

Council: Public pool not a quiet ‘kids-free zone’

Compromise ends hot issue

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A distinct flavour of summer pervaded the July 5 meeting of city council, leading off with a compromise on pool policy that allows families to stay within the pool compound during the adult-only swim from 6 to 7 pm.

The new protocol means children aged 6 and under – always accompanied by an adult – may use the toddlers’ section of the pool while older children and teens will be able to go to the upper deck. Previously, kids were forbidden in the pool and on the decks during adult swim.

“This will be the new policy going forward,” said Councillor Kathleen Duncan, Sports and Recreation commissioner, though no formal vote was taken.

A large group of parents had been asking the city to allow them to share the pool and main deck with the adult lap swimmers. The adults had requested continued exclusive use and a quiet time. (See story, June 15, p. 1.)

The compromise, Duncan told the council meeting, stemmed from a recommendation that had garnered support from representatives of both parents and adult swimmers who participated at a meeting she had chaired June 29 to find a solution.

Council members who spoke out on the issue supporting the recommendation described it as a stop-gap solution for the remaining eight weeks of the pool season, expected to be the
final one until the
continued on p. 3

Westmounters can go Hogg wild again

BY ISAAC OLSON

After a six-month spell in neighbouring NDG, a site swap with the SAQ and some renovation delays, Westmount’s long-time hardware store is rolling back into town nearly two months later than expected, but staffers are ready to hit the ground running.

“We’re excited,” said co-owner Al Hogg, taking a break from stocking shelves for an interview. “We’ve had customers asking us everyday when we’re going to open here. We’ll be happy to be back in the swing of the community.”

Slated to open at
4855 Sherbrooke at the
continued on p. 2



It might be your last chance to see it. See p. 3.

INSIDE

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A summer of Comin’ Up p. 9

Bixi program fraught with complexities

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The installation of Bixi stations in Westmount would not be easy to implement and fit into an overall traffic plan, Mayor Peter Trent told the city council meeting July 5.

Replying to a question from Paul Marriott, vice president of the Westmount Municipal Association, he said a route would

The Indie is now on its summer break. We’re back in the office the week of August 2. Look out for the next issue on August 10.

have to be chosen and that eight to 10 docking stations would probably be required at a prescribed distance from each other.

As well, “the program has an agreement only with Montreal,” Trent pointed out.

Marriott suggested that the mayor, as president of the Association of Suburban Mayors, work to include other municipalities in the Bixi program currently run by the non-profit Public Bicycle System Company (PBSC) under a mandate from Stationnement de Montréal.

Jurisdictional is-
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From front to back: Erin Hogg, cashier, Sylvain Lavoie, store assistant, and Al Hogg, co-owner, stock shelves last week readying for Hogg Hardware's grand opening on July 15 of its new location at the corner of Sherbrooke and Victoria.

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Hogg back in Westmount

continued from p. 1

corner of Victoria on July 15, Hogg Hardware's new location is about 30 percent smaller than the store's original site, but the administrative offices will no longer be in the store, said Hogg.

With home ware such as kitchen utensils and cleaning supplies on street level and construction products, ranging from paint to screws, in the basement, the design will be similar to what shoppers are used to. The size of the basement floor space means a "renovation hiccup" delayed opening as crews were forced to install a second staircase to meet city fire codes, he said. A new sprinkler system and other features were added as well.

"The city has been very vigorous in making sure we conform to every fire code," said Hogg. "Which is good, because we want to make sure we are up to scratch."

Other than meeting fire codes, the near-20-year-old hardware store won't be altering the location much beyond what the SAQ left behind. In fact, said Hogg, they even purchased SAQ's old checkout counter.

Hogg Hardware will now be an affiliate

of Home Hardware, said Hogg, meaning the national company will supply the store's product line.

"You have to buy your nuts and bolts from somebody," said Hogg, "We'll be wearing Home Hardware shirts, but providing that same Hogg service."

Be it a kayak or a specific tool, if a customer can't find an item in the store that is otherwise available in Home Hardware's extensive catalogue, he continued, it can be ordered.

Sylvain Lavoie, a store assistant for 18 years, said he too is excited about opening at the new location, but also a little nervous because everything has been moved around. It will take time, he said, to adjust to the new space.

Erin Hogg, Al Hogg's daughter and store cashier, said she is looking forward to getting everything set up and have the store running at full capacity again. As the heat wave pounded the region last week, she said she also is excited for the air conditioning because their temporary, cramped NDG location at the corner of Vendôme and Sherbrooke, had none.

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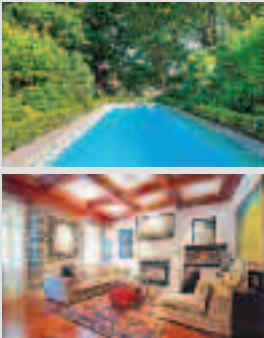
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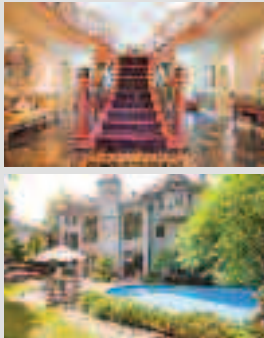


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Pool: Councillors wade in

continued from p. 1

building of the new arena/pool complex.

They also found it was not reasonable for adults to go to a pool expecting to experience a quiet time.

Anne Monty, an outspoken parent on the issue, asked councillors to pronounce themselves on whether or not they considered the pool to be “a kids-free zone” during adult swim.

“The pool is not the place for a quiet time,” answered Councillor Patrick Martin, who had attended the pool meeting as a neutral party. The compromise seemed to him to be a reasonable approach and that “there was a safety issue of kids playing around while adults were doing laps.”

He said he was “amazed at the amount of compromise put out by the adult swimmers” and called the recommendation “pretty good” middle ground. His view was also upheld by Councillor Cynthia Lulham.

Councillor Gary Ike-man said the message has been “clearly given.” Adult swim “will no longer be a quiet time.” However, in the interests of safety, adults won’t have to share the lap lanes and main deck with the teens.

“As the mother of a 4-year-old,” said Councillor Theodora Samiotis, “I want to be sure Westmount attracts young families.” She realized the needs of all constituents had to be met and a compromise was needed for this year.

Duncan, who denied allegations by Monty that she had broken her own rules at the June 29 meeting, stated she had not

allowed more people to vote for the recommendation from the “adult side” as claimed.

Supported by Martin, she pointed out that Monty had left the meeting early – before a show of hands – saying she would support only her own recommendation that called for families to share the pool during adult swim.

Carolyn O’Neill, another parent at the meeting, also spoke out at the council meeting acknowledging “a compromise of sorts” had been reached – “a stand-off” – but said she was happy that families were now allowed to remain within the pool compound.

Duncan provided figures showing that on weekdays, 45 percent of pool time was allotted to “general swim,” 25 percent to three hour-long adult swims and 21 percent to lessons. The swim team uses the pool for the remainder of the time.

On Saturdays, the pool allocates 84 percent of the time to the general swim and 16 percent to adult swim. Sundays, 91 percent is designated for general swim and 9 percent for adults only.



Anne Monty

Pellet gun found

A pellet gun was found July 1 at 4:15 pm at the gazebo in Westmount Park by a Sports and Recreation worker, Public Security officials said. Public safety officers took it to local police station 12 on Stanton St.

Making its last stand

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Take a last look up. This once mighty cottonwood, immediately east of Westmount Park Church in the park, will be coming down in the approaching weeks in the name of public safety.

“It’s the end of an era,” city horticulturist Claudette Savaria told the *Independent* last week. “The tree is dead.” Leaves came out on only a few of the branches this year and it is drying out quickly, she explained.

Efforts to save the landmark over recent years can be seen through a series of amputated branches on the massive trunk that measures many meters in circumference.

Like the willow, the eastern cottonwood, *Populus deltoids*, thrives close to river banks, an environment once provided by a natural stream through Westmount Park.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

4300 RENO BOTHERS NEIGHBOURS

I need to share with your readers the considerable distress being experienced by myself and lots of other people in our neighbourhood due to the ongoing renovations at 4300 de Maisonneuve.

I live in a nearby building, and the noise produced by the machinery and brickwork, together with the dust and dirt generated and sent into the air for all to breathe, are making life pretty unpleasant.

I gather this has been going on for several years and is likely to continue for at least another year. This is most unfortunate and unhealthy.

I hope that this project may be concluded as quickly and efficiently as possible.

LOUISE HALPERIN, CLARKE AVE.

LES 5 SAISONS RENO MIGHT BOTHER NEIGHBOURS

Your article about 5 Seasons and the zoning change needs a lot more research and closer studies.

I live at 225 Olivier, on the fourth floor facing 5 Seasons. This construction project will inconvenience a lot of tenants. There will be noise, dust and also, not to be forgotten, a lot less sun. And our future view will be of another building.

