

Sampling finds 30% use pilot program

Merchants reveal recycling woes, call for back-door service

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's small shops and businesses want and need commercial recycling, many say, but claim the experimental on-street trailer does not suit their needs. They call it too small, inconvenient, unreliable and taking up valuable parking spots.

These were among recent findings of a

spot survey of 44 small merchants conducted at random by the *Independent* in east and west shopping districts, where the recycling container is moved from block to block on a rotating basis during the week.

Of those questioned, 13 (30 percent) said they used the service when it was accessible.

Another 12 (27 percent) chose other options or found it too complicated.

The remaining 19 (43 percent) claimed not to have known about the four-month-old service, including the landmark La Cache store on Greene Ave.

"What's that?" was a typical refrain.

Common concerns included having to carry up to 50 cartons or more along the street to the container during business hours, finding it already full or discovering it wasn't there at all.

"If you want people to recycle, you have to make it accessible," said Michael Millman, owner of the West End Gallery, who heads the Greene Ave. merchants' association.

Almost all those spoken to, however, said they would welcome and use a regular weekly commercial recycling pick-up from the backs of establishments in exactly the same way the city collects their regular garbage.

"We would have to look into the increased cost and other arrangements for collect-

continued on p. 18

May Cutler 1923-2011



May Cutler rides on the Westmount fire truck in the St. Patrick's Parade, March 1988, four months after her election as mayor.



May Cutler attends Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom's Westmount centennial, May 6, 2010.

See p. 4, 6 and 7 for stories.

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\$1,250 fine issued for 11 Hillside, night work slated till Apr. 30

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A series of complaints regarding parking, noise, disruption and work outside of regulation hours is emanating from the construction site at 11 Hillside Ave., Public Security officials report.

At least one fine for a large pile of gravel blocking the sidewalk and one lane of traffic is costing the contractor a total of \$1,250, they said. Officers discovered it February 26 while answering a complaint about vehicles parked illegally and in a handicap zone.

"There have been a lot of parking problems, in-

continued on p. 16



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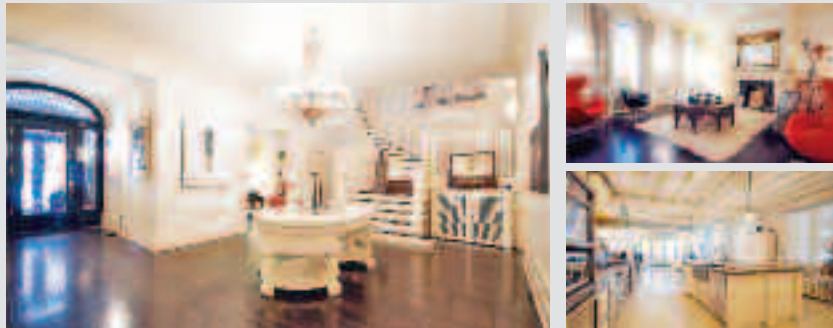
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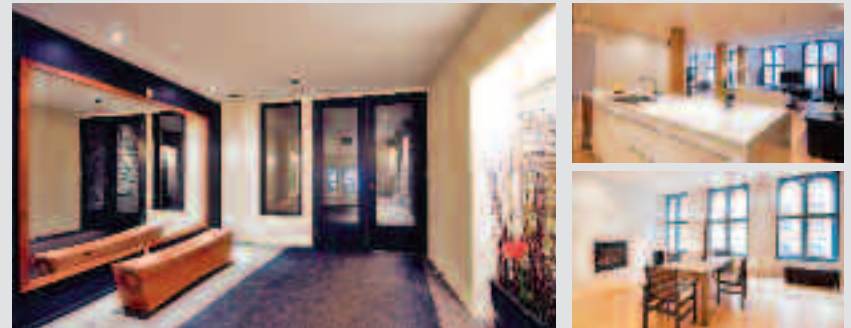
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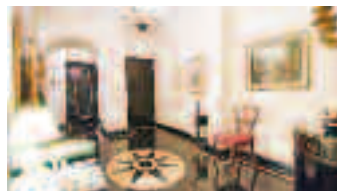


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Councillor's thesis explores permit process reform

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A year-long research project to examine Westmount's process for granting building and renovation permits has recommended a number of ways to improve efficiency, transparency and understanding of the city's requirements.

They include rendering guidelines more precise to reduce interpretation, holding design review meetings of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) in public and computerizing the entire process to expedite the flow of information.

