

Accident-prone areas under study

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In the wake of another accident at the intersection of The Boulevard and Belvedere Rd., November 16, Westmount's Administrative Traffic Committee was to visit the site last week to study ways of improving safety, the *Independent* learned. *continued on p. 17*

INSIDE



City page p. 12

Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 16

Comin' Up p. 8 • **Letters** p. 6

Underdog BY C. LEE p. 19

In Conversation BY H. BLACK p. 22

Nincheri on Nincheri



Roger Boccini Nincheri stands November 17 under the giant fresco created by his grandfather Guido Nincheri in St. Léon Church. See p. 22 for story.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Don't Miss It

- NDG Food Depot drive in Westmount, Sat., Dec. 3, p. 4.
- SWAT holds annual hockey tournament, Dec. 1 to 4, p. 13.

Naked woman caught in 'indecent act' behind city hall

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A 45-year-old NDG woman was sent a \$37 ticket under Westmount's "good morals and decency" by-law after being found completely naked in a parked car behind city hall November 19 at 3:36 am, Public Security officials said. The woman was described as "being intimate" with a fully-clothed man, the driver.

Both were described as "so occupied"

they never noticed the patroller on the scene for some five minutes awaiting back up. Once they did, they drove off but stopped on Côte St. Antoine at Metcalfe.

As the public safety officer spoke to them, she reported that the woman, still undressed, kept "giggling" and stated that being naked was "completely normal" in her country. It was not known to what country she was referring. Police also attended and checked out the driver.

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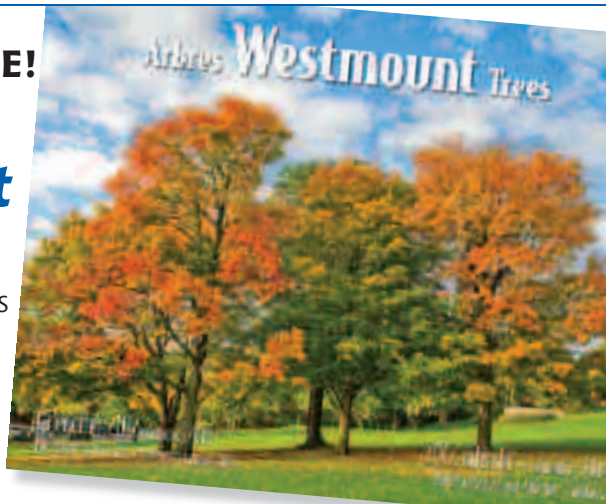


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Visual Arts Centre marks 65 years with 'Square Affair'



Victoria Ave.'s Visual Arts Centre celebrated its 65th anniversary on November 23 with "Square Affair," a \$25-a-ticket fundraising evening during which patrons were invited to admire and purchase works created by artists, teachers, students and staff on canvases measuring a square foot. Centre director Victoria Leblanc, centre, is seen with Councillor Cynthia Lulham, left, who purchased works by Molly Gurman and Bonnie Shemie, one of which is held by Councillor Nicole Forbes, right. Paintings sold at different prices, with 25 percent going to the artist, the rest to the Visual Arts Centre.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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Youth specialist starts and ends career in Westmount

Jutras retires as longest serving police officer

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

After 36 years on the job, Cst. Normand Jutras holds the current distinction of being the longest serving police officer in the Montreal force. But it's a status the Westmount youth squad officer has finally decided to relinquish with his retirement December 8.

"It's rare these days for anyone to stay for 36 years," he told the *Independent* last week.

And he likes to tack another few more years to his career count given his earlier work as an educator at the provincial juvenile correctional centre and the Pinel In-

stitute.

But it was in 1976 that Jutras came to Westmount, where he has worked off and on throughout the years. He had been recruited for the summer Olympics and continued on after the event.

Acknowledging he could have retired several years ago, his reason not to is simple: "I love my work. I like everything to do with my job."

And that includes Westmount, too.

In first Haiti group

Throughout the years, Jutras has chalked up a few "firsts." He was a member of the *continued on p. 5*



Cst. Normand Jutras at local station 12, November 18.



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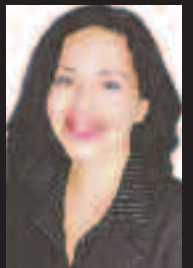
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Choir to carol, volunteers to collect for NDG Food Depot



From left are five of the chorists: Ann Lambert, Don Smith, Cathy Richards, Tori Schofield and Edith Skewes-Cox.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

On Saturday, December 3 from 10 am to 3 pm, volunteers will be collecting food

and monetary donations for the NDG Food Depot outside of the Metro grocery store (4840 Sherbrooke St. at Victoria). To volunteer, call 514.483.4680 ext. 207 or email operations@depotndg.org.

Former CBC choir director Cathy Richards of Melbourne Ave. will lead a group of 15 singers as they perform Christmas carols outside the supermarket on Sherbrooke St. to encourage people to give to the annual food drive.

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From left, NDG Food Depot director Fiona Keats, Metro owner Graham Fletcher and Food Depot board member Kathy Aitken pose November 4 at the depot's donation box, which is located, all year, at the Victoria Ave. exit to the store.

Photo courtesy of NDG Food Depot

Library book sale raises record \$15,700

Last weekend's semi-annual book sale for the Westmount Public Library broke new records generating \$15,691, said Carolyn O'Neill, the sale's director. This is fully \$1,000 more than last April's record-breaking sale.

Held by Friends of the Library, the two-day quality book event benefitted from a record number of donations and the move last spring to Victoria Hall, which provides more space for growing numbers of books and people.

"We were absolutely delighted to see the positive response from the community in terms of donations and from the populace at large who attended," O'Neill said.

Proceeds help the library acquire new equipment and inventory and launch new services.



Photo: Westmount Independent

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Jutras' rookie years in Westmount

continued from p. 3

first Montreal police contingent to go to Haiti with the UN in 1995-1996, led by then Westmount police director Pierre Vézina. Jutras was one of 15 selected out of 450 applicants.

He was also among the first officers to administer breathalyzer tests at a regional testing centre. And as a recruit, he was a member of the first class of Montreal officers accepted at Nicolet, the police academy that previously trained only provincial officers.

But of all the highlights, some of his most fulfilling ones were his rookie years in Westmount working by choice on the police ambulance, which also carried out regular patrol duty. "On the ambulance, you go right away to help people."

In fact, when Jutras came to the Stanton St. station, it was not long after the creation of the Montreal Urban Community police organization, and the station – number 30 at the time – still served only Westmount. It was headed by Sidney Ashford, who after retirement, started up the city's Public Security Unit.

"We had two police ambulances just for Westmount at that time – along with the

fire department's ambulance," he recalled. And it wasn't long before Jutras learned English by necessity. "Everything was in English."

It was only a few years later, however, when the police ambulance service was discontinued that he left Westmount for a while and moved on to other roles. With the evolution of the MUC force, St. Henri was added to the Westmount precinct and the station renumbered to 23.