Some of the tenants have already told

to me that they are considering moving. I feel the same way. I was also told that some people have enquired to rent apartments in 225 Olivier, but when they heard of the future construction, they said that they would rather wait and see how this project develops.

PS: I want to offer my congratulations to your excellent newspaper. You have come a long way in a short period of time. Keep up the good work.

JERRY JACOB, OLIVIER AVE.

SGT. COLQUHOUN CITED

At 1:30 am on July 5, a mentally ill person settled herself in the outer lobby of our building at 52 Academy Rd. and began trying to gain entry to the building. I called the Public Security Unit, and very quickly Sergeant Colquhoun and another officer responded and took charge of the situation.

Colquhoun eventually got the person into a taxi to be taken to the MGH. I was extremely impressed by her sensitive handling of a potentially difficult situation. Colquhoun was professional, calmly took over, treated the woman firmly but respectfully and sorted things out quickly.

It was an education to watch her handle the situation, and I'm very grateful to her and the officer who accompanied her.

PETER WELDON, ACADEMY RD.

A PANHANDLER'S PORTRAIT



Pastel drawing by Doug Robertson.

I thought I should contact you in regards to my drawing of Jean-Guy Hébert, the panhandler, completed only a few days before I read the column in the *Independent* ("Panhandlers' stories as diverse as residents' views," June 23, p. 7). I used to see him sitting in front of the Royal Bank building in all kinds of weather.

One particularly cold day, he was sitting on the ground after a recent snowfall, all bundled up to protect himself from the cold. He had a scarf covering most of his face so that you could only see his eyes and part of his nose. He looked so pathetic that I gave him some money, for which he thanked me. I asked him if I could take a few photos and he nodded, and you could see by his eyes that he was smiling.

I worked from the photos and came up with the enclosed. The artwork itself is 14" x 10" and is drawn in pastel. I thought you might find it interesting.

DOUG ROBERTSON, LANSDOWNE AVE.

TIME FOR RESIDENTS TO DO THEIR PART ON GRAFFITI

I would like to thank Councillor Gary Ikeman for the excellent solutions he put forward at the July 5 council meeting to expedite the cleanup of graffiti.

Since his election last November, Councillor Ikeman has listened (patiently) to concerns about the proliferation of graffiti, evaluated what was impeding the reporting and removal of graffiti within a reasonable time frame, and has presented practical solutions that treat the whole problem, and not just one isolated aspect. Councillor Ikeman, his colleagues on

council, and the team at Public Security have done their part; it is now up to the rest of us to do ours.

I hope that, with solutions in hand, each and every Westmount taxpayer will take the initiative to notify city hall when they come across graffiti.

DOROTHY LIPOVENKO, YORK ST.

LET THE KIDS SWIM

We wish to respond to two letters in the July 6 issue regarding adult swim.

Mrs. Turner, working parents would also "relish an after-work swim." Unfortunately, we get evicted because a few adults want an "oasis of calm." It would be an "inconvenience" to move adult swim later because you wish to "get on with your evening"? This is a *public* pool. Furthermore, children don't have all day at the pool, not with working parents.

Mrs. Bowes likes "peace and quiet" at the pool after "working in a hot office all day." We believe the public pool is not the place for adult-only quiet time, especially at hours when all would like to use the pool. No resident should be excluded.

Most pools practise pool-sharing: corridors for lap swimming and/or a permanent swimmers' lane. If the sound of happy children is unbearable, we have a library and a park.

Mrs. Bowes, adults have a record three-and-a-half hours a day of exclusive pool use – not two. No other pool offers that much. "Often in the evenings there are swim meets". There are only three home meets per summer, and it is general swim that loses an hour, not adult time.

Recently our mayor welcomed new families into our "family friendly" neighbourhood. Surprisingly, reality is more of an intolerance towards children, seemingly silently supported by council. When our children are grown, we will sit by the pool, welcoming the happy sounds of our fellow citizens' children. This is what a "family-friendly" community should be – accepting of all, young and old.

It is sad that this intolerance toward the younger members of our society exists.

M. ELVIR, N. PALMER, L. AND P. COMMIE, M. POPOVA, A. LOPEZ, A. CARICOTE, J. ANDRES PEDROZA TORRES, C. HERNANDEZ, A. MONTY.

Correction

The graffiti fine for a first offence for an adult is \$500, not \$150 as reported in "City heats up graffiti fight," in the July 6 issue, p. 10. The fine for a juvenile, according to Public Security officials, is \$100.

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Oh Canada: Averting oil spills from sea to sea



At Second Glance

HEATHER BLACK

As Canada currently protects only one percent of its oceans, the recent Gulf oil spill is a wake-up call. But what measures will prevent a similar event here?

To answer that question, I spoke to Liberal critic for Industry, Science and Technology, Marc Garneau, who is member of parliament for Westmount-Ville Marie. He identified reforms in three areas: contingency plans, moratoriums and fiscal accountability.

Contingency plans

While the federal government has assured parliament that drilling permits would not be approved without the necessary precautions, the Liberals want an independent review of Canada's offshore oil-spill prevention and response capabilities.

Following this review, they call for the

creation of an oil-spill contingency plan in partnership with the provinces.

Last year, the McKenzie Valley Joint Review Panel asked for such a plan for the Beaufort Sea, but at the moment none exists.

Yet as wells are increasingly drilled in difficult terrain, the risk of spills is higher. However, governments are increasingly allowing companies – like British Petroleum (BP) in the Gulf – to forgo relief wells.

Here in Canada, both BP and Imperial Oil requested permission to drill in the Beaufort Sea without a relief well. For Garneau, it is crucial that relief wells be in place before oil operations start.

Moratoriums

While the federal and Nova Scotia governments granted a moratorium for Georges Bank until 2015, the Liberals would stop oil drilling or transport in all environmentally sensitive areas.

On the west coast, the Liberals support the existing BC crude oil tanker moratorium through the Dixon Entrance, Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound. And in Canada's North, they want all new leasing and current oil exploration activities stopped pending an independent exami-

nation of the risks related to drilling under Arctic ice.

For Garneau, oil spills in Canada's north pose a distinct environmental threat: "We don't know the impact of an oil spill on ice – or how to clean it up."

Accountability includes human costs

And then there is the matter of costs. Analysts predict that by August when BP's relief well is in operation, BP will have paid \$50 billion in clean-up, fines and compensation. Yet, in Canada, absolute liability limits on companies are set at \$30 to \$40 million.

The Liberals would raise that amount, so taxpayers do not pay for industry's mistakes. They would require companies to cover not only clean-up costs, but also compensate those whose livelihoods have been affected.

Garneau spoke of the social costs involved including the stress of unemployment. In the case of the Gulf oil spill, fisheries and tourism will be affected both there and along the eastern seaboard.

Shiny seas

As Australia protects 32 percent of its oceans and the US 16 percent, Canada cer-

tainly can do more. Increased regulation of sensitive environments and of the oil industry is a step in the right direction.

The Liberals' policy on oil spills can be found in the June 21 media release at www.liberal.ca/en/newsroom/media-releases.

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

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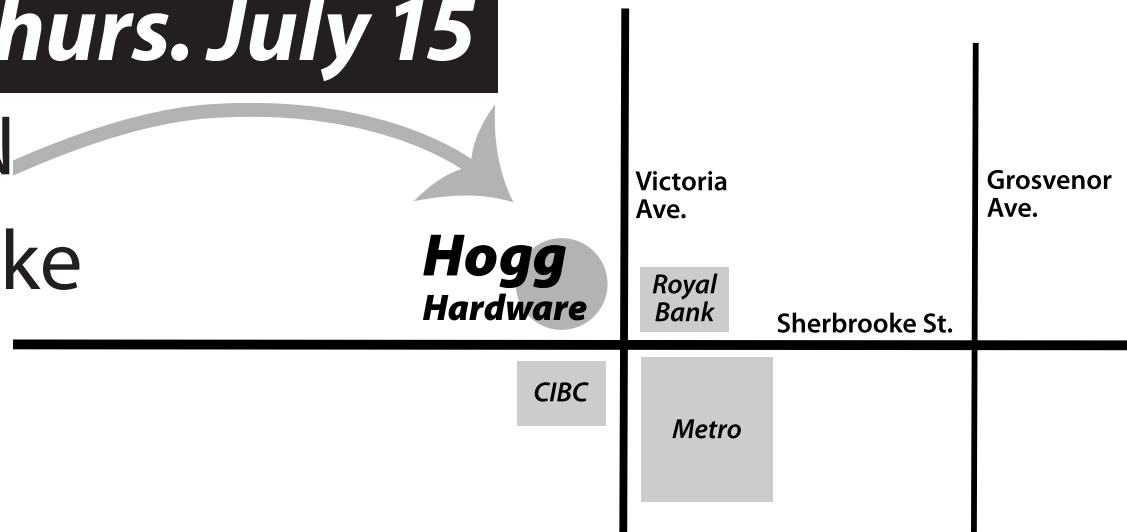
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BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

July 5 city council news

Bixi viability under study

continued from p. 1

sues aside, being included in the Bixi program also depends largely on how economically viable expansion into Westmount might be for the Montreal program, city director general Duncan Campbell told the *Independent*. There are also many Montreal boroughs already lined up to receive the limited number of bikes, he said.

