

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 4 No. 6b

We are Westmount

June 8-9, 2010

Public Security returns to 'live' dispatch with new 911 link-in

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount Public Security's phone system is about to abandon its state-of-the-art options and connect callers immediately with a dispatcher and, in a new twist, even provide three-way talk with 911 in major emergency situations.

The city's new Internet Protocol (IP) phone system installed last October with menu options quickly proved more appropriate for administrative departments than for Public Security, where callers wanted a "live" person to answer their sometimes urgent concerns.

"We're reverting to the way it used to be," announced interim director Richard Bourdon June 2 while also unveiling additional park coverage and other programs for the summer (see story p. 2).

The new "old" system is expected to start in mid-month, just as soon as Bell can make the change. At the same time, the city is taking advantage of the new IP technology that will enable the dispatcher to patch callers directly into 911, in some cases without putting them on hold or asking them to redial.

"Nevertheless, it's important for people to *continued on p. 7*

Spring Soirée at Vic Hall



Westmount's spring soirée evening took place on June 3 at Victoria Hall. For more photos, see p. 17.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Demolition meeting June 15 for old Caledonia Curling Club

Condos planned for Hillside Ave.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A public meeting of the city's demolition committee will take place June 15 to consider levelling the building at 11 Hillside Ave., long known as the Caledonia Curling Club. A \$4.2-million condo development of 42 units is proposed for the site.

Built and occupied by the curling club through three decades, the building has been vacant for three years after being used by Giant Steps, a school for autistic and other special needs children.

The demolition request will be heard at 5 pm at city hall when details of the three-

storey replacement project will be outlined. The plan is being recommended by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

At one point last year, the site had been suggested as a possible one for the city to use for an indoor pool.

Described as having historic value, the two-storey brick building is, nevertheless, rated Category 3, meaning it has no particular features to preserve and has "neutral" architectural value.

Now painted blue, it is located on the north side of Hillside between the armoury at 3 Hillside and Place Kensington, the *continued on p. 8*

Don't Miss It
Westmount street festival in Victoria Village on Sherbrooke and Victoria, June 11-13, see p. 17.

INSIDE

Letters to the Editor p. 6

Social Notes p. 16

See our listings p.13

- Amy Assaad
- Beatrice Baudinet
- Julie Bedard
- Edythe Berman
- Marlene Fischel Rubin
- Martha Tsadilas



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Park was patrolled when attack occurred

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

At the time an 84-year-old woman was knocked down by a would-be robber in Westmount Park May 1, a public safety officer was in fact on duty at the park despite allegations to the contrary at the May 3 council meeting.

Public Security interim director Richard Bourdon told the *Independent* that verification of patrol log sheets showed

that veteran PSO Steve Payne had been in the park that Saturday from 8:20 to 8:53 am.

As well, he said, "there were lots of people" also working in the park at the time to set up for the day's Scout-a-thon, as well as dog walkers.

According to a friend of the victim, the woman had been lying on the ground after falling at 8:30 am. Unable to get up initially, she eventually managed to limp home alone. The friend claimed there had been no PSO on duty and no one to help the woman. She and others at the council meeting called for increased park coverage.

Bourdon pointed out that the park is a large place, and it is impossible for officers to be everywhere at the same time.

He also reiterated what council members had said that an emergency phone is located outside the comfort station and is connected directly to Public Security. Bourdon also confirmed what had earlier been reported that no calls for help or reports had been received at the time (see story May 11, p. 1).

St. Matthias Church to celebrate one hundred years

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

St. Matthias' Anglican Church will be celebrating its centennial on Tuesday, June 22, and the public is invited.

According to the church press release, on June 22, 1910, John McFarlane, Esq., and the Rev. Edward Bushell, rector of St. Matthias', and others, laid a cornerstone for a new church building. The old wooden prairie-Gothic chapel on the church grounds was no longer adequate for the growing community.

The Montreal architectural firm, Ross and McFarlane, had been commissioned to build a new Gothic church. Two years later, the bishop of Montreal opened the new church.

Everyone is invited to the lower hall of the church at 7 pm for wine and cheese. Following the reception, a brief service will be held in the church at 8:45 pm.



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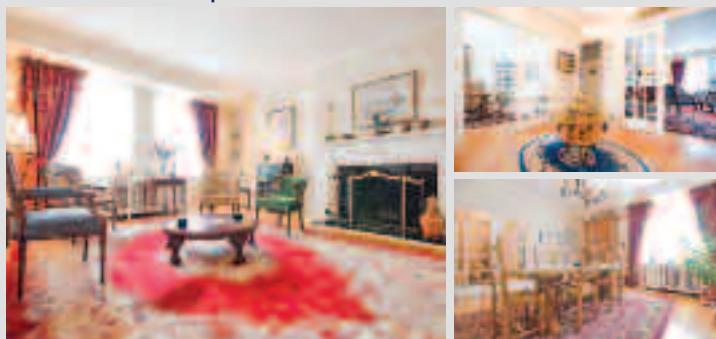
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Switch work takes place June 12-13

Upgrade on track finishes this year

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Work to replace switches on the Canadian Pacific tracks between Abbott and Lewis takes place this weekend, June 12 and 13 – the latest component in a major infrastructure upgrading of the rail roadbed through the Westmount corridor to reduce noise and vibration.

Scheduled for Saturday and Sunday between 7 am and 5 pm, the work follows replacement of the ballast, or rail bed, last month between Columbia and Greene.

According to CP, replacement of rail ties is expected to be completed in July between Fort St. and Abbott Ave.

Also, rail is being replaced between Bethune and Melrose (in NDG) in August and similar work will occur between Clan-deboye and Abbott in mid-October.

“I’m pleased to see this is going forward, and I’ll be interested to see the results in October,” said Councillor Theodora Samiotis, who took on the train issue with her election to council in November.

The recent work is the result of a process the city has undertaken with CP and the Agence Métropolitain de Transport (AMT), she said. “They came back to us with a plan and a commitment to do as much work as possible on the weekend.”

Improving the roadbed over the last two years results from continued pressure from the city and citizens as well as a push for more commuter transit, explained Councillor Cynthia Lulham who has been involved in the issue since 2002.

In historical perspective, she said, “It’s probably the most major upgrade through Westmount in the last 50 years.”

While a significant investment had previously been put into upgrading the line regarding safety and other measures, the difference now is that all the work over the

last two years is on the track, which will provide the greatest benefit to Westmount residents, Lulham said.

She expects it will result in continuous rail through Westmount by the end of the year to minimize the clickety-clack sound as well as provide a smoother ride. Lulham has served on the standing committee on infrastructure and transportation of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

David Schachter, director of the citizen Westmount Train Action Committee, is also awaiting the end results before deciding whether or not to pursue the group’s complaints to the Canadian Transport Agency.

“We are, of course, hopeful that when the work is completed, noise and vibration will be reduced to acceptable levels,” he wrote in a letter to CP, the AMT and the city March 30 following a meeting November 12, 2009 at which this year’s work was announced.

While he requested a description of the work and its scheduling, he told the *Independent* he had still received no reply as of June 3. Updating the roadbed is only one part of the problem, he said. The other is the need to replace the diesel engines.

CP spokesperson Breanne Feigel provided the *Independent* with the following statement as part of a request for details of work and timelines:

“The track projects underway in 2010 are a continuation of work started two years ago to renew infrastructure along the Westmount subdivision, which is a heavily used passenger rail corridor. These regular capital work programs are necessary to ensure the long term reliability of the network and occur with the approvals of AMT.”

Noise and vibration from the railway has been a longstanding issue for people living along the tracks.

Fire on Metcalfe destroys apartment

BY A.E. SUTHERLAND

No one was hurt in a spectacular fire that broke out the night of Saturday, June 5, but one apartment on Metcalfe Ave. is a complete write-off.

