

Are 7 fire incidents related?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Seven possibly related fire incidents in Westmount between November 2 and 7 were reported last week by Public Security officials. Four at the comfort station in Stayner Park are believed connected.

While relatively minor, all are being taken seriously, and patrols have been

asked to be especially vigilant, said assistant director Greg McBain.

The first was discovered at 10:23 pm on November 2 when a public safety officer noticed smoke under the Ville Marie Expressway at 350 Selby and found a large amount of newspaper on fire. Firefighters arrived at 10:41 pm and extinguished the blaze.

It seems to be a practice of some distributors to dump undelivered packages of pamphlets under the highway, he explained. "Someone seems to be going around setting fires at that location." (See October 18, p. 31).

The first of four incidents at Stayner Park was reported November 3. At 4:31 pm, a resident of Prospect St. called Public Security to report something burning. Firefighters were called and put out the fire in a garbage can in the men's washroom. No damage was reported.

The next afternoon at 2:33 pm, the fire alarm was set off by smoke, again from the garbage can in the men's washroom.

A few hours later at 6:44 pm, used matches were found in the women's washroom after the fire alarm sounded but no signs of fire were found. It was suspected they might have been used by someone lighting a cigarette.

The next day, November 5, toilet paper was set on fire in the women's washroom, as well as on the counter on the men's side, which caused minor damage. The fire alarm

continued on p. 12

...and is this one?



Photo: Martin C. Barry

This mailbox blaze may be latest in rash of small fires. Firefighters from station 76 on Stanton St. were called to the intersection of Claremont Ave. and de Maisonneuve Blvd. November 9 around 3 pm when smoke was seen billowing from a mailbox on the south-east corner. Two days before this one, the contents of a mailbox outside 4333 St. Catherine St. were also set on fire.

PROFILE



ANDREA WOLFF p. 35

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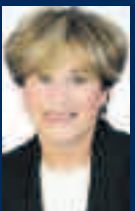
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PSU, police ticket ‘wheels’ offenders on hills

A total of at least 457 drivers were found to have parked incorrectly on Westmount hills in a two-week education period launched September 30, according to the number of “courtesy” warning tickets handed out by public safety officers.

The city’s traffic by-law requires wheels to be turned against the curb to prevent the movement of parked cars. This was the subject of a recent Public Security “Wheels to Curb” campaign on hills. This followed an accident caused by a parked car rolling down Church Hill September 29.

Licence plates of cars receiving warnings were recorded and comprise the ma-

jority of the 58 payable court tickets subsequently issued between October 15 and November 7, Public Security officials said.

Based on the Public Security list of warnings issued, police have also been handing out \$52 tickets for a total of 68 as of November 10. The offence is also a violation of the Quebec Highway Safety Code.

“We will continue to issue tickets on complaint and in the same way we do for other offences such as cars blocking driveways,” said assistant Public Security director Greg McBain.

– LS

Place Kensington commemorates Remembrance Day



Justin Findlay, a trumpeter with the Royal West Academy Honour Band, plays the “Last Post” during a Remembrance Day ceremony held at the Place Kensington retirement residence on November 11. In addition to the residents, the ceremony was attended by members of the Air Cadet League of Canada, active and retired soldiers, and the spiritual leaders from Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom and St. Léon church.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Sherbrooke bus lanes still pending

There is still no news about proposed reserved bus lanes or their timed introduction on Sherbrooke St., Mayor Peter Trent said at the November 7 city council meeting.

The plan for the bus lanes through Westmount, as reported in the *Independent* September 20, was an area of concern to a number of people, he told questioner Maureen Kiely. While he was personally in favour of the principle, he said he had

never seen traffic so backed up on Sherbrooke.

He also said he had been in touch with the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) on the subject but had no information. It seemed the STM was rolling out other reserved lanes first.

Among the challenges that would be faced with the introduction of reserved lanes, Kiely said, would be their effect on merchants as well as parking meters.



PAM DAVIDSON MCLERNON

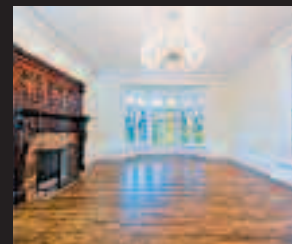
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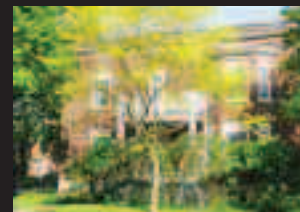
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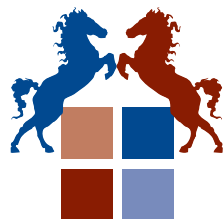
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BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

NEWS FROM CITY COUNCIL

Deal with Church Hill traffic, resident pleads



Church Hill resident Shelley Kerman addresses council November 7.

A resident of Church Hill appealed to city council November 7 to remedy unsafe traffic issues on and around the street.

Shelley Kerman explained it was her car that had been hit September 29 by a run-away parked vehicle and shoved over the sidewalk, crushing a stroller that contained two young children, who were unhurt.

"It was an accident waiting to happen," she said.

Kerman pointed out that she had been complaining about the safety of the street for 15 years. She handed out photos to council of the recent accident and traffic conditions.

She described speeding on the steep hill, busses going up and down and indiscriminate parking that included current construction vehicles and a dumpster that blocked drivers' vision at the intersection of Côte St. Antoine.

"It's serious," agreed Mayor Peter Trent, who asked city director general Duncan Campbell to get back to Kerman

with an overall plan.

She was also told the city was already ticketing in the area. In fact, public safety officers have been issuing tickets for cars parked on Church Hill and other hills without their wheels turned against the curb in a special awareness safety campaign following the September 29 accident (see results, p. 3).

Public Security officials later told the *Independent* they have been ticketing on complaints from Church Hill residents.

Kerman pointed out there were schools in the area, including Miss Vicky's preschool at St. Matthias' Church located on the street as well as Akiva and Selwyn House.

Bertha Dawang, director of McGill's faculty of education and former principal of Roslyn School, who also lives on Church Hill, asked council to look into "a commercial operation" on the street, which she understood was zoned residential.

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MEETING, NOVEMBER 7

Arena/pool's design-build process queried – again

Given that the design-build approach to the arena/ pool project is being touted as the best way to prevent cost overruns, why didn't the city adopt this strategy from the start rather than describing it as a "natural evolution"?

That was a question put to Councillor Patrick Martin, project committee chair, by critic Patrick Barnard at the November 7 council meeting.

Martin, who said "these questions keep coming back over and over," told Barnard that the architectural designs by Lemay allowed the city to be sufficiently advanced in its planning to be able to go to design-build and provide the contractor-led consortium with the guidance needed to produce the final design.

Soliciting permits required for charities

Everyone – even charities – soliciting money on Westmount streets needs a permit, the city council meeting was told November 7. The provision is contained in By-law 196, section 6.

"Most organizations and charities know that," said city director general Duncan Campbell.

The issue was raised by Grosvenor residents Paul Marriott and Cynthia Grahame concerning alleged recent "harassment" by public safety officers in asking repre-

Architect and project critic David Ludmer of Grosvenor followed up by questioning the design-build approach as the best way to control the final price and asked what provision had been made for surprise additions.

"We know what we're dealing with," Martin said, and there would be "no surprises."

sentatives of Oxfam to "move on."

Grahame explained she had spotted the same young people near her downtown office engaged in dialogue with passers-by and thought it too bad they were not allowed a similar opportunity in Westmount.

Public Security officials also told the *Independent* that people from Head and Hands had also been asked to obtain a permit in September when they were spotted fundraising at Sherbrooke and Prince Albert. The group was reported to have returned to NDG where the organization is located.

For more council news, see p. 6, 9, 11 and 12.

Summit Woods tour Nov. 19

The Friends of Summit Woods will hold a tour Saturday, November 19 from 10 am to explore the north face of Summit Circle and look at invasive species in the woods, such as the common buckthorn, its green leaves now making it very visible.

The tour will be led by John Fretz, who heads the Friends group. Those attending should meet at the Summit Lookout at 10 am. Sturdy shoes are recommended. For information, contact John Fretz: 514.939.5670 or supermolto@sympatico.ca.

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Meter revenue loss estimated at \$100,000

Bike path gets conditional winter opening

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For winter cyclists wanting to use Westmount's bike path, there was good – though somewhat confusing – news at the November 7 city council meeting when it was announced the bike path would remain open – in theory if not always in practice.

It would be closed during snow removal and when weather conditions are deemed unsafe. Signs would be posted at intersections and possibly on the internet.

"Our position is that as long as it is safe, it will be open," said Mayor Peter

Trent. It would be closed this winter "where and when necessary."

As well, starting this week and for the foreseeable future, the commuter route would be officially closed in the block between Greene and Olivier for construction of condos, city director general Duncan Campbell said after the meeting. At this point, cyclists would have to detour or walk the distance.

The new plan modifies a decision to close it entirely this winter made by council at a closed-door committee meeting October 17. The change follows requests to reconsider the decision from some cyclists

(see November 8, p. 5).

Compared with last year's unconditional opening, this year's is a "conditional approach" in which the city will manage opening and closing throughout the winter, Campbell explained.

Snow clearing won't change

"We won't be changing our snow clearing priorities," he said. This means that cyclists can't expect the path to be cleared at all times. The city would not be hiring a dedicated contractor at a cost of close to \$100,000, he explained.

The city will, however, forego estimated revenue from hooded parking meters alongside the bike path east of Greene, also estimated at some \$100,000, he said.

While this figure was not mentioned at the council meeting, Trent noted that the loss last winter exceeded what had been anticipated.

The decision to keep the meters hooded year-round was "wonderful," stated Dan Lambert of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association, the 150-member organization

continued on p. 11

NDG path to be plowed this winter

NDG's bike path "will again be cleared of snow so that it may be used by winter cycling enthusiasts" this winter, states a press release issued November 11 by the office of CDN-NDG borough mayor Michael Applebaum.

This is understood to be a borough initiative rather than part of the Montreal bike network, which has not included the

route among those to be kept open.

The communiqué adds that "With the wintertime opening of the boul. de Maisonneuve bicycle path in the city of Westmount, it will now be possible for cyclists to travel between the borough of CDN-NDG and Montreal's downtown core during the cold season."

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Newcomers, volunteers recognized at fall flower show

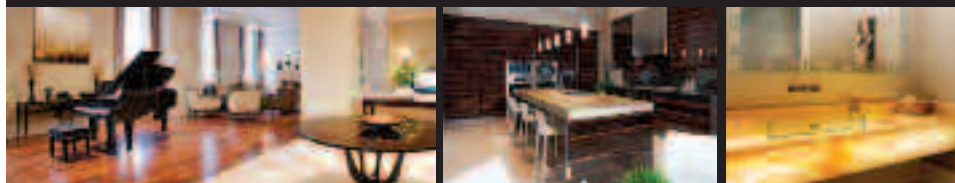


Originally from Burundi, sisters Antoinette (left) and Tatiana Bukuru were among newcomers welcomed to Westmount by Mayor Peter Trent during a reception November 9 at Victoria Hall to open the fall flower show at the adjacent conservatory. The event also honoured community volunteers. The flower show is open weekdays 10 am to 9 pm and weekends 10 am to 5 pm.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

REVERSAL OF BIKE PATH DECISION DUE TO FEAR?

City council has sadly flip-flopped on its decision to close the bike path over the winter months and has exposed itself as having neither the courage of its convictions nor any fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers.

As a cyclist myself, I am very much in favour of promoting cycling, green initiatives and all the other things that will help improve the quality of our collective lives.

But, by the raw numbers themselves, a potential use by 50 to 150 cyclists per day, weighed against a \$200,000-plus cost for both maintaining the bike path in the winter and the loss of parking meter revenue is a fiscal “no brainer.”

And, dollars aside, what changed between the unanimous vote a week ago to close the path and this week’s flip-flop? Did the construction projects magically go away? Or perhaps with its connections to a higher authority council has forbidden it to snow on de Maisonneuve between December and April.

Council, in trying to be “all things to all people” has clearly not acted in the best interests of taxpaying Westmounters. To govern is to choose and all too often the right decisions are unpopular with a very vocal minority. In acquiescing to that minority,

council has chosen neither wisely nor well.

It becomes clear that the *Gazette* and *La Presse* are running Westmount...not our elected officials

ALLEN RUBIN, LEXINGTON AVE.