He helped pioneer the administration of breathalyzers, testing 2,455 people in three years on night duty. He also worked at police headquarters, and with the identification unit, fingerprinting and photographing crime scenes, and doing background checks on potential recruits.

He went on to become an accident investigator at the busy downtown station, then number 25. And he waited for an opening on the youth squad and a return to Westmount. Both came in 1992.

Back to Westmount

When "neighbourhood policing" was introduced in 1996, youth squad officers were centralized at regional headquarters, and Jutras had to leave Westmount for the second time, working at the south region's

operational centre on Guy St. until, with decentralization, he came back to Westmount and what is now station 12.

It was fitting, he says, that he has been able to wind up his career where he began. And what lies ahead in retirement?

Nothing for a few months, Jutras says. "I'm not leaving here to start somewhere else." He is the father of two grown sons and another who is just five, "so I'm going to be 'Mr. Mom,'" he says with a laugh.

He might even resume his travels one day, adding to the 35 countries he has already visited, including several in the developing world – one reason he didn't experience culture shock working in Haiti.

Eventually, he expects to work with juveniles again, "possibly with missing kids," he says. "I have a lot of experience. And for me, what's important is trying to find one runaway kid – and finding her rapidly to get her off the street."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NACOS A WESTMOUNTER

I was disappointed in your November 15 article (“Westmounters take to MUHC board of directors,” p. 22) that I was not acknowledged as being a Westmounter.

In fact, I have been a resident of Westmount since June 1983 and take pride in calling myself a Westmounter.

I, too, look forward to serving on the new board of directors of the MUHC and to making a small contribution to making our great institution an even greater one by bringing our hospital to the community and our community to the hospital.

GWEN ANDREWS NACOS, BELVEDERE PL.

UNION OCCUPIES MONTREAL

They used to say of Prussia that it wasn’t a country that had an army, but rather, it was an army that had a country.

Montreal is a municipal union that has a city: those pensions are a case in point. There isn’t a country on this planet where it makes sense to have people collect pensions for more years than they have worked; in Montreal the problem is compounded by the fact that there are more retirees than there are active participants, something that was, or should have been, foreseeable, given the ever increasing life expectancy.

Municipal sector retirees obviously

have nothing to worry about since they, in effect, have a legal hypothec [mortgage] on all the real estate on the island of Montreal. Including Westmount.

JEAN TURGEON, MOUNT STEPHEN AVE.

SENIORS SHOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP THEIR PETS

I was truly saddened when I read the story of Riley, the 10-year-old Chihuahua, who was given up to a rescue organization when his person had to go to a seniors’ home (which I assume did not allow pets). It is not the first time I read such a sad story in your Underdog column.

The purpose of my letter is that not only do I feel sorry for Riley, I feel more sorry for his owner of 10 years.

I think it is outright callous of senior homes not to permit their residents to enjoy the company of their beloved pets during their “golden years.” Sometimes the only consistent love and attention seniors have these days comes from their beloved four-legged companions. I consider it senior abuse to deprive them their unconditional love and devotion.

As a pediatrician, I know the immense value pets have in the therapy of ill children, children with autism and many other medical conditions. There is abundant evidence-based literature proving that pet

continued on p. 7

Is there a parallel?

Quebec follows Westmount in design-build for Turcot

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A parallel seems to be unfolding between Westmount’s arena/pool project and Quebec’s plan to rebuild the Turcot interchange. Both are being undertaken using a design-build approach.

It turns out that the Quebec government, which is paying \$10 million of Westmount’s arena/pool project through its share of the infrastructure grant, is also adopting the design-build process for the estimated \$3-billion Turcot project – and for the same reasons.

A government press release dated November 4 states that by transferring building risks to the selected contractor or consortium, “the government is assured of a project delivered at the cost and in the timeframe agreed upon that respects the level of quality expected.”

Côte St. Luc design-build questioned

Westmount’s choice of design-build, which also was used for Côte St. Luc’s new recreational facility, has been questioned during council meetings by some critics of the project (see November 15, p. 5).

Said Côte St. Luc mayor Anthony Housefather of the approach “The design-build approach worked very well for us at our new Aquatic Centre. It allowed us to execute the project quickly (September 2010 to September 2011) and negotiate favourable terms, including warranties and holdbacks.”

The Turcot communiqué, issued jointly by the ministry of Transport of Quebec (MTQ) and Infrastructure Quebec, explains that the choice of approach followed a rigorous analysis of the way to build what is expected to be one of the largest infrastructure projects in Canada.

“The fact that both Westmount and the MTQ have gone to design-build shows the process has merit and provides a viable option to traditional methods,” said city director general Duncan Campbell.

“Under design-build, the client and the contractor agree to the program upfront,

which takes out the risk posed by additional changes along the way,” he explained.

Architect David Ludmer, a resident of Grosvenor Ave., who has queried Westmount’s use of this approach, told the *Independent* last Friday that he considers design-build to be “a very valid” process for delivering a project when chosen from the outset.

“With Turcot, they’re embarking on it at the start. We’re doing it in Westmount at the eleventh hour.” He suggests this can’t help but result in lost money, time and continuity since the selected consortium will need “a fast learning curve.”

As well, he contends, “there are always unforeseen changes in a project and who will pay for them?” The standard design-build contract calls for the architect to be the arbiter when changes are required. “And the architect is the contractor’s architect.”

The Turcot communiqué further states that to guarantee fairness, transparency and integrity, the selection process for the designer-builder will be monitored by an auditing “watchdog” as well as by a conflict-of-interest arbiter, who will ensure that regulations and procedures are carried out competitively. The auditor will then issue a public report after the selection.

Evaluation committee members unnamed

In Westmount, the evaluation committee for assessing the bids comprises unnamed city officials to keep it at arm’s length of council members with an aim to prevent political interference. Once the winner is named, details of the process will be contained in a report to council, Campbell told the *Independent*.

City clerk and lawyer Mario Gerbeau acts as the auditor of the selection process to ensure its credibility, he said.

The next step in the Turcot process will be the call for qualification anticipated at the end of this year.

In Westmount, this initial step was undertaken September 19, generating six submissions for qualification. While neither the number nor names of qualifiers were divulged as the city launched the second and final step in the selection process, those deciding to submit competitive bids are expected to be known December 16, the currently scheduled tender deadline.

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Police Beat

Flyer delivery man caught on the fly

BY DAVID GOLDBERG

A 31-year-old man hired to deliver advertising flyer bags got himself into a sackful of trouble when he decided he wanted a souvenir from a home on Grosvenor.

The female occupant of the home told police that she heard a noise coming from the front door around 1 pm on November 24. When she looked out, she saw a man trying to pry the brass frame from her mail slot.

"She opened the door and saw the suspect running off with the brass frame," said Constable Adalbert Pimentel. "She also saw him drop a screwdriver as he ran off."

The woman called the owner of the home, and he contacted the police and the flyer delivery company.

An employee at the company "was very upset when he was told of the incident," said Pimentel. "He told the owner and occupant that he would gather all the people who distribute the [bags] in the area to see if the woman could identify the suspect."