The fire alarms at 235 Metcalfe started ringing shortly after 11 pm, and residents left the building, many encountering thick smoke as they approached the third floor through the stairwells.

The fire was in a first floor apartment at the back right of the building on the lane that joins Metcalfe to Kensington. The resident is an elderly woman, who appeared shaken (and in her nightgown) but otherwise unharmed.

Firemen in masks managed to get into the apartment, and smashed the windows to the balcony at the back and the side windows. Flames leapt out the window followed by heavy smoke as the firefighters doused the fire.

Residents were kept back by police and Public Security, and Metcalfe and St. Catherine were blocked off to traffic.

Westmount councillor Cynthia Lulham was on the scene quite quickly and helped usher the many seniors to an evacuation bus parked on St. Catherine St.

After about 90 minutes, the fire inspec-

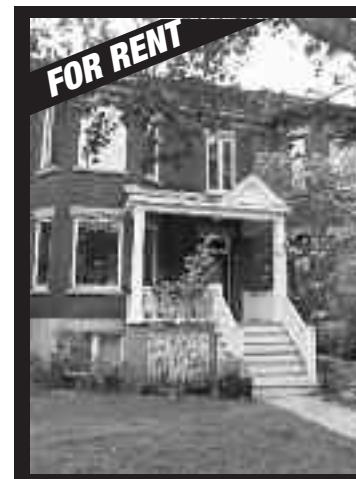
tors allowed some residents back in once the smoke had been cleared.

For a related letter to the editor, see “I met my neighbours on a bus,” p. 6.

Lulham concerned for elderly needing help

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who helped with the evacuation effort at 235 Metcalfe Ave. Saturday night, says she is concerned by the number of elderly living in the building who needed assistance. “Firefighters did a wonderful job containing the fire but what really worried me was the number of elderly people who were staying in their apartments on the fifth and sixth floors,” she told the *Independent*. “Some seemed too frail to walk down all the stairs with the elevator not working. There are a lot of elderly people in that building.”

Lulham, who represents the district, lives nearby and rushed to the scene when hearing the sirens. Despite the drizzle, some of those evacuated did not want to take shelter in the fire department’s bus parked on St. Catherine, she said, so she was able to bring blankets and other items to them.



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Former mayor Marks' house rented by late Trivial Pursuit co-creator Chris Haney

BY ISAAC OLSON

Here's a bit of trivia for you: Trivial Pursuit board game co-creators Chris Haney and Scott Abbott were renting Karin Marks' property at 370 Lansdowne when the city's former mayor and her husband bought the old farmhouse back in 1980.

Here's another: The couple still debates whether Haney and Abbott invited them to invest in the yet-to-be released board game – a relatively low wager that surely would have turned into big bucks.

Marks says her husband, Brian Pudington, declined the invitation while he argues they were never invited.

Haney died last week at the age of 59, leaving many questions unanswered. At least 6,000 anyway. Of course, he left just as many answers on the other side of the cards.

"They were very enthusiastic about it, but it was, certainly, a game," said Marks, remembering her encounters with Haney, a former *Gazette* photo editor, and Abbott, a sports editor for *The Canadian Press*.

"They were very much into developing questions."

Marks said she and her husband, who still live in the home, visited the house a couple of times while the co-creators were still living there.

Haney and his wife were sharing one of the three bedrooms while their toddler took another. Abbott occupied the third, said Marks, remembering the house was sparsely furnished and the occupants mostly hung out in the kitchen.

The living room, she said, contained only a rug because Haney's wife was using the space to teach Lamaze classes.

Times were tight for the rookie game designers back then and, as Marks recounts, soon after she and her husband moved in, a city bailiff showed up seeking payment for the tenants' overdue parking tickets. Later, Marks said her husband turned away another unannounced visitor, only to discover after it was a Molson representative delivering a case of beer – a Christmas gift for Ab-
bott.

continued on p. 9

Westmounters take the stage

New New Underground

A group of performers, two of which have a connection to Westmount, will be breaking a leg during Montreal's Fringe Festival and proceeds from the performance will benefit youth-focused organization, Head & Hands, in neighbouring NDG.

Alice Abracen, a Roslyn School grad, and Westmouter Sarah Hansen are part



From left, Alice Abracen, Delaney Hicock and Sarah Hansen.

of an up-and-coming theatre group called The New New Underground that will be performing "I Like

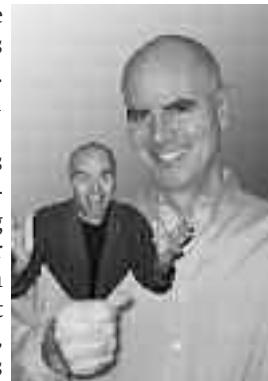
Cowboys" in the Just for Laughs Studio on St. Laurent, June 11 to 19.

The play tells the tale of a cowboy, a travelling salesman/doctor and a sick girl in a poor wild west town. The play, which includes live music, explores paranoia and greed, said Hannah Rice, who works at NDG's Animal Health Clinic.

Rice, one of the head writers, said the group, friends since high school, was randomly selected to perform during the festival. Although most involved with the group are experienced and educated in the performing arts, it will be their first time on stage as a team.

All profits will go to Head & Hands, an NDG-based non-profit organization located on Sherbrooke St.

that aims to promote the *continued on p. 24*



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

REJECTED BUT NOT REJECTS

With this special “pet” edition of the *Independent*, it seemed like the right time to shift our focus away from speeding cyclists and the new arena, to a topic that is well suited to the theme of this issue.

As many readers know, every week a deserving dog is featured in the Underdog column while the 9 Lives column shares the plight of homeless cats. The exposure for these animals is amazing and goes a long way in helping them find a home. But the reality is, these “featured” adoptable animals represent only the tip of a very, very large iceberg.

The reality is, every week, hundreds of homeless, nameless dogs and cats are euthanized in pounds across Quebec. Every week hundreds of puppies are born into unbelievably cruel and squalid conditions at puppy mills (not to mention the hundreds that are born to licensed breeders). Every week litters of kittens are born to the thousands of homeless cats that wander the back alleys of our fair city and many more are bred and sold to pet stores. Many of these animals will never find a loving home. Many will not live to reach the age of 1.

There is no question that a lot needs to be done to fix this problem. If you are thinking about getting a dog or cat, please consider adopting from a rescue rather than buying from a breeder or pet shop.

Even if you have your heart set on a particular breed, it is almost a certainty that you will find one at a shelter or rescue. Right now our rescue alone has a golden retriever, chihuahuas, a dachshund and two beagles.

Maybe adopting a rescue sounds like the right way to go but you’re not sure where to start? Most local rescues list their adoptable animals at petfinder.com. You don’t even have to know the name of the rescue. Just search by location type, breed, size, age and more. Many rescues, including Paws for Life, also have a Facebook page.

Adopt from a rescue and save a life!
MELISSA DI STEFANO, ST. ANTOINE ST.

BON DEED AT BONTON

First let me congratulate you on your third anniversary. I enjoy your newspaper very much as it helps me stay connected to my city when I can’t do it personally and can’t be informed about a wide variety of community topics by any other means. As well, I get every issue of your paper delivered to my door (thank you) which was rarely the case with the *Westmount Examiner*.

I have the happy job of informing you that one of the employees of a local dry cleaner, Nettoyeurs Bonton, 4251 St. Catherine St., has a wonderful, cheerful dark-haired, light-complexion girl who did

a great thing recently. I deposited two suits and some pants with her the morning of June 2, for cleaning.