This overview of the process was provided to Westmount officials at a long-awaited meeting June 8 with senior personnel from the Bixi program, he explained. “Just because you may want Bixis, doesn’t mean you’ll get them,” he explained. “You have to fit their economic model.”

As a result, the next step will be to meet more informally with Bixi personnel at a more operational level. While no date had been set, it was expected this month.

Meanwhile, the ball is now in the Bixi court to analyze Westmount as an economic model, Campbell said.

Limited number of bikes

“My understanding is that even if the system is considered to be viable here, it will become a political decision. There are only a limited number of bikes. Do we jump the queue in front of the many Montreal boroughs that are waiting for them?”

“Working with Montreal toward the installation of Bixi stations” was identified as one of the city’s sustainability actions for 2010.

Creating master traffic and transportation plans are also among the goals for the current council (see story, July 6, p.3)

Bixi advocates such as the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association have been pressing the city to push forward more aggressively, but Campbell emphasized that “You can’t just get the bikes on a whim. It has to be based on solid studies and a definite plan.”

Former mayor Karin Marks requested a meeting regarding Bixis a year ago, followed by a written request by Mayor Trent earlier this year, he confirmed.

While the city did not hear back for some time, the June 8 meeting was finally arranged with Roger Plamondon, the president of Stationnement de Montréal, who chairs the PBSC, and Alain Ayotte, PBSC president. Along with Trent and Campbell, councillors Gary Ikeman and Theodora Samiotis attended on behalf of Westmount.

More pleas for dog run fencing

If tennis players can have 10-foot high fences to keep balls inside the court at Murray Park, why can’t dogs have similar restraints at the dog run?

That’s the question Paul Creighton put to city council at its July 5 meeting in his crusade to gain enclosures that keep dogs from jumping over fences and hedges – especially when snow banks give them a starting boost.

“We don’t want fences all over the park,” said Councillor Cynthia Lulham. While considering aesthetics at the same time as providing safe runs, “we’re trying hard to please everybody.”

Creighton commended recent quick ac-

Greene to cost more

The refurbishment of Greene Ave. is expected to cost some \$700,000 to \$800,000 more than budgeted, it was revealed at the July 5 city council meeting.

The original \$2-million amount (\$1.6 million plus \$400,000 for new electricity work) related to the basic infrastructure work and did not include later additions related to design, landscaping and sustainability aspects including the creation of the village square.

The original amount coincides with the cost of work being undertaken this year as approved at the city council meeting. The total amount of the completed project in the next year or two will reach closer to \$2.5 million, explained director general Duncan Campbell. This figure also excludes the \$400,000 for electrical work.

tion by a public safety officer and a Public Works employee in the repair of defective maintenance gates at the Lansdowne dog run. Not only did the gates close poorly, but they left a hole beneath large enough for a deaf puppy to walk through. Fortunately, he said, the little dog was retrieved safely.

But together the city workers accomplished something in a short period of time that had needed to be done for years, Creighton added.

Windows smashed at 11 Hillside

Three young men were intercepted by police July 5 in connection with the smashing of windows at the rear of 11 Hillside, Public Security officials report. Owners of the vacant building, former site of the Caledonia Curling Club, are awaiting a demolition permit (see story June 22, p. 5) to allow for the building of a 42-condo-building project.

Public safety officers, answering a call just after 11 pm from a nearby resident for breaking windows, found police already on the scene with a trio of “young males.” They were apparently released after identification. Along with several broken windows, PSOs spotted a section of a back wall missing.

Arena moving forward

Design details for the arena/pool project are moving ahead with a preliminary design to be presented to the city’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) July 6, Councillor Patrick Martin told the city council meeting July 5.

The design will be further advanced after the construction holiday and will be made public after Labour Day.

Martin, who chairs the project committee, was asked by Patrick Barnard of Melville Ave. to update citizens on what planning was taking place and if the architectural work was still under the original Lemay contract. “Indeed, the process is continuing non-stop,” Martin said.

City director general Duncan Campbell explained that the work is going ahead under the original contract. The agreement requires updating because the architectural fees are based on the value of the project, which has increased. Citizens would be kept informed, he said.

Few cool off at Vic Hall

While Westmount adapted programs and practices to cope with last week’s heat wave, only one person took advantage of Victoria Hall as one of 108 island-wide cooling centres, city officials said. As a result, it was operated as a shelter only on Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday morning – July 7 to July 9.

Large turnouts were recorded at the pool, however, which was kept open an hour later to 10 pm at night.

“We paid close attention to monitoring water quality and cancelled a swim team competition event,” said city director general Duncan Campbell. The pool was open for general swimming throughout the day, even while morning lessons were underway.

Public Security vehicles were stocked with bottled water and public safety officers kept an eye out for anyone appearing to suffer from the extreme heat. As well, employees and the city’s day camps were asked to tailor their activities to the heat. Contractors, however, were noticed still working on road construction jobs.

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Sailing for heart and stroke foundation



Jack Alexander Lee, a Montrose resident, is sailing 3,000 nautical miles around Great Britain to raise funds for the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Quebec (HSF). So far, Lee has raised over \$45,000 in total. For more information, visit: www.SailBritain.org.

A personal remembrance of Eva Prager

Artist leaves colourful brushstroke on community

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

Artist Eva Prager, officer of the Order of Canada, would have loved these recent days of azure skies. Her favourite colour was blue – a hue she not only wore almost every day with abundance but added to all her paintings.

Born in Berlin in 1912, Prager lived in London from 1933 to 1949, after which she moved to Montreal with her husband, Ritchie, now deceased, and son Vincent, who is a partner at the law firm Stikeman Elliott.

Prager’s portraits are charming. She sensitively captured the essence of her subjects, which ranged from Pierre Elliott Trudeau, a chief justice of the Supreme Court, to Russian ballet soloist Maya Plisetskaya – and my daughter! Although she also painted lyrical landscapes, she loved portraits best as she enjoyed “the interaction with people,” reminisced Vincent.

Her father, Joseph Oppenheim, was a renowned artist, whose paintings are in collections all over the world, including Montreal’s Musée des Beaux Arts. Prager followed in her father’s illustrious foot-

steps, also painting in oils at first, then later with the lightness of watercolours.

Eva Prager added her colourful personality to everything she touched.

Her funeral was held July 9. A celebration of her life is planned for September.



The late Eva Prager.

Photo courtesy of Vincent Prager

No noise on a legal holiday

Following complaints from neighbours, public safety officers shut down work at 14 construction sites on July 1, a legal holiday in Westmount, according to Public Security reports. “It shows how busy we were that day,” said Sgt. Greg McBain.

A certain amount of confusion reigned over the July 1 holiday, which some contractors did not know was observed legally in Westmount, he explained. Contractors had already suspended work for the St. Jean holiday, June 24. “Three contractors actually came to our office the day before to ask us about it.”

At one of the 14 sites, officers found heavy excavation work underway at a private property on Arygle at 7:20 am. At the rear of another house on the same street, an electrically powered saw was being used to cut cement blocks at 8:45 am. Other sites were on Mount Pleasant, Clarke, Victoria, Burton, Claremont, Rosemount, Roslyn, Belmont, Murray Hill, Grosvenor, Church Hill and Windsor.

Officers were called back again to the same house on Windsor, July 4 at 5:33 pm.

This was a Sunday when noise regulations are the same as legal holidays. Work was also stopped the same day at two other sites: on Roslyn where a hydraulic lift was being used by workers to access the top of a wall they were painting, and on Springfield where three workers were installing plywood on a roof.

No tickets were issued at any of the locations because workers complied with requests to stop.

Neighbours riled up over noisy party

A resident of Bruce Ave. is being ticketed for disturbing the neighbourhood when a noisy party in the early hours of July 1 brought public safety officers to the house three times between 12:10 and 3:22 am.

Public Security officials said officers heard very loud music and found a party in full swing inside as well as on a back balcony. The resident was told to expect a ticket in the mail. Complainants were finally told they would have to call police.

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Chief Topleaf entertains and educates in Storytelling Garden



Speaking to some 40 listeners in the Westmount Public Library's Storytelling Garden on June 12, Chief Topleaf (above) told aboriginal stories on topics ranging from how racoons got their markings to how a snowshoe hare lost its tail. With National Aboriginal Day on June 21, the library currently has a display of aboriginal artifacts, including bead work, art and moccasins. There is also a small display of aboriginal books. Chief Topleaf is Mohawk and grew up in Kahnawake. He has been invited to return this fall to do a presentation on how animals prepare for the winter.