TIME TO MAN UP

The furor being raised by the cyclists over the closing, and now non-closing, of the bike path in Westmount, is way out of proportion, and it is indeed quite shocking that Westmount would suddenly reverse its decision.

In articles in the *Independent* (November 8, p. 5), it was stated that the Administrative Traffic Committee, director of Public Works (Marianne Zalzal), the city’s traffic consultants Genivar, and Gary Ike-man, the councillor charged with running the program, all concur that closing the path during the winter months is the correct thing to do. Yet despite this abundance of professional advice, city council has buried its head in the sand and ignored the facts at hand.

So why the reversal? What is Mayor Trent and city council so afraid of? Is it the criticisms levelled in the daily newspapers? Is it the need to satisfy an average of less than 100 users per day representing less than 0.05 percent of the Westmount population who scream “keep the path open?”

Turning a blind eye to the facts that in winter even the NDG bike path gets closed as do some 90 percent of all the other paths in the Montreal region is misguided.

Man up, Mayor Trent, and do the right thing. Please stop worrying about image and start doing what’s right and what makes sense.

JO RUSSO, WESTMOUNT SQUARE

Editor’s note: According to a press release issued November 11 by the borough of Côte des Neiges-NDG, the portion of the de Maisonneuve bike path passing through NDG will, “again this year, be cleared of snow so that it may be used by winter cycling enthusiasts.”

– KM

LOOKING GOOD FOR THE CYCLING LOBBY

Peter Trent and his councillors take us for fools.

What was unsafe last week because of construction projects and the logistics of snow removal in Westmount is not a problem now – the path will be open on non-snowy and non-construction days.

And, I guess the city will install electric billboards at each end of the path with flashing “open” and “closed” signs?

It cost us taxpayers \$175,000 last year to keep the path open for a trickle of cyclists. More important, it is irresponsible for him and the city councillors to ignore the basic safety considerations outlined in Don Taddeo’s letter last week (“de Maisonneuve path unsafe any season,” November 8, p. 6).

Our lord mayor and his court are jeopardizing pedestrians, car drivers, cyclists, residents and the construction workers to look good in front of the bike lobby.

IRWIN EDELSTEIN, DE MAISONNEUVE

THIS BENCH IS MOVING SOUTH

I hear Westmount Park is beautiful in the winter. I will have no way of confirming this since Public Works removed me from the corner of Strathcona and Sherbrooke last week.

Don’t feel bad for me though. Boca Raton, Florida is beautiful as well.

I look forward to connecting with (the back sides of) Westmounters when I return again next spring.

Until then, you guys enjoy the cold, and I’ll enjoy the sun!

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These benches, photographed near Westmount Park’s lagoon on November 14, can’t go south for the winter. They’re bolted down! Benjamin Bench is one lucky piece of furniture.

Photo: Westmount Independent

Tax rates to be known December 19

City's 2012 budget expected to rise at least 3 percent

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

An early snapshot of the direction in which property taxes are headed for 2012 emerged with the state of the union address from Mayor Peter Trent at the November 7 city council meeting. In one word: Up.

While tax rates won't be known until the presentation of the budget December 19, the portion of the overall budget allocated for local expenses, he said, is now on track to meet guideline increases equal to 1 percent above a rate of inflation of 2 percent.

"This is a big challenge considering the impact of the actuarial deficit in our employee pension plan," Trent said.

The city is also faced with the 1-percent increase in Quebec sales tax, aging infrastructure and union agreements. As well, the city won't know the final amount it will be charged by the agglomeration for its contribution to island-wide services for another two or three weeks. These include firefighting, policing and water treatment.

Based on the current year's expenditures, Westmount's payments to the agglomeration exceed 52 percent of the city's overall budget. This is why efforts to limit agglomeration increases are so important for Westmount taxpayers, he explains.

As well, taxpayers cover about 83 percent of the total budget. To meet the guidelines for the 2012 budget, he said, the city may have to continue to increase revenues from other sources, such as parking rates.

Modest forecast predicted

For the current financial year ending December 31, 2011, the city is forecasting a "modest" surplus just as long as no ab-

normal pre-January snowfalls or major water leaks are encountered.

Updated projections for 2011, whose budget was \$89.8 million, show increases in both revenue and expenditures boosting totals to \$91.5 million. Higher-than-expected revenues have come from a hotter-than-anticipated real estate market, explained Finance commissioner Tim Price.

This has generated an additional \$500,000 from property transfer taxes and an equal increase from construction permits for major projects.

Higher expenses include the unbudgeted cost of bringing the Bixi program to Westmount (\$266,000) as well as increased costs of snow removal and the maintenance of parks, playgrounds and the greenhouse as well as sewer and water systems.

By year end, of the \$91.5-million, \$48.1 million will have gone to the agglomeration and close to \$900,000 to the Montreal Metropolitan Community for regional interests such as development.

Asleep at the wheel

A man was found asleep with his head on the steering wheel of a car stopped in the driving lane in front of 4880 Sherbrooke west of Victoria at 3:31 am November 6. A Public Security patrol was flagged down at that time by a passer-by reporting a possibly intoxicated man blocking the driving lane with his car. The patroller removed the car keys from the ignition and kept watch over the car until arrival of police. The driver stated he was extremely tired and fell asleep.

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Police Beat

Young job hunter gets away, but accomplice gets pinched

By DAVID GOLDBERG

Station 12 police arrested one of two young suspects, who broke into a car on Roslyn, while his accomplice, apparently looking for work, managed to get away.

Police say two construction workers, a

pair of brothers aged 22 and 23, were working on a home on Roslyn near Sherbrooke at 2:35 pm on November 8. One of the workers was outside of the home when he saw two youths trying to break into his brother's car.

"He went back inside and told his brother what he had seen," said Constable Adalbert Pimentel. "When the two brothers came back out of the house, they saw the suspects sitting in the car."

The brothers approached the car and opened the door as one of the suspects was rifling through the glove compartment.

"One of the suspects kicked one of the brothers, and both suspects managed to get out of the car and run off," said Pimentel. "The brothers chased them, and managed to wrestle one of the suspects to the ground in front of 4886 Sherbrooke St."

As they lay on the ground, a Public Security officer, who was nearby, called 911.

"The suspect was very cooperative, and he admitted to the officers what he had done," said Pimentel. "He had a blue bag with him. In the bag were two GPS units, an MP3 player, keys and some other objects."

Police say the items stolen from the victim's car were recovered. They included a GPS unit, an adapter for that unit and a pair of ski goggles.

"Also in the bag was a *curriculum vitae*, which we believe belongs to the second suspect in this incident," said Pimentel.

Arrested was a 15-year-old from NDG. He has been charged with breaking and entering, and possession of stolen goods. Based on the CV they found, police believe they will be able to arrest the second sus-

pect.

"The suspect told our investigators that the pair were targeting cars where the doors were left unlocked," said Pimentel. "It's important for motorists to remember that they should always lock their car doors at all times."

Sun Youth b-ball scam

Police are warning residents of a scam being perpetrated by youths posing as Sun Youth basketball players.

"We received a letter from the Sun Youth organization advising us of this situation," said Pimentel. "Youths have been going door to door, telling residents that they play for the Sun Youth Hornets basketball teams, and that they are collecting money to purchase new uniforms."

In fact, Sun Youth has informed the police that they do door-to-door collections.

"If anyone rings your bell saying they are collecting money for Sun Youth, we advise you not to give them any money and to call 911 immediately," said Pimentel.

No parking now on Arena Drive

There will now be no parking on Arena Drive for three weeks starting last Sunday, November 13, according to city officials. The measures are being undertaken as part of the redirection of the city's water and sewer pipes to make way for the arena/pool project.

During this period, Arena Drive will be one-way northbound and Academy Rd. one-way east. This means access to Academy Rd. will now be possible only from Arena Drive but not Park Place.

Updates are to be distributed to residents of the immediate area and posted on the city website at www.westmount.org.

As well, relining of the St. Catherine St. sewer between Bethune and Lansdowne is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, weather permitting.

As a result, residents of the condo building at 4700 St. Catherine, the "POM," are being asked to restrict high-water usage as much as possible from toilets, appliances and showers) for 10 hours following the start of work at 9 am.

Also, to reduce odours, they and others (e.g. 200 Lansdowne and the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf) are being asked to pour two pails of water into basement floor drains to ensure the drains are not dry.

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Arena Drive is a busy place these days. This photo was taken on November 14.

Photo: Westmount Independent

New question period format introduced by council

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A new format for question periods was introduced November 7 at the city council meeting in the hopes of generating greater “civility.”

“We want the average citizen to come here and not be intimidated by the same people asking the same questions,” Mayor Peter Trent explained.

The opening question period will now follow the reports of mayors and councillors, which sometimes deal with the very information that questioners are seeking. The second period will come at the end of the meeting as usual.

In addition, answers that can’t be provided on the spot will also be presented in public at the next meeting to the benefit of all.

The changes allow questioners to make a brief preamble followed by one question and a follow-up one. They can then pose a second question after others have had a chance, as long as time permits.

The first question period can run up to 45 minutes or longer at the discretion of the chair; the second one up to 30 minutes.

In introducing the changes, Trent addressed, in particular, “those of you who survived the question period at the last council meeting,” referring to an extraordinarily long and feisty session.

Suggested by WMA

The suggested changes came from the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA), Trent said, though Mavis Young, a resident of Melville, stated: “I’m a member of the board and we haven’t voted on anything” in that regard. Then, that was an internal matter, Trent said.

The suggestions were known to have been relayed to the city by WMA president Jean-Pierre Picard. (See “WMA says question period rules need tightening,” November 1, p. 34.)

Young also asked “what evidence” was there that regular questioners’ queries were intimidating? Trent said he had had comments to that effect. “It’s not empirical evidence,” he explained. But the “tone and electricity” that had been generated at the last council meeting “turns people off, and we’re trying to return to a more civil approach.”

Councillor Patrick Martin posed his

own question, directed to questioners: “It’s very helpful to give us advance notice of questions so we can respond immediately.” Such a heads-up was usually pro-

vided by Dan Lambert of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA), he noted.

Bike path modified

continued from p. 6

open to all. That made winter use of the bike path possible.

Providing additional details, Campbell said that issues had yet to be resolved involving snow piled up on the path by Alexis Nihon contractors.

As well, a dedicated lane was being set up on de Maisonneuve for construction trucks working at the 1250 Greene condo site with some parking removed from the north side of the street in front of the old post office. This would not leave enough space for the safe inclusion of the bike path through this restricted area, especially in winter.

The message, he added, is that Westmount’s bike path will be open but conditionally. When it is closed, “we’re asking cyclists to exercise responsibility and take

public transit.”

The decision by council governs only this winter. Recommendations concerning the bike path from the Master Traffic Plan are not yet in. The Genivar consultants were reported to have concurred with the recommendation from the city’s Administrative Traffic Committee to close the bike route this winter.

Council had made its initial decision to close the path outright because of construction work and snow removal challenges.

But the modified position was adopted to address both concerns.

It was not known at this point, Campbell said, what impact construction of the new arena-pool project would have on the bike path.

This would not likely take place until late winter or early spring, he explained.

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Public info meeting Dec. 1 set for new garbage by-law

A public consultation and information meeting will take place Thursday, December 1 at Victoria Hall on the city’s new garbage management by-law. Councillor Theodora Samiotis announced the date at the city council meeting November 7. It is scheduled for 7 pm.

The draft by-law had been tabled at the previous meeting. It would enshrine into law current guidelines for managing recycling, compostable and hazardous waste as well as outlining new regulations and details pertaining to when and where garbage should be left for collection (see November 1, p. 1).

She described the new by-law as putting together all the elements of waste disposal the city now has in place. It also moves Westmount into conformity with Montreal’s regulations for treatment centres and with coming changes related to landfill.

The consultation session will be organized in conjunction with the city’s Healthy City Project, Samiotis said.

Missing NDG woman found in Westmount

A woman missing from her NDG home was found sitting in the lobby of the commercial building at 376 Victoria for five hours November 4. The building superintendent called Public Security at 9:13 pm to say the woman seemed lost and confused. She spoke Korean and little English. But when police arrived at 9:45 pm and learned her name, they immediately recognized her as reported missing and drove her home, Public Security officials said.

She was later asked by Dorothy Lipovenko of York St. for clearer information related to how and when garbage should be put out before collection. The consultation meeting will provide the opportunity to elaborate more on this type of detail, Samiotis explained.