The suggested reforms are drawn from the findings of the urban planning research project undertaken by McGill University master's candidate Kathleen Duncan and outlined in her thesis submitted February 1.

Duncan, now serving her second term on city council, spoke openly about the need to streamline the permits process during the November 2009 election.

It was also adopted as a city council priority to render the process "more open, consistent and self-financing" (see July 6, 2010, p. 3).

Mayor Peter Trent said he could not comment on the report until he had studied it in greater detail.

Some of the report's recommendations have been voiced publicly by council members, residents and architects at public consultation meetings. Now they have been documented by case studies, a survey of residents and a comparative study of municipalities.

"It's an issue I've felt very strongly about," Duncan said. "In fact, it's what really drove me back to university to study urban planning. I was pleased when my research topic was approved."

This type of research, which can be applied to the benefit of the community, is encouraged by the McGill School of Urban Studies, said its director, Professor Raphaël Fischler.

"I think it's very important for people to do research on what works and what doesn't and that it is used to make improvements," he explained. Often people working closely day to day in an area have neither the time nor resources to be able to "step back" and do this, he added. They then pay to hire consultants.

"In this case, we have this fantastic opportunity to have someone who is an elected official able to step back and, in a thorough manner, look at the bigger issues at stake. I hope the city council can look at it and see what changes could be made."

The study explores processes as far away as Boston and Martha's Vineyard, whose aims to preserve architectural and historical heritage were considered to be similar to Westmount's.

It also looks at problems encountered internationally in permit issuance.

Model for others

While "Westmount's planning policies have been a model for several other municipalities in the past and have preserved Westmount's architectural heritage," the report says, "plans have been in the works for many years to make the system more user-friendly, however very little has materialized to date."

In the study's user survey of 210 of Westmount permit recipients during comparative periods in 2009 and 2010, a response rate of 31 percent was received.

"This indicated to me that there was a high degree of user interest and concern," Duncan *continued on p. 21*

Argyle Institute to find new home in Westmount Former Reader's Digest HQ to become condo building

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The former Reader's Digest building on Redfern Ave., which was the publication's Canadian headquarters for nearly four decades, is about to undergo a transformation that will see it changed into a six-



215 Redfern Ave., commonly known as the Reader's Digest building.

storey luxury condominium building by the end of 2012.

Erected at the corner of Redfern and St. Catherine St. in 1960, the four-storey building, designed by architect Reuben

Fisher, was Reader Digest's home until 1998, when the magazine moved to a downtown office tower.

The condo project's developers, Danny Revah and Joe Berger, plan to demolish extensive parts of the existing structure's interior and exterior. The design also calls



A rendering of the proposed condominium building.

Image: Danny Revah and Joe Berger

for the addition of two storeys.

The new building, designed by renowned architect Karl Fischer, is being touted as a 65-unit luxury "boutique project," with *continued on p. 20*

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Indie loses a friend in Cutler

Remember May in March

The *Independent* had at least one friend before it even existed, and that was May Cutler.

May was the most prominent Westmounter who called to encourage the start of the new local paper almost four years ago, and it was she who suggested that I call Laureen Sweeney about writing for it. (Laureen instantly became the backbone of our Westmount coverage and has not missed an issue – or a beat – since.)

In a sense, I was likewise there before May's political career ever started. When I was in high school, I was one of the students hired to conduct a pre-election phone poll for a local newspaper that ended up showing May doing better than expected against incumbent mayor Brian Gallery. "Vote for May in November" was her slogan.

(I remember calling one prominent family whom I thought were surefire Gallery-ites, only to find out differently. I'll take their secret to my grave.)

While I paid little attention to municipal affairs in my teens, I am sure from my subsequent dealings with her that she was a formidable mayor.

May was always very encouraging about our progress here, but was never shy about expressing a negative opinion. Our arts and entertainment paper, *Vivva Montreal*, initially ran simultaneously to the *Independent*. Every issue, it published movie re-

views. She called up one time and said, "The *Last King of Scotland* has been out for weeks. Why are you reviewing it now?" (She was right.)

She wrote a column in the *Independent's* first issue about poor service by large firms ("The bigger they get, the less service they give", p. 5) and when I asked, twice, for the next installment, she said, "I will write the next one when I feel like it, so stop asking." (Message received.)

Her affection for newspapers came from a long relationship with them. She was a trailblazing female reporter for now-defunct Montreal publications like *The Standard* and *The Montreal Herald*.

She never lost that reporter's instinct for a story or issue that would touch a lot of people. For other examples of her broadsides, see her column in our December 5, 2007 issue, "Just say 'no' to the Nova buses" (p. 5) or read about her support for the federal gun registry in the December 15, 2009 issue, (p. 4).