The meeting took place and the woman was able to identify him. Police say the suspect had the frame with him, and he apologized for what he had done.

"The frame was returned, and [the company] said they would pay to have it replaced," said Pimentel. "In exchange, the home's owner said he would not press charges against the suspect."

A representative from the company told the *Independent* that the suspect was working for a subcontractor. The police were told that action would be taken against the suspect by the company.

Thief scared off by driver

A suspect, who had broken into the car

of a 58-year-old LaSalle man, was frightened off before he had a chance to take anything.

The man was returning to his car, which was parked on St. Catherine near Greene, at 8:45 pm on November 21. As he approached his Toyota Yaris, he saw a man sitting in the back seat.

"The man starting yelling at the suspect," said Pimentel. "The suspect replied, telling the man he had a knife."

But as the man got closer, the suspect apparently got scared and ran out of the car. He got onto a white mountain bike and headed west on St. Catherine. Police say he broke the small back window on the driver's side to gain entry into the car.

The suspect is described as a black male, 22, 5'8" and 150 lbs. He had a small beard and wore a pale-coloured tuque and a three-quarter-length white winter jacket.

"In a case like this, when the suspect tells you he is armed, it's best not to approach him," said Pimentel. "Call 911 and stay away from your vehicle. Your safety should always come first."

Black bag burgled

An employee working in the Westmount Medical building at 5025 Sherbrooke St. had his black bag stolen when he stepped away from his office for a few moments.

The incident took place between 10 and 10:15 am on November 9. The victim told police he had left his office door open, and when he returned the bag was gone.

"The bag contained the man's ID cards and a Swiss army knife," said Pimentel. "The bag was found later on at the Westmount Library."

Police say they have an image of the suspect on the building's security camera.

He is described as a bald white male, 40, 5'10" and 175 lbs.

Letters

continued from p. 6

therapy is also of great value for the elderly.

I think that as a community of animal lovers we should make it obligatory for senior residences to accommodate pets. The residents with pets could occupy a particular wing and respect a set of rules so as not to inconvenience others.

But, please, let's not deprive our seniors of the company of their beloved pets at a time when they are most vulnerable to loneliness and depression, having left their homes and their possessions. I am sure that for many seniors the last thing they would give up is their faithful pet.

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- "Paul and Gopen remember how the Bistro used to be... doing a good job on bringing it back..." – Denyse LeC.

Ondaatje and Eugenides sell out Vic Hall



A full house at Victoria Hall was silent but for the soft voice of Michael Ondaatje reading from his new book, *The Cat's Table*. The story is of an 11-year-old boy named Michael, who travels by ship from Ceylon to England in the 1950s. When asked about the autobiographical qualities of the book, Ondaatje told the audience, "I took the same trip when I was 11 years old." Then he added, "I remember practically nothing." Ondaatje shared the stage during the November 21 sold-out event with author Jeffrey Eugenides, who read from his latest: *The Marriage Plot*, and with the evening's host, Anne Lagacé Dowson. The event, which drew a crowd of some 450 attendees, was part of Paragraphe bookstore's *Words After Dark* series, and was co-sponsored by the Westmount Public Library and the Gazette, whose *Raise-a-Reader* program was a beneficiary of the evening.

Photo and story: Joanne Penhale



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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

- Free **flu vaccination clinic**, 9 am to 6 pm at Victoria Hall. Visit www.westmountorg for who is eligible. Bring medicare card and wear short sleeves. Info: 514.934.0354.
- 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.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

- **Public information session on the proposed new garbage by-law**, 7 pm at Victoria Hall. See story, November 15, p. 12.
- Tali Brady performs the solo show "**Afternoon Tea with Jane Austen**," 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Free.
- Abstract artist and Westmount resident **Antonietta Grassi** will be showing her new series "**Rococo**," 6 to 8 pm at the McClure Gallery, 350 Victoria Ave. Info: www.visualartcentre.ca.
- **Nicholas Hoare** presents his selection of the best books of the season at Nicholas Hoare bookstore (1366 Greene Ave.), from 6 to 7:30 pm. Free. RSVP: 514.933.4201.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

Guided tour of St. Léon Church from 10 to 11 am with Roger Nincheri, grandson of Guido Nincheri. 4311 de Maisonneuve Blvd. RSVP: 514.989.5226. See p. 22 for story.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Mountainside United Church's annual Christmas program "A Christmas Celebration of Music," 4 pm at 687 Roslyn Ave. Choral and instrumental music with jazz pianist Vanessa Rodrigues. Also familiar carols of the season for all to sing. Free; donations invited. Info: 514.486.1165.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

- **Council meeting**, 8 pm at city hall.
- **City of Westmount Christmas tree lighting party**, 6:30 pm at city hall. Christmas stories and carols, hot chocolate. Free; donations of non-perishable food items for Westmount's food drive welcome. Info: 514.989.5226.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Fundraising vernissage of artwork of **Open Door** clients and local artists. Proceeds go to continue art workshops and purchase supplies. Refreshments, live music, 6 pm to 9 pm at St. Stephen's house, 1 Weredale Park. Info: 514.939.1970.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

FACE school Midi-Jazz vocal ensemble sings Christmas carols, directed by Emmanuelle Racine, 12:30 pm at Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater. Free; donations invited.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

- **Westmount Youth Orchestra's** concert at Victoria Hall, 2:30 pm. Works by Handel, Lully, Corelli and Beethoven, a carol sing-along and a selection of the *Nutcracker*, with dancers. Cost: \$10 adults; free for kids and students. Info: Isabelle Morin at isabellemorin113@gmail.com.
- **World AIDS Day memorial service** at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 6 pm. In conjunction with Ga'ava, the Jewish Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer/Questioning organization in Montreal. Free and open to all. Info: 514.937.3575, ext. 217.
- A *Christmas Carol* fundraiser for the WPUC Community Centre, 2 pm at **Westmount Park United Church**, featuring traditional traditional holiday songs, "Christmas Café" and raffle. 4695 de Maisonneuve. Tickets: \$15 adults; \$12 students/seniors; \$10 children under 12. Reserve: 514.937.1146.

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Metcalfe house voted top choice across Montreal

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For the second time since 2009, a Westmount house has won the hearts of voters in the annual island-wide online competition to choose “La Maison Coup de Coeur.” It’s 344 Metcalfe, the house with the intricate woodwork and a half sun inserted in the gable.

The house was announced as the winner November 18. It was one of the five finalists selected as part of the Montreal

Architectural Heritage Campaign to recognize buildings maintained and renovated “meticulously” to preserve its heritage quality.

“I’m very excited that a Westmount house has won again,” said Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Urban Planning. “I think people appreciate our heritage preservation and the beauty of our homes.”

Featured by the *Independent* October 4 (p. 22), the Metcalfe house was competing against finalists in Outremont, the Plateau, LaSalle and Beaconsfield.

The house is described in a press release announcing the results as a “remarkable Westmount gem” built in 1880 and featuring Victorian décor and ornamentation, gables and projections.