About 15 minutes later, I got a call from her saying that she had found a diamond ring in my clothing order. What a surprise and a relief! I couldn’t go back immediately so she kindly held it for me. When I returned later in the afternoon, I was so relieved to see that it was my wedding ring that I had lost some time ago and was about to give up on finding it again. I thanked her profusely.

It was such a pleasant experience to find such an honest employee there, and she certainly deserves my thanks again as she really did make my day!

RODERICK THORPE, EDGEHILL RD.

I MET MY NEIGHBOURS ON A BUS

If you peeked into a Westmount apartment building at 11 pm on a typical Saturday night one might find a few tenants getting ready for bed, some just arriving home and others already fast asleep.

On June 5, I was just such a tenant at Westmount Manor at 235 Metcalfe Ave., when I heard an annoying beeping of a smoke alarm. After checking the hallway and finding everything clear of smoke, I headed back to the bedroom when the building smoke alarm started to sound.

By the time I made it back out the front door, smoke was in the hallway and pouring out of my neighbour’s apartment. I quickly headed outside via the stairs where I ran into another tenant just coming in. We called the fire department and minutes later joined the steady stream of our neighbours that was being ushered by the firemen further up the street.

In the first intervals of the night we all chattered away, telling our version of the events. Cynthia Lulham, city councillor for District 7, who lives around the corner, came to offer shelter, distribute blankets and comfort, give us updates and check on missing people. Our neighbours across the street also offered shelter and tea. A large aid bus arrived on St. Catherine not long after, providing us warmth from the drizzle and summer’s night as most of us were in our bedclothes.

Two hours later we were allowed back into our homes, names and smiles were exchanged, as we were now no longer strangers. Grateful for the surge of compassion from others, our safety and our new friends, we only hope to run into each other at the mailbox next time rather than on an emergency aid bus.

SHERRI WHITE, METCALFE AVE.

POLICE NOT INTERESTED

At about 4:15 pm on May 30, three cyclists going north on Lansdowne cycled across Sherbrooke St. in spite of the pedestrian signal active at the time. They proceeded up Lansdowne (which is one-way down at that point), passing next to a police car, which was stopped at the traffic light.

The two constables in the police car paid no attention to the cyclists.

JEAN-CLAUDE TURGEON,
MOUNT STEPHEN AVE.

POLICE STATE OR PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY?

City councillor Theodora Samiotis unveiled 10 sustainability priorities (*Independent*, March 2, p. 10), with #7 being “Ensure main walking streets ... are safe ... for pedestrians”.

We have various junctions that have a phase where traffic is stopped in all directions with 20 seconds to cross. Taking the hypotenuse, it takes 17 seconds; the perpendiculars, 23. I was surprised to see police giving tickets to diagonal crossers on August 19, 2009 and raised this issue at the September council meeting, suggesting we should install “scramble crossings.”

Since that time, I’ve met with resistance from the city administration, which claims such crossings are illegal, despite the Highway Safety Code, R.S.Q. c. C-24.2, stating: “No pedestrian may cross diagonally at an intersection unless he is authorized to do so by a sign or by a peace officer or school crossing guard.” I have repeatedly asked for a signage to be installed. After much foot dragging by the administration, Duncan Campbell did say that he would contact the province to get guidance on signage. I was astonished to read in last week’s *Indie* that Commander Plourde was quoted as saying “We’re not going to cross diagonally in Westmount.”

I was under the impression that the police enforce the laws, not write them. It is the job of council to set policy. I sent Mr. Campbell photos of the signage that Toronto is using for their scramble crossing at the Yonge/Dundas intersection. He repeatedly insists that scramble crossings are illegal because the highway code doesn’t prescribe signage. The province doesn’t either – but that didn’t prevent Toronto putting one in.

All we need is a sign – not a police state. Call Toronto, they have one.

PAUL MARRIOTT, GROSVENOR AVE.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

Weekly
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PSOs in succession training

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A special program has been rolled out to train Public Security sergeants for possible succession positions after the departure of interim director Richard Bourdon, a retired Montreal police officer.

Bourdon, whose three-year contract as captain – or second-in-command – ends next January, was appointed to temporarily head the unit after the departure on February 10 of the director, Richard Blondin, also a retired police officer (see story Feb. 16, p. 1).

"It's time to hand Public Security back to Public Security," Bourdon told the *Independent* in explaining the move to train a

successor from within the unit. When he leaves, the positions of director and captain will be vacant. Sgt. Denis Proulx is now acting as interim captain.

The move to hire police veterans on contract came after the retirement of director Richard McEnroe, one of the original PSOs.

The sergeants in the training program will take turns shadowing Bourdon and assuming administrative duties.

In other training, eight officers attended the Nicolet police academy May 11, 12 and 13, on a coaching/management course. It was the first time that PSOs had been admitted to the course.

911 still best for emergencies

continued from p. 1

understand that they should not call Public Security for emergencies requiring police, fire or Urgences Santé, said Sergeant Greg McBain.

Not only do they lose crucial time by doing so, he explained, but only 911 has the capability to automatically trace land line phone calls to addresses.

The 911 connection will only be used in cases where the dispatcher identifies a situation as a priority emergency. Callers with after-the-fact criminal complaints or reports will still be asked to hang up and call 911.

Public Security services and related calls have undergone a transition since the merger and subsequent demerger with Montreal, in which fire services remained with Montreal.

Previous to 2002, Westmount dispatched both its fire and Public Security vehicles, often to the same calls. It was also connected by radio with Urgences Santé for first-responder medical calls.

While Public Security no longer runs

fire calls unless requested, its other services have remained largely unchanged. These include public safety education, searches for lost persons and animals, and enforcement of municipal by-laws such as noise, dog issues, parking, park curfew and graffiti.

It also assists persons in distress, provides emergency CPR and defibrillator services, and supports police when requested for traffic and crowd control, building evacuation and other emergencies.

The department also routinely patrols streets, parks, municipal buildings and checks the exterior of private property on request.

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More PSOs hired for summer needs

Parks coverage gets boost

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Additional public safety officers and personnel have been hired to boost Westmount's park coverage this summer as the Public Security Unit gears up to implement seasonal services, it was announced last week.

These include patrol presence at outdoor activities, the bike patrol, door-to-door fire prevention inspections and increased requests for special passing attention at homes left unattended over vacation periods.

As a result, retired officers Mario Testa and Patrick Sheehan along with Armand Morin will be assigned to full-day foot patrol in the commercial areas and parks while four police cadets have been hired to cover Westmount Park and Murray Park, said interim director Richard Bourdon.

This extra staffing will allow for daytime and evening patrols of the two major parks at almost all times, he explained. Other parks will also be covered routinely.

Also, in a program begun several years ago, two cadets from the fire academy have been hired to check out smoke detectors

and carry the fire prevention message into homes. They started May 25 to visit dwellings north of Sherbrooke St. Last year's program took place to the south.