Photo: courtesy of Westmount Public Library

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May and June crime stats and report Graffiti down, officers to G8

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

the opportunity to earn double time.

School soccer game

Back home, officers, including Plourde, joined teachers at Westmount Park School

While June crime statistics have followed quickly on the heels of those from May, both tell a similar story for criminal activity in Westmount, said Station 12 commander Stéphane Plourde. "It's very quiet." Even an earlier rash of graffiti seems to have subsided.

This has enabled officers to focus in particular on bicycle safety, issuing 54 tickets in May. Most were for failing to obey red lights and stop signs mainly on the bike path at major intersections. Only two, however, were given out in June.



An unexpected police Police and teachers vs. grades 5 and 6 at Westmount Park School soccer bicycle safety operation game.

Photo courtesy of Station 12

has been planned for July across the island, Plourde said. "It's a big concern everywhere."

In Westmount, 18 traffic accidents involving injury were reported in May and eight in June, compared with eight in April and three in March. "A number of these involved cyclists," he said.

A total of 214 tickets for moving violations were issued to cars in May and 125 in June, down from 301 in April.

'Vacationing' at G8

Interestingly, the station sent 12 of its 60 officers to Ontario to work from June 20 to 28 with the integrated security force for the G8 and G20 summits, Plourde said. "Those 12 were on vacation, so it had no impact on our service to the community." The local officers were detailed to the G8 event in Huntsville.

A total of 325 police officers from Montreal, all on vacation, joined the contingent from across Canada for both meetings, he said. The officers were reportedly offered

to play four games of soccer June 18 against students from grades 5 and 6. "They were pretty good," he added. While police wore special shirts. "We were dressed like soccer players, and the kids kept asking us if we were real police."

Bike given to student

Earlier in the day, Constable Alain Di-allo offered his own bicycle as a prize to a grade 5 student who wrote the best essay on helmet wearing following a class discussion on the issue. It was won by Samil Mehedi, 11. The young winner picked up his prize at the station on June 21 "and he was so excited." At the end of a bicycle course for grades 4 and 5, drawings were held to win police soccer balls.

In other station news, local personnel were in charge of the Canada Day Parade, July 1, because it originated at Fort and St. Catherine in the Station 12 district.

For the remainder of July, Lieutenant Pierre Liboiron will be in charge of the station during Plourde's vacation.

Selected crime stats from Station 12

January to June '10 – Westmount

Type of crime reported	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
Break and enter	2	3	5	11	12	5
Robbery (theft with violence)	0	2	2	4	6	1
Theft from vehicles	10	10	21	25	10	14
Theft of vehicles	5	2	1	0	5	2
Graffiti	7	11	13	27	12	16
Hit and run	13	14	19	32	23	19

Comin' Up

SUNDAY, JULY 18

• Summer concert in Westmount Park with the **Robert Burman Trio**, 2 to 4 pm at the lagoon. Rain location: Victoria Hall. Info: Info: 514.989.5226.

• **Beryl Wajzman**, editor of the *Suburban*, discusses "What you're reading, thinking and talking about" at the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. Lunch at noon and lecture at 12:45 pm. Cost: \$5. Reserve at 514.937.9474, ext. 139.

MONDAY, JULY 19

• City **council meeting**, 12 noon, at city hall.

• "**Rock Out with Nick**" for ages 13 and up at the Westmount Public Library, 4 pm. Play Guitar Hero and DDR with other teens. Info: 514.989.5229.

THURSDAY, JULY 22

An activity for children at the Westmount Public Library: Design a self-portrait inspired by artist **Andy Warhol**, 4 to 5 pm. Register at the Children's Desk with your child's library card. Info: 514.989.5229.

SUNDAY, JULY 25

Summer concert in Westmount Park with the **Sheila Smith Quartet**, 2 to 4 pm at the lagoon. Rain location: Victoria Hall.

TUESDAY, JULY 20

Shaar Hashomayim film presentation of *Unsettled*, a story about religion and democracy, soldiers and civilians, and kids on the front lines, 6:15 pm. 425 Metcalfe Ave. Cost: \$5, Info: 514.937.9471.

Summer film club for kids at the library in August

Every Wednesday at 2 pm during the month of August, anyone over the age of 13 can gather at the library to view a film recently released on DVD, followed by a discussion. Westmounter and *Gazette* film critic Brendan Kelly will take part in the last session on August 25. Register at 514.989.5386 or email dlach@westmount.org.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

Summer concert in Westmount Park with **Avalon Motel**, 2 to 4 pm at the lagoon. Rain location: Victoria Hall.

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

City **council meeting**, 8 pm, at city hall.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

Shakespeare in the Park presents "Romeo & Juliet" in Westmount Park, 7:30 pm. Free, donations invited.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

Summer concert in Westmount Park presents "**L'Esprit de la Musique**" – swing and jazz from the 20s, 30s and 40s, 2 to 4 pm at the lagoon. Rain location: Victoria Hall. Info: 514.989.5226.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

Summer concert in Westmount Park presents **Claude Lavergne Trio**, 2 to 4 pm at the lagoon. Rain location: Victoria Hall.

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



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Raising funds for Tyndale at Mount Stephen Club



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The prestigious Mount Stephen Club hosted a fundraiser for the Tyndale St. Georges Community Centre on May 18. A hard-working committee for the 7th annual dinner-auction benefit made it a sold-out evening.

Committee co-chairs were **Betty Infilise**, who attended with hubby **Tony**, chair of the Tyndale board of directors, and Westmounter **Brian Dunn**, auctioneer *extraordinaire*.

Dunn attended with his wife **Leslie**, who offered a month's delivery of a batch of her "priceless brownies" as well as six month's worth of healthy muffins in the Tyndale Silent Auction selections. Also attending were their daughters **Stephanie and Gillian** (with **Brandon Faubert**), Dunn's brothers **Stuart** (with **Christa**) and **Peter**, and nephew, Westmount resident

Adrian (with **Amanda Jelowicki**).

Wine was graciously donated by Westmounter **Bob Johnson**. Other Westmounters included **Reed Scowen** and **Cynthia Ryan**, **Margie** and **William Stavert**, **Sharon Klinkhoff**, **Claire** and **Peter Kruyt**, **Leslie**

Alcorn, **Will** and **Henry Cundill**, **Susan McConnell**, **Barbara Molson**, **Micki** and **Peter Morton**, **Diana Henry**, **Rick** and **Susan Hart**, and **Susan Bell**.

Other guests seen enjoying the amusing moments were **Leslie Bronstetter** and **Raymond Setlakwe**.

The Tyndale Silent Auction had amazing items, including flowers delivered to the home once a month for six months by Westmount Florist, a designer necklace from Westmount's

Nee.nah, two gold tickets to the Toronto 2010 Rogers Cup, and a night for two at the elegant Hotel St. Paul after seeing Sting and the Royal Philharmonic at the Bell Centre.

The event raised \$60,000 for Tyndale St. Georges, a non-profit charitable organization focused on services for youth and serving the Little Burgundy community since 1927.



Westmounters Leslie and Brian Dunn



Westmounter Margie Glassford and Lesley Chagnon

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Westmount Independent readers
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Secret rules of parenting



Parenthood Uncensored

SOPHIE TARNOWSKA

We all have different parenting styles: the way we educate, clothe, feed and socialize our kids is a reflection of both conscious and unconscious decisions we make about who we are and who we want our kids to be. And how tired we are at the time.

For example, some parents think sugar is kryptonite and will only buy it if the box says it was hand-squeezed from an endangered sugarcane crop by a cross-eyed chimpanzee tribe somewhere deep in the Congo. At the other end of the spectrum are the parents who gave Kellogg's a reason to produce pre-made Rice Krispies squares, Sugar Crisp cereal and chocolate syrup that tastes like pure diabetes.

Some parents schedule every waking moment of their kids' lives in the belief that this gives them the best chances at success in life, while others think childhood is about giving kids a chance to be...bored.

Some parents play Jay-Z to their toddlers, others won't play anything but Raffi until they're out of their car seats. And some parents think kids should be both seen and heard – and often. Others, not so much.

However there are certain unspoken rules between parents – a code of honour and a form of respect for one another's parenting styles, so that even if you suspect that that kid's parents run the neighbourhood crack den, you will hesitate before snitching on them. Bad example?

But there are parents out there who just don't get it (those who know me are invited to let me know if I'm one of them),

so in case you're reading this, here are some of the unspoken parenting rules we usually abide by for and with one another:

Birthday parties: scheduling a birthday party before 11 am on a weekend should be punishable by a good spanking (for the parents). Ditto for asking parents to drive their kids any further than 10 km. I don't care how cute the ponies are out on that farm in St. Loin de Faraway, or how green the grass. If you do this, please don't be surprised when other parents ram your car in the school parking lot.

