained, saying she had benefitted from having had the time and good health to work with others.

Guest speaker Sue Montgomery of the *Gazette* related some of her experiences covering the Haiti earthquake and expressed a concern that millions of dollars in donations to larger relief organizations seemed not to be funneling into the camps and tent cities.

Montgomery said she has been trying in vain to find out from the Red Cross where its money was going. By contrast, smaller grassroots groups were likely

more effective in reaching those needing the most help.

As a result, she explained, she has already raised \$15,000 through speaking engagements. The money will go to an orphanage and a school where she trusts the money will be put to specific projects that she hopes to earmark during another visit to Haiti during her holidays.

In thanking her on behalf of the WMA, corresponding secretary Patricia Dumais displayed two books on Haiti that the organization is donating to the Westmount Public Library to mark the occasion of her speech.

Picard later told the *Independent* that he would consider bringing up the idea at the WMA's next board meeting of making a donation to Montgomery's fundraising efforts.

Earlier in the AGM, as part of WMA business, a by-law change was approved whereby the board of directors would appoint the new officers. Previously, these were to be elected at the AGM, which had

resulted in some the bitterness at last year's meeting when two directors, Stan Grossman and Charles Bierbrier, had teed off for the presidency.

Picard subsequently was chosen to fill the position and has devoted much time to uniting the organization. He is now entering his second term.

## WMA adopts new slate

WMA president Jean-Pierre Picard thanked several "staunch supporters" and long-standing members of the board who decided not to stand for re-election. They are Henry Olders, Helen Rainville, Paul Billette – and Stan Grossman, who had resigned earlier.

The following WMA board of directors and officers for 2010-2011 are: Jean-Pierre Picard, president; Paul Marriott, vice president; Patricia Dumais, corresponding secretary; Nahid Ahmed, treasurer; and Stanley Baker, Kathleen Cousens, Rosalind Davis, Michael Ellwood, Marilyn Gillies, John Johnston, Peter Weldon and Don Wedge as returning board members, and new members Philip Cutler, Jerry Miller, Anthony Moffat, Nicholas Smith, Peter Starr and Mavis Young. Ahmed is also serving her first term.

## Final arena stats released

continued from p. 1

households had responded – 1,518 by hard copy and 700 by web. The return rate of 27.5 percent was described by Ipsos as "an extraordinarily high level of engagement."

### Reasons listed

Of the 83 percent (1,841) favouring the project, 58 percent were listed as finding it to be "a good idea." Another 30 percent provided no comment, 7 percent had concerns about the realization, 5 percent wanted an indoor pool, 4 percent offered thanks to the mayor, and 8 percent were listed as having other reasons.

Of those voting against the proposal (377), 36 percent had "concerns" and 35 percent provided no comment. Nine percent wanted an indoor pool, 4 percent said

they would not use the new facility or were not concerned, 4 percent wanted alternative projects and 12 percent other reasons.

A copy of the final report is to be posted on the city's website.

The following overall results by district show the number of responses in parentheses totaling 2,175 of the total 2,218. The difference related to those was not allocated to any particular district. Also shown is the proportion of responding households in favour of the project:

- District 1: (186) 79 %
- District 2: (235) 86 %
- District 3: (265) 82 %
- District 4: (370) 86 %
- District 5: (310) 84 %
- District 6: (271) 80 %
- District 7: (366) 83 %
- District 8: (172) 77 %

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## CYCLISTS DON'T OBEY LAWS

For the people who responded to my letter "All kinds on the bike path," May 11, p. 4, I invite you to spend a half an hour at any stop sign or red light along the Westmount bike path on de Maisonneuve on any given day and see how many bicyclists actually stop. I have video footage. Maybe 1 in 100 people stop.

The police come by for five minutes twice a week and catch one or two cyclists disobeying the traffic signs and write them a ticket. When they leave, the lawless riders speed through the lights and stop signs.

Last year, a small child was run down by a bike in Westmount Park, and a man was hit by a cyclist downtown on the bike path.

Bikes have to follow the same road laws as cars. Would you be okay if cars didn't obey any of the traffic rules on your street? Didn't think so.

Green is great. I am all for it...just explain green's great virtues to the parents of the next child who gets mowed down by a bike or moped and is seriously injured or killed.

SPENCER IRWIN, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

## FEWER BIKES, MORE CARS

Recently, I was cycling along de Maisonneuve going west from Lans-

downe, and I was thinking how great it was to be alive on such a beautiful morning, seeing the people cycling along the path, probably to work. I had such a great feeling about my city.

I was thinking that some of those cyclists had come from NDG and Montreal West, or further, cycling on a pretty shoddy path (I am going to write to the mayor of Montreal about that), but they looked content.

They would be cycling through the park and onto de Maisonneuve again and taking the great path to the heart of downtown Montreal. I cycle that downtown path most days myself and love it.

I believe most downtown drivers are improving in their attitude to cyclists. The mood on the path is courteous.

And yet, I hear that there are people in Westmount who are grumbling and want to remove the cyclists and the path. Less bicycles mean more cars. Are people still backward-looking enough to believe that air quality does not matter? The air may not look bad, but the small particle pollution is there. Westmount should do the right thing; promote the bicycle paths and cyclists.