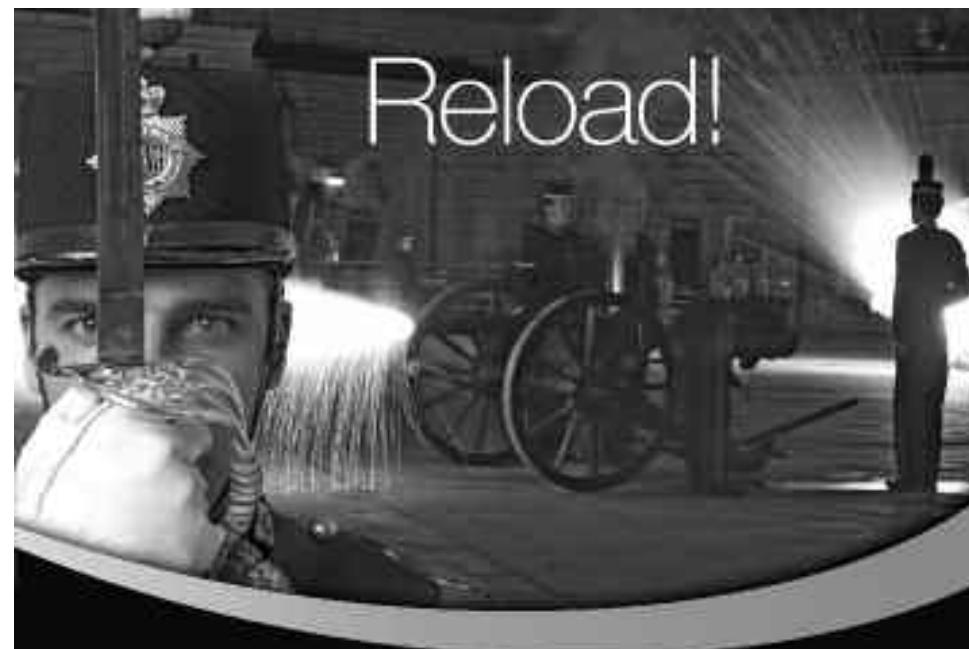
This year, Public Security's two bike patrollers are PSOs Kelly Hemsley and Daniel Girard, who will concentrate on bicycle safety on the bike path, in Westmount Park and certain neighbouring streets.

Their role will be mainly educational, but they will alert police when infractions of the highway code are spotted.

The patrol will work day and evening shifts, as well as all holidays and during special events such as sidewalk sales.

If residents are leaving their homes on vacation, they can call Public Security at 514.989.5222 and request that officers check the exterior of their houses during their absence.

Callers will be asked for names of emergency contacts and people who might be expected to be on the property or have access to the home.



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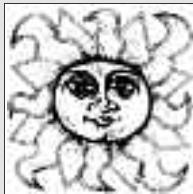
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25 units coming to Hillside Ave.?

continued from p. 1

seniors' residence. It is also across the street from two other seniors' residences: St. Margaret's home and 80 Hillside.

According to the Urban Planning department, the proposed development by 6980554 Canada Inc., Propriétés Belcourt, calls for 25 dwelling units with two bedrooms and 17 with three bedrooms. It also has underground parking.

On a lot of 2,145 square metres, the existing building was designed in 1959 by architects J. Ouellet and J. Vincent but underwent extensive renovations in 1987.

The building is described architecturally as belonging to the "modern era" and not consistent with the streetscape of Category 2 buildings. The new building, on the other hand, "would integrate well into the streetscape."



The site is already zoned residential (R6-34-14) and is presently listed on the evaluation roll at \$2.4 million, including the building at \$1.7 million. The estimated cost of the proposed work is reported at \$4.2 million.

Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

Westmount-based QWF hosts early summer schmooze at Amère à Boire, 2049 St. Denis St., 6 to 8 pm. Non-members welcomed. Info: 514.933.0878 or admin@qwf.org.

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

The **Thomas More Institute** presents an interview with William Mathews on Bernard Lonergan, 7 to 9 pm. 3405 Atwater. Cost \$10. Reserve: 514.935.9585.

• **Oboe Duo Agosto** presents a concert of pieces inspired by poems, folktales, folk songs, myths and fables from countries all over the world. Atwater Library, 12:30 pm. Free, donations invited. Info: tmayhew@atwaterlibrary.ca or 514.935.7344.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

Westhill Grandmothers including Westmounters Margaret Kamester and Sheila Denton will be walking to raise funds for the **Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign** in support of African grandmothers caring for children orphaned by AIDS. René Lévesque Park in Lachine. Info: 514.695.2652. Info: www.grandmother-scampaign.org.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

"**Uncovering Peru, Land of the Inca**" with Fred Hore, 7 pm, in the Westmount Public Library's Westmount Room Register: at the circulation desk or call 514.989.5299.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20

Rabbi David Woolfson, ritual director of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim discusses "What lies beyond?" at 12 pm for lunch, 12:45 for lecture. Cost: \$5 for lunch and program. Reserve: 514.937.9471.

MONDAY, JUNE 28

Centre Greene still has space for children ages 5 to 14 in **summer day camp** program. The centre offers weekly sessions from June 28 to August 20. Info: www.centregreene.org, or call 514.931.6202.

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So far, so near: Art Benefit for Haiti's schools



At Second Glance

HEATHER BLACK

In the wake of January's devastating earthquake in Haiti, communities are struggling to rebuild the estimated 3,000 schools that were destroyed or damaged. And with a literacy rate of 37.9 percent – 60 percent of men and 64 percent of women can't read or write – Haitians desperately need our help.

Westmount artists are answering this call.

Prior to the earthquake, school enrollment was abysmally low. According to the American non-profit Beyond Borders, 50 percent of primary school children do not attend school, while one-third of girls over 6 never do. The drop-out rate is equally staggering. Approximately 30 percent of elementary students leave by third grade – 60 percent by the sixth.

And while there are a few elite schools, most are substandard. Less than 20 percent of schools have electricity; while only 39 percent have potable water. Not surprisingly, only 15 percent have a library.

Following the earthquake, the government announced that schools would re-open in early April. But as only 20 percent of the schools (10 percent of elementary) are public or government-run, that was wishful thinking. And with less than 40 percent of non-public schools accredited, the recent natural disaster has made a bad situation worse.

During the earthquake, many middle-class Haitians – including teachers – lost homes, jobs and even their lives. Among the quake's toll in Canapé Vert – where Academy Rd. resident Nicole Antoine's two sisters perished – 300 student-teachers died when their college collapsed.

And teachers are desperately needed.

Once considered an elite occupation – teachers' wages in the late 1980s were the same as in 1910 – most earn about \$50 a month. Moreover 75 percent of teachers have inadequate training. Nearly 25 percent have not attended secondary school and only 15 percent of elementary teachers are qualified.

Yet there is hope within the rubble! Educators have stepped up to do their part.

One principal, her school in rubble, organized a school for 260 from the more than 25,000 children living in the Pétionville tent city. Another, her literacy school destroyed, struggles to help street children – often former slaves – just to survive. With 50 percent of the population under 20 years of age, these are the individuals who need our help.

Impetus for change

But buildings are not enough. As class instruction is authoritarian – like Quebec's before the Quiet Revolution – improved learning programs are desperately needed. While one American NGO is actively "opening up" classrooms – and children's minds – they operate only four schools, three of which were destroyed in the quake.

Some observers hope that a new Haiti will arise from this tragedy. But a new Haiti must be a place where the educated and skilled want to call home. With government corruption a constant concern, 80 percent of college graduates leave for Montreal, Miami or Dallas.

As it is only the skilled and attentive citizens that can create the necessary jobs to pull Haiti out of poverty, citizenship education along with trade and literary training is needed. The good news is that with annual school costs average \$135 per child – including uniform, books, supplies and transportation – a little goes a long way.

Art benefit by Westmount artists

Mention Haiti, and artists envision the lively motifs and rich colours of Haitian art. Not surprising, Westmount ArtNow

artists and friends have organized a gallery-auction fundraiser for Haiti's schools to support a people with a proud artistic heritage.

Westmount artists contributing art to the event include Elizabeth Cameron, Roxanne Dyer, Susie Fairbrother, Anna Gedalof, Anthony Hobbs, Jennifer Hornyak, Pierre Lessard, Ann McCall, Catherine Maclaren, Bruce Roberts, Sunny Savage, Lea Stillinger, Varte and Flora-Lee Wagner, as well as several artists from Montreal's Haitian community. One, former Westmounter Genevieve Lahens – the architect and printmaker whose work is featured on the event's publicity – has just returned from building a school in Haiti.