“The intricate woodwork adds to the property’s architectural complexity,” it adds. “The large veranda and balcony feature carved columns, turned balusters and rounded brackets that enhance the look of the property. This elaborate décor reflects the Queen Anne influence at that period.”

The restoration work a few years ago on the second floor balcony and woodwork on the façade were credited with “helping to preserve the distinctive elements that add

to the value of the home.” This work was undertaken by the previous owners Leigh Mccool and Nino Guerriero.

Current owners Pierre Anctil and Carole Diodadi are now in the throes of adding an extension at the rear.



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Search for suspected thief draws blank

Shortly after a public safety officer discovered a car that had been rifled through outside 499 Elm Ave. at 12:40 am, November 16, another patroller spotted and followed a man checking the door handles of cars parked on Kensington between St. Catherine and Sherbrooke.

In describing the incidents, Public Security officials said that once police ar-

rived on the scene at Kensington, the man disappeared into a lane leading to Redfern and was believed to have fled through backyards. Police intercepted a suspect at St. Catherine and Metcalfe but he turned out not to be the individual seen.

It was not known if the Elm and Kensington incidents were related.



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The images are artistic renderings and final results may vary.



Westmount vous informe... Westmount vous informe... Westmount Page



HÔTEL DE VILLE

Séance d'information : projet de règlement sur les déchets

Le public est invité à une séance d'information concernant le nouveau règlement sur la gestion des déchets le jeudi 1^{er} décembre à 19 h au Victoria Hall. Consultez le document à l'hôtel de ville ou au www.westmount.org. Info : 514 989-5078.

Emplois d'été 2012

Les formulaires pour les emplois d'été 2012 seront disponibles sur le site Web de la Ville et à la réception de l'hôtel de ville à compter du 1^{er} décembre. La date limite pour soumettre sa candidature est le 31 janvier 2012. 🌿



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Exposition : Nincheri. Profane.

La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter, en collaboration avec le Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée, les œuvres profanes du peintre et maître-verrier Guido Nincheri (1885-1973) jusqu'au 16 décembre. Info : 514 989-5521.

Visite guidée – Église Saint-Léon

Joignez-vous à Roger Nincheri le vendredi 2 décembre 2011 de 10 h à 11 h pour une visite guidée des œuvres de Guido Nincheri, un des principaux artisans de la restauration et de la décoration de l'Église Saint-Léon de Westmount. Vous devez vous inscrire préalablement au 514 989-5226.

Théâtre familiale : *Robinson Crusoe*

La troupe de théâtre *Left of Centre* présente *Robinson Crusoe - The Truth* les samedi et dimanche 3 et 4 décembre à 14 h au Victoria Hall. Entrée : enfants 8 \$; étudiants/âinés 10 \$; adultes 12 \$. Infos et billets : 514 989-5226 ou www.leftofcentretheatrecompany.com

Illumination du sapin de Noël

Venez en famille à la fête de l'illumination du sapin le lundi 5 décembre à 19 h à l'hôtel de ville de Westmount. Au programme : contes, cantiques et chocolat chaud. Entrée gratuite. Les dons de denrées non-périssables seront fort appréciés. 514 989-5226. 🌿



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Club de film

Venez visionner le film *Sarah's Key* le mercredi 7 décembre à 14 h et prenez le temps d'en discuter après. Âges 13+. Info : 514 989-5386.

DATES À RETENIR

Le 1^{er} décembre à 19 h

Séance d'information: règlement sur les déchets
Victoria Hall

Le 5 décembre à 20 h

Séance du conseil
Hôtel de ville

Les 10, 11 et 12 décembre

La troupe Dramatis Personae : *Five Short Plays*
Victoria Hall



Club d'échecs et de Scrabble

Nous sommes toujours à la recherche de nouveaux joueurs. Prochaine rencontre du club : le vendredi 9 décembre à 14 h. Info : 514 989-5386.

Cercle de lecture

Venez vous joindre à notre cercle de lecture en matinée pour discuter des livres que vous avez lus ! La prochaine rencontre aura lieu le mardi 13 décembre à 10 h 15. Info : 514 989-5386. 🌿



SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Carte d'accès 2012

Les cartes d'accès 2012 pour les installations sportives de Westmount seront disponibles au bureau de l'aréna à compter du 1^{er} décembre 2011. N'oubliez pas d'apporter vos photos et deux preuves de résidence. Info : 514 989-5353. 🌿



SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Le stationnement sécuritaire en pente

Le Service de la sécurité publique de Westmount rappelle à tous que la façon sécuritaire de stationner en pente requiert que la transmission de la voiture soit en position P ou embrayée, que le frein à main soit engagé et que les roues avant de la voiture soient braquées vers le trottoir. Info : 514 989-5222.

Collecte de denrées non-périssables

Les contributions de denrées non périssables sont acceptées au profit des personnes dans le besoin; déposez-les dans les récipients prévus à cet effet dans les édifices municipaux de Westmount, ainsi qu'au Centre Greene, 1090, avenue Greene. Les dons en argent sont également appréciés, de même que les jouets neufs dans leur emballage d'origine. Info : 514 989-5468. 🌿



LIBRARY

Film Club

Join us on Wednesday, December 7th at 2 p.m. to view the film *Sarah's Key* and then discuss it afterwards. Age 13+ . Info: 514 989-5386.



CITY HALL

Information session about the draft Garbage By-Law

The public is invited to an information session concerning the City's new Garbage Management By-Law on Thursday, December 1st at 7 p.m. at Victoria Hall. Consult the document at City Hall or at www.westmount.org. Info: 514 989-5078.

Summer 2012 employment

Application forms for 2012 summer jobs will be available on the City's website and at City Hall reception beginning December 1st. The deadline to submit forms is January 31st, 2012. 🌿



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Exhibition: Nincheri. Profane.

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present the secular works of painter and master glass artist Guido Nincheri (1885-1973) until December 16th. This exhibition is presented in collaboration with the *Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée*. Info: 514 989-5521.

Guided Tour of Saint-Léon Church

Join Roger Nincheri on Friday, December 2nd from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. for a guided tour of Guido Nincheri's works at Westmount's Saint-Léon Church. Nincheri was one of the main artisans of the restoration and decoration of the church. Please register in advance at 514 989-5226.

Family theatre: Robinson Crusoe

The Left of Centre Theatre Co. presents *Robinson Crusoe - The Truth* on Saturday and Sunday, December 3rd and 4th at 2 p.m. at Victoria Hall. Admission: children \$8, students/seniors \$10, adults \$12. Tickets: www.leftofcentretheatrecompany.com or 514 989-5226.

Christmas Tree Lighting Party

Bring the family to the 2011 Tree Lighting Party on Monday, December 5th at 7 p.m at Westmount City Hall. Enjoy stories, carols and hot chocolate. Admission is free, but donations of non-perishable items for the annual food drive are welcome. Info: 514 989-5226. 🌿



LIBRARY

Film Club

Join us on Wednesday, December 7th at 2 p.m. to view the film *Sarah's Key* and then discuss it afterwards. Age 13+ . Info: 514 989-5386.

www.westmount.org
info : 514 989-5200



Vol. 5/22

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DATEBOOK

December 1 at 7 p.m.