Invitations: never offer someone's child to come for a sleepover/play date unless you've spoken to their parents first. Seems logical. And yet we've all encountered the parent who gets carried away so that by the time you show up to pick up your child, she's planned her social life up to her 17th birthday, and you have to break the bad news that no, she can't attend the pole dancing party for 8-year-olds after all, after which she throws a tantrum so massive that she has to be sedated. Good times.

TV shows and movies: please stay within the appropriate age category – my child does not need to watch her first horror movie and wonder whether our family pet will come back to life as a death-breathing zombie. Nor does she need to surf the net – I don't want my 6-year-old to add demands for a Facebook account to her already long list of Mum-you-are-not-as-nice-as-the-other-mummies grievances.

I could go on, but I won't. Not only do I want to be able to walk around Westmount without being run over by a sugar-loving, Terrebonne-birthday-party-planning, horror-movie-promoting parent, but I know this parenting thing is an imperfect science, and I'm sure that I've broken someone's parenting rules at some point, however mistakenly. Does that mean I should close down the neighbourhood crack den? Just kidding.

Gerdy and Underdog Club take home proceeds from Westmounters' pet ads



From left: Gerdy Gouron of Gerdy's Rescue and Adoptions and Westmounter Gael Fraser-Tytler (with her dog Kef), accepted cheques July 6 for their organizations from money raised by the Westmount Independent in the special pet tribute section, June 8. The amount of \$202.50 was raised for each.

Photo: Ted Sancton

Westmounters support Mehel



From left, Westmounters Denis Lépine and Roxanne Dyer, joined Akihiro Takazawa, Diane Bélanger, artist Mehel and gallery owner Michael Banks at an event in Old Montreal for her exhibition "Voyages Immobiles" June 16. Twenty-five paintings and eight sculptures by the Algerian-born artist were on exhibition by appointment until June 21.

Photo courtesy of Diane Bélanger

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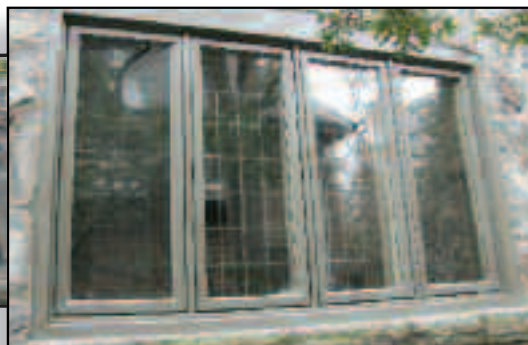
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The sunscreen controversy heats up



**Health
round-up**
BARRY NASHEN

Last summer I wrote about the sun and how we must judge just how much we allow it to shine on our exposed skin. I then alluded to the sunscreen controversy. One year later, the controversy continues.

Sunscreen protects against two common forms of skin cancer, squamous cell carcinoma and basal cell carcinoma. However there is some evidence that several common sunscreen ingredients (i.e., oxybenzone, benzophenone, octocrylene and octyl methoxycinnamate) may be linked to increased risks of malignant melanoma, a rarer but more deadly form of skin cancer. Other sunscreen ingredients (namely, octinoxate and homosalate) are potential hormone disrupters.

Remember, too, sunscreen use has been linked to vitamin D deficiency. Why is this important? Because there are indications that vitamin D deficiency may lead to skin cancer. Confusing, isn't it? We use sunscreen to reduce our risk of skin cancer, and then we learn that we may not be getting enough sun, which our skin needs to produce the sun vitamin. In fact, vitamin D is produced in our skin after exposure to ultraviolet B (UVB) light. After some processing by our liver and then kidneys, this vitamin will defend our bodies against microbial invaders and also promote the healthy mineralization, growth and remodeling of bone. Finally, vitamin D also reduces inflammation.

The Environmental Working Group, an

American watchdog on public health issues, recently reviewed 1,755 sunscreens and found that only 8 percent blocked both UVA and UVB radiation, while also being free (or nearly free) of ingredients with known or suspected health hazards.

Both UVA and UVB radiation from the sun (and tanning beds) can cause skin cancers after too much exposure, however for some reason most sunscreens only protect against the less harmful UVB radiation, and not against the more dangerous UVA component of the spectrum.

We can summarize the concerns:

- Potentially dangerous properties of some sunscreen ingredients,
- Vitamin D deficiency caused by reduced exposure to ultraviolet light,
- Incomplete protection against the full ultraviolet spectrum.

There have been many sun exposure studies involving thousands of people over the past decade. Possibly due to the many kinds of sunscreen used, the amounts of sunscreen used, the self-reporting involved in most studies and the different countries (at varying latitudes) in which the participants lived, the results have often been contradictory if not inconclusive. Some show that use of sunscreen in-

creases some forms of skin cancers, while others show that their use reduces other forms of skin cancer, thus the controversy.

Here's what I do to stay healthy:

- Purchase sunscreen judiciously: it must block UVA and UVB radiation and contain none of the suspect ingredients.
- Use SPF 30 to SPF 50 – those above SPF 50 have negligible extra benefit.
- Apply liberally when I expect to be in the sun for more than 10 or 15 minutes, especially at midday.
- Wear a hat.
- Take a vitamin D supplement daily.

Finally, I give additional consideration to my lips. Lips are also at risk of painful burns and worse, lip cancer, too. Fortunately, safe lip sunscreens are available. I purchase them using the same considerations as outlined above for skin sunscreen.

Barry Nashen is a Westmount IT consultant who is interested in health issues and shares his personal experiences in this column. He is not a health professional and his comments should be read in that light. Medical problems should be discussed with a doctor or appropriate health professional. For comments: barry@nashen.com, or <http://goodhealthguru.blogspot.com/>

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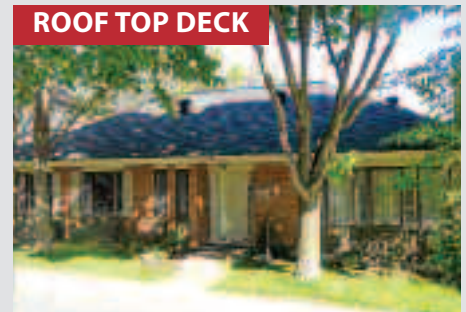


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City employees show off creative talent



Joanne Poirier, director of Urban Planning, left, looks on at a series of canvases painted by Domna Niflis, also with the department. An exhibition of art works created by Westmount employees opened with a vernissage at the Gallery at Victoria Hall on June 30. The exhibition can be seen Monday to Friday from 10 am to 9 pm, and on Saturdays 10 am to 5 pm until July 30. Photo: Martin C. Barry



Country cottage in Laurentians – Val des Lacs – Stunning views of lake and mountains. Beautiful country home, fully furnished with 3 bdr, 2 bath, paved driveway for 8 cars, large deck over the lake, 150 ft of beach front. MLS 8333143 **\$425,000**



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Entered in Communities in Bloom

Hallowell community garden in the spotlight

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Hallowell community garden is a prime example of the way gardening can sprout as well as veggies and flowers. With the gate wide open and the chairs set out at the entrance, it's become a gathering place for socializing after the weeds are pulled.

Members of the Hillside community garden on the other side of the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) also stroll over to chat.

"It's like my own backyard," said John Cotnam after tending his Hallowell plot.

"All we used to have was an old grey bench. Then the city gave us this new one and we found some chairs. It's nice to sit out here in the evenings."

And it's this special ambiance that has put the garden in the national spotlight as Westmount's entry in the Communities in Bloom competition. The city is already competing in the competitive category for municipalities but decided recently on the second submission.

"For the community garden [category], you have to show community spirit," said



Councillor Cynthia Lulham who chairs the city's Horticultural Advisory Committee (HAC).

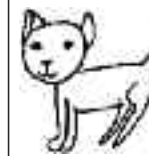
"We've noticed how these people at the Hallowell garden set up chairs and sit out there together. Many live in apartments and don't have a garden to sit in. They've become friends because of the garden."

Anyone wishing to obtain a community

garden plot should register on the waiting list with the Sports and Recreation department. The annual fee is \$15.

After the work is done...Relaxing in the Hallowell Community Garden are, from left: Louis Zonorodi of St. Catherine St., John Cotnam of Dorchester, and Robert Michel of Kensington Ave.

Marshmallow



9 Lives

LYZANNE

Marshmallow is an adorable adult white and cream short-haired male cat, who has had all his shots and is neutered. He is in a foster home now and ready for a permanent family. Marshmallow was found as a stray and, with the help of guardian angels, is now ready for adoption. On top of being very handsome and intelligent, he is affectionate, cuddly and playful. To find out more about him, please contact Elaine at ebelanger@cmaisonneuve.qc.ca.

Your neighbour, Lyzanne



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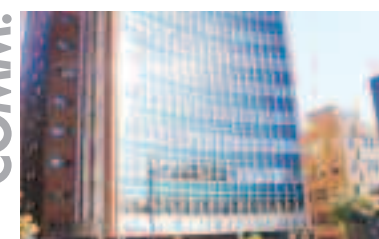
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ON THE SHELVES

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

Adult English – Tea, anyone?