While how the new by-law would be enforced was not raised, city officials have told the *Independent* that they will be focusing on education and residents’ respect of the law rather than enforcement, certainly in the types of waste discarded. “We won’t be going around opening up garbage bags,” stated environment coordinator Marina Peter.

When there is a need to enforce other aspects of the by-law, measures are already in place concerning existing by-laws governing garbage which are enforced by Urban Planning inspectors and the Public Security Unit.

Balcony falling down

A pedestrian noticed that a balcony on the top floor of the apartment building at 4560 St. Catherine across from Plark Place had come unattached and appeared about to fall November 5. Public Security officials said the passer-by reported the hazardous situation at 9:28 am. The area was cordoned off, building officials informed and the information turned over to the city’s Urban Planning department. The balcony was found to have been repaired on Monday.

Fire incidents

.....
continued from p. 1

had sounded at 3:56 pm.

On Monday, November 7, two more fires occurred, starting with one in paper and leaves in Westmount Park at the area of the old willow tree cut down last year. Firefighters were already on the scene at 6:40 pm when patrollers arrived. The park’s camera was checked for possible suspects but none were detected.

An hour later, a mailbox was set on fire outside 4333 St. Catherine. Police were called after smoke was seen in the area, and attended, and Canada Post was informed. It was not known if the two incidents this day were related but the timing suggests it, McBain said.

Martin elected back to Batshaw board for 3rd time

BY MARLENE EISNER

Judy Martin likes to give back to the community – in large amounts.

The Westmount resident is not one to sit back and watch others repair the world. The mother of two grown children holds an impressive portfolio of volunteer positions and has recently been re-elected as president of the board of the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, which is headquartered in Westmount. Martin won by a 54-vote lead in a four-way race, and she said she couldn’t be happier.

“It’s my third time being elected, and it’s exciting because in part it’s in recognition of what I have done in the past and a level of confidence of what I can do in the future,” she said.

One could say that Martin began her foray into youth protection and advocacy when she was approached in 2008 to join the board of the Youth Horizons Foundation, but in reality, it goes further back to her mother, who was also involved in that group. It was this familial connection that sensitized Martin to helping others, and it is something she hopes to bring to her

children, who are now 24 and 26 years old.

“It’s a good teaching tool, to give back. You are a role model for your kids, and I’ve tried to be the best role model for my kids.”

Although her functions, along with all the board members, are to govern the organization by establishing policies and objectives to reflect its mission, Martin takes her commitment out of the board room and meetings, and brings it to the grass roots. She said she tries to attend as many events as possible so she can get to know the staff and better understand what they do. She also goes to the group homes and residential settings to spend time interacting with the kids.

“It shows them that someone in a leadership position cares about them,” she explained.

“I have always maintained that our kids do not choose to be in Batshaw’s care, but are there through no fault of their own. I feel privileged to be in a position, through my interactions, to act as an informal mentor to many of our kids and try to lead by example.”



Judy Martin in front of Batshaw Youth Services on Weredale Ave. in Westmount.

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Arena Q&A

New arena/pool building ideal for power outages, earthquakes

Councillor Patrick Martin, the chair of the arena/pool project committee, has invited Westmounters to write him with questions and comments about the project and plan. You can contact him with further questions at pmartin@westmount.org. Your questions and his answers will appear in subsequent issues of the *Independent*, space permitting. Please indicate whether you want your name published or not.

For reasons of space, Councillor Martin has paraphrased the questions.

there be a provision for emergency power to provide electricity for key mechanical systems during any power failure. Furthermore, we can envisage that the city might wish to assure sufficient power such that the Recreation Centre could be an emergency shelter for residents during any long-term regional power failure, such as was caused by the ice storm of a decade ago. The safety of the building structure, the large heated space, the washrooms and shower facilities, the café: these are elements that would make the Recreation

Centre an ideal gathering place in the event of an emergency. – PM

Question: Since a major part of the Recreation Centre will be underground, is there any provision being made regarding the stability of the structure during an earthquake?

– Resident, Montrose Ave.

With regard to the possibility of earthquakes, this is indeed taken into account in the design. The National Building Code establishes seismic hazard values specifically for conditions in the Montreal area. These values consider both probable size of an earthquake and also the nature of the ground motion at a specific site. A concrete structure such as the underground portion of the new Recreation Centre is extremely safe – possibly the safest building in Westmount during an earthquake.

– PM



The current arena looms over the dog park at Lansdowne and St. Catherine, November 14.

Photo: Westmount Independent

Question: Does the sewer connection to the proposed arena provide gravity feed for drainage? If not, do the arena specifications require provision of an emergency power facility to avoid flooding when a power failure coincides with heavy rain-fall?

– John Dorey, Victoria Ave.

Answer: Yes, it is expected that the proposed Recreation Centre designs will provide for drainage through gravity alone. The Glen is sufficiently low in elevation that it should be possible to accommodate a purely gravity-fed system without pumping.

Nevertheless, we would expect that

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On Monday, November 24, 2011, St-Margaret Day Centre for seniors of the CSSS Cavendish will hold its annual art exhibition and bake sale from 10:00am to 2:30pm at 50 Hillside Avenue, Westmount.

Art therapist/artist Jennifer Lupien has directed the novices to work with acrylic on canvas to develop their own unique styles and create original works.

Come enjoy a cup of coffee while meeting the artists and viewing their work. Proceeds of the sale will go to ongoing programs at the Center.

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CA firm Horwath Leebosh Appel merges with MNP, leaving Westmount



From left, Horwath Leebosh Appel's Howard Sazant, Gordon Leebosh, Frédéric Lachance, Eric Major and Stuart Freedman show off their moustaches on November 11.

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BY MARTIN C. BARRY

After more than 30 years of calling Westmount their home, the partners and staff at chartered accountancy Horwath Leebosh Appel LLP will be packing up in the spring and moving downtown.

The company, including its insolvency and corporate recovery practice, Appel & Co., is merging on January 1 with MNP of Calgary, one of the largest chartered accountancy and consulting firms in Canada.

Based at 1 Westmount Square since 1985, Horwath Leebosh Appel's roots in Westmount date back to 1962 when it was located on Sherbrooke St.

Over the past year, MNP merged with a number of other Montreal-based accounting firms. This latest one adds 80 professionals and personnel to the MNP team.

"Westmount has been our home since the early 60s," Horwath Leebosh Appel partner Gordon Leebosh said in an interview with the *Independent*. "It's our village. It's our territory. It's a little bit sad for us to move downtown, but we're not far away."

"We know everyone on the street," he said about the rapport he and others at the company enjoyed over these many years

with the businesses on Greene Ave. "All the merchants know us well. This is our home."

Until the end of this month, several of the partners and staff at Horwath Leebosh Appel are taking part in Movember, a campaign to raise awareness of men's health issues – including prostate cancer. To that end, they're all in the process of growing moustaches.

"We like to be involved in community activities, and this seemed like a good way for a lot of the guys here to get involved in a charitable event, have some fun, while advancing a great cause for prostate cancer," said Leebosh.

Woman driven home to father

A public safety officer drove a 17-year-old St. Henri woman home and into her father's care after finding her sleeping on the sidewalk at St. Catherine and Glen Rd. at 5:04 am November 5. Public Security officials said she was intoxicated.

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Lambert wins Study alumna award



Phyllis Lambert, Canadian Centre of Architecture founder and chair of the board of trustees, centre, helps cut a birthday cake celebrating The Study's 96th birthday, November 4. Accompanying her, from left, Libby O'Brien, class of '44; Johanna Elton the youngest student at the school; and head of school Nancy Sweer. Lambert, also from the class of '44, had just received the Judy Elder alumna award. She was noted as embodying the values that Judy Elder embraced, notably "ambition to excel in a chosen field, determination to break new ground, commitment to teach and inspire through mentorship and heart-based leadership."

Photo courtesy of The Study

Keeping an eye out



A crow was the lone watchman over construction material outside the arena November 2. And no, it wasn't the start of the city's new recreation centre but a staging area for Montreal's rehabilitation of the de Maisonneuve water main through Westmount Park being done before work starts on the arena/pool project.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

Coming home



Living in Westmount

JO SIMONETTI

Living in Westmount saved my life.

Last May, my husband and I sold our house and our 12,000 square foot lot in the suburbs that we never figured out how to manage, said goodbye to the nice neighbours that we never really got to know and drove away from the idyllic lakefront neighbourhood that never quite felt like home.

Along with the reluctant realization that we weren't cut out for the suburban dream, we also finally admitted that marriage wasn't really working for us either. So when we headed back into the city with our five year-old son, it was to separate apartments.

We hadn't agreed on much lately, but moving to Westmount was a no-brainer for both of us. He grew up here and I always dreamed of living here. We settled, tellingly, into two very different homes: a bachelor pad with all the modern creature comforts for him and a classic turn-of-the-century upper duplex dripping with old world charm for me.

And then, it happened.

I never realized how sad I had become until, one day soon after moving, it occurred to me that I felt ... happy.

Stepping out my door into the heart of Victoria village lifted my spirits every single morning.

Within walking distance

Suburban life had been incredibly isolating, and suddenly I felt like I was part of a community. With so much to do and see within walking distance of my apart-

ment, I went on a mission to try everything. I ate in every restaurant, had a latte in every coffee shop, visited every store, explored all the parks, strolled up and down every tree-lined street. I took my son on picnics in Westmount Park, signed him up for day camp, joined the Y, spent rainy afternoons at the library and lunching in the conservatory, and read the local papers from cover to cover. I couldn't get enough of Westmount.

At home

Since moving here, my husband and I have found our way back to becoming good friends again. Our son is thriving in kindergarten. I've fulfilled one of my life-long ambitions and obtained my real estate licence. I've made new friends, enjoy my new colleagues, love my new career – but most of all, I feel like I am home.

I am thrilled for this opportunity to take you with me as I continue to explore and enjoy all that our wonderful community has to offer, and, if I do it right, help you to see it again through the appreciative eyes of a new resident.

Welcome to Living in Westmount.

Send comments and questions to simonettijo@gmail.com.

Overheard (and seen) on the streets of Westmount

A man walks by his neighbours' house at 2 pm on a weekday. On the front porch, the neighbours' 20-something son – dressed in his bathrobe and slippers – is talking to his father, who is dressed for work.

Man: "Student life?"

Son: "Oh, yeah!"

Father: "Tough, eh?"



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Dawson College empties on Nov. 10 as some protest tuition hikes



Some students at Dawson College joined their post-secondary peers across the province by going on strike November 10 to protest rising tuitions. The Charest government has adopted a university tuition fee increase in its budget that calls for a hike of \$325 a year for five years, which would bring tuition fees to \$3,793 in 2017 from the current \$2,168, a \$1,625 increase. According to the website of the Dawson Student Union (Local 108 of the Canadian Federation of Students), "This [increase] goes against Québec's long history of being a pillar for accessible education. Student debt would double to an average debt of \$30,000 per student. Tuition Fees are the #1 barrier to accessing Post-Secondary Educations and students are demanding that the government return on their decision to increase these up-front User Fees."