Her views on the *Independent* and many questions of the day were tempered by affection and concern for Westmount. "As a former mayor, I am protective of my city," she would say.

Last week, Westmount had three former mayors looking out for it. Today, it has two. And we're poorer for it.

Our condolences to her family.

– David Price, publisher

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FORMER MAYOR EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES

I wish to convey my condolences to the family and friends of the former mayor of Westmount, May Cutler, who recently passed away.

BRIAN O'N. GALLERY, WEST BOLTON

10 FEET NOT ENOUGH

Westmount city council is to be commended for extending the building by-law to include zone R2. The over-building in Westmount – resulting in directly diminishing lawns, trees and gardens – has been a negative response to "greening."

There have been, in the past, tour busses driven around Westmount to view some beautiful gardens, one in particular on the north side of Edgehill, now long since gone the victim of development.

We need to protect what is left of this pretty city and not be governed by the whims of architects. The meeting to discuss the by-law drew some objections, but the 10-foot provision between properties is not even enough, and I, and everyone I have spoken to, support: "By-law to further amend zoning by-law 1303 – Site coverage, uncovered spaces and underground structures in side yards and rear yards in zones R2-07-01, R2-09-01 and R2-10-01."

ELFRIDE KIPPEN, MOUNT PLEASANT

MISSING ON SECURITY COUNCIL

In a recent "Parliamentary Bulletin" sent by Marc Garneau, MP for Westmount-Ville Marie, he claims that the prime minister lost face at the United Nations because Canada did not win an election for a seat on the Security Council. Mr. Garneau totally misrepresents the facts surrounding this event.

Canada did not win this seat for one reason: it supports the state of Israel in its struggle to maintain security in the face of non-stop attacks by terrorist groups, who have showered thousands of rockets down on innocent Israeli citizens for years.

The countries that support these attacks are far more numerous than those who have taken the principled stand of the Canadian government under Stephen Harper. This vote had nothing to do with climate change, Omar Khadr or any of the other reasons given by Mr. Garneau.

The other criticisms proffered by Mr. Garneau in the bulletin all suffer from the same failure to deal with the facts. It behoves our member of parliament to be honest with the constituents of our riding. I call upon Mr. Garneau to do so as long as he represents us.

It seems to me that what he and the Liberals have to offer, though it is an alternative, is a far poorer one than that to which we are entitled.

CARL RAVINSKY, KENSINGTON AVE.

RINKS 'YES,' BUT PENSIONS 'NO'?

Mr. Trent is trying to dissolve our pension plan, which has existed since the 1930s, because it is too expensive. Yet, he can afford new underground hockey rinks and a new swimming pool. I have worked for the city of Westmount for over 40 years and the corruption that existed at times was just terrible. I am presently on its pension plan, where our measly cost of living has been cut. Now, Mr. Trent can afford grandiose hockey rinks and a new pool. Presently, anyone going out on a city of Westmount pension loses all benefits: medical, dental, life insurance and cost of living. I can go on and on. My father also worked there for 35 years.

MICHAEL CROUCH, PENSIONER

Editor's note: It is our understanding that the city is working to find a way to change the yet-to-be accrued benefits of current employees and not trying to dissolve the whole plan. It is also our understanding that the plan's cost of living has not been cut, given that the plan is not indexed in a guaranteed way. According to the city, the last ad hoc cost of living increase was granted in January 2003. – KM

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Sutton hosts its brokers, competitors



Antonios Xipoleas of Groupe Sutton Centre-Ouest with Renée Violette (left) and Colette Birks of Royal LePage Groupe Newton.

Groupe Sutton Centre-Ouest, with offices on Victoria Ave. and Monkland, hosted a “Mediterranean Networking Party” February 24 in TMR. Attendees included a large group of its own brokers, as well as representatives from competing

firms, suppliers and financial institutions. Sutton broker Antonios Xipoleas cooked up a storm of Greek dishes (and dancing), aided by Sutton committee members and brokers Adrian Blazevic, Roger Vassalo, Catherine Dawe and Mary Paradissis.