Good Old Fashioned Teatime Treats by Jane Pettigrew – A quaint collection of baking recipes for goodies offered at National Trust sites (tea rooms in castles, lighthouses and other historic sites) in Britain. This collection includes recipes for sweet and savory English treats. Conversions and North American equivalents for ingredients plus a brief history of tea time traditions are included.

For All the Tea in China by Sarah Rose – Who would have thought that the story of the early British tea industry was steeped in corporate espionage and intrigue? This popular history describes Robert Fortune's 1848 voyage to China to steal the secrets of tea cultivation from locals so that the British East India Company could start cultivating its own tea in India.

Adult French – New books by award-winning authors

Je ne veux pas mourir seul by Gil Courtemanche – This new piece by Courtemanche (winner of the 2001 *Prix des librairies*) is a hard-hitting fictionalized biography. A man is in treatment for cancer when his lover leaves him. He realizes that losing the love of his life is more devastating than a disease.

L'horizon by Patrick Modiano – Like all books by the Goncourt winner, this one is better described in terms of atmosphere than of plot. You will visit Paris' XVI^e arrondissement, take a side trip to Switzer-

land and guess at the connections between a bookstore owner and an enigmatic woman.

Magazines

"Bali High: Our writer prepared for an adventure trip to Bali, Indonesia's lone Hindu outpost. But what she didn't expect was a different kind of adventure – a plunge into a world of incense, offerings and self-reflection that revealed an important truth" by Ellie Rubi in *Outpost*, May/June 2010, p. 32.

"A Thousand Islands of Summer: Escape to a place ruled by echoes of a simpler time." by Patrick J. Kelly in *National Geographic Traveler*, May/June 2010, p. 96.

« Faut-il croire aux régimes anticancer? Les régimes anticancer sont à la mode. Les ouvrages à fort tirage fleurissent, chacun y allant de ses recettes. Mais les études se suivent et se contredisent sur les prétendus bienfaits d'aliments portés aux nues la vieille. Les cinq fruits et légumes quotidiens n'ont pas échappé à la règle. Enquête auprès des cancérologues et épidémiologistes: ces régimes existent-ils? » by Martine Betti-Cusso in *Le Figaro Magazine*, May 15, 2010, p. 50.

DVDs

An Education – A coming-of-age story about a teenage girl in 1960s suburban London, and how her life changes with the arrival of a dashing playboy nearly twice her age.

The Timekeeper – Eighteen-year-old Martin Bishop lands a job as a timekeeper on a Northwest Territories construction site. A lucrative endeavour, but in this remote, isolated camp from which there is no escape, corruption is a way of life. The workers, a bunch of rag-tag idiots and thieves selected precisely for their defects, dare not complain.

Art books for children

Paris in the Spring with Picasso by Joan Yolleck – Children will love the energetic paintings in this picture book about the artists and writers, who lived in Paris at the turn of the century.

L'art en miroir by Sonia Chaine – The author presents 15 masterpieces and compares them to modern and contemporary pieces, which have been inspired by the originals. Children and adults will discover a new appreciation of art through this fascinating book!

Camacho turns spotlight on childhood obesity

By ERIN STROPES

At 19, Jesse Camacho has seen sides of the Canadian entertainment industry that other aspiring actors only dream of. He has the lead role in Winnipeg-based comedy-drama series *Less Than Kind*, and he can be currently be seen in theatres with Montreal star Jay Baruchel in *The Trotsky*.

Camacho has also struggled with obesity since childhood, and has decided this summer that it's time to get his weight under control.

The Westmounter is taking the semester off from Dawson College to spend five days a week working out at the Victoria Park Health Club in Westmount. By working with a personal trainer and a nutritionist, he has tried to lose weight in a way that's fast but still healthy. So far he's dropped 54 pounds, and is "almost on track" to meet his goal of losing 100 pounds by the time season 3 of *Less Than Kind* starts filming in September.

Camacho, who started acting at the age of 8, hopes that shedding some weight will let him break out of the "shy, overweight best friend" role in which he is often cast. The primary reason, though, was his health – though like most people, he needed some motivation to hit the gym.

The spark came in the form of a request from the producers of his show. "I don't know what they're planning exactly, but I think it involves my character getting involved in sports. The call came at a perfect time, because I was really wanting to do this for me. I've been blessed with find-

ing such a perfect role, but being overweight is not a fun thing to live with."

A graduate of Westmount High, Camacho had just been elected president of his



Actor Jesse Camacho gets ready to start his workout in Victoria Park's weight room.

grade 11 class when he got his casting call from *Less Than Kind*. "I'd promised during my campaign that I'd be around for the school year," he told the *Independent* with a laugh, "and then a month later I landed the show and was gone. Everyone was great about it though – I think they understood."

July at the art galleries

Division Gallery – Group show "Peinture Extrême". Exhibit continues to August 14. 1368 Greene, 514.938.3863.

Galerie de Bellefeuille – Paul Béliveau: paintings, exhibit July 3 to 14. Group show "Art 2010," exhibit July 3 to 14. Darlene Cole: paintings, exhibit July 17 to 28. Carmelo Blandino: paintings, exhibit July 17 to 28. Robert Marchessault: paintings, exhibit July 31 to August 11. Simon Casson: paintings, exhibit July 31 to August 11. 1367 Greene, 514.933.4406

Galerie D'Este – Group show "Peinture Extrême," exhibit July 14 to August 15. 1329 Greene, 514.846.1515.

Galerie V. Trimont – Eugène Abrams "Art and Sport," etchings, pastels and painting. Exhibit continues to July 11. 4259 St. Catherine, 514.658.7214.

Gallery at Victoria Hall – Group show: city of Westmount employees. Exhibit continues to July 30. 4626 Sherbrooke St., 514.989.5226

Han Art – Dominic Couturier, Serge Lemoyne, François LeTourneux, Leopold Plotek and Claude Tousignant "Extreme Painting". Exhibit continues to July 10. 4209 St. Catherine. 514.876.9278.

McClure Gallery - Visual Arts Centre – Ehab Lotayef, Helga Schlee and Victoria Block "As We Are". Exhibit continues to July 17. 350 Victoria, 514.488.9558.

Parisian Laundry – Group show "Summertime in Paris". Exhibit July 22 to August 28. 3550 St. Antoine, 514.989.1056.



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Selwyn House initiates first athletic hall of fame

By ISAAC OLSON

Westmount's Selwyn House School may be a centenarian, but the institution, which has 30 sports teams from the elementary up through high school level, hasn't had an athletic hall of fame until now.

Officiated at the school's annual sports banquet in late May, Karel Nemec, class of 1979, and Tim Fleiszer, class of 1992, are the school's first inductees into a program that Steven Mitchell, the school's athletic director, said has been in the making for about three years.

"It wasn't just a snap decision," said Mitchell. "The induction ceremony was combined with our regular athletic ban-

quet so our student athletes could see how successful these gentlemen were in pursuit of their passion for sports and how successful they are in life."

Both a photo and a brief biographical write-up will go on the hall of fame wall outside Mitchell's office. Graduating from Selwyn House and playing sports at an upper level are examples of the hall of fame's eligibility requirements. The goal, he continued, is to have one or two inductees every year, but the list of potential candidates is already long enough to keep the athletic department busy for at least a decade.

"We've had some very successful young men go on after Sel-

continued on p. 20



Tim Fleiszer, class of '92.

Photos courtesy of Selwyn House

Karel Nemec, class of '79

Bon Appetit

By ETTY B.

Blueberries are one of summer's treats and are full of antioxidants.

This easy-to-make tart can be served with vanilla ice cream, whipped cream, or lemon sorbet – or just on its own to fully appreciate the fresh flavor of blueberries.

Blueberry tart

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Grease a 9-11 inch tart pan with a removable bottom.

Pie crust ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- Pinch of salt
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 stick (8 tablespoons) cold butter
- 1 tablespoon white vinegar

In the bowl of a food processor, pulse

flour, salt and sugar. Cut the butter into small pieces and scatter over the dry ingredients. Add the vinegar and mix until crumbly. Press into tart pan.

Filling ingredients:

- ¾ cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons flour
- Dash of Cinnamon
- 6 cups fresh blueberries

Combine sugar, flour, cinnamon and 4 cups of blueberries. Pour into piecrust. Place tart on a baking sheet and bake 1 hour. Remove from oven and sprinkle with remaining 2 cups berries. Cool. Remove rim. Dust with icing sugar before serving.

To make this into a bumble berry tart, use 4 ½ cups of a combination of blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, strawberries and cranberries.

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St. Matthias' Church marks centennial of cornerstone

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Although parishioners at St. Matthias' Anglican Church held a reception on June 22 for the 100th anniversary of the laying of the building's cornerstone, there'll be



With rector Kenneth Near (centre), St. Matthias' Church parishioners and guests are seen here on June 22 pointing at the cornerstone, exactly 100 years after it was first laid.

another celebration two years from now to mark a century since construction of the church was completed.