ELIZABETH O'CONNOR, LEWIS AVE.

## ACCIDENT INEVITABLE

Considering the number of bicycle riders cruising the paths in Westmount Park

every day, it is virtually inevitable that some child or senior citizen is going to be struck down and injured because Westmount's Public Security is doing little or nothing to rein in the scofflaw cyclists.

JOHN DOREY, VICTORIA AVE.

## HUMAN-POWERED TRANSPORT THE ANSWER

Aldo Vesnaver makes some very valid points in his May 18 letter "de Maisonneuve-ers should embrace cyclists", p. 5. Bike-friendly infrastructures combined with courteous and respectful behaviour



Sharyn Katsof's bike.

from pedestrians, cyclists and drivers will ideally help reduce the vehicle traffic in Westmount.

By adopting more active modes of transportation (human-powered) not only can we contribute to a healthy community but the calories expended in getting from point A to point B will likely benefit the health of the commuter as well.

SHARYN KATSOFF, LANSDOWNE AVE.

## RIGHT OF WAY WRONGED

Cyclists can get as defensive as they want about how all cyclists shouldn't be lumped in with the bad ones, and how bikes are good and cars are bad. But the reality is a huge number of cyclists (and most, in the case of what I've observed in Westmount) do not obey the rules of the road. And we have a right to complain about that as it is not simply an annoyance – it is dangerous.

I live in Victoria Village and I'm a full-time pedestrian – no car, no bike. After many close calls, I now know better than to take my "right of way" for granted at any intersection along de Maisonneuve. I have sometimes just stood and watched the bike path for 10 minutes or so, and easily eight out of 10 cyclists not only don't slow

down at an intersection with a stop sign (forget about actually stopping), they don't even turn their heads to see if a car or pedestrian is coming.

The southeast corner of Prince Albert is particularly bad as there is a hedge obstructing the view of the bike path; you think you're good to go and then a bike comes flying through just as you're stepping out. Sometimes I've even been yelled at for being in the way.

Recently, I was at the soccer field near the little stop sign at the crosswalk that crosses the bike path. I watched for about half an hour at 6 pm: Not one bike of the dozens that came through slowed down, and not one head was turned. A child could easily have darted out from either side.

So kudos to all the law-abiding cyclists who are helping to save the planet. I still want something done about the many others who are endangering people's lives.

LINDA TRACEY, YORK ST.

## TIME-SHARE ARENA

Regarding the arena/pool project, city council said they would proceed "only if a majority of taxpayers is behind it." When some 80 percent of respondents of some 25 percent of the sent questionnaires come back in favour, that's a 1 in 5, or 20 percent, support level. That's no majority.

What a poisoned gift this \$20-million grant has become, like a time-share sales pitch – creating an urgency to buy what we may not need or want with money we don't have. Westmount's Olympic Stadium anyone?

We lack a proper, full-scale needs analysis. Let's consider all recreation in Westmount for all population groups, across several generations – it is not enough to show that we could keep these two ice surfaces in use, to conclude this is our only option.

Swimmers get shortchanged. Swimming is important – healthy and for all ages. A big spend like this must distribute the resources to non-skaters also.

Sustainability is supposedly a guiding principle; is it "words, not deeds"? Even with a LEED Silver rating, a new building's increased operating efficiency versus the existing structure's will take ages to offset the environmental damage of knocking down what we have and constructing anew.

The new design is nice, and good for a community that has the money, can show that its needs comply with that design, and doesn't already have a facility. But we have one, and it works. Our swimmers, skaters

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13,789 copies

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# More letters

*continued from p. 4*

and hockey teams regularly win against other communities, and we have fun. Our coaches, staff, volunteers, parents and supporters make us good, and make us winners – not our facility.

Already we have made this facility better physically, and we have come up with traffic and parking solutions too. This is the kind of community support and innovative thinking that we need more of, not an incomplete solution to problems we may not have with money we have to borrow.

WILLEM WESTENBERG, STAYNER ST.

## ALSO SCAMMED 1

I read Janine Cobb's letter (May 18, p. 4) about being scammed. I have been approached on two occasions by the same woman at the 24 bus stop outside the Montreal Fine Arts Museum.

Two months ago my teenage daughter and her boyfriend came home and told me about "the poor woman with the metal crutches" to whom they were charitable.

She's a scammer.

ANNETTA BLACK-ROTCHEIN,  
LANSDOWNE AVE.

## SCAMMED 2

I read with great interest Janine Cobb's May 18 letter "Want to be charitable but not scammed", and in answer to the question if others have had the same experience, I was scammed by this woman.

My friend's daughter visiting from England was scammed and recently, my grandson was approached by her around Bishop St. and Sherbrooke St.

My incident happened in the Côte des Neiges area. She blocked my car with her body. I felt terrible to see her so handicapped and agreed to drive her to a Metro. Same spiel. She had paid someone to pick her up but they let her down. She was negative to all suggestions. There was no agency out there to help her, the police wouldn't help, people were so rude.

She said she was taking a graduate course at McGill, and could my friend and I help her get home to the West Island? So we gave her \$30.

I had to help her out of my car as her feet were practically frozen. She said she had arthritis of the feet. She is very handicapped.