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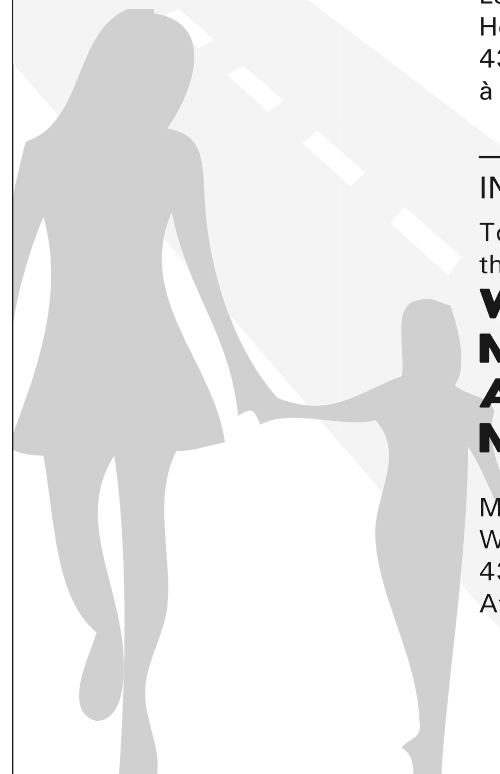
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May Cutler dies at age 87

Visionary mayor led trailblazing, adventurous life

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Feisty, fearless fighter and fiercely faithful to friends, no challenge was too great for May Ebbitt Cutler, no detail too small.

And while the first woman to be mayor of Westmount was an accomplished and successful trailblazer in politics, journalism and book publishing, she never forgot her humble upbringing as the daughter of Irish immigrants.

She had empathy for the ordinary person as well as tenants, the elderly and others she felt were neglected groups.

With her death March 3, Westmount lost a visionary who continued to contribute to the community long after her years in office from 1987 to 1991. She was 87.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday, March 19 at 2 pm in Victoria Hall.

While Cutler had lived with cancer for more than a decade, in characteristic style she refused to let it derail her activities and news of her death came suddenly to many.

Flags lowered

Flags were lowered by the city, a book of condolences opened at city hall and a moment of silence planned for the city council meeting March 7.

She is survived by four sons - Adam and Keir in Westmount, Michael in New Jersey and Roger in Victoria - as well as six grandchildren and two step-daughters, Judy in Westmount and Tamara in Scotland.

"She viewed her illness as one more reason to go off and do more things," said her daughter-in-law Marina.

"At the end, when all her sons were with her and it was the first time the family had all been together for 10 years, she looked up and said she now understood

what is meant by dying surrounded by your family."

Despite a tumultuous term in office in which her ideas and methods for forging "a more open and creative city hall" were considered too revolutionary to her council and city staff, Cutler spearheaded the start of the restoration and expansion of the Westmount Public Library, one her major legacies (see story p. 7).

She also successfully fought off the re-naming of Dorchester Blvd. in Westmount for René Lévesque.

"You didn't mess with May," recalls Mayor Peter Trent, who served on council during her last two years.

Quoting from a book he has written about Westmount's merger protest, he said: "She had three degrees, an Irish cop for a father, and a chip on her shoulder that could make a Sumo wrestler tremble. She had no patience for pretence. May did-



May Cutler protests forced mergers at the "Boo Bourque" rally on St. Catherine, west of Atwater, March 16, 2001.

n't measure out her life with coffee spoons, but with big brass buckets."

After retiring from office, she joined rallies in the street protests against forced municipal mergers. She was unforgettable on the blow-horn at a "Boo Bourque" event when then Montreal mayor Pierre Bourque ventured briefly into a hostile Westmount to pitch his "One Island, One City" plan.

Took roles 'very seriously'

"As a trailblazer in politics and business, she was a role model and she took her roles very seriously," said Trent. "I had great respect for her, and I often called on her during the merger fight. I valued her advice."

Author, art collector, theatre buff, playwright and journalist, Cutler was the second woman hired by Canadian Press in Montreal.

She set up a three-year extension program in journalism at McGill and was the founder of the prize-winning Tundra Books, one of the few Canadian firms to publish in both English and French. It claimed to be the only one to specialize in children's books as "works of art." Among them were Roch Carrier's *The Hockey Sweater*.

She was also an adventurer, who in senior years studied the local culture in a trip to China, investigated recycling in then-Bombay and Cairo, traipsed through Amazon rain forests and explored Inca ruins in the Peruvian Andes.

She also explored the Galapagos on a small fishing boat, reporting proudly to have been one of the only people aboard who had not been seasick. Only last year, she had travelled to Antarctica, enthralled by watching penguins in their native habitat.

Where Cutler went, interesting stories followed. In May 1990, she was on a hijacked flight while returning from Vancouver on city business. It was "a little upsetting" and wasted several hours, she said.