The Art Benefit for Haiti takes place on Thursday, June 17, from noon until 8 pm at in the Lobby of 1 Westmount Square (Wood Ave. entrance) – the space generously donated by the Cogir Management Corporation. Open to the public, come support your local artists and education in Haiti.

Heather Black is a Westmount communication designer.
blackheajea@gmail.com

Trivial Pursuit

continued from p. 1

"In addition to being one of the earliest farmhouses here, it has an interesting subsequent history," said Marks, noting scenes from a 1981 movie, *Dirty Tricks*, were filmed at the location as well as the 1988 made-for-television comedy called *Breaking all the Rules: The Creation of Trivial Pursuit*.

The game, released in 1982, quickly became all the rage, peaking in 1984 with already with over 20 million games sold. The co-creators quickly became multimillionaires. Recent reports indicate the original thousand-dollar investments have, over the years, earned more than \$1 million.

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Date: Thursday June 10, 2010

Time: 3:00 pm

**Location: Auditorium at
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McEntyre Creative Writing Competition 2010 winners

This annual writing competition had 1,336 entries from 16 schools this year. Sixty-six volunteer judges under the leadership of chief judge Janet Boeckh chose 40 winners.

Peter McEntyre was the mayor of West-

mount from 1969 to 1971. He set up a trust fund to support a writing competition to encourage young people to think about the idea of community and to learn more about their own communities.

Grade 1

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 | Eloise Wein | The Study |
| 2 | Amelia Martucci | Roslyn |
| 3 | Annabel Simons | Roslyn |

Grade 2

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Emily Sofin | Buissonnière |
| 2 | Kaya Gezen | Selwyn House |
| 3 | Calvin Erdstein | Selwyn House |

Grade 3

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Sophia Tone | The Study |
| 2 | William Elliott | Selwyn House |
| 3 | Kieran Hamilton | Selwyn House |
| HM | Ryan Cohen | Selwyn House |

Grade 4

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Olivia Hallett | Roslyn |
| 2 | Vincent Rizzolo | Selwyn House |
| 3 | A. Casuga-Magajes | Roslyn |

Grade 5

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Nikita Tafazoli | The Study |
| 2 | Sarah Waldron | ECS |
| 3 | Jonny Carr | Selwyn House |

Grade 6

- | | | |
|----|------------------|--------|
| 1 | Nicholas Bailey | Roslyn |
| 2 | Chiara Everett | Roslyn |
| 3 | Chloë Dupré | Roslyn |
| HM | Daniel Broomberg | Akiva |

Grade 7

- | | | |
|----|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Arielle Supino | ECS |
| 2 | Sam Skinner | Selwyn House |
| 3 | Zoe Zeitouni | The Study |
| HM | Eunji Lee | Wst. High |

Grade 8

- | | | |
|----|------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Gabrielle Hosker | The Study |
| 2 | Michael Kounadis | Selwyn House |
| 3 | C. Lundell-Smith | Selwyn House |
| HM | Rachel Mudrosky | Wst. High |

Grade 9

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Maude Paquet | Ste. Marcelline |
| 2 | Audrey Leduc | The Study |
| 3 | R. Martin-Hugessen | Wst. High |
| HM | Stephanie Claxton | The Study |

Grade 10

- | | | |
|----|----------------|-----------|
| 1 | Kira Gilmour | Wst. High |
| 2 | Sarah Mudrosky | Wst. High |
| 3 | Emily Shorroch | Wst. High |
| HM | Jeremy Andrews | Wst. High |

Grade 11

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Miles McArthur | Wst. High |
| 2 | K. Varsanyi Broadhurst | Wst. High |
| 3 | Dhilipan Nakeeran | Wst. High |
| HM | Merrick D'Amato | Wst. High |

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Paul Béliveau	Tom Hopkins
Sophie Jodoin	Michael Smith
Harold Klunder	Lorraine Simms
Janet Werner	Peter Krausz
Fabian Jean	Guido Molinari
Gabor Szilasi	Michael Merrill
Sylvia Safirio	John Heward
Françoise Sullivan	John Fox
Charles Gagnon	Michèle Drouin
Alexandro Masino	Etienne Zack

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Westmount	104-106 Arlington – Lge duplex easily convertible to single home	\$1,275,000
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Tuscan Sun fundraiser for the Queen E. Health Complex

PHOTOS BY ROBERT J. GALBRAITH



Westmounter Anne Sutherland, Christine Pickrell of Westmount Florist, and Bob Gainey were in attendance at Under the Tuscan Sun fundraiser.

The Queen Elizabeth Health Complex hosted its 7th Under the Tuscan Sun event on June 3 at the Parisian Laundry on St. Antoine St. A silent auction was held to help raise some of the \$75,000 needed to

digitize the complex's Breast Cancer Detection Centre. The evening's Italian buffet was provided by Greene Ave.'s Vago Restaurant and a silent auction was held for many items, including an Alouettes



Montreal Alouette cheerleader, Marie-Eves, Elaine Lalonde, Danny Minogue, Cynthia Price, Domenico D'Alesio and cheerleader Charline pose with the Grey Cup.

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

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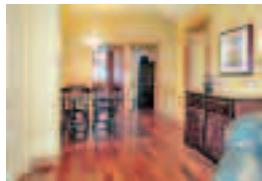
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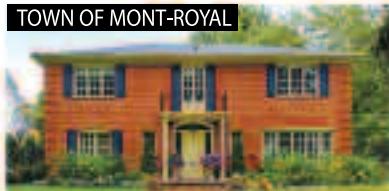
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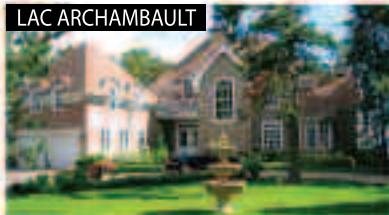
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Westmounters attend Hebrew University event



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Everyone agreed. The Montreal Chapter of Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University hosted a fabulous event. Held at the Sheraton Hotel on a snowy day at the end of April, the luncheon featured **Saul Singer**, who co-authored the book *Start Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle* with **Dan Senor**.

President of the Montreal Chapter, **Monette Malewski**, welcomed guests and introduced **Jacques Daoust**, president and CEO of Investissement Québec. Daoust presented guest speaker Singer, who had just arrived from Jerusalem, as, coincidentally, had Westmounters **Rhoda** and **Robert Vineberg**. Their tans were envied by all!

Singer's off-the-cuff, no-notes talk was inspirational, as he related anecdotes about start-ups in Israel, commenting that "to understand a culture is through its stories." The event gathered many West-

mounters including **Evelyn Schachter** and her son **Nathaniel**, **Mitzi Dobrin**, **Julia** and **Stephen Reitman** with their daughter **Lisa**, **Evelyn** and **Ricky Black**, **Nancy Cleman**, **Sylvie Bismuth**, **Carol Koffler**, **Philip Nickel** and **Morrie Cohen**.

Westmounter **Ari Brojde**, chair of the Albert Einstein Business Forum, attended with his wife **Robyn** and his mother **Anna**, also a Westmount resident. The Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has its offices in Westmount. **Carolyn Steinman**, director eastern region, who works there, was also noted at the luncheon.

Committee members were Westmounters **Lewis Dobrin** and **Stephen Lipper**, working with **Patrick Gagnon**, **Bernard Grant**, **Leslie Levi**, **Dr. Frederick Muroff**, **Danielle Pollack**, **Bernie Shuster**, **Professor Morty Yalovsky** and **Monette Malewski**.

The lecture-luncheon was held to raise awareness of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem through their Albert Einstein Business Forum. Sponsors were Scotia McLeod, RSM Richter Chamberland, PSB Boisjoli, Spiegel Sohmer, the consulate of Israel, Heenan Blaikie, M. Bacal Group and the Quebec-Israel Committee.