There is help out there if you want it, and I am sure this woman bleeds the system for every dollar she can get. But she loves her other job that is scamming the public, and she does it very well.

LUE RILEY, KENSINGTON AVE.

## SCAMMED 3

Having fallen victim to the same lady in crutches, I was pleased to read Janine Cobb's letter entitled "Want to be charitable but not scammed," May 18, p. 4.

When I encountered her on a chilly December day in 2008, she was sitting outside Dagwood's at Sherbrooke and Grey. However, her *modus operandi* was exactly the same; she told the same tale about the handicapped bus that didn't arrive, her need for a taxi to take her to her home somewhere in the West Island, etc.

In reaction to my hesitancy, she also insisted, in a slightly resentful tone, that she was well-educated and was doing (or had already done, I forget which) graduate work at McGill.

I ended up giving her even more for "cabfare" than Janine Cobb did. And, also, at the same time as I did so, feeling that I was the one being taken for a ride.

JOHN PRESTON, ABBOTT AVE.

## SAFE AND LAZY

Westmount city council wisely erected snow fences across Murray Park each winter starting some years ago.

In my youth, it was the custom at first snow fall to congregate at the hill with skis and toboggans. I shudder to think of the potential for incredible injuries to life and limb as we rushed up and down that wonderful slope.

And I am ashamed to admit that at the age of four or five, I would transport my own kids to that same slope and watch them struggle up the slope and slide awkwardly down frequently falling and taking irresponsible risks.

I feel that the city should keep the fences in place all year. Just the other day I spotted a group of children kicking soccer balls on the lower slope. Imagine the damage they could do to each other by kicking a ball into some child or even tripping someone up. Absolutely unacceptable!

By instituting this proposal we could ensure that our kids remain in their homes after school and on weekends with their iPods or whatever-pods and grow into obese, lazy and unresponsive adults.

Let's hear it for snow fences!

BOYD WHITTALL, CLARKE AVE.

## Correction

In the letter "Those days gone" by Jean-Claude Turgeon (May 18, p. 5), we misunderstood the intention of the letter writer and erroneously replaced the term "Montreal Urban Community" with the name of its eventual successor organization.

## The Westmount Independent is three years old.

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# McClure recounts the evolution of The Visual Arts Centre – from potter's club to school of art

By ISAAC OLSON

Virginia McClure, potter, painter and author, told the tale of The Visual Arts Centre, from its basement start to its modern studios, at a May 20 lecture hosted by the Westmount Historical Association (WHA).

“There were a lot of ups and downs,” said McClure, speaking at the Westmount Library during the fourth installment of WHA’s spring lecture series. “There were times in The Potters Club when we didn’t know if we could go on or not.”

The original goal of The Potters Club, founded by Eileen Reid in 1946, was to provide a place for potters to work while sharing expensive equipment and artistic tips.

McClure, who joined the club in 1956, remembered a scale set up next to the bins of clay so artists could weigh what they took and then, abiding by the honour system, drop money into a box.

McClure told how a sense of identity developed among a group of friends with a mutual passion for art. Discussing glaze recipes or new techniques while sharing duties and costs, she remembered when volunteers became paid instructors and the group became an organization.

Incorporated as The Visual Arts Centre in 1971, organizers ran a massive fundraising campaign that, by 1974, allowed them to purchase and renovate what was then a warehouse on Victoria Ave. McClure said they raised some

\$750,000 by applying for grants and seeking out funders.

After graduating Westmount’s Miss Edgar’s and Miss Cramp’s School, McClure went onto McGill University and the Boston Museum School. Author of a memoir titled *The Yellow Painting*, she has held many positions at the centre ranging from student to director.

“I am very proud that the centre has been just such a success,” said McClure. “Not just for Westmount but, I think, for the whole of Montreal.”

Speaking after McClure, Victoria LeBlanc, the centre’s executive director since 1996, said, when the population of each class is added up, there are nearly 4,000 students every year. The centre also offers a summer course for children.

Citing classes like the decades-old Monday morning drawing class that students like McClure attend regularly, LeBlanc said it is the dedication and sense of community that makes the centre such a success.

While some think it should expand, LeBlanc said the facility’s size is perfect because people get to know each other like family.

She said it’s a place where artists can come together and “share their passion.”

Named after McClure, the McClure Gallery, located on the ground floor of the centre, puts on monthly exhibitions by local and international contemporary artists.

## A tree to remember gardener Robertson



Donna Banks, the late Stuart Robertson’s wife, and their son Jeremy shovel soil around the roots of a malus “pink spires” (pink spires crabapple) planted May 21 in remembrance of Robertson, who died in September 2009. In the background is a malus royalty (pink-flowering crabapple) tree that was planted 20 years ago in remembrance of Donna’s mother Betty Banks. Proceeds from last year’s Perennial Plant Exchange were used to fund the tree planting. Robertson was well known in the city as a CBC broadcaster, gardening expert and author, and Westmount gardening advocate and city councillor (see story, September 29, 2009, p. 2).

Photos: Ralph Thompson

Banks stands in front of the malus royalty (pink-flowering crabapple) tree planted in remembrance of her mother. She is holding an Examiner article dated exactly 20 years ago describing the event.