Public information session: Garbage By-Law
Victoria Hall

December 5 at 8 p.m.

Council Meeting
City Hall

December 10,11 & 12

Dramatis Personae: *Five Short Plays*
Victoria Hall



Chess and Scrabble Club

Drop by for a friendly game - we always look forward to meeting new players. Next session: Friday, December 9th at 2 p.m. Info: 514 989-5386.

Readers to Readers Book Club

Join our morning book club with a twist. Our next meeting will take place Tuesday, December 13th at 10:15 a.m. to talk about great books recently read. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌿



SPORTS & RECREATION

2012 Facility Membership Card

The 2012 Westmount Facility Membership Cards will be available at the Arena office beginning December 1st, 2011. Don't forget to bring photos and proofs of residence. Info : 514 989-5353. 🌿



PUBLIC SECURITY

Parking safely on slopes

The Westmount Public Security Unit reminds everyone to use the proper technique for parking on slopes by ensuring that the vehicle transmission is in park or in gear, that the hand brake is fully engaged and that the front wheels are turned towards the curb. Info: 514 989-5222.

Non-perishable food drive

Contributions of non-perishable food items towards the Christmas basket programme for needy families in the area are now being accepted and are very appreciated. Bring items to the containers in Westmount's municipal buildings and at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. Cash donations and new toys in original packaging are also welcome. Info: 514 989-5468. 🌿

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www.westmount.org
assistance@westmount.org

Tackling finer points of game



Hockey Beginnings

INGRID KOVITCH-DANNENBAUM

Having mastered the fundamentals – manifest by coordinated post-game food and beer schedule – our instructors felt that we were now ready to tackle the finer points of the game.

We began the session with our usual lung-searing, esteem-destroying warm-up. To extend the challenge beyond simply remaining upright, the instructors – not responsible for leading the military drills – busied themselves trying to ricochet pucks off the crossbar, in the general direction of our heads. In addition to serving as yet another forum for flaunting their considerable skills, this exercise was also intended to encourage us to “keep our heads up,” which in turn would permit us to keep our heads on.

We passed with flying colours, nary a casualty among us.

After a blissful, if abbreviated, period of stretching, we were herded towards the boards, where B. stood poised for our first “chalk talk.” He looked miffed and bitter. Clearly he had drawn the short straw for the second consecutive week. Not having pinged a single helmet only further fed his ire.

We were ordered to “take a knee.” This was hockey-ese for taking one of our knees (as opposed to someone else’s) and placing it gingerly on the ice. The posture was complete when the stick could be held casually across the other knee with blade propped on the ice in fine Pythagorean fashion. This not only looked uncommonly cool, it also provided some security against our tipping over and spinning

about like loopy pillbugs.

B. began with a derisive query presumed, no doubt, to be rhetorical.

“Does everyone know what the defensive zone is?”

There was a fair bit of uncomfortable squirming to accompany our blank stares. B. sighed, took a deep breath, and briefly outlined the three zones of the rink: defensive, neutral and offensive. In an effort to be helpful (and admittedly to show off my own sophisticated appreciation of the game), I added that these zones actually changed from period to period. (Well, some of them, in any case.)

B. looked considerably less grateful for the clarification than did my teammates. He glared and went on.

We were introduced to the concept of “positions,” and encouraged to abandon our heretofore favoured Swarm Strategy. And in a fit of delusional optimism, B. even proceeded to outline the basic “break-out.”

It seemed clear enough. After all, two months of elite instruction had already yielded a few other precious scraps of tactical wisdom. In fact, in mid scrimmage the previous week, A. had engineered yet another eureka moment when he beseeched us to “pass the puck to *someone*.” His pleading emphasis on that final word was cringe-worthy even by our feeble standards. I didn’t have the heart, nor the wind, to tell him it would have been wise to have added “... on your own team.”

Watch, pass, score

Evidently, our meteoric progress to date had so inspired our coaches, they could not help but share other invaluable gems. B. suggested that we “might want to watch the play.” MD. recommended that we “avoid weak passes, which are routinely intercepted.” And ML., with typical youthful exuberance and naïveté, advised us to “ex-

pect to score every time we shoot the puck.” As if!

Thus illuminated, we began our game. Despite the masterful tutelage, and all of our best efforts, the break-out broke down. The swarm persisted unabated and we continued to whack the puck wildly to no one. However, we occasionally did watch the play, and if I’m not mistaken, someone even scored.

A glorious time was enjoyed by all.

Westmounter and beginner hockey player Ingrid Kovitch-Dannenbaum helped start “Beginner hockey for women,” a new program being offered by the Sports and Recreation department.

SWAT’s annual tourney starts Dec. 1

The Senior Westmount All Star Team (SWAT) will be holding its 23rd annual hockey tournament at the Westmount arena between December 1 and 4. The tournament raises money in support of brain tumour research and neuro surgery conducted at the Montreal Children’s and St. Justine hospitals.

According to organizer Howard Hoppenheim, eight teams will vie for the trophy, including seven Montreal-area teams and an Ottawa team. On December 4, between 11 am and noon, the annual Termite mini hockey tournament takes place before the championship game.

SWAT forward Claude Bismuth is to conduct a silent auction at the arena, which closes December 4. Among the items for auction are jewellery, sporting goods, clothing and food.

Man’s ‘lost’ way found

A local resident called Public Security November 8 to report an elderly man appearing to be lost near Lansdowne and Sherbrooke. The man, an 80-year-old Côte St. Luc resident, told the responding officer he had lost his way but was able to provide the name of the person he was to visit. The person was traced to an address on Strathcona Ave., where the man was driven.

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Mulcair reaches out to Dawson youth

By ALBERT KRAMBERGER

One of the candidates aiming to succeed Jack Layton as NDP leader and to head the official opposition next year stopped by Westmount to speak to students the morning of November 15.

“It’s never too early for young people to get involved in politics” was a message Thomas Mulcair delivered to Dawson College students during an hour-long speech and question session held in the CEGEP’s theatre.

Joseph Marovitch

Real Estate Broker

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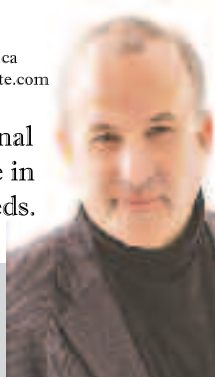
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The Outremont MP recalled how a Chomedey high school guidance counsellor told him, at the age of 14, that in order to realize his goal of becoming a politician, he should become a lawyer and go to Dawson. Since it was the early years of Quebec’s CEGEP system, Mulcair said he initially thought the counsellor meant he should head to the Yukon.

Mulcair, a former provincial cabinet minister before entering federal politics in 2007, said he obtained his first NDP membership card when he was a 19-year-old law student.

He said young people need to become involved in politics in order to make sure they are not burdened by the decisions made by governments today. He remarked that about two-thirds of people aged 18 to 25 didn’t vote in the last federal election.