Saul Singer, centre, is flanked by Westmounters Rhoda and Robert Vineberg.



Westmounter Julia Reitman



From left, Westmounter Ari Brojde; consul general of Israel, Yoram Elron and Westmounter Danny Ritter.



Saul Singer and Monette Malewski.

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Spring Soirée 2010

PHOTOS BY RALPH THOMPSON



The city's 8th annual spring soirée took place at Victoria Hall June 3. As many as 150 Westmounters gathered in the Gallery at Victoria Hall to sip Purple Haze cocktails, champagne, wine and beer. The majority chatted in the gallery with a backdrop of paintings by Westmount school children, while others accepted the light drizzle outside in the courtyard. Many adhered to the dress code theme for the evening: black lace with a touch of lilac and green.

The \$90-a-plate social event was organized and managed by the Community Events advisory committee, chaired by Nicole Forbes, commissioner of Cultural & Community Services, and co-chairs Sada Reddy and Sue Jameson, helped by volunteers.



Street fest's second art walk more than double in size

BY ISAAC OLSON

The number of artists participating in the Westmount Street Festival's second art walk has more than doubled over last year.

At least 60 artists, about 40 of whom are Westmounters, will be on display from June 11 to 13.

"I think it is going to be a great event," said Pierre Le Gourriérec, owner of Avenue des Arts and organizer of the second edition of the Victoria Village Art Walk. "Whenever you put 60 artists together, you know it's going to be fun."

The art walk, he said, will be on the west side of Victoria Ave. from Sherbrooke to de Maisonneuve as well on Somerville. From water colourists and sculptors to print designers and painters, Le Gour-

riérec said there will be plenty to see.

Wayne Hemsworth, owner of Art Rebel framing shop, is handling entertainment. Between the two bands (one of which is Hemsworth's), roving street musicians and face painting, he said people can expect a wealth of entertainment. In fact, after managing to come in under budget, he was assigned to find more performers, he said.

Organized by the Victoria-Sherbrooke Merchants' Association, about 80 local businesses are supporting the 30-year-old festive sidewalk sale.

"We're getting a lot of support," said Folklore 1 owner and event co-organizer Gerard Fellerath. "People are really enthusiastic about it this year. It's going to be great."



Pierre Le Gourriérec, owner of Avenue des Arts, and Wayne Hemsworth, owner of Art Rebel framing shop, on Victoria Ave.

Selwyn House's Hannaford flunks Quebec Liberals' Bill 103

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Selwyn House headmaster Hal Hannaford is giving a failing grade to Bill 103. The Quebec government's proposed new language of education law, Bill 103, replaces Bill 104, which the Supreme Court declared unlawful.

Hannaford, 56, was part of an exodus of anglophones who left Montreal in the tens of thousands during the 1970s, in the

wake of social changes that were reshaping Quebec society linguistically.

After serving as headmaster at several independent schools in Ontario over the course of his career, Hannaford joined Selwyn House two years ago.

"Thirty-five years later when you come back, you are faced with this language issue," he said while addressing a noon-time meeting of the Rotary Club of Westmount on June 2.

He described a feeling of "frustration" given the progress "that the English education system, particularly the independent English system, has made in embracing the French culture – not just the language, the culture."

Even so, he still feels subjected to "what we perceive a little bit as being on the ground, and being kicked while we're [there]."

Bill 104 was an amendment to the charter of the French language. It prevented children of francophones and newcomers to Quebec from being sent to English language public schools even if they spent at least one year in an independent school.

After the Supreme Court confirmed last fall that Bill 104 violated minority language rights in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Quebec Liberal government replied last week with Bill 103. It triples the number of qualifying years a student must spend in an approved independent school. It also places the final decision as to whether someone gets to go to English public school in the hands of civil servants.

"No one outside of Quebec understands it," Hannaford said about the various Quebec laws over the years that have controlled access to English language education. "No one outside of Canada has any idea about how this could even exist in a democratic society."

Hannaford does not believe that the new law, when passed, will allow francophone families to send their sons or daughters to independent schools. "I don't



Hal Hannaford at Rotary, June 2.

think that'll ever happen," he said. "There doesn't seem to be a will. But at least the pendulum looks like it may stop. The swinging is there and maybe there's an equilibrium ... that everyone can live with, and then move on, and the debate will stop."

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Pet Pages

All money raised from these pet tributes will go to The Underdog Club and Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions

Photo: Ralph Thompson



This week's specials: an underdog for everyone



Emergency case: Baxter, leader of the pack no more

Big boy Baxter was one of 40 dogs seized by the SPCA from an extreme hoarding situation last winter. One by one,

the other pooches have found new homes. That has left 5-year-old Baxter, the erstwhile alpha male, feeling lost and directionless after three months in an emergency shelter. He misses being top dog.



Baxter

Therein lies the problem. Baxter lived in such dire circumstances that he had to scrap and come out on top for every morsel of food and bit of comfort. He's come a long way, but this 60-lb shepherd-collie mix still sometimes reacts aggressively when people try to get between him and his food. Or his toys. Other than that, he's a big ol' bundle of love, just waiting

to join a new pack.

His friends at the SPCA emergency shelter have worked wonders with him. He's crate-trained and knows basic commands. He even walks nicely on a leash. What Baxter needs is a home with a firm, experienced owner who can make him understand that "no" means "no". He isn't the alpha dog anymore.

He gets along fine with other dogs, though not domineering types. He'd be equally good with older kids and cats.

Ugly: Rocco, designed by committee.

Ever wonder what a collie and pug cross breed would look like? Wonder no more.



Rocco

Meet Rocco. At first glance, you might think he was a beagle because of his floppy ears and black, tan and white coat. You might think there was a little lab thrown in, too.

But take a second look and there's no mistaking that corkscrew tail and puggy nose. Some people might find him ugly, but we think Rocco is gorgeous in all the ways that matter.

A backyard breeder raised several litters of this unlikely mix but didn't give much

continued on p. 21

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"Felix", purebred male California brown spotted spangled. Feline fun cool cat. Lots of loving purrsonality. Wonderful disposition, easy going, loves human interaction. Will become your best friend. Makes friends easily with other cats, if they are willing.

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SUYEUNG

"At 17, it's good to have a spa day!"

Suyeung wishes to thank Karen at Spa4Paws for her grooming care. Their geriatric grooming system (hydraulic lift, power bath, massotherapy, homeopathy) makes an arthritic senior dog look and feel so much better www.lespa4pattes.com.

The Fowler Family



Toby

Rescued by Sophie, Sophie's Dog Adoption www.sophiesdogadoption.com

Thank you Sophie, Linda, Gerdy and others who have dedicated themselves to the work of rescuing animals.

... now living with Kristin & Andy



Dasher

Rescued by Linda, SPCA Montérégie www.spcamonteregie.com

This is my beautiful **Lily** (*alias Lilypie*) who passed away I guess over a couple of years ago now. She will always be missed by myself (Sheryl) and Garnet. Special thanks to Dr. Shannon Whatman, Dr. Bannon, and St. Hyacinthe's Medical Facility. She is the reason that I started helping out with rescues from puppy mills and other beautiful souls.



MERLIN

- slipped away May 20

Thanks....To my wonderful neighbours on Chesterfield/Prince Albert, two- and four-legged....especially to the children who hung out with me as I snoozed in my alley on Prince Albert, and fed me frosted cupcakes at the Chesterfield street party....To the dog (slave) walkers who re-routed themselves to respect my space and my attitude, even in the park during midnight strolls with my human....Thanks for indulging my Goldilocks tendencies, welcoming me on to your porches and into your houses....for responding to my approaches outside #29....for gently returning me to the safety of the sidewalk when, in my older years and being deaf, the middle of the road seemed the best place for my extensive toilette....To the raccoons, skunks and groundhogs for our peaceable co-existence during quiet pre-dawn prowls....to the dogs I so enjoyed teasing.... Thanks for 19 years of great companions, amazing luck, fun, and life on my terms.