From left: Virginia McClure, Victoria LeBlanc and Doreen Lindsay look at some images from The Visual Art Centre’s past and present.



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# Journée familiale de Westmount

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**LE SAMEDI 29 MAI**  
à partir de 9h30.

Celebrate the arrival  
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Activities and games  
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**SATURDAY, MAY 29**  
as of 9:30 am.

**Vente à l'encan à 10h** **Public Auction at 10 am**

Info : 514 989-5353 • [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org)



**Westmount**

Sports, loisirs et événements communautaires  
Sports, Recreation and Community Events



## Comin' Up

THURSDAY, MAY 27

- The Thomas More Institute presents an interview with **Charles Levin** on Sigmund Freud, 7 to 9 pm. 3405 Atwater. Cost \$10. Reserve: 514.935.9585.
- **Contactivity Centre's Annual General Meeting** and public information session, 12 noon, 4695 de Maisonneuve, corner Lansdowne. 514.932.2326. All welcome.

FRIDAY, MAY 28

- For **Westmount High class of 1960**: 50th reunion, Selwyn House (the old Westmount High School) on Côte St. Antoine, 6:30 pm. Cocktails (to 8 pm), buffet dinner, dancing. Cost: \$85. Contact: Kenny Wolfe at [kwolfe1943@gmail.com](mailto:kwolfe1943@gmail.com).
- **The Yellow Door Choir** directed by Westmounter Eleanor Stubley and Montreal Comedian Paul Ash present "Love and Laughter," 8 pm at the Unitarian Church, 5035 de Maisonneuve. Cost: \$20; \$15 for students with ID. Advance sales at [www.yellowdoorchoir.com](http://www.yellowdoorchoir.com) or call 514.738.9052, or available at the door. Performance repeats on Saturday, May 29 at 8 pm.
- **James Martin** gives a talk on humanitarian Tony Walsh (1898-1994), a founder of Montreal's Benedict Labre House, on the anniversary of his death. 12:30 pm, Atwater Library. Info: 514.935.7344.

SATURDAY, MAY 29

- Roslyn Ave. annual street sale** on Roslyn between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve from 9 am to 2 pm. Benefits Chez Doris.
- **Westmount Family Day**, 9 am to 4 pm in Westmount Park.
- Westmount's **Soirée de danse**, 7:30 pm at Victoria Hall. Sheila Lawrence presents choreographers and dancers from Westmount's programs in ballet, breakdance, tap, jazz, modern and belly dancing.

MONDAY, MAY 31

The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal

presents professor **Blema Steinberg** on "Women in Power", followed by annual general meeting, 12:30 pm at The Unitarian Church, (5035 de Maisonneuve.) Light lunch from 11:30 am. Cost: free for members; \$10 for non-members. Info: 514.488.7891.

TUESDAY, JUNE 1

**ArtNow** speakers: textile artist Barbara Wisnoski and filmmaker Scott MacLeod at the Westmount Library, 7 pm.

THURSDAY, JUNE 3

- Westmount's **Dramatis Personae** presents "Richard Cory" at St. Matthew's Church on the corner of Snowdon and MacDonald, 8 pm. For performance schedule, visit [www.theatrewestmount.com](http://www.theatrewestmount.com)
- Westmount-Ville-Marie MP **Marc Garneau** hosts Repercussion Theatre gala. Performances by Raoul Bhaneja, Montreal Baroque, Liederwolfe. Auctions, food and drink, 6 to 9 pm. 1307 St. Catherine W., 5th fl. Cost \$125. Reserve: 514.931.2644 or [www.repercussiontheatre.com](http://www.repercussiontheatre.com).

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

**Harmonia Westmount** choir presents their summer concert, 7:30 pm, at Mountainside United Church, 4000 The Boulevard, corner Lansdowne. Some of the proceeds go to Seeds of Hope Ministries, working in Haiti.

## Live underdogs at Family Day

The Underdog Club will be hosting a booth during this year's Westmount Family Day on Saturday, May 29. Organizers will be on hand to inform visitors about the Underdog Club, what makes an underdog and introducing some rescued dogs in need of a permanent home. For information, email [kellyknyc@yahoo.com](mailto:kellyknyc@yahoo.com).

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# Babe, in the clearing...but not out of the woods yet



BY MARY LAMEY

There are two stories about how this 10-month husky pup got her name. One, she was named Babe because with her white coat and pink nose she bears an uncanny resemblance to the big-screen pig of the same name.

It's equally true that Babe's rescuer wanted to remind everyone just how young and vulnerable this underdog still is.

Babe was born into a litter of so-called champion huskies raised by a so-called breeder. She had a birth defect that disqualified her as a show dog. It seems that she is a rare example of a dog with both male and female organs. Worse, she needed reconstructive surgery to allow her to poop and pee the way a dog ought to.

Chalk all her misfortunes up to inbreeding.

Instead of being sold, Babe was given away on the internet at five weeks old. Her

new owners dumped her almost immediately when the birth defects came to light.

She found her way to Sophie's Animal Rescue a month ago where she got the surgery she needed.

Sophie has since discovered that Babe is deaf and may have a touch of autism. She seems lost in her own world and avoids eye contact.