Photo: Eric Bindman

Getting ready for the ball



Victoria Ave. fashion designer Astri Prugger fits Julia Schrieber in a gown and tiara in preparation for Montreal's annual Viennese Ball, being held on November 19 at the Château Champlain. Schrieber, who is from Austria and pursuing university studies in Montreal, is one of 17 debutantes who will perform the traditional Viennese waltz with their escorts at the ball. Prugger sits on the ball committee.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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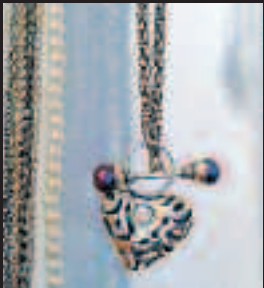
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Traditional 4+1 bdrm home on 9,400+ SF
lot, fin. bsmt, & garage. MLS 8640430

OPEN HOUSE SUN. 2-4 PM 3982 #A34 CÔTE-DES-NEIGES



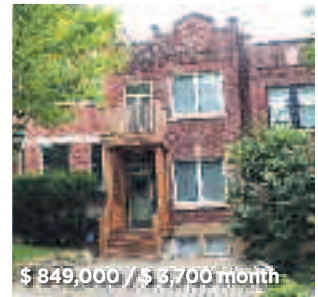
\$ 575,000

WESTMOUNT ADJ. | THE TRAFALGAR
Charming, spacious 1,900+ sq.ft., 3 bdrm
corner condo w/int. parking mls 8479955



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WESTMOUNT | SHERBROOKE W.
Unique! 2,000 sq.ft ground floor office
space for professional use. mls 8608093



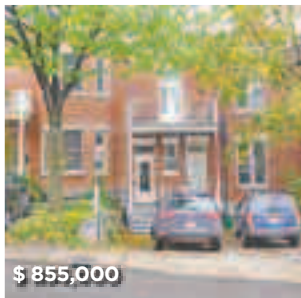
\$ 849,000 / \$ 3,700 month

WESTMOUNT | VICTORIA VILLAGE
Lovely row-house with 3 bdrms, private
garden & parking. mls 8594580



\$ 849,000

WESTMOUNT | MID-LEVEL
Lovely heritage style Victorian 4-bdrm townhouse w/
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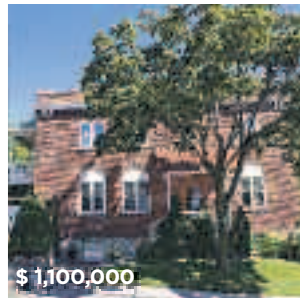
\$ 855,000

WESTMOUNT | FLATS
In the heart of Victoria Village, 1500sf/floor,
3+1 bdrms, hrdwd flrs, dble prkg. mls 8632732



\$ 878,000

WESTMOUNT | FLATS
Bright 3 bdrm semi detached home w/
parking, Victoria Village. mls 8622547



\$ 1,100,000

WESTMOUNT | STEPS TO SCHOOLS
Sunny semi w/ 3+1 bdrms, high finished
basement, double parking. mls 8603111



\$ 1,135,000

WESTMOUNT | UPPER-ROSLYN
Charming stonefront 4+1 bdrm home
with extension and garage. mls 8628833



\$ 1,195,000

WESTMOUNT | MID-LEVEL
Charming 4+1 bdrm semi close to
schools, double garage. mls 8601001



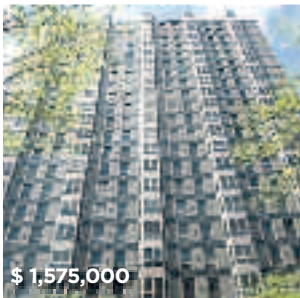
\$ 1,198,000/\$6,000 mo

WESTMOUNT | MID-LEVEL
4 bdrm family home with garden &
garage on quiet street. mls 8566659



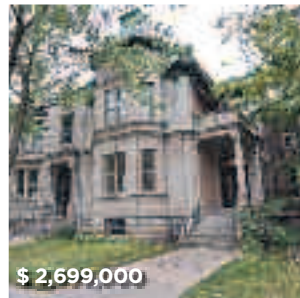
\$ 1,489,000

WESTMOUNT | FLATS
Det. Victorian 3+1 bdrms, high ceilings, new
kitchen & baths, garage & prkg. mls 8632785



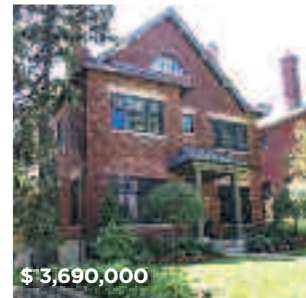
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Chic 2600+ sf 2+1 bdrm corner condo
close to Greene Ave. mls 8554203



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bath, valet
parking
MLS

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Real Estate Broker



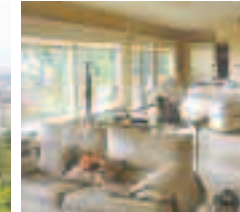
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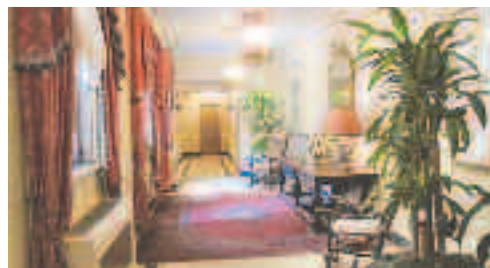
UPPER WESTMOUNT – stunning panoramic south v



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WESTMOUNT ADJ.



WESTMOUNT ADJ. – Prestigious and refined Trafalgar! Superbly renovated 2 bedrooms with style and elegance – Gourmet kitchen w/den – City living at its best!! **Asking \$869,000**



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Westmount



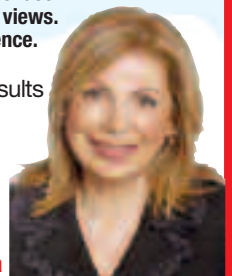
Enjoy the ultimate in carefree living in this 1735 sq ft, 2 bedrooms, 2½ bath condo in the luxurious Chateau Westmount. This full service building has everything you need plus more... MLS 8624914 offered at **\$920,000.**

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WESTMOUNT \$849,000

Victorian duplex w/ upper occupancy. Excellent revenue. Original architectural details. Facing park (WAG). New windows. New roof. 2 furnace for heating, 2 car parking.



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Bones

chewed up and raggedy but the damage is pure aesthetic. Oh well, guess her modeling days are done. As if.
Bones is one of the many huskies rescued from a cruel hoarding and breeding situation. Yet another Quebec example of its record on animal welfare. A sweet 6-year-old female, Bones will surprise you with her gentle demeanor and loving insides.
How did this pup get this away after spending her entire life tethered to a tree? Somehow in those frigid winters and scorching summers, Bones managed to survive with some of her pack. Some didn't make it.
More than survive, Bones is able to give and receive affection now that she has been cared for, both medically and emotionally. This is a dog who is figuring things out, like – get this – walking indoors. She is also learning to walk on leash, what her role is in the world, and mercifully

continued on p. 29

Westmounters take to MUHC board of directors

By ISAAC OLSON

While one well-known Westmounter withdrew her public bid for a seat on the McGill University Health Centre's (MUHC) board of directors so she could be appointed by the hospital's foundation, a record number of voters from across the island elected cancer-activist Gwen Nacos and local lawyer Jill Hugessen to the two available seats.
Quebec mandates that, although some are appointed by public or private stakeholders, citizens must be represented by publicly elected board members. This year, the competition was fierce with 11 candidates originally on the roster, though that number dropped to nine by the time voters hit the polls.
Westmounter Joan Ivory was appointed by the MUHC Foundation. Ivory, along with her long involvement with the hospital, has served on boards of the National Ballet of Canada, the Study School Foundation and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.
Hugessen, also volunteering with the hospital for many years, was elected by the more than 900 voters that turned out at the various polling stations to cast their vote – nearly doubling last year's numbers. Hugessen, a Westmounter, said she suspects the large turnout on November 1 was in part because of the high number of candidates, but also because of the wider array of polling stations spread out between various medical facilities.
"I look forward to representing the community on the board," said Hugessen, noting she also looks forward to working alongside Nacos. When asked about her aims in regards to the incoming super hospital currently under construction in neighbouring NDG, Hugessen replied: "I am concerned with making sure the move



Jill Hugessen



Joan Ivory

and transition into the new site is done in a timely and efficient manner and all of the different interest groups are being respected."
Their mandates start in February.
See story on their candidacy, "Ivory and Hugessen in the running for MUHC board," October 25, p. 22.



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Wild cards for Wildcard event to raise money for bird rehab centre



Artist Elisabeth Galante's work can be seen on this board along with work from Myles Goodwyn, Louise Tanguay and Michel Goulet at a preview for the Wildcard Art Market event at Smith House. Galante teaches watercolour at the Visual Arts Centre and is participating in a sale of some 600 works of art from some 300 Canadian artists to raise funds for Le Nichoir Wild Bird Rehabilitation Centre. The sale is to take place Saturday, November 19 at the Centre Sportif du Collège St. Anne in Lachine. Advance tickets cost \$40. Visit www.lenichoir.org/wildcard for details. Each piece of art is sold for \$65 but purchasers only learn the artist's identity after the sale. Le Nichoir, a local non-profit organization, is said to be the largest songbird rehabilitation centre in Canada. The event's goal is to raise enough funds to allow it to move its operations out of the 175-year-old barn that currently serves as its headquarters in Hudson.

Photo courtesy of The Wildcard Art Market event

A real estate advertisement featuring two women, Carly Wener Fridman and Edythe Berman, on either side of a central text block. The text includes their names, 'COURTIER IMMOBILIER', a phone number '(514) 934-1818', and the 'ROYAL LEPAGE' and 'HERITAGE' logos.

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EDYTHE BERMAN
COURTIER IMMOBILIER
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- Home that needs TLC for a client with a knack for design.
- 3/5 bedrooms with pool size backyard.
- 6+ bedroom home under \$2,000,000, bedrooms in basement are acceptable.



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OTTAWA**

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(corner of Greene)**

**November 26, noon to 6 pm
November 27, 10 am to 3 pm**

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SINCE 1937**

**www.walkersauctions.com
Preview phone: 613-868-0893**

<div></div> <div><p><i>Westmount vous informe...</i> <i>Westmount vous informe...</i></p><h1>Westmount Page</h1></div>		<div><p>www.westmount.org info : 514 989-5200</p></div> <div><p>Vol. 5/21 Publié par Westmount • Published by Westmount</p></div>	
<div></div> <div><h3>ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES</h3><h4>Concert de Noël : la soirée Gilbert et Sullivan</h4><p>La société opératique de Montréal-Ouest présente une soirée musicale et théâtrale des compositeurs britanniques Gilbert and Sullivan le mercredi 23 novembre à 19 h 30 au Victoria Hall. Les billets sont disponibles au Victoria Hall, sur le site Web www.mwos.org ou en téléphonant au 514 990-8813. Adultes 20 \$, aînés 16 \$, étudiants 12 \$.</p></div>		<div></div> <div><h3>COMMUNITY EVENTS</h3><h4>Christmas concert: a Gilbert & Sullivan Soirée</h4><p>The Montreal West Operatic Society presents a musical evening with theatrical selections from Gilbert and Sullivan on Wednesday, November 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at Victoria Hall. Tickets are available at Victoria Hall, at www.mwos.org and by phone at 514 990-8813. \$20 adults, \$16 seniors, \$12 students.</p></div>	
<div></div> <div><h3>TRAVAUX PUBLICS</h3><h4>Chemin de l'aréna : accès limité du 14 novembre au 2 décembre</h4><p>En raison des travaux d'excavation à proximité, le stationnement de l'aréna ne sera pas disponible du 14 novembre au 2 décembre. Au cours de cette période, l'accès au chemin de l'aréna sera limité à un sens unique exclusivement en direction nord à partir de la rue Ste-Catherine. De plus, le chemin Academy sera ouvert uniquement en direction est. Obtenez des mises à jour quotidiennes au www.westmount.org. Info: 514 989-5543</p></div>		<div></div> <div><h3>PUBLIC WORKS</h3><h4>Limited access to Arena Drive November 14 to December 2</h4><p>Due to excavation work next to the arena, parking will not be available in the arena lot from November 14 to December 2. During this period, access to Arena Drive will be limited to north-bound-only traffic from St. Catherine Street. In addition, Academy Road will be open only in the eastbound direction. Obtain daily updates at www.westmount.org. Info: 514 989-5543.</p></div>	
<div></div> <div><h3>BIBLIOTHÈQUE</h3><h4>Conférence : <i>Exercise at Any Age - Having a Healthy Body with an Alert Mind</i></h4><p>Lors de cette causerie, Jill Barker, chroniqueuse, va démystifier certaines théories à propos de l'âge et de l'exercice et offrira des conseils sur la façon de rester actif tout en vieillissant. Le mercredi 16 novembre à 19 h. Info : 514 989-5386</p><h4>Conférence : <i>Cyber-bullying</i></h4><p>Le professeur Shaheen Shariff parlera de l'équilibre entre la liberté d'expression, la sécurité, la vie privée et l'encadrement à une époque où les jeunes grandissent immergés dans les technologies digitales. Le mercredi, 23 novembre à 19 h. Info : 514 989-5386</p><h4>Vente de livres d'automne</h4><p>La vente de livres d'automne des Amis de la bibliothèque se tiendra les samedi et dimanche 26 et 27 novembre de 10 h à 18 h au Victoria Hall. Si</p></div>		<div></div> <div><h3>SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE</h3><h4>Le stationnement sécuritaire en pente</h4><p>Le Service de la sécurité publique de Westmount rappelle à tous de porter une attention particulière aux techniques de stationnement en pente. Avant de couper le moteur, assurez-vous que la transmission de la voiture est en position P ou en première vitesse, que le frein à main est engagé et que les roues avant de la voiture sont braquées vers le trottoir. Les officiers émettront des constats d'infraction. Info : 514 989-5222</p><h4>Collecte de denrées non-périssables</h4><p>La campagne annuelle de la Sécurité publique est amorcée et les contributions de denrées non périssables sont acceptées au profit des personnes dans le besoin. Des récipients prévus à cet effet sont disponibles dans tous les édifices municipaux, ainsi qu'au Centre Greene situé au 1090, avenue Greene. Les dons en argent sont également acceptés, de même que les jouets neufs dans leur emballage d'origine. Info : 514 989-5468</p></div>	
		<div></div> <div><h3>PUBLIC SECURITY</h3><h4>Parking safely on slopes</h4><p>The Westmount Public Security Unit reminds everyone to pay attention to the proper technique for parking on hills. Before turning the engine off, make sure the vehicle transmission is in park or in gear, that the hand brake is engaged and that the front wheels are turned towards the curb. Officers will issue tickets for infractions. Info: 514 989-5222</p><h4>Non-perishable food drive</h4><p>Westmount Public Security's annual food drive is already underway and contributions of non-perishable food items towards Christmas baskets for needy families are always appreciated. Containers are set up in City buildings and at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. Cash donations and new toys in original packaging are also welcome. Info: 514 989-5468.</p></div>	
		<div></div> <div><h3>LIBRARY</h3><h4>Health Talk: Exercise at Any Age - Having a Healthy Body with an Alert Mind</h4><p>The talk on Wednesday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m. by Gazette fitness columnist Jill Barker will debunk some common myths regarding age and exercise and offer tips on how to stay active as you age. Info: 514 989-5386</p><h4>Health Talk: Cyber-bullying</h4><p>Dr. Shaheen Shariff will talk about balancing free expression, safety, privacy and supervision of young people growing up immersed in the digital technologies on Wednesday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m. Info: 514 989-5386</p><h4>Fall Book Sale</h4><p>The Friends of Westmount Public Library will hold its fall book sale on Saturday and Sunday, November 26 and 27 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Victoria Hall. If you have books in excellent</p></div>	