Nearly 100 church members gathered to re-enact the events of June 22, 1910, when the cornerstone at St. Matthias' was solemnly put in place. The history of the church actually dates back to 1873 when services were first held in a house near the present site. The first worship service in the stone church was held on April 28, 1912.

The founders, who were members of St. George's Anglican Church downtown, had set out to start a mission church in what was then the countryside of Westmount. The first church, built of wood in the late 19th century, was demolished in 1934 to make way for an expansion of the stone church. Other expansions soon to follow included the north transept, which was made into a memorial chapel.

Westmount-Ville Marie MP Marc Garneau, who attended a reception at the church held prior to the re-enactment ceremony, said he felt it was only natural he should drop in to say hello. "I go by it all the time when I walk my dog," he said. "I sometimes come in and attend a service as well."

Finnegan, a textbook terrier



This week's Underdog is a Welsh terrier whose humans love him to bits. They are expecting a baby, however, and the mix of a strong-willed rescue dog and defenceless infant would not be prudent.

Ten-year-old Finnegan is 18 lbs of pure terrier, who has been with his current owners for six years. He is a good buddy who takes an active interest in everything going on around him. Still, he's up for a cuddle and quiet night in front of the TV. In fact, he doesn't demand a ton of exercise.

We all have our issues and with button-eyed Finnegan, that issue is food. At some point in his dark past, Finnegan didn't get enough to eat and that makes him a terror when it comes to his dish.

He's been known to snap at anyone – four-legged or two – who gets too close to his kibble. He also has some leash-aggression issues that cause him to lunge at other pooches.



Finnegan

Photo: Nicole Leger

His people have worked closely to correct these problems, and Finnegan is a much better behaved dog than he used to be. He's crate-trained and accustomed to being confined when his people are out.

Finnegan would do well with an experienced terrier owner because he is a textbook example of the breed. He needs firm but patient handling. A house without a dog or failing that, a house without an alpha dog, would be ideal.

For more information on Finnegan, or any of the other Underdogs, visit www.underdogclub.org. You can also call 1.877.43.DOGGY or send an email to contact@underdogclub.org. Donations can be made online.

Please consider giving a dog a new leash on life by providing a foster home.

BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were all subsequently approved in order of listing.

344 Redfern: landscaping in the front, side and rear yards;

3641 The Boulevard: landscaping in front yard, including new steps, railing and driveway pavers;

59 Oakland: to replace most windows and doors, modify window openings to the south and west and replace roofing material;

519 Clarke: at a Category 1* house to redo and increase landscaping in front and side yards, including the creation of a direct driveway to access the garage replacing the previous semi-circular one; to relocate the garage doors from the south side; to introduce a water basin.

4102 Dorchester: to enlarge a side window opening to make a door;

43 Holton: at a Category 1* to replace some windows and doors at the front and

rear;

74 Gordon Cresc: to landscape front yard, including work on stone steps, retaining walls and driveway pavers;

800 Lexington: landscaping work in back yard to include an in-ground pool and construction of a wall in natural stone;

4363 Westmount: at a Category 1 to redo landscaping in front and rear yards and install a 6-foot gate behind the building line on the driveway and to erect a fence along the side;

77 Sunnyside: at a Category 1 house to increase the area on an existing rooftop addition matching the height of the existing building; establish a rooftop terrace, replace all windows and doors, close some openings and create new ones;

509A Claremont: to replace all windows;

40 Burton: to replace all windows and doors;

21 Barat: to replace basement windows;

666 Grosvenor: to create a new opening

in the rear façade;

431 Wood: rear landscaping to include a new terrace and retaining wall;

655 Grosvenor: to replace some windows and doors;

716 Upper Roslyn: landscaping in front and side yards to include new steps and walk;

47 Rosemount: at a Category 1 to replace a garage door at the Category 1 house;

4200 Sherbrooke: at a Category 1 to modify stair and landing at Category 1 building;

451 Victoria: to replace a front door;

501 Mount Pleasant: to reconstruct balcony rail;

567 Grosvenor: to replace basement windows;

18 Renfrew: to replace four storm windows and re-open a former basement window;

125 Clandeboye: to replace some windows in the Category 1* house.



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Westmount Art Scene

Interpreting humanity – Abrams and Vitali

BY HEATHER BLACK

Recently finished Westmount exhibitions took a different look at individual moments. At Galerie V. Trimont, Montreal painter Eugene Abrams captured the vitality of soccer players. Photographs by Massimo Vitali at Galerie de Bellefeuille, on the other hand, depicted individuals within nature.

Eugene Abrams at Galerie V. Trimont

For artist Abrams, soccer players are studies in movement. His skillful line drawings capture muscles in coiled, rhythmic circles. A soccer player himself, he sees the sport as a metaphor for worldwide, non-violent competition.

In “Birth of Soccer”, Abrams takes us back to its historical roots at Freemason’s Tavern in London. Here players drawn in charcoal and conté are depicted against a vivid red background. In another “The Defence of Calais”, Abrams whimsically relates a soccer scene to a historical event. While others painted in acrylic depict recent moments in soccer’s history.

Masked figures also dominate Abram’s soccer paintings – first as soccer spectators then as players. In “Pulcinella”, the masked player sports the cone nose of the Commedia dell’arte. Set against an orange background, the artist captures the thrust and tumble of the sport.

But in “Il Capitano and Arlecchina”, masked figures are subjects in their own right. Drawn in pastel, the soft colours are a departure from the more vibrant soccer scenes.

Massimo Vitali at Galerie de Bellefeuille

In Vitali’s high resolution images, men and women frolic at the beach, crowded ski slopes or trek up Mount Fiji. Using a

film camera, he captures individuals set against vast and cinematic environments in mural-size prints.

In “Scala dei Turchi, Aerial View”, individuals – barely discerned on white rock – are set against a spectacular azure-blue sea. This interesting rock formation is also the subject for “Scala dei Turchi 3”. But here, the sea-level perspective creates an interesting, almost monochromatic composition.

In “Krka Waterfall”, a beautiful environment is again the backdrop for candid portraits of bathers. Vitali’s technique here is to capture images from a stand four or five meters high. The height helps to create a sociological – and critical – perspective.

Vitali’s trick is to wait for the right moment – when the field is filled with a multitude of interactions – to release the



“Birth of soccer” Eugene Abrams

shutter. The result is a combination of *National Geographic* and Hieronymus Bosch.

Cinematic moment

These works both capture the moment – a soccer player in mid-air, or mountaineers summiting Mount Fiji. But the message is very different. Abrams recreates images of soccer to stimulate our imagination, while Vitali waits for that perfect moment to capture human expression.

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QWF gathers a hundred for mentorship reading evening at Comedy Nest

By RALPH THOMPSON

The QWF (Quebec Writers’ Federation) met June 15 at the Comedy Nest in the Pepsi Forum for its annual mentorship reading. About 100 quietly enthusiastic literary enthusiasts gathered to hear the eight writers present extracts from their writing projects.

The promising emerging writers had just completed their four-month mentorship program, which involves working with a mentor for 35 to 40 hours to develop a work of fiction, poetry or screen-writing.

There is also a young writers’ category.

“We received applications from about 80 English writers in Quebec this year. Anyone can apply, young and old, but a jury of respected writers selects only eight finalists to participate in the Mentorship Program,” explained Westmounter Lori Schubert, who is the federation’s executive director.

“We receive a Canada Council for the Arts grant to remunerate mentors, and there are no fees for the mentees. Our mentors include Westmounter Claire Holden Rothman, whose novel *The Heart Specialist* has appeared on best-seller lists for almost a year and was long-listed for the Giller Prize,” said Schubert.



Rob Sherren reads excerpts from his fiction project. He mentored by Daniel Allen Cox.

Selwyn’s hall of fame

continued from p. 17

wyn House and play a very high level of sport,” he said.

While the athletic department may receive nominations from members of the school community, Mitchell said it will mostly be members of the athletic department, who know their students and their athletic careers well, responsible for nominating and selecting inductees.

Nemec spent 11 years at the school, successfully playing football, rugby, hockey and squash. Later, he went on to Bishop’s University where he played five award-winning seasons for the Gaiters. After football, he focused on racquetball and won several championships in both

Canada and the United States.

Fleischer was also an accomplished football, rugby and hockey player while at Selwyn House. Eventually, after playing football for Choate-Rosemary Hall School and Harvard University, he went on to win four Grey Cups with teams ranging from the Montreal Alouettes to the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

The athletes, who participated in the banquet, were enthusiastic about the recognition, and students were captivated by their speeches, said Mitchell.

“The project has been very well received by parents, teachers and student athletes,” he said. “I think we took a step in the right direction for the Selwyn House community.”