She's coming along, though. She's been spayed and is on the way to being housetrained.

Between the inbreeding, the deafness and the fact that she was taken from her mother too young, this is a pup with special needs. Babe is looking for a forever home and, until then, Sophie is hoping to find a foster home where this underdog can get the kind of one-on-one care she needs.

Could that home be yours? If so, call 1-877-43-DOGGY or send an email to [contact@underdogclub.org](mailto:contact@underdogclub.org). If you can't take a dog in, please consider making a donation to cover the costs of sterilizations or special, life-saving surgeries for the underdogs. Thank you!



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Need help? Consult the City Web site  
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Westmount Art Scene

Tremblay and Ruel: Setting the stage

By Heather Black

This month, painters Richard-Max Tremblay at Division Gallery and Jean-Pierre Ruel at Galerie D’Este offer compelling images. As storytellers, both challenge our perceptions and unsettle our expectations.

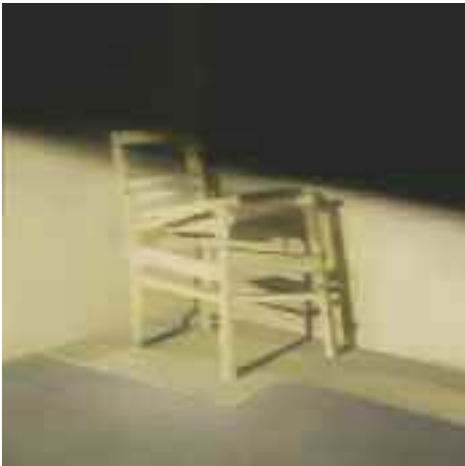
Richard-Max Tremblay at Division Gallery

Graphic yet subtle images are the hallmark of Tremblay’s paintings. In “Siege,” a chair’s subdued yellows suggest a tender sensibility. This isolation of objects piques the viewer’s interest: Whose chair is this?

Painted in oils, Tremblay’s shadows create atmosphere. In the graphic black and white composition “Stage,” an orange electrical cord snakes along the floor, animated next to the angled chair or music stand.

Tremblay focuses on atmosphere. In “Garden #2,” wispy stalks undulate against a monochromatic grey. Painted on a smooth surface, Tremblay’s aesthetics reflect that of black and white photography.

As a well-known photographer, photographs often serve as inspiration for his



“Siege” by Richard-Max Tremblay

paintings. “From the Top of my Head #1,” portrays the sun as seen through the brim of a straw hat. An abstract composition, the radiating pattern of light is eye-catching.

Combining a photographer’s sensibility with competent painting, Tremblay’s works capture the eloquence of form.

Entitled “L’ombre des choses,” the exhibit continues until June 5 at Division Gallery, 1368 Greene Ave.

Jean-Pierre Ruel at Galerie D’Este

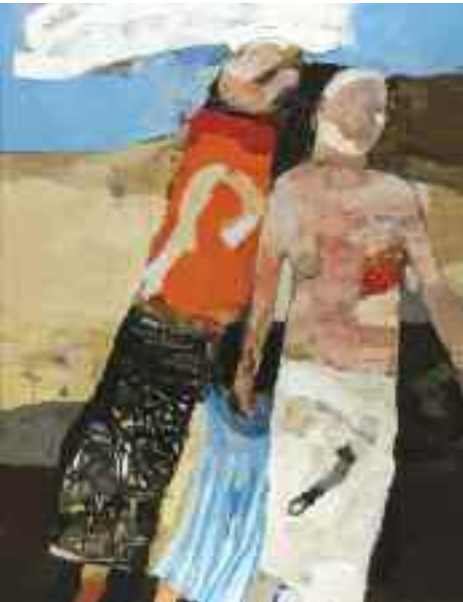
Known for large and imposing works, Ruel paints characters that invite storytelling. But this exhibit includes smaller works in gouache on paper. In “Faut soldat” a figure dressed in a traditional French uniform is set against a blue sky. Although painted with less detail, this image is charming.

A large canvas, “Le livre,” depicts an open book on a round table, while two masks rest on the floor below. Dominating the composition, the book is centred between a woman with red gloves and heels on the left, and a man in a white butcher’s apron to the right.

Compared to earlier work, the forms are more solid. Graphic black outlines are replaced by vibrant coloured strokes. Blue or turquoise are added to the composition, reinforcing their storybook appeal.

And in his most recent work, Ruel’s characters suggest modernity. In “2 personnages,” two students – the large squiggle on a red jersey suggests a college letter – are shopping.

Ruel – a skilled colourist – creates rich and memorable images. His exhibit starts



“2 personnages” by Jean-Pierre Ruel

May 27 and continues to June 20 at Galerie D’Este, 1329 Greene Ave.

Tremblay conjures up scenes that recall past moments. In contrast, Ruel recreates staged drama with posed figures. But both invite conjecture. And interest!



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# Westmount's first synagogue celebrates centennial



*Social Notes  
from Westmount  
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

On May 6, Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom celebrated its centennial as the first synagogue in Westmount. The pre-cocktail, catered by Java U, was well attended by chicly-attired ladies and their partners. Every detail was elegant.