Irish roots

Born September 4, 1923 in Montreal, Cutler grew up with two older brothers on Cartier St. in East End Montreal. Her parents were Irish immigrants. Her father, William Henry Ebbitt was a Montreal policeman thought to have once worked in Westmount.

She described her mother, Frances Farrelly as "very dramatic," which perhaps ex-



Not wanting to waste any time getting the news out to media, May Cutler commandeers a typewriter late in the evening in Quebec City to announce the first place awards just received by Westmount in the 1989 "Villes, Villages et Campagnes Fleuris" competition.

plains in part her own flamboyancy.

As "Orangemen," she explained in a lengthy contribution to the *The Shamrock & the Shield, an oral history of the Irish in Montreal*, "I've always felt we were a minority within a minority."

Though she never thought of herself as Irish, she continued, she felt close to the Protestants of Dublin and their great writers such as Swift, Wilde and Yeats.

Starting school at age 7, she encountered problems with her Irish pronunciation of certain words. After Montreal High, she obtained an honours BA from McGill in 1945 and a master's degree the next year from Columbia's school of journalism in New York City.

Through extensive reading as a teenager, she came to reject her parents' views, she explained. "It changed my life. It made *continued on p. 20*

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Marched to her own tune

Remembering Cutler's mayoral legacy

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The late May Cutler's legacy as Westmount's mayor from 1987 to 1991 is a lengthy one that reflects in large measure why she may well be known as "the people's mayor."

Elected in an upset win on a platform calling for "an open city hall, an administration that listens and a creative approach to civic problems," her changes and unabashed unconventionality pitted her in an uphill battle against her own council and the city hall establishment.

Not only was she unique as Westmount's first woman mayor, she marched to her own tune right from the start.

In the end, driven by her belief that the citizenry was behind her, she introduced many changes that are now part of the city's traditions.

She instituted the second question period at city council meetings, set up citizen committees, recognized volunteers and launched what has become a traditional holiday lighting of city hall and a Santa Claus party for the children of city staff.

She restructured the city administration and replaced council commissionerships by standing committees with the original intent that their meetings be open to the public (though that goal never materialized).

Cutler brought art work into city hall to mark the rich talent of local artists, introduced stained glass windows into the council chamber and established civic honours along with the Vin d'Honneur reception to recognize recipients.

"There's no question city hall became more open," said Mayor Peter Trent, who joined the council half way through her term and helped reconcile the council and move forward her library dream.

Creating cultural complex

For it was Cutler who had the grandiose plan to restore and expand the Westmount Public Library and create a cultural complex to include the greenhouse and Victoria Hall. Previous requests for simply renovating and updating the library had never materialized.

"You needed a vision, and you needed a May Cutler to drive it," said then councillor Sally Aiken, who headed the library committee.

But Cutler was also a shrewd business-woman. She crusaded to bring value for tax dollars both at the city level and at the now defunct Montreal Urban Community (MUC), which provided island-wide services.

She delved into costs and procedures in other municipalities and visited Outremont, in particular, to find out "why it costs so much to run Westmount."

Speaking to the Rotary Club of Westmount after her first year in office, Cutler said a new approach was needed to run-



The mayor greets military personnel into city hall after a Remembrance Day ceremony early in her term.

ning cities. "We've come to the end of an age where we can add on extra sick leave and benefits. We need to combine the talents and time of volunteers with the paid workers."

By the end of her mandate, she had managed to cut city spending by \$5 million, reduce property taxes 11 percent and leave the city without unfunded debt.

She considered it "a personal failure," however, that she had been unable to control MUC costs. But it wasn't for lack of trying.

She took a strong stand against irregularities in the island-wide property evaluation roll and withheld Westmount's annual payments to the MUC, leading the Quebec government to place Westmount under trusteeship for a short time.

Ultimately forced to back down, Cutler had made her point in a blunt and typically strong way.

She was a firm believer in environmental issues, so it is little surprise that during her term in office the city intro-

duced recycling, reduced pesticide use and set up the Healthy City Project.

Her drive to bring about changes that affected people came from the reason behind her own decision to run for mayor as a relatively unknown protest candidate against the incumbent Brian Gallery and an experienced political machine.

She was incensed by what she called a dismissive and disrespectful way she had been treated at city hall over the refusal of her request to move her publishing business, Tundra Books, into her newly purchased building at Sherbrooke and Mount Stephen.

And the experience and mistrust of the administration remained with her through much of her mayoralty.

Felt like an intruder

"I knew nothing about being mayor," she said after of her "miracle" election win. "I felt like an intruder."