Argyle Institute adds award ceremony and open house to AGM



At the Argyle Institute's October 28 annual general meeting, awards ceremony and open house, from left: Patricia Hook Painter, Carmela Mindel, Victor Bertrand and Rita Bertrand.

Photo courtesy of The Argyle Institute

At an awards ceremony that was part of the Argyle Institute's annual general meeting held October 28, Outstanding Volunteer Awards went to Angela Burlton and Michael Schmidt, and the Distinguished Member Award went to Carmela Mindel, who is former president of the Argyle and started its internship program.

A plaque of recognition for "outstanding and continued support of the Argyle and for unwavering commitment to the welfare of families and children" went to Victor Bertrand Sr.

Attending were Marc Garneau, MP for

Westmount-Ville Marie; Victor Drury, Westmount city councillor; Marc Bertrand; Michelle Bertrand and husband Scott Jackson; Michael Mindel; Ali Mindel, director of the internship program (see story October 11, p. 24); Leora Cukier; Dr. Walter Gotlieb and his wife Ariela; Gordon and Ellie Kadnoff; Willie Grzywacz; Bobby Golfman; Moira Luce and Joanne Heward.

Argyle members were also present: Andrea McElhone Joan Keefer, Maria Luisa Alejos, Jennifer Powe and Janice Tester, as well as students, interns and alumni.

Alternative, compostable litter invented here

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Recent news that the city of Westmount is dropping used cat litter from the list of materials accepted as household waste for composting (see "By-law to ban recycling, compostables in garbage," November 1, p. 1) has prompted a Victoria Ave. veterinarian to remind cat owners of a relatively carefree option for cat litter that does not end up in landfill.

The Chatonnel product was developed by Dr. J. Marc Vaillancourt of the Westmount Animal Hospital. Made from biodegradable cellulose fiber obtained from recycled paper products, only a relatively small amount needs to be used and is very absorbent.

While conventional granular cat litter produces dust which cats ingest as they groom their fur, causing some potentially serious health problems, Chatonnel is dust-free and doesn't necessarily have to be thrown out with the garbage.

Vaillancourt claims it can be safely flushed down the toilet without compromising the plumbing.

It is also treated with an odor neutralizer and has the added advantage of spilling out of the box much less frequently than granular cat litter. It's lightweight compared to regular litter and is easy to carry.

In addition, because the product is

white, it's easy to see if there's blood in the cat's urine, a sign of sickness, resulting in a quicker intervention if necessary.

Chatonnel, which has been around for a decade, is available at the Westmount Animal Hospital. It can also be ordered from the hospital and select veterinarians, and delivered directly to your home.



Westmount Animal Hospital manager Laura Gregory some packages of Chatonnel.

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Travaux de réfection

Remplacement des conduites d'aqueduc et d'égout

Rue Ste-Catherine et l'entrée de l'aréna

Chemin de l'aréna : accès limité du 14 novembre au 2 décembre

En raison des travaux d'excavation à proximité, le stationnement de l'aréna ne sera pas disponible du 14 novembre au 2 décembre.

Au cours de cette période, l'accès au chemin de l'aréna sera limité à un sens unique exclusivement en direction nord à partir de la rue Ste-Catherine. De plus, le chemin Academy sera ouvert uniquement en direction est.

Obtenez des mises à jour quotidiennes sur le site Web de la Ville au www.westmount.org.

Pour toute question concernant les travaux, veuillez appeler au 514 989-5543.



Service des travaux publics
Public Works Department



Infrastructure Renewal

Replacement of the water main and sewer line

St. Catherine Street and Arena Drive

Limited access to Arena Drive November 14 - December 2

Due to excavation work next to the arena, parking will not be available in the arena lot from November 14 to December 2.

During this period, access to Arena Drive will be limited to northbound-only traffic from St. Catherine Street.

In addition, Academy Road will be open only in the eastbound direction.

For daily updates on this project, check the City's website at www.westmount.org.

If you have questions about the project, please contact Public Works at 514 989-5543.

Info : 514 989-5543
www.westmount.org

Rotary remembers



From left, David Wagner spoke to the Rotary's November 11 lunch meeting at Victoria Hall about his trip to continental Europe as a 2010 Vimy Foundation prize winner. According to one Rotarian, he "movingly talked about the sacrifices of these young soldiers." Attendees included Zena Seligman; and World War II veterans Stanley Frost, who served as an air-raid officer in London; Rotarian George Campbell (at back), who served in the US army; Robert Morgan, who was a corporal in the Canadian army; Allan Potter, who served as a lieutenant in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve; and Hereward Senior, who was a corporal with the Stormount Dundas Glengarry Highlanders. All but Wagner and Campbell now live at Manoir Westmount.

Photo: Westmount Independent

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Virtual modeling comes to Mod's

From left, Francis-James Hawkins, Cappucine (model) and Claude Abitbol of Mod'sHair.

Photo courtesy of Mod's Hair Paris



The local Mod's Hair Paris salon, located at Greene Ave. and St. Catherine, turned 15 recently and at the same time announced a new association with Models International Management. The 30-year-old Ottawa firm is opening a virtual branch in Westmount with representative Stephanie Goulet. Mod's has launched coaching sessions and test shoots offering new models the opportunity to "understand the challenges of this profession," comments stylist Claude Abitbol. "We often receive requests about modeling careers. Now we have an answer, with a modeling scout on our team," said Stéphane Laveur, one of Mod's owners.

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Parenthood Uncensored

SOPHIE TARNOWSKA

It's a tradition that as we grow older we should question whether future generations will appreciate the value of things as we did at their age. It's another way of saying that we suspect they're not suffering as much as we did as kids, and risk being spoiled out of their minds.

Remember the "I used to walk 5 km to school even in snowstorms" line? Doesn't that sound like "what do you mean you've never had hypothermia, you little twerp?" I'm sure that none of my relatives walked through snowstorms, but somehow it's as deeply embedded in my childhood memories as the lyrics to "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun."

I swore that I'd never inflict such stories on my kids, much like I swore I'd never love anyone other than Kirk Cameron.

I lied.

But I have an excuse. Kirks's perm got

too big – and I believe that my generation has experienced the largest acceleration of technology. We went from black-and-white to colour TVs, from manual to remote controls, from three channels to 360. We played the first ever computer games on our televisions before computers existed. Some of us may even have joined the Zaxxon High Scorers club by taking a Polaroid picture of our score and snail-mailing it to Atari headquarters.

Getting smaller

We marvelled at the first room-sized computer, and today carry pocket-sized ones until we can get to our laptops, our desktops, our iPads.

We used to write letters, now we Skype each other across oceans. We took photos on film, and had to wait to see how they would turn out; today we shoot photos and video on our smartphones, and delete the ones we don't like with the tap of a screen.

We went from dialing rotary phones that held us hostage to one spot, to making calls from anywhere we like. We played records, then switched to cassette tapes and spent hours making mix tapes off the radio (for Kirk Cameron), playing them on our super-cool yellow sports Walkman.

Today we download music right onto our phones and laptops. We watched *ET* on our brand new Beta or VHS machines. Now we download movies and watch them in HD.

Our kids will grow up using verbs that had no meaning when we were kids: text, download, upload, backup, Google, Facebook, poke, Skype.

Record player first

All of this hit me when I took my 7-year old to visit my grandmother a couple of weeks ago: it was the first time she ever laid eyes on *continued on p. 32*



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ON THE SHELVES

Among recent reading and audio-visual material at the Westmount Public Library singled out by staff are:

Magazines: *Europe on the brink...*

"Can Europe's divided house stand?" by Hugo Dixon in *Foreign Affairs*, Nov./Dec. 2011, p. 74.

"It ain't over: Why the latest deal fails to solve the EU debt crisis" by Matthew McClearn in *Canadian Business*, November 21, 2011, p. 25.

Adult fiction

Ragnarok: The End of the Gods by A. S. Byatt – Recently evacuated to the British countryside and with World War II raging around her, one young girl struggles to make sense of her life. She is given a book of ancient Norse legends and her inner and outer worlds are transformed.

Smuggled by Christina Shea – In the final winter of the World War II, five-year-old Éva Farkas is sewn into a flour sack and smuggled across the Hungarian border to Romania. She is renamed Anca and forbidden to speak Hungarian. When the pillars of communism finally crumble, Anca returns to Hungary to find a home and reclaim the name her mother gave her.

Adult French – *The lives of artists*

L'art vivant: autour de Paul-Émile Borduas by Jean-Philippe Warren – In this essay, Warren examines how Borduas made the transition to abstract art within the context of the Quiet Revolution. He also writes about the connections between progressive Catholic intellectuals and avant-garde artists of the times.

Frida Kahlo: la beauté terrible by Gérard de Cortanze – This biography describes how Kahlo lived her existence to the fullest, despite constant physical pain due to an accident. She produced admirable art

and kept company with prominent political thinkers and influential artists, but her personal life was nothing short of tumultuous.

Books on CD

The Cat's Table by Michael Ondaatje – In the early 1950s, an eleven-year-old boy in Colombo boards a ship bound for England. At mealtimes he is seated at the "cat's table" – as far from the captain's table as can be – with a ragtag group of "insignificant" adults and two other boys. As the ship makes its way across the Indian Ocean, the three boys tumble from one exciting adventure to another.

The Paris Bride by Paula McLain – In this fictionalized account, Hadley Richardson has given up on ever finding true love. When she meets Ernest Hemingway, the two fall in love and are married – but they are ill-prepared for life's temptations.

DVDs

The Tree of Life – The impressionistic story of a midwestern family in the 1950's that follows the life journey of the eldest son, Jack, through the innocence of childhood to his disillusioned adult years as he tries to reconcile a complicated relationship with his father. He finds himself a lost soul in the modern world, seeking answers to the origins and meaning of life while questioning the existence of faith.

Good Neighbours – In the winter of 1995, a serial killer is on the loose in a small neighborhood in Montreal. The tenants of an old apartment house in NDG must figure out who they can trust and who they can't.