The flowers, designed by **Denise Grossman**, were fabulous and seasonal with gorgeous apple blossoms plucked from the garden of gala chair **Jewel Lowenstein**. The soaring branches were mixed with calla lilies and large chrysanthemums in lime green.

Former Westmount mayors attending were **May Cutler** and **Karin Marks**, along with the current mayor, **Peter Trent**.

Karin attended with her mother **Irene Marks**, whose late husband Lawrence, was president of the Temple from 1961 to 1963. **Deborah Malin** attended with Neal

Grover, whose grandfather was president from 1947 to 1959.

Echoing the theme of 100 years, dancers from Westmount Studio demonstrated the waltz, tango, rumba, salsa and jitterbug. Unfortunately, Canadian operatic tenor **Joseph Kaiser**, who sings with the Chicago Lyric Opera and the Salzburg Festival, could not attend due to illness.

Temple presidents, both past and present, in attendance were Westmounters **Alfred Miller**, **Brian Grant**, **Joel Goldberg**, **Marilyn Green**, **Brahms Silver**, **Alan Knopp**, **Victor Goldbloom** and **Bernard Rubenstein**.



Westmounters Paul and Jewel Lowenstein.



Westmounters Karin and her mother Irene Marks, May Cutler and Mayor Peter Trent.



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# Another look at what Trendsetters are doing this summer

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

*I decided to go back in time, so I could go forward with what's in style for the season. I asked "in the know" Westmount Independent Trendsetter Gwen Nacos about her style and also spoke with Amel Chamandy, a new-comer to our Trendsetter column.*

## GWEN NACOS

I usually see Gwen dashing around in tennis whites, but I know she loves fashion, so I asked her about spring styles.

*What will you adapt from the spring collections?*

One of my favourite designers is Dries van Noten. I found some great pieces I'll integrate into my wardrobe – a halter top, skirt and dress.

*Are you going to the beach? What will you wear?*



Gwen Nacos

I am planning lots of short visits this summer – to Hartford to see the Chuck Close photography show, Chicago for the Matisse show, Stratford specifically to see Christopher Plummer in *The Tempest*, and yes, definitely to the

beach! At Martha's Vineyard or Cape Cod – where I will wear as little as possible. I love the sun!

*What will you wear this summer in the evenings?*

Evenings out will be outside dining wherever possible. I love to dress up so it will be sleeveless and cool, but always with jewelry.

*What music do you like?*

Ever since seeing Leonard Cohen in Belfast last summer, I am addicted. I play it nonstop in my car.

## AMEL CHAMANDY

Amel Chamandy is an artist and owner of Galerie NuEdge Fine Arts International.

I attended Amel's solo show at her gallery recently, and loved her look. There she wore a snappy, sexy LBD (Little Black Dress). I asked her about her day-to-day style.

*You are an artist and a businesswoman. How do you dress for both?*

From the studio to the boardroom I follow the rule that 'simple and feminine' works.

*(I note that in the photo, Amel is dressed perfectly for any occasion in a classic, crisp white shirt.)*

*What do you usually wear at the gallery during the day?*

It is a matter of what is planned for the day. Sometimes I'm in a dress and other times in jeans. If I have a board meeting in

the evening, I may bring some accessories with me to complete what I'm wearing.

*At night?*

Often jeans, heels and a dressy top.

*What will you adopt or adapt from the new spring styles?*

Again, I keep it simple, but I love the new prints.

*What do you like to wear on weekends?*

As much as I can, I spend my time in the mountains of Stowe, hiking, walking and just being away from the bustle of city life. Then I wear rubber boots, cashmere tops and caps.



Amel Chamandy

Photo: Claude-Simon Langlois

*What do you wear*

*on a hot summer day? At the beach?*

Again, I keep it simple. A white shirt, for example, can go with jeans or a great mini (and heels of course!).

*What is your favourite music?*

Deep down I am a disco girl, but I listen to and enjoy a wide range of music. When I train I like funky DJ music. Jazz is my mainstay for work during the day. Tango for romantic dancing. My daughter is the "front man" in a band, so I have to keep on top of the trends in rock.

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# Currently no LED bulbs for Washington light standards

continued from p. 1

tors.

"We now have a second generation with baffles, but there is still a problem with glare," Trent explained. Hydro will be preparing a report on a third generation option.

So far, he added, no LED bulbs as requested by Moffat have been found that are compatible with the Washington standard. They are, however, available for the cobra models that overhang arterial streets such as Sherbrooke.

As a result, city council decided to proceed with the order of 59 Washington-type streetlight luminaries from Éclairage Qua-

tro Inc. at a total cost of \$155,835.

Moffat, an astrophysicist and member of the Healthy City Project and of the board of the Westmount Municipal Association, says the problem is actually with the Washington standard and its frosted globe, which scatters the light. The base of the light standard itself prevents the light from being deflected downward.

"I went by the second-generation sample outside 241 Kensington, and I couldn't tell it apart from the others," Moffat said.

He noted that aesthetically pleasing old-style street lamps being used on de la Commune in Old Montreal "are wonderful at night."



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## Animals are Westmounters, too!