But she jumped in with both feet, learn-



May Cutler with grandson, Philip Cutler, a candidate in the November 2009 election on the occasion of council honouring outgoing mayor Karin Marks, October 1, 2009.

ing the ropes, challenging procedures recommendations and, in a sense, running her own show.

Her experience as a journalist and investigator fuelled her determination to get to the bottom of an issue, uncover the truth and be well informed. She went right to the source, working behind the scenes and calling on outside advisors and experts whom

continued on p. 8

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May Cutler's legacy fuelled by her own research

continued from p. 7

she knew and trusted.

Her refusal to rename the Westmount portion of Dorchester after the late Quebec premier René Lévesque catapulted Cutler onto the political scene soon after assuming office. She built her case, and when she rode in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on the Westmount fire truck in March 1988, the neophyte mayor was already well-known and was cheered along the route.

With limitless energy and working at her best in late-night hours, she delved back into past city business.

In the morning when she entered city hall by the lower door, word spread quickly upstairs while staff prepared for the anticipated onslaught of questions.

She made a point of stopping to talk with employees on the way, inquiring about their families and providing advice on caring for a sick child. It was one her hallmarks along with her practice of visiting seniors on milestone birthdays to celebrate with them.

To prove her point over the need to undertake her library project, Cutler videotaped libraries in neighbouring

municipalities and those in New York and Dallas, and solicited support from the Westmount Advisory Council on Council (WACC), which she had initiated.

"I kept the thing going," she explained in retrospect.

Called town hall meeting

Her relationship with the council blew apart in February 1989 after Cutler suspended the city's director general and stripped a councillor of his responsibilities after a dispute over the search criteria for a mayoral secretary. And when the council called for her resignation, her response was to call a "town hall" meeting and put it to citizens.

A capacity turnout of 700 at Victoria Hall cheered her to continue her efforts to create "an open city with new ideas, where citizens can have more input into the way their city is run." The absence of all councillors was driven home by the eight empty chairs set out for them on the stage. But May Cutler's mandate from the people was re-confirmed.

When a council seat became vacant at the end of 1989, Cutler found a solution to getting her library project on track by bringing a previous councillor back to help

her. He was Peter Trent.

"I was working in England when I got the call from her," he says. "She ordered me to return to council, told me I had to get the others to support her plan for the library and that I should run for mayor in two years, and she would support me."

He laughs at the recollection. "It was typical May: planning two years ahead and telling me what I should do."

While he had publicly opposed her candidacy for mayor, he agreed to her terms in what he says was, at first, "a marriage of convenience." However, he soon came to respect her strength and intelligence, and valued a long-lasting friendship that ensued.

So did the others, and their standing ovation for their mayor at her last council meeting was one of the more moving moments witnessed by regular council attendees.

Cutler's efforts "to clean up the management of the city," had succeeded, respected editorialist J.W. Sancton wrote near the end of her mandate.

"She will leave office in the autumn knowing that," it said, "whatever her succession, her mark will have been made on the city and will endure unless future

councils fall into the hands of the Philistines."

Break-in found on night patrol

A patrolling public safety officer spotted "an abundance of glass" on the sidewalk at 12:06 am February 25 outside a business at 4445 St. Catherine St., near Metcalfe, Public Security officials said.

On closer inspection, it was discovered that the glass door had been shattered. Police were called, and it was believed that money had been taken from cash register.

Cyclist toppled

A 70-year-old cyclist suffered a cut over the left eye February 24 when he fell off his bicycle at Greene and Selby, Public Security officials said. He was reported to have been travelling down Greene at high speed at about 4 pm. A resident of Notre Dame St., he was taken to the Montreal General Hospital by Urgences Santé.

NDG SOCCER ASSOCIATION 2011 REGISTRATION

SATURDAY MARCH 19 & 26, 2011 – Recreational (last chance)

WHERE: Le Manoir Gym, 5319 Notre-Dame-de-Grace Ave
(corner of NDG Avenue & Decarie Blvd).

TIMES: **10 a.m. – 2 p.m**

REQUIREMENTS: **NEW FOR 2011 – PLASTIC PLAYER ID CARDS**

As required by the Quebec Soccer Federation (FSQ), all soccer clubs in Quebec now require plastic player ID cards where player photos are printed directly onto plastic cards. **ALL PLAYERS MUST COME TO REGISTRATION TO HAVE THEIR PHOTO TAKEN.**

NDG Soccer Association cannot process the registration of any player who does not come to registration to have their photo taken. As well, we require copies of a medicare card and a 2011 proof of residence (Bell, Videotron or Hydro Quebec bill) with the player's family name on it.