“As you’re involved in a community group, an environmental group, an NGO, I’m never going to tell you that’s not important. It’s externally important and continue, but find the time [for politics,]” he told students. “If it’s not in the NDP, if it’s the Liberal party or the Bloc or whatever, get involved in politics also. Find some time to learn what’s happening in the political process because right now the deci-



NDP leadership hopeful Thomas Mulcair, the party’s Quebec lieutenant, meets one-on-one with some Dawson College students following his presentation November 15 at the CEGEP.

sions that are being taken in Ottawa by a majority Conservative government are going to have a long-term affect on your lives and your livelihood.”

He later added NDP memberships are only \$5 for students and seniors, and \$10 for adults.

Mulcair had praise for Quebec’s unique

CEGEP system, saying it was one of the institutions society should maintain. He blasted suggestions, as made recently by François Legault, to scrap the CEGEP system. “It shows a fundamental lack of understanding of 50 years of history,” Mulcair said.



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Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount

EMPLOIS D'ÉTÉ

Soyez avisés que les formulaires pour les emplois d'été 2012 seront disponibles sur le site Web de la Ville ainsi qu'à la réception de l'hôtel de ville de Westmount à compter du jeudi 1^{er} décembre 2011, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

Veuillez compléter et retourner la demande d'emploi avec toute documentation requise au :

Service des ressources humaines
Ville de Westmount
4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest
Westmount (Québec) H3Z 1E2

Veuillez noter que la date limite pour soumettre votre candidature est le mardi 31 janvier 2012.

Les postes seront octroyés selon les qualifications et l'expérience de travail et seules les personnes retenues seront rencontrées pour une entrevue.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Please be advised that the 2012 Summer Employment forms will be available on the City's Web site as well as at the reception desk of Westmount City Hall beginning Thursday, December 1st, 2011, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Kindly complete and return the application form along with any required documentation to:

Human Resources Department
City of Westmount
4333 Sherbrooke Street West
Westmount, Quebec, H3Z 1E2

Please note that the deadline to submit your application is Tuesday, January 31st, 2012.

The positions will be awarded to candidates with the appropriate qualifications and experience and only those selected will be interviewed.

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Fung and Hallward applauded for philanthropy



From left, Judy Fung and John Hallward, pictured above with their plaques from the Association of Fundraising Professionals' Montreal chapter.

Photo courtesy of The Study

Judy Fung and John Hallward were recognized at an event coinciding with National Philanthropy Day on November 15 at the Hyatt Regency.

Fung, a grade 11 student at The Study, was awarded a Youth in Philanthropy Award, and Westmounter John Hallward an Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award.

Hallward, a former Study parent, received the award for "his ongoing role as a trustee of The Study School Foundation and his efforts to inspire philanthropy through GIV3 [a non-profit initiative he founded to encourage more Canadians to be more charitable], and his support of several other local charities.

Fung was recognized for her role as community service head at The Study. According to the school, she has logged more than 600 hours of community service since grade 7. She has volunteered at the

Montreal Children's Hospital, the Montreal Chinese Hospital, the Royal Victoria Hospital, the Montreal Neurological Institute, the Centre d'Accueil Marcelle Ferron and at a rural school in the Diria village of Nicaragua.

Martin awarded

Westmounter Judy Martin, board president of the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, received the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals on November 15. She has been described as "a 'hands on' president. She wears many hats – always keeping her finger on pulse of the organization, while observing the direct impact on individuals, who benefit from her fundraising, volunteer and leadership efforts."

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Akiva celebrates Canada on Parents' Day



For their annual Parents' Day on November 22, for which this year's theme was Canadapalooza, students and staff at Akiva School on Kensington Ave. welcomed a number of special guests, including Corporal Carine Cordey of the RCMP's Quebec headquarters on Dorchester Blvd. Seen in the photo with Cordey are, from left, Akiva grade 1 students Maya Wolfe, Emma Haccoun Choquette, Ella Kramer, Jory Szirt and Josh Liebman. Students wore red and white and through a series of educational activities learned about Canada in the areas of the arts, culture, science, icons, sports and government. Liberal MP Justin Trudeau dropped by during the morning and addressed the students. The day was organized and run by Akiva parents.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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Westmounter Louise Rémillard and Kathleen Coumou



Westmounters Una Kay and Roger Peace

fabulous Club 357 on November 2, when Christie's Canada and Profusion Realty held a chic private gathering.

The watches will be offered by Christie's Canada during its December auction. Christie's senior vice president of real estate **Kathleen Coumou** flew in from New York, and **Brett Sherlock**, director of Christie's Canada, arrived from Toronto for the prestigious party.

Westmounter **Louise Rémillard**, president of Profusion Realty Inc., a Christie's affiliate in Westmount, greeted guests with her son **Carl Rémillard-Lafontaine**.

Guests oohed and aahed over the Patek Philippes and Vacheron Constantin pieces, as they handled them with kid gloves (well, actually, the auctioneer's pristine white gloves). The beautiful watches ranged in price from \$12,000 to \$500,000. Some were for the pocket, some for the wrist, some featured ornate jewel detailing and others were just plain, heavy, 18k gold.

Although a fire in the old port posed a traffic challenge that night for arriving partygoers, the efficient valet parking crew whisked away the Mercedes and Porsches in record time.

The very Town & Country



Westmounters Vanessa and Guy Laframboise.

crowd included **Albert Cohen** of L'Uomo Montreal, former Westmounter **Roslyn Takeishi** with **Réal Desfosses**, **Monique Simard**, **Kat Couric** and **Mathieu Bouchard**, **Caroline Bouchard**, **Danielle Dansereau**, **Louise Bernier**, **Stéphane Cauchiès** and **Martine Lemieux**.

Noted from Westmount were **Craig and Christina Miller**, **Vanessa and Guy Laframboise**, and author **Roger Peace** and actress **Una Kay**, who has just finished "playing Lady Gaga in a commercial!"

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Intersection

continued from p. 1

While still under police investigation, the incident involved a car that rolled over near the intersection, striking a car parked on the south side of The Boulevard just after 5:15 pm. The car was parked just west of the official drop-off zone for The Priory, noted District 1 councillor, Patrick Martin, who was at the scene of the accident (see November 22, p. 12).

"It's often where parents with young children are walking their children up to the school," he explained. "If the parked car hadn't been there, the car could have rolled over the sidewalk and hit one of them," he said. As a result, Public Security director David Sedgwick, who chairs the Traffic committee, said the group had discussed the intersection at its regular meeting November 22 and was set to go on the scene the next day to study what safety measures could be taken.

It was not quite three months earlier on August 25 that a four-car accident occurred near the same spot, adding to a string of mishaps over the years, he said (see August 30, p. 23).

It's at this T-intersection that Belvedere angles steeply up the mountain from an incline on The Boulevard. Martin said his concern is that the dip in the road is such that cars or pedestrians in the intersection are not apparent to drivers heading west from Côte des Neiges until it may be too late.

Over the years, Martin said, cars have even been known to end up down the embankment on the south side of The Boulevard, landing in the front yards of homes.