More underdogs

continued from p. 19

thought to finding them homes – never mind training and socializing the pups. Eventually, Rocco, his siblings and parents were dumped at the SPCA.

The good news is that most of the pups have found homes. One-year-old Rocco and his parents, Latifah and Jack, are still patiently waiting. Because he wasn't properly socialized, Rocco is a timid, fearful dog needing patience and reassurance.

He'd do well in a quiet house with another pooch to show him the doggy ropes. No kids for the time being.

Unpopular: Walker, dear, deer boy

Walker was also brought to the SPCA emergency shelter after a raid on a place where there were too many dogs for one person to care for.



Walker

He's about 2 years old and a lightweight at 35 lbs or so. At first, Walker and his pack mates slept in a pile at the shelter, taking comfort from the warmth of each other's bodies. With his elegant pointed nose and long legs, he looks a bit like a deer. He has a distinctive blaze of white down his nose. No one's too sure what kind of pooch he is, though there has got to be more than a

little hound in his DNA.

Because he lived with so many other dogs, Walker has some issues around food. You would too if your childhood had been marked by hunger and abuse.

Other dogs might lay on the Benji routine when people come around. Walker is the opposite. This wallflower is more than a little shy and tends to retreat when new people show up. How's a guy ever supposed to find a home if he hides from visitors?

Trust me, this is a good-hearted dog just waiting for the right family to bring him out of his shell. A house with another dog would be ideal. Small kids, not so much.

Old: Jambon, aged before his time

Jambon is more good-natured than anyone would expect him to be. This rottweiler-schnauzer cross is only 5, but years of rough living have taken their toll on his body. He suffers all the ailments of age you might find in a 10-year-old dog.

Jambon, all 112-lbs of him, spent every day of his life chained to a too-small dog-house in a farmer's yard. Through hot and cold, rain and snow, he lived outdoors. He has arthritis, and his legs are bent and



Jambon

stiff. Eventually, his owner decided it was time to have Jambon euthanized. What can you expect from someone who didn't even care enough to give his dog a name?

That's when Gerdy's Rescue stepped in. She saw there was still lots of spark in the pooch she named Jambon. He's given daily medication to reduce the pain and inflammation. No dog has ever appreciated

being warm and dry more.

This gentle bear of a dog with a distinctive beard and noble head is friendly, well-mannered and very calm. All he wants is a forever home where he can live out his years in comfort. He doesn't even need much exercise but he'll love you with every bit of his big ol' heart.

About the Underdog Club

The Underdog Club is dedicated to championing dogs that people think they don't want. The old ones, the ugly ones, the downright unpopular ones. You can find out more about these and other dogs, as well as donating online at www.underdogclub.org.

You can call 1-877-43-DOGGY or send an email to contact@underdogclub.org. If you feel strongly about sticking up for the underdog, and you can't adopt, consider fostering or donating money. Both go a long way.

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(June 1991 – August 2009)

Late, lamented Nicholas Hoare staff member.

There are no ordinary cats.

– Colette



*My name is
Mylo and I'm
13 years old.
I'm much
loved and
quite spoiled
and have the
best life since
being rescued
5 years ago.*

9 Lives presents cats of all stripes

Stunning Tuxedo Max

Max, the tuxedo cat, is a big guy: 15 pounds of purring affection! He is a domestic shorthair “work of art,” with very interesting black and white contrasts in his coat.



This cat is very healthy at 8 years old, vaccinated, neutered and declawed on all four paws (which makes him an indoor-only cat).

Max is extremely affectionate and loving – really, an ideal life companion. And for a cat, he is astoundingly interested in his “people” – devoted and attentive, like a dog!

If you would like to find out more about Max, please contact Gerdy at Gerdy’s Rescue and Adoptions at 514.203.9180 or email her at info@gerdysrescue.org.

Many thanks for helping us find a loving home for him as soon as possible.

Bella Bella

Wow, what a beautiful Persian! Bella is an 11-year tortoiseshell longhair cat who is not ready for the rocking chair yet. She is friendly and affectionate, and loves attention and cuddling. She is very healthy,

spayed, and up-to-date with her inoculations.

If you would like to find out more about Bella, please contact Gerdy’s Rescue and Adoptions at 514.203.9180 or email her info@gerdysrescue.org. This is a compassionate placement.

Many thanks for helping us find a loving home for her as soon as possible.

Bibi, the playful

Bibi also goes by the name Brioche! He could no longer be kept by his family due to unfortunate circumstances, and is now in need of a new home. He is a striking 8-year-old black and white domestic shorthair, a tuxedo cat, a real gentleman. He is dignified and loves to sit in the sun looking out the window. Since he is declawed on his front paws, he is an indoor-only cat. Bibi is friendly, intelligent and playful, yet he is respectful and waits to be asked to play! He will truly win your heart.

If you would like to find out more about Bibi, please contact Gerdy’s Rescue and Adoptions at 514.203.9180 or email her at info@gerdysrescue.org.

Many thanks for helping us find a loving home for these cats as soon as possible.

Your neighbour, Lyzanne



Max



Bella



Bibi

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SEVEN

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Please neuter your outdoor cats.

Love and gratitude to all who work to help abandoned and mistreated animals. *Beth*

ZERO

Rescued from a dumpster behind a restaurant 10 years ago, 25 pounds of pure loyalty and love.

Andrew.

Note: These cats were named before their owners met 8 years ago.



MAX

“I love my family, and they love me”

My name is Max, and I am a 6 year old dachshund. I have a great life with my human family. I am in good health, except for one upset last summer when I had

emergency back surgery for a herniated disc. The doctors at l’Hopital Veterinaire Rive-Sud made me all better, and I thank them very much. They are the best!

BORIS & VICTORIA

“We like being indoor cats!”

Our names are Boris and Victoria, and we are 12 year old Russian Blue cats. We also have a great life with our human family, although Max the dog can be a pest sometimes. We just ignore him, so it’s not all that bad. (as all cats out there know, dogs are very silly creatures).

Susan Spencer & Tom Egli



New prez Gallop: Things are looking up at Atwater Library

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Although Mark Gallop always had a keen interest in libraries (his mother was a librarian), until six years ago, he had never walked through the doors of the Atwater Library.

Gallop, who grew up in Westmount and has lived for years in St. Henri, had strolled by the library hundreds of times. Then about six years ago, he was invited to become a board member.

The first time he walked through the doors was a revealing experience. "It's a nice building outside, but when you walk in, with that atrium inside, it's just incredible," said Gallop, who recently became the library board's president.

Privately-funded libraries like the Atwater face especially daunting challenges these days. For reasons rooted in this province's unique history, an independent library system supported by private benefactors sprang up in Quebec starting in the early 19th century. However, by the end of the 20th, the generous funding that many of them depended on had largely evaporated.

rated.

When Gallop, an investment advisor, first joined the Atwater Library board as its treasurer, the situation wasn't nearly as assured as it is today. However, after a year of operating in a deficit, the board managed to reverse things, and the library today runs in the black. Nonetheless, Gallop acknowledges there are still a few hurdles ahead.

"It will always be year to year," he says. "As an English non-profit organization in Quebec, we're never going to be able to put our feet up and just coast. We have to keep working at it."