NDG Soccer Association welcomes players from outside of the CDN/NDG Borough. Ours is a full summer league from June to September and we have children from Westmount, Cote St. Luc, Hampstead, Montreal West, Lasalle and Verdun playing on our recreational and competitive teams. **SOCCER IS FUN IN NDG.** Come and join our expanding leagues!

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DATES D'INSCRIPTION DE L'ASSOCIATION DE SOCCER DE NDG POUR LA SAISON D'ÉTÉ 2011

Samedi 19 & 26 MARS, 2011 – Ligues Récréatives (dernière chance)

Les inscriptions auront lieu au gymnase du Manoir, situé au 5319, avenue Notre-Dame-de-Grace Ave (intersection du boul. Décarie).

Heures : de 10h à 14h.

ASNDG NOUVEAUTÉ EN 2011 – CARTES PLASTIFIÉES – **TOUS LES JOUEURS DEVRONT SE PRÉSENTER À L'INSCRIPTION POUR QUE NOUS PUISSONS PRENDRE LEUR PHOTO.** Toutes les associations de soccer du Québec utiliseront des cartes d'identification plastifiées. Les photos des joueurs sont imprimées directement sur les cartes. L'Association de soccer de NDG **NE POURRA PAS** procéder à l'inscription de votre enfant si celui-ci ne se présente pas pour la prise de photo.

Nous devons prendre une photocopie de la carte d'assurance maladie de votre enfant ainsi qu'une preuve de résidence valide pour 2011 (facture de 2011 de Bell, Vidéotron ou Hydro-Québec bill) sur laquelle est inscrite le nom de famille du joueur.

L'Association de soccer de NDG est ouverte aux joueurs qui ne résident pas dans l'arrondissement de CDN/NDG. Notre saison d'été a lieu du mois de juin au mois de septembre et nous avons des joueurs provenant de Westmount, Côte St. Luc, Hampstead, Montréal Ouest, Lasalle et Verdun qui évoluent au sein de nos équipes récréatives et compétitives. **ON A BEAUCOUP DE PLAISIR AU SOCCER À NDG.** Joignez-vous à nos ligues en pleine expansion!

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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom and le Dialogue Judéo-Chrétien host their “**Structuration du Judaïsme et du Christianisme**,” presented by Rabbi Lerner Jean Duhaime, 7 pm. Cost: \$7. Reserve: tklein@videotron.ca, or call 514.484.7762.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

Communications doctorate student **Joan Kahn** gives a presentation on the curious nature of information, drawn from her book *The Paper Chaser: Pursuing and Capturing Information*, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. free, donations invited.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

Annual **Westmount Antiquarian Book Fair** takes place at Selwyn House, 95 Côte St. Antoine Rd., 10 am to 5 pm. A wide selection of used and rare books and maps from Quebec and Ontario dealers. Cost: \$3. Info: 514.935.9581 or www.defreitas-books.com.

MONDAY, MARCH 14

- Information session on **filing income tax returns online** by accountant Todd Brown at the Atwater Library, 2 to 4 pm. Register in advance: 514.935.7344, ext 210 or dlp@atwaterlibrary.ca.

- Marianopolis students perform in the **Prix d'expression musicale**, free recital open to public, 7:30 pm in the auditorium, 4873 Westmount Ave. In case of inclement weather, recital will take place on March 16.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

- Westmount Toastmasters** hosts special guest Georgia Remond who will present a workshop on “The power of intuition,” 7 to 9 pm in the Club Room at Victoria Hall. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Free.

- Rabbi Asher Jacobson** speaks on “Are

Leaders Born or Made? Biblical & Contemporary Models,” 7:30 pm at the Shaar Hashomayim. Velvel Pasternak entertains with “Chassidic Music: A Joyous Celebration in Song,” at 8:25 pm. Cost: \$8. Register: 514.937.9471, ext 139.

- George Wall Shakespeare lecture on **Richard III**, 11 am at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. Cost: \$20. Info: 514.935.7344. Also Wednesday March 16, 7 pm.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

- City of Westmount St. Patrick's Day celebrations: an evening of live traditional Irish music at **The Raven & The Rose Irish Pub** at Victoria Hall, 8 to 10 pm. Doors open at 7 pm. Cost: \$15, plus cash bar. Participate in the limerick contest. Info: Virginia Elliott, 514.989.5226.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

- Montreal director Jacob Tierney discusses and screen parts of his movie **The Trotsky**, 12:45 to 2:15 pm in the Auditorium of Marianopolis College. Free. Info: 514.931.8792, ext. 204.