The Traffic committee was also planning to visit Church Hill, where a parked car rolled backward September 29. Since then, Public Security and police have been ticketing cars that park on hills without their wheels turned against the curb, contravening traffic regulations.

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Eloise, mother's helper



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER



Eloise

I should start a blog about fostering the kittens. Every day brings some new event! Remember Sweetie Tortie recently featured in this column (November 8, p. 18)? I am most pleased to announce that she is now being adopted by a wonderful family in our neighbourhood.

My next kitten to be brought to your attention for adoption is a kitten from Sweetie Tortie's aunt, who had a litter a few months ago. Eloise is the only kitten left from that litter – the others were placed when the initial hoarding situation was handled as an emergency kitten evacuation.

Eloise is four months old now, sleek and long limbed, a silky coated caramel-swirl blonde with a bonbon pink nose and perfect pink toes. She loves to be cuddled and snooze in my arms, then plays with her felt mice like a hockey player on ice, "scoring" under the radiator.

She is very healthy, a hearty eater, and so incredibly affectionate with all. If you would like more information on Eloise, please call me at 514.909.7186. You are most welcome to drop by!

– Lysanne

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The perfect couple



“Do you wanna go to the park?”

For most dogs, this invitation can start a frenzy of barking, jumping and overall excitement. After all, what canine doesn't like the park?

I can think of a couple of dogs who don't: Bloom and Kyle.

These two poodles were abandoned in one, tied to a tree and left to fend for themselves. What sort of sicko would dump a couple of hardly ferocious fuzzy little white poodles in the “wild”?

Who knows and who cares? The important thing is they were found, thankfully unharmed.

Bloom is a 7-year-old female, and Kyle is a cream-coloured male, who is 12 years old. The duo were taken to the SPCA emergency shelter. Since then, there have been some positive changes: health checks that gave them a clean bill, affection and comfort, and haircuts to get rid of the mats and dirt.

The results have been wonderful, and this poodle pair is flourishing. The major sticking point is that due to their circumstances, we can only guess in early life, these two must not be separated. They are happy together and need to be adopted together.

Their caregivers at the shelter feel their mutual happiness and mere survival depend on this. All reports support the fact they are very well socialized dogs, but do not deal well when separated, even for short periods of time.

Are they siblings? Best friends? Kissing cousins? Old married couple? Who



Kyle and Bloom

Photo: Marilyn Gelfand

knows. We don't, and they certainly aren't telling!

Are you someone who likes to keep your loved ones close? Do you think the only thing better than one poodle is two?

Please spare a thought for Bloom and Kyle. For more, please contact the SPCA e-shelter at adoptions.spc@gmail.com or by calling 514.895.5326.

For more of Montreal's best underdogs, visit www.underdogclub.org. Send your comments to contact@underdogclub.org.

Good news for underdog Balou

The 85-pound Bernese was adopted by a family, who read “Hot to trot, our Balou is,” in the Underdog column November 8, p. 22.

Cat locked in greenhouses

Public safety officers unlocked the city greenhouses November 21 at 9:28 pm to free a cat that had become stuck inside. Public Security officials said that once inside, the cat's owners, a woman and her son, residents of Lansdowne, finally managed to catch the cat by enticing it with cans of cat food and sardines. They were on their way home at 10:08 pm.

Bulldog quickly claimed

An unlicensed English bulldog was found on Mount Pleasant November 9 just before 8 am by a local resident, Public Security officials said. The dog was brought to city hall, where officers took it their office on Stanton St. It didn't take long, however, for the dog's owner to call looking for it. And the man went right down to city hall to acquire a licence.

Expired dog licence traced

The owner of a brown Labrador was given 14 days to obtain a new dog licence November 21 after his 7-year-old pet was found wandering loose on The Boulevard near Grosvenor at 7:43 am. It wore a 2010 tag through which the owner was traced, enabling the dog to be returned home a couple of blocks away.

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Parking inspector shoved

A contractor upset at receiving a parking ticket November 18 on Clondeboye is reported to have pushed a parking inspector against a parked car. The altercation occurred after the agent had issued the \$52 ticket for illegal parking.

While it had not been determined last week what, if any, action might be taken, Public Security officials pointed out that the department has a zero policy concerning abuse of the Public Security personnel.

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Gouin is Westmount's hearing miracle

BY LAUREN O'LOUGHLIN

Westmounter Samir Gouin is 12 years old and was born deaf. And he is a gifted musician.

The *Independent* learned during an in-

terview at his home that Gouin is among the first generation of children in Canada to have a cochlear implant at the age of 1. He had his second implant at 8, a year after he began to learn to play the piano. He is now at exam grade 6 level.

During a short performance in his living room on the guitar, Gouin sings like anyone with regular hearing. The only detectable sign of a hearing impairment is the external device he wears around his ear.

The grade 6 Selwyn House student has also dabbled with the trombone. He is a member of Selwyn's jazz band under the direction of Alex Becker, head of the arts department.

Gouin recently performed vocals at the Just For Kids Foundation's Glee High School showdown along with his Glee club team. See "Glee showdown," November 22, p. 27.

With the help of a mentor from Westmount's Montreal Oral School for the Deaf (MOSD), Gouin has enjoyed a typical education. He has been a student at St. George's elementary school, and this year at Selwyn House, he took it upon himself to educate his peers by preparing a bulletin board explaining how the cochlear



Samir Gouin strums a few chords at his home on Landsdowne Ave. "I've had only had four guitar lessons so far," he says.

implant works. "The cochlea is swirled like a sea shell. The small hairs inside vibrate to enable hearing. Mine don't move, so they implanted a little electrode to vibrate for the hairs," he explained. He made his presentation in both French and English during a national science fair.

Gouin was later invited to present his bulletin board before the board of directors of the MOSD and subsequently donated it to them. "It's something unique for me. I feel proud because I'm the one who is the expert on the subject," he said

as of his experience as one of the few young people with cochlear implants.

Gouin's mother Hema Patel described the benefits of the implant as "a miraculous intervention [...] Samir has such a rich appreciation of sound." She is profoundly grateful for the dedication of Gouin's mentors at the MOSD and the encouragement he receives from the teachers of Selwyn. "Samir is proof of the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention," of congenital deafness, she said.

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Stavert, Merrett launch A&P history



Author William Stavert (left) presents slides of the book, while photographer Brian Merrett looks on.

Photo courtesy of the A&P.

Westmounter William Stavert and former Westmounter Brian Merrett launched their book, *The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul: Windows of History, Service and Sacrifice*, at the “A&P” downtown on November 20. Stavert wrote the text and Merrett took the photographs. The book is a catalogue of the church’s windows and their history, including biographies of donors, honourees, clergymen and prominent parishioners. The A&P is the home

church of the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada and the regiment’s fallen soldiers are remembered in a window; many group and individual plaques; and flags in the church and book. Stavert is a former officer in the regiment. The book’s publisher, Price-Patterson Ltd, and the *Independent’s* owner, Sherbrooke-Valois Inc., have a shareholder in common. The book is on sale at Nicholas Hoare on Greene Ave.