We are planning an Animal Tribute section, for publication the week of June 7. If you would like to remember or celebrate your pet, and help local rescue organizations at the same time, here's how:

For a space this size, please send us

- (1) text and photos to office@westmountindependent.com – by Thurs., June 3 (5 pm) &
- (2) \$25, by cheque (to Sherbrooke-Valois Inc. 310 Victoria #105, H3Z 2M9) or VISA (leave your VISA number at 514.223.6138)

Up to three photos (of one or more animals), plus text (maximum: 25 words), can fit in this space. You will see a proof. For examples see our February 9, 2010 edition, p. 17.

ALL money raised will go to The Underdog Club and Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions. No tax receipts will be issued. The *Independent's* records for this fundraiser will be open to public inspection for one month after the issue.

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## Emma Boutique celebrates 5 years of European style on Greene Ave.



Honouring five years of bringing “European elegance” to the Greene Ave. shopping district, Emma and Guerlain Boutiques hosted a daylong celebration to thank customers on May 19. In the evening, there were cocktails, door prizes and a raffle drawing for a complete “relooking.” Guest speaker Louise Labrecque, author of *Avec Style*, shared wardrobe tips, and 10 percent of the day’s sales went to the Canadian Cancer Society. From left: Labrecque, Nina Dyson, store owner, and Laurence Miranda, store manager, check out the shop’s line of stylish European clothing.

Photo: Isaac Olson

## Queen Elizabeth goes to Tuscany



Back row, from left, “Under the Tuscan Sun” organizers Domenico D’Alesio, Brian Marcil of Cushwake, Tony Fagnoli of Tony Shoes and Robert Anderson of Fort Insurance, with, front row, Queen Elizabeth administrators Irene Tschernomor (executive director) and Elaine Lalonde (community services).

The Queen Elizabeth Health Complex, located on Marlowe Ave. just west of Westmount, is hosting its 7th “Under the Tuscan Sun” event on Thursday, June 3 from

6 pm to 8 pm at Parisian Laundry (3550 St. Antoine St. West). The goal is to raise \$75,000 to digitize the complex’s Breast Cancer Detection Center.

The evening’s Italian buffet will be provided by Greene Ave.’s Vago Restaurant and there will be a silent auction on many items, including an Alouettes jersey autographed by Anwar Stewart, a weekend at the Auberge St. Antoine in Quebec City, tickets to the Rogers Cup, tickets to a Cirque du soleil show anywhere in the world, tickets to a Canadiens game and flowers once a month for a year from Westmount Florist.

The Grey Cup will be in attendance. Tickets are \$150 each. Call 514.485.5018 to order.

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## Astri Prugger Design hosts vernissage for three



Arts and fashion came together May 19 during a cocktail party and vernissage hosted by Astri Prugger at her Victoria Ave. fashion design studio, in collaboration with visual artist Erin Ashley McCarthy and jewelry designer Trink. From the left, Astri Prugger, Erin Ashley McCarthy and Tracy Gartner, who goes by the name Trink.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



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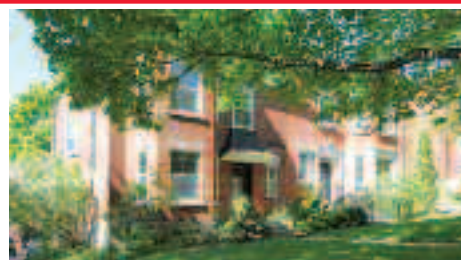
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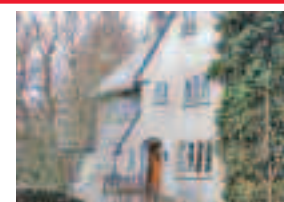
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# Westmount & NDG soccer partners



*Off-Sidel*

NOAH SIDEL

It's amazing what can be done when neighbours are willing to get together on a project. No need to look any farther than Westmount Sports and Recreation and NDG Soccer for a great prime example.

"The NDG Soccer Association (NDGSA) is helping us by finding a home for women 17-plus to play soccer over the summer," said Westmount Rec coordinator Anitra Bostock. "We did not have enough women in that age category to offer a league this year so we partnered with them [NDG] so that these young women can have a place to play," said Bostock.

This partnership was a no-brainer for NDG Soccer.

According to said NDG's Eric Heddle, "Traditionally, community soccer programs have been directed at children up to the age of 17. We have both have recognized, however, that there is an interest among young and older adults in the sport and both communities have developed recreational soccer programs for women and men of ages 18 and over."

"As with our children, we are taking a similar approach of working together on developing programs for our seniors. Westmount has developed a very successful recreational soccer program, which they offer to their community during the months of May and June. The NDGSA offers similar programs in June, July, and August."

Soccer, Heddle said, is the ideal summer sport for people in both communities.

"We have recognized the health benefits of playing soccer in a relaxed and

friendly environment and have responded to a desire from the more senior members of our community," he said. "For example, currently, the NDGSA has a very active men's recreational program, as well as competitive teams for both senior women and men.

"We initiated a senior women's program last year, which we wish to expand. Our hope is to attract a sufficient number of senior players to make the program as successful as our younger age soccer programs are."

Westmount should be able to help with that.