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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- “Exercise at any Age: Having a Healthy Body with an Alert Mind,” with *Gazette* fitness columnist **Jill Barker**, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Second part of the library’s health series talks. Free. Info: 514.989.5386.
- **Ahuva Gray**, international lecturer and author, former Baptist minister and African-American concert to Judaism speaks on her “Spiritual Journey to Judaism,” 8:15 pm at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. Info: Arlene Scher at 514.937.9471, ext. 169
- **University Women’s Club of Montreal** Public Foundation’s dinner and 3-in-1 auction. Funds help women students and charities. Dinner at 6 pm at the Atwater Club, 3505 Atwater. Cost: \$30.76. Reserve by Friday, November 11, call 514.932.3922.
- A free seminar “**Health, the Value and Uses of Alternative and Complementary Healing Methods**” by Neall Ryon of Meridian Energy Healing, from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Atwater Library.
- Author **Mary Soderstrom** leads the Atwater Library Book Club in a discussion of *The Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys, 7:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Free, donations.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

- “**Development of Sports at Selwyn House**,” with speakers Michael Maurovich, current director of athletics, and Steve Mitchell, retired director. At the Westmount Public Library from 7 to 9 pm. Part of Westmount Historical Association’s fall lecture series. Admission free for members, non members \$5 at door. Info: 514.989.5510 or 514.932.6688.
- Writer **Sheila Heti** reads from and discusses her work, including her new book *The Chairs Are Where the People Go: How to Live, Work, and Play in the City*, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Free.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

- **Parents and Tots Yoga**, 9 to 10 am at Centre Greene. Yoga instruction for parents and children aged 18 months to 4 years. Cost: \$10 drop-in or \$80 for 10 weeks. Info: 514.931.6202.
- Centre Greene **kids yoga** from 10 to 11 am. Yoga instruction for kids aged 5 to 8 years old. Cost: \$10 drop-in or \$80 for 10 weeks. Info: 514.931.6202.
- **Summit Woods tour** hosted by Friends of Summit Woods from 10 am. Meet at the Summit Lookout. Info: 514.939.5670 or supermolto@sympatico.ca. See p. 5 for story.
- Westmounter **Karen Elaine Spencer** launches her book *Dream Listener* at Joyce Yahouda Gallery (372 St. Catherine St. #516), from 3 to 5 pm.
- “All the Things You Are,” a concert and reception in honour of **Breast Cancer Action Montreal**, 7:30 pm at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. Cost: \$20; children under 12 years \$10. Reserve: bcamconcert@gmail.com or 514.937.4531.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

“A Caregiver’s Journey,” by Laura Boroditsky, a family caregiver, recounting what she learnt through personal experience, from 1 to 3 pm at Unitarian Church of Montreal (5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd.) Free. Info: **The Council on Palliative Care** – www.council-on-palliative-care.org.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Wayne Larsen on “A.Y. Jackson in Montreal: The Early Year,” 12:30 pm at Unitarian Church (5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd.). Part of the Women’s Canadian Club of Montreal’s 2011/2012 lecture series. Free for members; visitors’ fee (men and women) \$10. Lunch is available for \$5, 11:30 am. Info: capers@total.net.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

- On **cyber-bullying** – balancing free expression, safety, privacy and supervision of young people, with professor Shaheen Shariff, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Final part of the library’s health series talks. Free. Info: 514.989.5386.
- The **Manoir Westmount Bazaar** from noon to 2 pm. Tables include afghans, cushions, seasonal crafts, knitted items, nearly new items, jewelry. All proceeds to benefit Montreal charities. At Manoir Westmount, 4646 Sherbrooke St. Info: 514.937.3943.
- Montreal West Operatic Society season-opener “**A Gilbert and Sullivan Soirée**,” a compendium of G&S “show-stoppers,” 7:30 pm at Victoria Hall. Tickets: 514.990.8813; tickets@mwos.org and on-line tickets via PayPal www.mwos.org.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Art exhibition and bake sale at St. Margaret’s Day Centre for Seniors of the CSSS Cavendish, from 10 am to 2:30 pm. 50 Hillside Ave. Under the direction of Jennifer Lupien, therapist/artist.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

- **The Friends of the Westmount Public Library’s used book sale**, 10 am to 6 pm. Also Sunday, November 27. Gently used books may be left at the front desk. Info: 514.483.5604.
- “**Ways of dreaming**,” with pianist/composer Mark Pinkus and soprano Louise Yard and pianist Pierre McLean, 7 pm at the Unitarian Church of Montreal. Cost: \$20. Info and tickets: 514.846.8047 or 514.739.3830.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Interfaith couples and their families are invited to join Marion Usher to discuss: “Chanukah and Christmas: Fond Memories, New Traditions,” 7:30 pm at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm Ave. Info: 514.937.3575, ext. 217.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Dix Mille Villages (Ten Thousand Villages) on Monkland Ave., will have a boutique at the Westmount Y from 5 to 8 pm. Fair trade foods and gifts. Info: Janet Boeckh at 514.933.9096.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Montreal author **Anita Rau Badami** reads from her new novel, *Tell It to the Trees*, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Info: 514.989.5386.

Treats and treasures to be found at Centre Greene, Nov. 19

“Treats and Treasures,” Centre Greene’s annual bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 19, from 10 am to 3 pm at the not-for-profit community centre located at 1090 Greene Ave.

It will feature a craft show with works from some 30 local and international artisans and fair trade craft items from co-operatives in Africa, India and South America.

Shoppers can also enjoy a bake table, light lunch, raffle and a nearly-new book sale.

Centre Greene will be hosting “Empty Bowls,” a program to raise awareness of hunger and food security issues. For \$20, a handmade ceramic bowl filled with homemade soup, a piece of Irish soda bread and fruit can be purchased. Profits will support Centre Greene’s food programs for children, and proceeds from the bazaar will help to continue the centre’s community programs.

For information, contact Erica Bloom or Erin Dean at 514.931.6202 or visit www.centregreene.org.

Underdog

continued from p. 22

she is also discovering that not every human is cruel.

Bones is flourishing with her foster family and gets along with kids, other dogs and cats as well due to her peaceful nature.

Unlike her moniker she is now more than just skin and bones, but still she remains too thin. A good remedy would be to find a loving family to welcome her forever.

Oh and about that funny ear?

It got chewed up while she was faring on her own tethered to a tree, eaten up by insects. Hate bugs too? Wanna be inspired by a gorgeous survivor? Bones is waiting for you. Please contact Sophie’s Dog Adoption at 514.523.5052 or info@sophiesdogadoption.com.

Visit www.underdogclub.org to see more beauties who got the short end of the stick.

Or write us an email at contact@underdogclub.org.

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Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount



COMMENTAIRES DU MAIRE SUR LA SITUATION FINANCIÈRE DE LA VILLE DE WESTMOUNT SÉANCE DU CONSEIL DU 7 NOVEMBRE 2011

Chers conseillers, Mesdames et Messieurs, bonsoir,

À cette première étape du processus de préparation et d’adoption du budget 2012, je dois présenter aux résidents un rapport sur la santé financière de notre ville en général.

En août, le conseil a établi les lignes directrices suivantes concernant le budget 2012 :

- Limiter l’augmentation des taxes foncières reliées aux services locaux au taux d’inflation (2 %) + 1 %, incluant l’absorption de l’impact de la dette et des régimes de retraite.
- Poursuivre les efforts en vue d’augmenter les revenus provenant d’autres sources que l’impôt foncier afin d’équilibrer le budget.

Notre situation financière pour 2011 s’annonce favorable à ce moment-ci avec à la fois des recettes et des dépenses projetées de 91,5 millions \$ après les affectations, ou avec un léger excédent.

Dans le rapport qui est déposé ce soir, mes commentaires porteront notamment sur les quatre questions financières suivantes :

- les résultats de fin d’exercice 2010;
- les prévisions préliminaires des revenus et dépenses de la ville pour 2011;
- l’état de la dette de la ville et les mesures mises en place pour la gérer;
- l’orientation générale du budget 2012 et des dépenses d’immobilisations pour la période de 2012 à 2014.

Résultats de fin d’exercice 2010

Le budget total de fonctionnement pour l’année 2010 était de 86 284 100 \$. La vérification des états financiers de fin d’exercice a confirmé un revenu total de 89 672 936 \$ pour l’an dernier; des dépenses de fonctionnement qui se sont élevées à 84 219 284 \$ et des affectations au montant de 4 635 000 \$. L’excédent budgétaire net de fonctionnement en 2010 s’est élevé à 818 652 \$.

Au cours de l’année 2010, les dépenses d’immobilisations se sont élevées à 10 111 499 \$, parmi lesquelles un montant de 3 183 178 \$ a été couvert par notre mode de financement *pay-as-you-go* (avant les « fusions », l’ensemble de notre programme annuel de travaux d’immobilisations courants était financé selon la méthode *pay-as-you-go*). Le solde des projets 2010 a été financé au moyen de règlements d’emprunt qui ont totalisé 4 843 851 \$ et de subventions au montant de 2 084 470 \$. Les états financiers de la Ville de Westmount pour l’année 2010 ont été vérifiés par *Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton*.

Prévisions pour 2011

Le budget de fonctionnement 2011 de la ville fut établi à 89 833 800 \$. Pour la troisième fois, le budget incluait la quote-part de l’agglomération. À la lumière des résultats disponibles à ce jour et des revenus et dépenses prévus pour le reste de l’année, nous prévoyons terminer l’exercice 2011 avec des recettes et des dépenses projetées de 91,5 millions \$, ou avec un léger excédent.

Cependant, ce surplus pourrait changer considérablement d’ici la fin de l’exercice, notamment s’il devait y avoir des chutes de neige abondantes ou un bris d’aqueduc important d’ici là.

Dette

En date du 31 décembre 2011, l’endettement net de Westmount devrait être de 38,3 \$ millions, incluant « l’achat » forcé du réseau local d’aqueduc et les dépenses annuelles d’immobilisations des années 2002 à 2011. Ce montant ne comprend pas l’investissement de 37 \$ millions pour le projet du Centre des loisirs, dont un montant d’environ 20 \$ millions sera subventionné par les gouvernements provincial et fédéral.

Budget 2012

Conformément aux objectifs financiers décrits précédemment dans ce rapport, je suis heureux d’annoncer que nous serons à la hauteur du défi que nous nous sommes fixés en tant que conseil, soit de limiter l’augmentation des taxes municipales reliées aux services locaux au taux de l’inflation (2 %) + 1 %, incluant l’absorption de l’impact de la dette et des régimes de retraite. Il s’agit de tout un défi, en tenant compte de l’impact du déficit actuariel du régime de retraite des employés, de l’augmentation de 1 % de la taxe de vente provinciale, de l’état de nos infrastructures et des conventions collectives. Pour cette raison, le conseil a approuvé l’affectation de surplus accumulés à l’équilibre budgétaire, si nécessaire.

Cependant, nous ne connaissons pas encore le montant final que l’agglomération va nous réclamer en guise de contribution à son budget 2012 et nous ne le saurons probablement pas avant la fin du mois de novembre. En outre, puisqu’environ 83 % de nos recettes proviennent des taxes municipales, le conseil pourrait continuer à augmenter les revenus provenant d’autres sources, tels que les tarifs de stationnement.

Le conseil se réunira bientôt pour finaliser notre stratégie globale et adopter le budget de fonctionnement et d’immobilisations en décembre.

Rémunération des élus municipaux

La *Loi sur le traitement des élus municipaux* (L.R.Q., chapitre T-11.001) prévoit que le maire d’une municipalité, dont un règlement touchant la rémunération des membres du conseil est en vigueur, doit inclure dans son rapport annuel sur la situation financière de la municipalité une mention des rémunérations et des allocations de dépenses que chaque membre du conseil reçoit de la municipalité, d’un organisme mandataire de celle-ci ou d’un organisme supramunicipal.

Ainsi, en 2011, le maire a reçu les rémunérations suivantes:

- une rémunération annuelle de 43 934 \$ de la ville;
- 14 751 \$ à titre d’allocation de dépenses;
- une rémunération annuelle de 10 344 \$ du conseil d’agglomération de Montréal;
- une rémunération annuelle de 6 027 \$ de la Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal;
- 517 \$ d’allocation de présence, à titre de membre de l’ancienne *Commission sur les finances et l’administration* pour la période du 1^{er} janvier au 13 avril 2011;
- 517 \$ d’allocation de présence, jusqu’à un maximum annuel de 10 344 \$, à titre de membre de la *Commission sur les finances et l’administration* du conseil de l’agglomération urbaine de Montréal.