So many wanted Nugget, now Archie’s calling

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

There was good news last week from the Westmount Animal Hospital: Nugget has been adopted and more than a dozen inquiries followed an *Independent* story about him, said receptionist Marie-Ève Saucier.

“People fell in love with his picture,” she said. Among those wanting him were a woman and her son who came in hoping to take him home. He was already gone.

But now, welcome to Archie, another adorable and sociable home-less male kitten who was left in a box with his two sisters on the doorstep of the Pierrefonds Animal Hospital, which sent him to the Westmount clinic November 18.

“They only have room for so many adoptable cats and they decided to keep the two sisters together and send us the sociable one,” Saucier explained.

Archie is a six-month-old striped tabby with a white bib and stomach and white “knee socks.” He has

been microchipped, neutered, dewormed and vaccinated. He already appears to have adjusted to the latest trauma in his young life, uprooted from his litter mates and whatever home he once had.

Further information can be obtained from the clinic at 514.487.5300.



Archie

Photo courtesy of Westmount Animal Hospital

Cake for change anyone?



Alex Gilliam, left, stands outside the Vendôme metro station with a chocolate cake model of it in its urban context, detailed with icing and gum balls, while he solicited questions November 18 from the community about changes coming to the neighbourhood. Students, community members and professors from the Community University Research Alliance helped passers-by construct the neighbourhood out of the cake, building awareness about “the big question: How is it possible that 10,000 more people will be using the Vendôme metro and train station daily by 2015 when it is already at capacity?” In an email exchange post-event, when asked what changes to the neighbourhood they were referring to, Jason Prince from McGill Urban Planning said “We are not being specific on purpose. The goal is to get people to ask questions and state their wishes.”

Photo: Isaac Olson

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In conversation with

Roger Boccini Nincheri on his grandfather's art

BY HEATHER BLACK

The work of Montreal artist Guido Nincheri – the designer of the magnificent windows and frescos at St. Léon Church on de Maisonneuve – is currently on display at The Gallery at Victoria Hall. To learn more about the artist, I spoke to his grandson, former Selwyn House teacher Roger Boccini Nincheri.

Renaissance man

A painter, stained glass designer and architect, Guido Nincheri (1885-1973) decorated over 200 churches in his lifetime. Stranded in North America at the outbreak of World War I, the Tuscany native first worked as a set designer for the Boston Opera House and then as a stained glass designer in Montreal.

St. Léon Church – resplendent in stained glass and gold-leaf designs – is considered the jewel in Guido Nincheri's crown. Having extensively researched his grandfather's papers, Boccini Nincheri recounts that many motifs reflect local or family history. The faces of St. Léon's an-

gels in the frescoes were those of students at Villa Maria, while his father Gabriel Nincheri appears in the stained glass of "The Garden of Eden."

Boccini Nincheri, by linking sketch with drawing source or completed art, also appreciates his grandfather's use of historically accurate documents. The artist's depictions of the holy family are based on the work of Victorian scholar James Tissot, while St. Léon's windows accurately depict a Jerusalem scene.

Montreal history

Guido Nincheri was also a designer of the Montreal Church of the Madonna della Difesa. His grandson recalls that the unusual design – a Greek cross – resembles a church in the artist's birthplace, Prato. Guido also decorated the church interior, including a scene celebrating the 1929 independence of the Vatican from the state.

Boccini Nincheri recounts that the scene – Italian prime minister Benito Mussolini on horseback – was not in the original sketches but was "forced upon the artist" by church officials. And although



Roger Boccini Nincheri points to a stain glass window in St. Léon Church, November 17, showing his father Gabriel, Guido Nincheri's son. Guido Nincheri decorated the interior of St. Leon's Church with stained glass designs, as well as painted frescoes.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

the artist as "a revenge" portrayed Mussolini as a weak man, he was nevertheless interned as a fascist sympathizer in 1939.

It was only at the insistence of his wife – together with the original sketches without Mussolini – that led to his release three months later. Boccini Nincheri has also discovered the image of the horse that served as drawing guide for Mussolini's mount.

Classic tradition

Trained in Florence, the artist drew inspiration from mythology for the Belmont Theatre, as well as for the Château Dufresne. Unfortunately, many exquisite paintings and windows were destroyed when the château was bought by a religious order.

According to Boccini Nincheri, when his grandfather found paintings torn from the walls on the floor, he was able to salvage a few. His studio was nearby at 1832 Pie IX, and it is this building that has been purchased by the Château Dufresne Museum as a tribute to a "builder of the city of Montreal" – a posthumous title given to the artist in 1992.

Paul Labonne, curator at the Château Dufresne Museum, has also been instru-

mental in showcasing Guido Nincheri's work. The exhibit at Victoria Hall contains displays from their 2010 exhibit "Nincheri's Secular Work."

Family historian

Through Roger Boccini Nincheri's effort, his grandfather's artistic legacy will not be forgotten. Considered by many as the most important religious artist in Canada, Westmounters are indeed fortunate to have his finest work in their midst.

The exhibition "Nincheri. Profane" continues at The Gallery at Victoria Hall until Friday, December 16. Also, Roger Boccini Nincheri will lead a guided tour of Guido Nincheri's works in St. Léon Church on Friday, December 2 from 10 to 11 am. To reserve a spot, call 514.989.5226.

Garage door found open

A public safety officer spotted a garage door open on Summit Circle at 1:33 am November 17, Public Security officials said. The garage provided access to the house. The resident was contacted so the door could be closed.

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words of wisdom



Long-term clients applaud the wisdom of Investment Advisor Denny C. Matte

“I have known Denny Matte for over 20 years. He has managed my money safely and conservatively. Neither he nor I are high risk takers. If you are looking for **somebody you can trust**, Denny should be your man.” — Dr. Arthur Greenspoon

“A steady hand. My wife has been a client of Denny Matte’s for almost two decades and I for almost a decade. With Mr. Matte’s guidance, my goals have been **consistently achieved during relatively calm market periods as well as during periods of extreme volatility**. Further, he and his team have always been responsive to any questions, handling all matters with professional and personal service.”
— Larry Horwitz and Karen Rowantree

“I have known Denny Matte for 10 years. I have always found him to be friendly, cooperative, **intelligent and wise**. His decisions have enabled me to have a program which is stable and progressive.” — Manuel Batshaw

“Je connais M. Denny Matte depuis environ 30 ans. C’est lui qui gère tous mes actifs depuis cette époque. Je peux affirmer sans l’ombre d’un doute que grâce à lui, j’ai surmontée la crise financière de 2007. Grâce à ses clarifications et à ses **analyses méticuleuses** autant que judicieuses, ce que j’apprécie ce sont ses **contacts régulier** pour faire le point sur la situation. Son **professionnalisme et son savoir faire** m’assure une tranquillité d’esprit très sécurisante.” — Dr. Gilles Baril

➤ If you seek an Investment Advisor whom you can trust, it would be my pleasure to serve you.

Denny C. Matte, Senior Vice President, Investment Advisor

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