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Computers go to Jamaica thanks to Rotarians and Roslyn

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Students attending Oberlin High School in Jamaica will be able to experience the advantages personal computers bring to education, thanks to a donation of 10 refurbished desktops made possible by the Rotary Club of Westmount and students at Roslyn School.

The computers were rebuilt and reprogrammed as part of an after-school program started last December by Allan Kobelansky, a volunteer parent at Roslyn, who is also a technology specialist. Twelve Roslyn students from grades 3 to 6 took part.

Kobelansky, assisted by parent James Aitken, taught the students how to refurbish obsolete computers with parts from donated computers that were being thrown out. The refurbished machines were then reprogrammed with Linux system open source software.

In January, members of the Rotary Club were recruited to help out. They built a workspace with cabinets in an available room at Roslyn. Obsolete computers were picked up by the Rotarians from Westmount residents and businesses, in conjunction with the city's sustainable

development department.

This is just the beginning of what could become a larger project, according to Kobelansky. "We hope to do this in other schools, as well," he said during a formal presentation of the computers to representatives of Oberlin High School held on June 16 at Roslyn.

The computer refurbishment program



was being set up when Rotarian Don MacKinnon heard from Gordon Blackman, whose wife, Olive, is an alumnus of the high school. MacKinnon and the Rotarians had previously worked with Blackman to ship computers to Trinidad.

"We appealed to Allan to see if there was a possibility of sending some of the completed computers to Jamaica – and the answer was yes," said MacKinnon.

Groundbreaking anglo/franco project Scouts' expedition to Africa has Westmount roots

Westmounter Maggie Shaddick is well known in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and the world for her enthusiastic support of Scouting.

Nevertheless, it took a visit to South Korea, where Shaddick met Christian Perreault – the national commissioner of the L'Association des Scouts du Canada – to start developing a joint project between the anglophone Scouts Canada and the francophone association.

One of the first such collaborations will be taking place soon: on July 21, six Rovers and Routiers will be attending a world Scout moot in Kenya.

Four members of this Canadian contingent will stay on for 13 days to earn the African Scouting Region's Red Ribbon HIV/AIDS badge.

Shaddick is not the only Westmount connection. The 2nd Westmount Rover crew was involved three years ago in an overseas development project in Namibia, and joining them were two of the Rovers now going to Kenya (see "Scouting trio fundraise for charitable trip to Namibia", March 26, 2008, p. 1).

In addition, Westmounters were early financial supporters of the HIV badge and its work in Africa, as previously reported (see "Fundraiser helps African Scouts", December 7, 2007, p. 18).

Shaddick sees an ongoing, important

role for HIV/AIDS teaching, regardless of the continent. She did an informal survey of Canadians and found that 80 percent of the respondents thought that there was a cure for the disease.

The reality, explains Shaddick, is that "There is no cure, and HIV/AIDS knows no boundaries."

Scouts Canada would like the HIV badge to be offered as a continuing project to Rovers across Canada.

Woman injured in altercation on street

Police and ambulance personnel were called by public safety officers to help an injured woman at Weredale Park who claimed to have been struck in the face by her boyfriend. The aggressor could not be immediately located, but the homeless couple was well-known to emergency personnel, Public Security officials said.

Public safety officers had found the woman with a bleeding lip and swollen cheek when responding to the scene after a call June 30 at 12:52 am that came in as noise complaint. She was described as intoxicated.

Soccer is bigger in Westmount than you probably think...



Off-Sidel

NOAH SIDEL

Hockey might be Canada's national pastime, but soccer is definitely its fastest growing sport – and that is certainly reflected in this community's embrace of the "beautiful game."

"Soccer is the most important spring/summer activity for us at Westmount Sports and Recreation," said Andrew Maislin, who coordinates the sport for the department.

"We have over 1,200 participants at the kids' level and another 80 at the young adult and adult levels. We have 88 soccer teams playing during our season. The best

part of my day is looking at Westmount Park during soccer when every inch is covered with soccer players from all ages."

There used to be a time when the island of Montreal was a baseball town first and foremost – you'd be hard-pressed to conjure up memories of great soccer programs in the '80s and '90s anywhere in this city.

With the decline of the Montreal Expos in the '90s and then the team leaving town for greener pastures in Washington in 2004, however, *fútbol* became more and more the game of choice for the youth of this city.

Now with the Montreal Impact potentially joining North America's top soccer association, Major League Soccer, scheduled for 2012, the sport should only continue to grow.

And Westmount Rec. will do whatever it can to encourage that.

"We have seen a steady increase in our

soccer program over the past few years. I attribute this to the increasing love of soccer and the demise of the Expos," Maislin said. "Soccer is a sport that everyone can participate in from the weakest player to the best. Our coaches foster a great learning environment for all who participate, and follow the guidelines that all players play equally and fairly."

Soccer parent Julie Sckolnick echoed Maislin's thoughts.

"I was very lucky to be assistant coach with Danny Fillion for the "Dartmouth" team in the 8-9-10-year-old girls' division this season. I would call Danny a real professional in the way he handled the team, constantly switching the players' positions and giving each girl a chance to try something new. Gifted or not, all were treated equally, and that's what soccer is about," she said.

"Fortunately this worked because in the end we had won all games except for one

loss and two ties. We finished tied for first place.

"The girls had fun and showed up to play, which pushes the mentality of team sports and the responsibility of being there for the team," Sckolnick added. "At this level the kids are really just starting to get into the game and learning more about positioning and camaraderie. We always had a cheer and a handshake, which of course any 9-year-old girl would love!"

The outdoor soccer program for boys and girls runs during the months of May and June. Indoor soccer takes place between November and March. The National Soccer camp consisting of four one-week sessions is offered to kids between 6 to 14 years old, held June and July. For more on community soccer, call 514.989.5353 or visit www.westmount.org.

You can always reach me at noah-sidel@gmail.com

A close shave for a good cause



Lucie Ledoux, left, who works at the Centre Médical du Collège on Atwater Ave., and Cécile Turcot, an acquaintance from Thetford Mines, were among nine people who volunteered to have their heads shaved as part of the Leucan Shaved Head Challenge, a children's cancer fundraiser held at Alexis Nihon Plaza on June 27. The event, one of dozens held all over Quebec in June for Leucan, raised \$12,300 for the cause.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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Westmount beauty talents help launch new online jewelry site



Montreal designer Mariam Sheinberg recently held the launch for her jewelry website at the St. Paul Hotel's Terrasse Vauvert. She engaged the services of Westmount beauty talents to best present her couture collection. Westmount's Mod's Paris coiffed the models in chic chignons. Westmounter Bhavna Khanna, from Peau Medical Aesthetics, used La Bella Donna new spring colours to create glamour. From left, Westmount's Mod's Paris Claude Abitbol, designer Mariam Sheinberg, Marie-Pierre Thérien, Westmount Mod's Paris Stéphane Laveur, Jean Bouthillier, Vauvert's Émilie Rainville, Westmounter Bhavna Khanna.

Photo courtesy of Mariam Sheinberg



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Quebec's new Real Estate Brokerage Act (and what it means for you!)

The governing body of Quebec realtors, the OACIQ, has introduced a new legislative framework designed to modernize and streamline both real estate and mortgage brokerage. While this Real Estate Brokerage Act primarily deals with real estate and mortgage brokers, it does have a few very important effects for buyers and sellers.

The Brokerage Act introduces standards of greater transparency for the client's benefit. A Realtor must now disclose to a client, in writing, the terms of their commission and that which they share with a collaborating broker. You will also be able to obtain more detailed information about your mortgage, such as the cost of borrowing, terms of the loan, and potential conflicts of interest.

Your affiliated real estate agent will now be called a real estate broker, and subject to tougher training standards under the Act. Brokers must take an exam to evaluate not only their knowledge, but their competence, undergo additional training where deemed necessary, and new brokers must be able to demonstrate a sufficient knowledge of French. Any broker with which you do business will have to adhere to strong standards, ensuring you the very best service.

If your home is currently on the market, or if you're thinking about buying or selling soon, be sure to call your broker today to find out how the Real Estate Brokerage Act affects your transaction!

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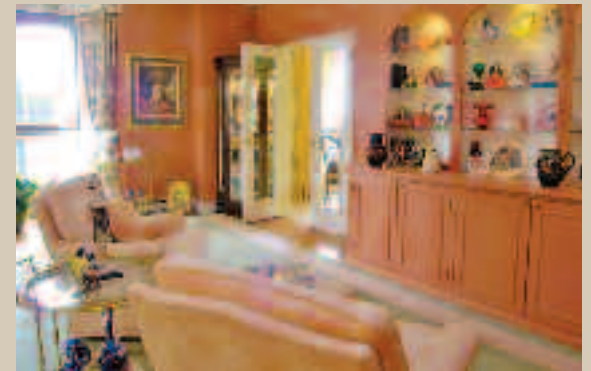
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