Quant aux conseillers, ils ont reçu les rémunérations suivantes en 2011:

- Une rémunération annuelle de 14 645\$ de la ville;
- 7 322,50 \$ à titre de d’allocation de dépenses.

Le conseiller Patrick Martin a reçu les rémunérations additionnelles suivantes :

- 1 551 \$ d’allocation de présence de l’ancienne *Commission sur l’examen des contrats* pour la période du 1^{er} janvier au 13 avril 2011;
- 517 \$ d’allocation de présence, jusqu’à un maximum de 10,344 \$, de la *Commission sur l’examen des contrats* du conseil de l’agglomération urbaine de Montréal.

Transactions au-delà de 25 000 \$

Comme l’exige la loi, je dépose la liste des transactions dont le montant total cumulatif dépassait 25 000 \$ entre le 1^{er} octobre 2010 et le 30 septembre 2011.

Peter F. Trent
Maire



Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount



THE MAYOR'S COMMENTS ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7th, 2011

Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening:

As the first formal step in the 2012 budget preparation and adoption process, I am required to report to residents on the general financial health of our City.

In August, Council established the following guidelines for the 2012 budget:

Limit the increase in taxation for local services to inflation (2%) + 1%, including absorbing the effects of debt and pension plans.

Continue efforts to increase revenue from sources other than property taxes to balance the budget.

Our financial picture for 2011 looks favourable at this point with both revenues and expenses projected at \$91.5 million after appropriations, or with a modest surplus.

In my report that is being tabled tonight, I will be commenting further on the following and other financial issues:

- The 2010 year-end results;
- The preliminary forecast of the City's 2011 revenues and expenditures;
- The state of the City's debt and the action taken to manage it;
- The overall direction of the 2012 Budget, along with the capital expenditures planned for 2012 through 2014.

2010 Year-End Results

The City's 2010 total operating budget was \$86,284,100. The year-end audited statements confirmed that total revenues last year were \$89,672,936; operational expenditures amounted to \$84,219,284 as well as appropriations in the amount of \$4,635,000 were established. This resulted in a net 2010 operating surplus of \$818,652.

During 2010, capital expenditures amounted to \$10,111,499, of which \$3,183,178 was covered by our 'pay-as-you-go' funding (prior to the merger, our entire routine annual capital works program was funded on a pay-as-you-go basis). The balance of the 2010 projects was funded by loan by-laws in the amount of \$4,843,851 and grants of \$2,084,470.

The City of Westmount's 2010 financial statements were audited by *Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton*.

2011 Forecast

The City's 2011 operating budget was established at \$89,833,800. For the third time, the budget included the apportionment to the Agglomeration. Based on the results to date and the projected revenues and expenditures for the balance of the year, we expect to close 2011 with both revenues and expenses projected at \$91.5 million, or with a modest surplus.

However, the results could change between now and year-end, especially if we experience significant unforeseen events such as a higher-than-average snowfall or a major water-main break.

Debt

As of December 31st, 2011, Westmount's net debt should be of \$38.3 million, including the legislated takeover of the water network and the annual capital expenditures for 2002 to 2011. This amount does not include a \$37 million investment for the new Recreation Centre, approximately \$20 million of which will be offset by a grant from the provincial and federal governments.

2012 Budget

Consistent with the financial goals outlined earlier in this report, I am pleased to announce that we shall meet the challenge that we set out for ourselves as a Council, that is to limit the increase in taxation for local services to inflation (2%) + 1%, including absorbing the effects of debt and pension plans. This is a big challenge considering the impact of the actuarial deficit in our employee pension plan, the 1% increase in the provincial sales tax, our aging infrastructure, and the union agreements. For this reason, Council has approved the appropriation of accumulated surplus to balance the local budget if required.

However, we do not yet have the final amount that the Agglomeration will be charging us for our contribution to its 2012 budget and we will probably not know this until the end of November. In addition, as around 83% of our revenue comes from property taxes, the Council may continue to increase revenues from other areas such as parking rates.

We will be sitting down shortly as a Council to finalize our overall strategy and adopt our operating and capital budget in December.

Remuneration of Elected Municipal Representatives

The *Act respecting the remuneration of elected municipal officers* (R.S.Q., chapter T-11.001) provides for that the mayor of a municipality in which a remuneration by-law is in force shall include in his annual report on the financial position of the municipality a list showing the remuneration and expense allowance each member of the council receives from the municipality, a mandatory body of the municipality or a supra-municipal body.

Thus, the Mayor received the following remuneration in 2011:

- \$43,934 as an annual remuneration from the City;
- \$14,751 as an expense allowance from the City;
- \$10,344 as an annual remuneration from the urban agglomeration council of Montreal;
- \$6,027 as an annual remuneration from the *Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal*;
- \$517 as an attendance allowance from the former *Commission sur les finances et l'administration* for the period extending from January 1 to April 13, 2011;
- \$517 per presence as an attendance allowance from the *Commission sur les finances et l'administration* of the urban agglomeration council of Montreal, up to an annual maximum of \$10,344.

As for the councillors, they receive the following remuneration in 2011:

- \$14,645 as an annual remuneration from the City;
- \$7,322.50 as an expense allowance from the City.

As for Councillor Patrick Martin, he receives the additional following remuneration:

- \$1,551 as an attendance allowance from the former *Commission sur l'examen des contrats* for the period extending from January 1 to April 13, 2011;
- \$517 per presence as an attendance allowance from the *Commission sur l'examen des contrats* of the urban agglomeration council of Montreal, up to an annual maximum of \$10,344.

Transactions Exceeding \$25,000

As required by law, I am filing the list of total cumulative transactions exceeding \$25,000 from October 1st, 2010 to September 30th, 2011.

Peter F. Trent
Mayor

Webster wins PM’s teaching excellence award

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Helping to foster a deeper sense of community in students has earned a teacher at St. George’s high school a Prime Minister’s Award for Teaching Excellence.

Megan Webster, a teacher of English and ethics at St. George’s for the past nine years, was one of 84 teachers and early childhood educators from across Canada chosen for the honour.

Webster developed a program whose goal was to establish a stronger sense of community involvement in St. George’s students.

“Students love volunteering,” she told the *Independent*. “I think one of the great needs of children and teenagers is to feel

that they’re making a contribution and to feel that they’re part of the community.

“When we have no expectation for adolescents, other than they go to school and do well in school, there’s a real sense of disconnect between them and the world,”



Megan Webster outside St. George’s high school October 20.

she continued. “This is an opportunity for them to realize that they can have a real and positive impact on the world.”

While in the past, St. George’s students did 20 hours of community service annually (such as handing out bottled water at an event) and submitted a form in order to be recognized for it, Webster believed they should be gaining a deeper understanding.

As part of her program, some 40 parent-volunteers act as liaisons between community organizations and the students. From a list of organizations, the students choose whom they want to work with and then travel in small groups to the organizations accompanied by a parent-volunteer.

These organizations include the SPCA, where the students help to socialize cats. They also helped gather signatures on a petition calling for the banning of puppy mills in Quebec and expanded enforcement of animal rights.

“This means that our students are doing really meaningful service work with a parent volunteer,” said Webster. “They have the opportunity to reflect with an adult and think through what they’re

Villa takes on Défi Jeunesse



Villa Ste. Marcelline school, located on Upper Belmont, joined 41 other private schools in Défi-Jeunesse, a run to raise money for St. Justine hospital. A total of \$1,113,156 was raised. From front to back, Villa Ste. Marcelline students and Westmounters Kaylee Mintzberg and Elina Candida Burgos, and Flavie Merkl.

Photo courtesy of Villa Ste. Marcelline

In Other Words

Two things to see in Westmount

An electronic news clipping service recently posted a reference to a Westmount–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (NDG) travel guide on Wikitravel, which features “up-to-date information on attractions, hotels, restaurants, nightlife, travel tips and more.”

The open source travel guide describes Westmount as “a very affluent anglophone community on the island of Montreal, just west of downtown,” and NDG as “a working-to-middle class district that is also mostly anglophone, and in the process of gentrification.”

The site is scantily populated with content, with only three items listed under the heading “see:” “a huge array of expensive estates and interesting modern architecture” in upper Westmount; the Loyola campus of Concordia University; and Westmount Square, a “four building complex composed of black metal and glass, built in 1967.”

The “edit” buttons are featured, like they do on the Wikipedia site. Visit [http://wikitravel.org/en/Montreal/Westmount–Notre-Dame-de-Grâce](http://wikitravel.org/en/Montreal/Westmount-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) for more information.

Parenting

continued from p. 28

a record player. I tried to explain that this was the great-grandfather to the iPod, and realized how futile it was, how different our childhoods are.

My child will never know the misery of having to wait for the boy she likes to call her on one of the two phones in the house, one conveniently located in the kitchen where everyone can hear, nor will she ever experience the mortification of having her parent pick up the other phone to tell her it’s time she took a bath, young lady. There’s a valuable, character-forming experience in there somewhere, I’m sure of it.

I often worry that my child won’t understand the value of the things she has. Add to that the fact that my ex gave her an iPod for her sixth birthday – something it took me three years after it hit the market to buy for myself – and well, I’ve become my parents: “You know A., when mommy was a little girl, the whole family shared one single record player and I had to ask permission to use it...”

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Personal papers found behind WHS

A large amount of personal papers were discovered in the parking lot behind Westmount High School October 30 by school personnel. The papers were collected and boxed by public safety officers. Included were income tax, financial and medical records belonging to a resident of Cavendish in NDG. Public Security officials said the box was turned over to police when efforts to reach the owner were unsuccessful.

learning and absorbing.”

All the winners were selected in recognition of their exceptionally innovative teaching methods and received a certificate, pin, cash award, and a letter from Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Although Webster was unable to attend the awards ceremony held in Ottawa on October 5 (World Teachers’ Day), a cheque for \$1,000 was mailed to her.

Affectionate Nugget now looking for a home of his own

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Nugget, an affectionate 2-year-old male cat, is still looking for a home after a mother cat and her three kittens rescued from the same lane in Verdun have been adopted from the Westmount Animal Hospital.



Nugget

While it's not known for sure, a strong family resemblance suggests he may be the father of kittens. The last one, Rosie, was adopted recently along with her young mother, Bella.

"We were so happy the two could be

adopted together," said receptionist Marie-Ève Saucier. "Now we really want to find a home for Nugget."

Named for the beige spots on his white coat, Nugget has been confined to the second storey of the clinic, which has put him at a disadvantage for adoption. He can't sidle up to clients, look for a pat and steal their heart away like the others were able to do. That's because he escaped soon after his arrival.

Amazingly, he returned two hours later, demonstrating how quickly he had adapted to his new surroundings. Nugget has shown a fear of children, Saucier said, so he does need an adult home but is friendly with other animals including dogs.

His rescuer also looked after Bella and her five kittens born June 29 and managed to find homes for two of the kits. She then brought two of the others to the clinic, "and we got them adopted the next day," Saucier said. On October 12, the mother and her lone remaining kitten were also brought in and were recently adopted.

Now, Nugget – vaccinated and neutered – is waiting patiently for his turn. For further information, call 514.487.5300.



Westmount Animal Hospital receptionist Marie-Ève Saucier with Bella, the mother, and Rosie, her kitten, October 21. Nugget (inset photo) was rescued from the same lane and needs a permanent home.

Garbage turned upside down

Vandals overturned garbage cans, ripped out real estate signs and emptied leaf bags into the street in the early hours of November 6, Public Security officials said. The mischief was discovered along Sydenham, Forden, Montrose, Sher-

brooke, Metcalfe and de Maisonneuve. Four young men had been seen heading down Sydenham earlier by a public safety officer but it was not known whether or not they were responsible.

Sisters Missy and Fluffy would like to stay together

	<p>9 Lives</p> <p>LYSANNE FOWLER</p>
--	---

Missy and Fluffy have been together all their lives. They are exquisite calico sisters with huge green eyes, regal in their elegance and poise.

Life has changed for them through no fault of their own. Unfortunately, their owner has had to go into a seniors' residence, and they are being fostered until they join another family, preferably together.

They are in excellent health for 8-year-olds, have very affectionate dispositions and are quite calm.



Missy and Fluffy

If you would like more information on Missy and Fluffy, please contact Aldo Fernando at 514.486.9751 or 514.576.5488, or email him at fernando@bell.net.