"NDG also has a 25-plus league that plays throughout the summer, and we have a large number of women 25 and older who have found a love of soccer in recent years, and many of them would like to continue to play throughout the summer," Bostock said. "Unfortunately, many people who live in Westmount vacation out of the city for the summer, and we do not have enough people to offer them a league for the summer.

"NDG has many people who play for them but, like us, people go away for parts of the summer, so by sending our players to them it allows NDG to have a full squad at each game."

In the end, the whole thing just made sense.

"I think the main goal is to have people active in sport, specifically soccer," said Bostock "and if one organization cannot provide something and we can partner with someone else to keep people active then we do what we can to make that happen," Bostock said. "NDG is a close community to ours and it is a logical choice to send players their way."

For more on Westmount Recreation, visit [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org). For more on NDG Soccer, visit [www.ndgsa.com](http://www.ndgsa.com).

*You can always reach me at  
noahsidel@gmail.com.*

# Harmonia for Haiti



*Harmonia Westmount, under artistic director Fredericka Petit-Homme, practising for their upcoming concert Saturday, June 5 at Mountainside United Church, 4000 The Boulevard. Part of the proceeds will be donated to Haiti through the non-profit Seeds of Hope Ministries.*

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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**Local Classifieds**

Babysitter / Mother's Help - Grade-11 student, trained YMCA camp counsellor, seeking summer employment as caregiver. Please call Siobhan 514-933-1617

Garage Sale, Saturday May 29: 8:30 am to 1:30 pm, 666 Victoria, corner The Boulevard, cancelled if raining.



# When the Bell Rings: Westmount Students Speak Up

COMPILED BY PHILIP CUTLER AND  
MICHELLE WARNER

We asked students who live or go to school in Westmount to answer the question: Should Westmount improve its arena and pool facilities? And, if you have seen the latest design proposal, what do you think about it? Here is what some students had to say.

The arena should definitely be improved. The old arena, pool and tennis courts are getting old – the courts especially, which are cracking. The arena has no space for sitting fans, and the dressing rooms are very small. The pool, which I use the least, is also overdue. The new plan will allow for more modern spaces and better recreational sports for years to come. If I were five years younger, I would be ecstatic, for the new plans would be up and running by the time I was very interested in sports.

– Jason M., grade 8, Selwyn House School.

We think that the proposal is a great idea. It's a good investment, and it's going to draw a lot of people to the facilities. Having a separate rink for figure skaters is good because they chip the ice. Underground rinks are nicer to play on. The air is better and this way, space will be saved. We would add a gym and a bar to the facilities. The parking lot is not big enough. They should add a parking lot to the plan and use the parking fees to help pay for

the facilities.

– Samuel N. and Liam K., grade 8, Vanguard Intercultural High School.

I personally think that it is a great idea to improve Westmount's facilities. It will be nice to have two arenas and some amazing pool facilities! I am really excited to see the construction project begin. I hope it will begin soon, and that it will actually happen! – Malich A., grade 7, Lower Canada College.

This week's question: **How do you study when it is 25 degrees and sunny outside?** Send your answers to this week's question, along with your name, grade and school to [whenthebellrings@gmail.com](mailto:whenthebellrings@gmail.com). The deadline is Saturday, June 5 at noon.

## Tipline

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

Please contact the *Independent* with your information.

See story "\$1,000 donated for 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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## Animals are Westmounters, too!

We are planning an Animal Tribute section, for publication the week of June 7. If you would like to remember or celebrate your pet, and help local rescue organizations at the same time, here's how:

For a space this size, please send us

- (1) text and photos to [office@westmountindependent.com](mailto:office@westmountindependent.com) – by Thurs., June 3 (5 pm) &
- (2) \$25, by cheque (to Sherbrooke-Valois Inc. 310 Victoria #105, H3Z 2M9) or VISA (leave your VISA number at 514.223.6138)

Up to three photos (of one or more animals), plus text (maximum: 25 words), can fit in this space. You will see a proof. For examples see our February 9, 2010 edition, p. 17.

ALL money raised will go to The Underdog Club and Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions. No tax receipts will be issued. The *Independent's* records for this fundraiser will be open to public inspection for one month after the issue.



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# Home for the summer



During a midday stroll through Westmount Park May 17, Claremont resident Rémi Dubois took a snapshot of two mallards landing on the pond. During the spring, mallards typically fly north from southern climates. The two male ducks maybe “just got home” after travelling across the country, thought Dubois, “and they moved into Westmount Park to enjoy the summer.”

Photo: Rémi Dubois

# Politics runs in the (Kruyt) family

Alexa Kruyt, a Westmounter and grade 10 student, was recently elected head girl at The Study for 2010-11. Kruyt will be responsible for representing the school, fundraising and leading the student body at in-house events. She has attended The Study since grade 7 and was preceded there by three sisters, Lauren, Olivia and Adrianna, all of whom graduated from the school. Her mother, Claire Mullins Kruyt, ran unsuccessfully for city council in the 2009 municipal election (see profile, October 13, 2009, p. 6).

Photo: The Study



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## WESTMOUNT LIVING IN NATURE 7 Thornhill

See yourself enjoying dinner on the patio, lingering with a glass of wine as the sun sets. This lovely semi-detached home with 4 bedrooms, finished basement, and garage are waiting for you.

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