While Gallop says private donations to the library have been growing at a steady rate, much more helpful has been an injection of financial support from the federal government. Ottawa awarded the Atwater Library a \$425,000 in-

frastructure grant to be used for repairs and maintenance on the building. However, it is conditional on the library being

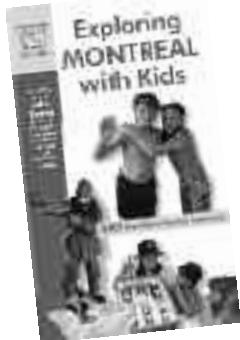
able to raise matching funds from private sources.

Gallop hopes to use part of the money to install something the library (which has facilities on three floors) has long needed: an elevator. "A lot of our clientele are older," he said. "It's a rare week when I go in, and I don't hear from somebody who's attended a lecture, complaining about how they had to struggle with the stairs. I can't wait for the day when we cut the ribbon on that elevator, and access is much more assured for people with limited mobility."



Mark Gallop

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Theatre folks

continued from p. 5

physical and mental well being of youth. For more information about the play, visit: <http://montrealfringe.ca>.

— Isaac Olson

Cutler performs during Fringe

Westmouter Keir Cutler will be performing during the Montreal Fringe Festival in "Rant Demon" a satirical comic autobiographical monologue about being a big mouth.

The shows take place at 9 pm for two weeks, June 9-12 and June 16-19, at Théâtre Ste. Catherine, 264 St. Catherine St. (Berri/UQAM metro). Tickets are available at the door or by calling 514.849.3378.

Cutler, who makes his 10th appearance at the Fringe in his eighth original solo show, has performed his monologues across Canada and in New York City. He has won several top awards at Fringe festivals in New York and Montreal where all his shows have made their debut. — Lauren Sweeney

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Local Classifieds

Notice is hereby given that the 112th Annual Meeting of NOVA Montreal (formerly VON Montreal Inc.) will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 17, 2010 at 310 Victoria Avenue, Suite 403, Westmount, Quebec.

Beautiful dining room set for sale: Duncan Phyfe style mahogany table, sideboard and 6 chairs (needlepoint upholstery), all circa 1930-1940: \$2,000. Call 514-481-3251.

LCC donates \$13,000 to local charities



From left: Christopher Shannon, Donna Fraser, Réjean Houle and Olga Assaly.

Photo: Peter Kerr

Lower Canada College punctuated a year's worth of celebrating its centennial status with its Roar Fundraising Gala in October of last year, raising money for the student bursary fund and local charities. On May 11, during a student assembly, headmaster Christopher Shannon and

gala co-chairs Olga Assaly and Donna Fraser, a Westmounter, presented an \$8,000 cheque to Réjean Houle on behalf of the Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation, as well as \$5,000 to Kim Martin of the NDG Food Depot.

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Westmount Dolphins back in the water

The Westmount Dolphins swim team practices are set to start on June 7, according to the organization. Parents who ordered their bathing suits and other items from GetWet will be able to collect the gear in the first two days of practice, and reps will also be at Westmount's public pool on June 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 to take additional orders.

For practice schedules, visit: westmountdolphins.org.

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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Facts about fiction from Anne of Green Gables expert, former Westmounter Elizabeth Waterston

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

To create fiction, Elizabeth Waterston maintains, a writer needs five things that start with the letter “f”: facts, a focus, a flash, a frenzy and a fix.

Lucy Maud Montgomery apparently had all of these when she first started to write *Anne of Green Gables*, the book for which she would become most famous.

Waterston, who is an authority on Montgomery, is a professor emeritus of English literature at the University of Guelph. The former Westmounter was the

Atwater Library’s Lunchtime Series speaker on June 3. Her book, *Magic Island: The Fictions of L.M. Montgomery*, is a reader’s guide to Montgomery’s most important work.

She said Montgomery was influenced by some of the popular escapist literature of her day – *Kim* by Rudyard Kipling, *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson and *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. By this time, she had already published several hundred short stories and was developing a following of readers.

The “flash” of inspiration came to Montgomery when she picked up an old clipping from a newspaper that said, “Elderly couple send for boy to help with the farm work.” As anyone who is familiar with the plot of *Anne of Green Gables* knows, a girl ends up being sent by mistake.

Montgomery, who had been raised in a Victorian and post-Victorian world where boys were considered more important than girls, had always resented the fact that she had been put down as a mere girl.

According to Waterston, Montgomery is very likely to have said to herself, “I can make a book out of this; I can make a book about an orphaned girl who is imaginative and creative and spunky and makes the whole world love her.”

Waterston, who has been teaching English literature for more than 60 years, lived on Clarke Ave. in the late 1940s when she



Elizabeth Waterston, June 3, at the Atwater Library.

was on the faculty of Sir George Williams College (now part of Concordia University).

At that time, one of her students was future novelist Mordecai Richler. Another, Muriel Gold, sat in the audience last week to hear Waterston speak at the library.



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NEWS YOU CAN USE

Easy Ways to Give Your Bathroom a Fresh New Look

The bathroom might be one of the smallest rooms, but it’s one of the most important if you’re selling your home. Here are some quick tips to freshen up your bathroom to give yourself a space you enjoy relaxing in, whether you are moving or not.

Clutter – Bathrooms attract a lot of bottles and jars that create clutter. By putting them in a closet or throwing away those you haven’t used for a long time, you’ll immediately make your room look more spacious.

Fixtures and fittings – It can be expensive to replace bathroom fixtures, so focus on new towel racks, mirror, and hardware. Replacing a toilet seat can also make a difference.

Flooring – A big turn-off for many house-buyers is carpet or linoleum in the bathroom. A simple white ceramic tile is a good choice. The caulking between tiles gets very dirty. Clean it—and you’ll immediately make your bathroom fresher.

Towels and shower curtain – Replace your towels with a new, fluffy matching set and keep an inviting pile waiting on a shelf or in a closet. And replace your shower curtain for a new one that matches the décor.

Paint – Freshen up the room by giving it a coat of light, neutral-coloured paint.

• The Habitat for Humanity ReStore has relocated from LaSalle to a more convenient location for Westmount renovators; it is now located at 4399 Notre-Dame O. This is a great resource for new building materials, including bathroom fixtures, all donated by suppliers to Habitat for Humanity.

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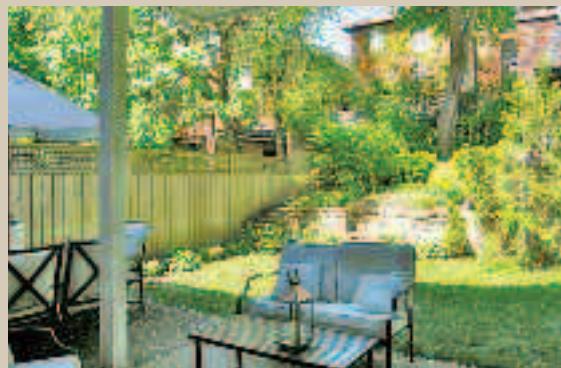
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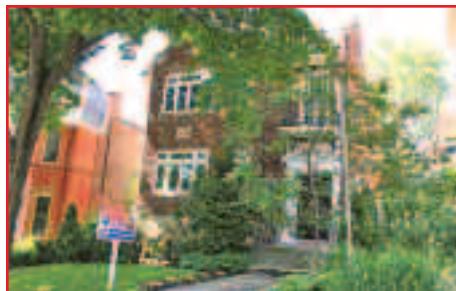
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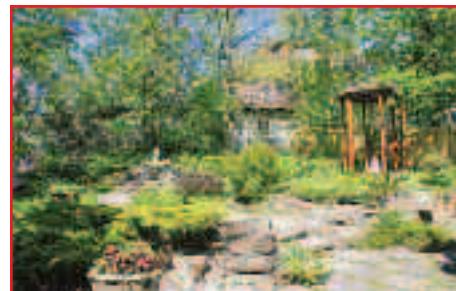
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