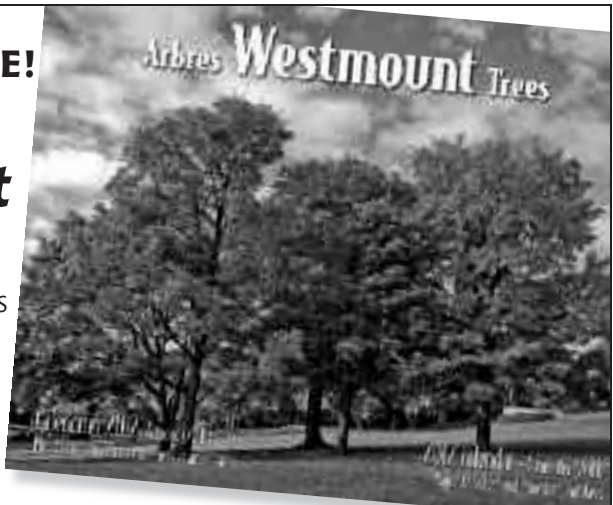
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Westmount Stationery, 4887 Sherbrooke St. W.
Westmount Y, 4585 Sherbrooke St. W.



Porter wins tenant achievement award in TO

Former long-time Westmounter Eleanor Porter, now living in Toronto, was recently awarded the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association tenant achievement award for 2011.



Eleanor Porter
Photo courtesy of Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association

Porter lived for many years on Greene Ave. according to her friend, Eastern Townships resident Michele Martel, who said Porter “was very active at Christ Church Cathedral and played

bridge extremely well for more than 45 years.”

Porter worked at the advertising agency Cockfield Brown in front of The Bay for many years.

Now living at the Wexford seniors’ residence in Toronto, she is known for pulling up her sleeves to do jobs like picking up garbage, setting the tables, and along with her sister Irene McCabe “wash and dry 40 tea cups and saucers,” according to *The Wexford*, the residence’s newsletter.

At 98, Porter is the oldest tenant and is described by the residence as “a true example of humility and selflessness.”

A copy of her award video and presentation can be found at www.onpha.on.ca.

No fear of heights here



Matthew Dufresne with Arbres Conseils Inc. at work in a back garden of a house on Arlington, November 8.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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Westmount Profile: Andrea Wolff

25 years of building for others

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

She's spent 25 years designing and re-designing homes – not to mention a host of well known public and institutional buildings. But her own Westmount house is still on the “to do” list, admits architect Andrea Wolff.

She's simply been too busy working for others.

Of course “renovating” can be a subjective matter: She did open up the living room to provide more light and space on moving in 28 years ago. But the kitchen hasn't been done even though “I'm always redesigning it!” she says.

For Wolff, the house and her work are entwined – a symbol of the balance she strives to achieve between career and family as well as in the way she introduces new design projects into the traditional Westmount streetscape.

It was there in the basement of the home on Mount Stephen where Wolff and her two founding partners in Architem launched what was, and still is, one of the few architectural firms in Canada headed only by women.

“We had three kids in one playpen while we worked,” she says, “and spelled each other off for doctors' appointments and other family commitments. We were interchangeable. We could fill in for each other as needed.

“I think, as working mothers living with the needs of many families, we had a particular ability to listen to what people wanted and bring solutions that would help them bring it to reality,” she explains. “That's always been our strength. You have to listen to what people want.”

Office is still in Westmount

And through the following years of growth, the firm has remained in Westmount, an environment Wolff loves and understands.

This is reflected in some of her better known local projects: the Selwyn House addition, the conversion of Fire Station No. 2 on Victoria, the Shaar's underground gym and the “green” restoration and expansion of the heritage Bronfman home at 15 Belvedere. Now there's the large condo project, Selby Jardins Westmount.

“Every type of project has generated new insight and lessons learned that are transferable to other projects,” she says.

After initially designing country houses, it was Architem's first city home

at 4884 Westmount Ave. that catapulted Wolff and her partners – Elizabeth Shapiro and Magda Kuskowski – onto the architectural scene. The house won a prix d'excellence mention from the Quebec Order of Architects in 1994 for the way it blended contemporary styling into the traditional streetscape.

This was the springboard to the Unitarian Church and other larger projects such as the McGill Student Services Building and the recent redesign of exhibition space at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Celebrating at museum

The museum project is especially exciting to Wolff because this is where she and her partners – who now include Mira Katnick – will be holding their 25th anniversary celebration November 21. “It's unbelievable for us,” she says.

Over that time, Wolff has steered – and “survived” one might say – her share of challenging projects through the city's design review committee, the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). Last year, she was named to PAC herself.

And how has that influenced or changed her perspective?

“Being part of a peer review can be challenging but rewarding,” she says. “It's been an interesting experience. Westmount is a very special place. It can sometimes be hard to strike a balance between what a client wants and the concept the city is looking for to enhance an area. It's a balancing act.”

Grew up in Uruguay

For Wolff, having grown up in Uruguay enables her to bring an international perspective to her work, she says.

Born in Montevideo, where her parents of Austrian and German descent had settled, Wolff was raised in a multi-cultural environment speaking Spanish, German, English and French.

When she and her family moved to Montreal in 1969 in time for her to attend McGill, it was a significant change “that makes you more open, I think.”

It was at McGill where she met her husband-to-be lawyer Eric Maldoff as well as future Architem partner Kuskowski. After working with architect Moshe Safdie, Wolff moved to the Dimakopoulos architectural firm, where she met Shapiro.

Raising her three, now adult, children – Daniel, Gabriel and Hannah – Wolff has made a point of ensuring that weekends



Andrea Wolff at the door of her Westmount home, birthplace of Architem, her architectural firm.

remain a key family time often spent skiing or biking together. The family also includes dog Kiera, a boxer.

One of Wolff's more interesting current projects is a rear addition to the house at 344 Metcalfe, one of the five finalists in

the Maison Coup de Coeur competition held by Heritage Montreal (see October 4, p. 22). It brings Wolff back to her roots, combining the old with the new.

And looking back on a quarter century, she says, “It's been a great, great venture.”

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Meet-up in Westmount brings new McGill students together at Halloween



A group of McGill students meet in Westmount on Halloween to collect food items for charity, as part of the Off Campus Fellow Program.

Photo courtesy of the Off Campus Fellow Program

New students at McGill University living in different parts of Montreal can meet up in the Off Campus Fellow Program.

The year-long program invites first-year students, both local and new to Montreal living off-campus, to join and to learn about the first week of school, about Montreal as a university student and to explore new cafés, bars, libraries and museums.

Westmount, NDG and Côte des Neiges form one of the groups, with Off Campus Fellow for Westmount Asana Roberts-Appiah organizing meet-up activities, like the recent trick-or-treating trip to Westmount October 31 to collect non-perishable goods for charity.

To join or for more information, contact asana.roberts-appiah@mail.mcgill.ca.

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Krulyt on hand for Concordia's opening of two new buildings



Westmounter and chair of Concordia's board of governors Peter Krulyt spoke at the opening of two research buildings at the university's Loyola campus on November 4, namely the PERFORM Centre and the Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics. The federal and provincial governments jointly provided the \$65 million required for the two projects under the Knowledge Infrastructure Program. They will house studies in environmental conservation and personal health. The ceremony was held in the Loyola campus gym, which connects to the new PERFORM Centre. From left, Loyola city councillor Susan Clarke; Isabelle Morin, MP for NDG-Lachine-Dorval; Concordia president Frederick Lowy; Krulyt; and Kathleen Weil, MNA for NDG and minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities.

Photo courtesy of Concordia University

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CCA's Shaughnessy House hosts *vie des arts* event



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounters **François Côté**, lawyer with Norton Rose and president of the board of directors of *vie des arts*, and **Dorota Kozinska**, editor of its English edition, were joined by **Bernard Levy**, editor in chief, at the elegant fundraiser for the contemporary art magazine.



Westmounter François Côté

Held at the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) on October 18, the cocktail-dînette featured media celeb **Winston McQuade**, of Radio Canada as auctioneer.

Honorary



Westmounter Dorota Kozinska, Bernard Levy committee members present were **Chuck Hughes, Georges Laoun, Philippe Marcoux, Robert Poulin, Alexandre Brunet and Paul St-Pierre Plamondon.**

So that guests could peruse the art and

pick their favourite work in time for the auction, cocktails were held first in the Shaughnessy House, a 19th century mansion which is part of the CCA. It was restored to its original 1874 state by Phyllis Lambert, CCA founding director.

Works by 37 artists such as Marc Séguin, Michael Smith, Michel de Brooin, John Heward, Michael Floemn, Karilee Fuglem, and Claude Tournant as well as German star Daniel Richter, drove prices for the works, all of which were an incredibly generous donation by arts patron **Luc LaRochelle**, a lawyer at Borden Ladner

Gervais, and a member of the board of the Canadian Council for the Arts.

The some \$33,000 raised will go to the





Claude Chabot and Hélène Couture.

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Harmony Health Centre welcomes the curious to open house



An open house held at the Harmony Health Centre on November 12 was an opportunity for the Independent to snap a photo of all but three of the centre's 14 integrative health care specialists. Located at 4937A Sherbrooke St., the centre offers naturopathic medicine. The team includes naturopathic doctors, osteopaths, psychologist, a shiatsu therapist, a cranial sacral therapist, a massage therapist, an accupressurist, a counsellor, yoga instructors and a holistic nutritionist. Photo: Martin C. Barry

Priory learns to remember



Priory students attend a special Remembrance Day school assembly, November 11. Piped into the new gym by bagpiper Graham Bradley, students filed in along with special guests. These included Canadian retired military officer, former astronaut and Liberal MP for Westmount-Ville Marie Marc Garneau and World War II veterans. As part of the ceremony, grade 6 student Massimo DiSilvestro recited a poem he wrote, inspired by a visit to Vimy Ridge.

Photo courtesy of The Priory

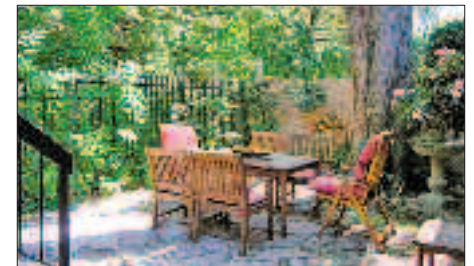
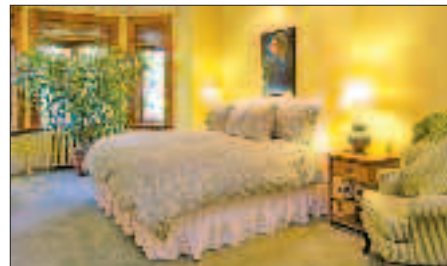
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This fabulous semi-detached home features 4 bedrooms, 2 + 2 bathrooms, and a large eat-in kitchen. Located in Victoria Village, this residence is perfect for the busy family that needs room to grow. Some of the added features include original wood mouldings and doors, high ceilings, sky lights, Weissman furnace, MQ windows throughout, updated wiring and plumbing. Ready to move in!



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SURREY GDNS | WESTMOUNT \$3,450,000
Step inside this 3+2 bdrm contemporary home & it will take your breath away! Intricate mouldings coffered ceiling, fireplaces, integ. sound system, salt water pool, double garage, central air & all the bells and whistles one could want promises to satisfy. Perfect for entertaining, escape to your oasis on one of the premium streets in Upper Westmount!



PORT ROYAL | DOWNTOWN \$1,950,000
Welcome to The Port Royal! Located in the heart of the Golden Square Mile, this fully renovated, and spectacular, 3,581 sq.ft. apartment features never-ending southern views, 4 bdrms, 4½ baths, exquisite wood paneling, beautiful inlaid wood flooring, 2 entrances and 1 garage. Perfect for lavish entertaining & those seeking unparalleled services!



L'HÉRITAGE | OLD MONTREAL \$899,000
Sun-filled 1,717 sq.ft., 2 bdrm, 2 bath condo w/direct river views! Sit and watch the fireworks from your living room w/11'5" ceilings, fully equipped granite kitchen, fabulous master suite, exposed concrete pillars, wood floors, c/a, tons of storage & 2 garages! Full service bldg: 24 hr security, salt water pool, gym, sauna, wine cellar, billiard room, gym ++.

LAND FOR SALE



DE LAVIGNE | WESTMOUNT
Tired of looking for your dream home? Why not build it? Approx. 10,000 sq. ft. of prime real estate available for building your family's perfect dream home on a quiet cul-de-sac. Plans available. MLS 8620940

INTRODUCING



ELM | WESTMOUNT \$879,000
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