- The Westmount Historical Association's Greene Ave. Talks continue with speakers Nicole Fournier from the **Grey Nuns of Montreal** and Westmouter Doreen Lindsay on “Les Soeurs Grises de Montréal 1856 to 1955,” at the Westmount Public Library, 7 to 9 pm. Free for members; \$5 for non-members. Info: 514.989.5510.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

May Cutler memorial service, 2 pm, Victoria Hall.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Westmouters are invited to take part in the city of Westmount's “green entry” in the **St. Patrick's Day Parade**, 12 pm, downtown. Sign-up and information available at Victoria Hall: 514.989.5226.

Books Roadshow raises \$160 for Atwater Library



Antiquarian bookseller Wilfrid de Freitas had good news at the Atwater Library on February 26 for downtown resident Marguerite Barbir. A two-volume set of 17th century books she brought in for de Freitas to appraise were found to be worth an amount that put a smile on her face – although Barbir declined to reveal the amount later. De Freitas and Susan Ravdin made \$160 for the library during their Books Roadshow from fees (\$2 from library members and \$3 from non-members) raised by evaluating books brought to them for appraisal. On Sunday, March 13, De Freitas will take part in the 19th Annual Westmount Antiquarian Book Fair which takes place at Selwyn House from 10 am to 5 pm. See Comin' Up on the same page for details.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Votre répertoire des activités printemps-été ! Your Spring-Summer Activities Guide!



Le nouveau Répertoire des activités sera livré à votre porte d'ici le vendredi 11 mars. À partir du 15 mars, le répertoire sera disponible dans les édifices municipaux et sur notre site Web.

Période d'inscription :
(réservée aux résidents de Westmount)
du 21 mars au 1^{er} avril 2011
Les jours de semaine de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30
Les mercredis de 12 h à 20 h

The new Activities Guide will be delivered to your door by Friday, March 11. Starting March 15, the guide will be available in any municipal building and on our Web site.

Registration period:
(for Westmount residents)
March 21 to April 1, 2011
Weekdays: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Wednesdays: 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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Therapy dog needs help of her own



Rescue.
 The allergies haven't caused scabs or open sores, so that's something. But it isn't enough. Her keepers have decided that Lolita will be put down unless a suitable home can be found, pronto.

Lolita the miniature schnauzer has been a working dog all of her six years, ready to visit handicapped children and the institutionalized elderly and draw them out of their solitary shells.

This sweet and timid dog needs a calm and stable routine, because "a quiet home makes a quiet dog." She also needs a foster or owner who will be willing to explore natural remedies and a natural diet with

her. So far, Lolita's allergies have been treated with big doses of steroids, and they just aren't working.



"This dog has given life to people for six years. Now it's time for people to step up for her," said Jacqueline.

Now she needs help of her own.
 The clock is winding down on Lolita's life. She will be euthanized on March 15 unless a suitable home can be found for her. The organization that owns her has made the call because the pint-sized pooch has developed a severe skin allergy that won't respond to conventional treatment.

Reach for the Stars is appealing for a quiet and stable, kid-free home. Could that home be yours? If so, visit www.underdogclub.org, or send an email to contact@underdogclub.org, to find out more.

"She's unbearably itchy. All you have to do is touch her and she falls over scratching," said Jacqueline of Reach for the Stars

The Underdog Club is the world's first marketing agency for underloved dogs. Online donations are gratefully accepted.



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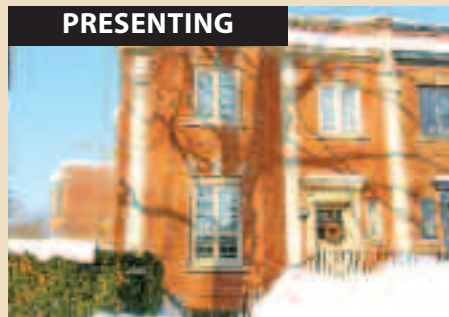
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- Westmount** 461 Elm – Lower co-op w/1+1 bdrm, finished basement, high ceilings & private parking. \$649,000
- Westmount** 344 Metcalfe – 6 bdrm, 3 storey detached Victorian w/ landscaped yard, pool & parking. \$2,295,000
- Westmount** 4281 de Maisonneuve – stunning 5000+sf.semi, 3+1 bdrms, designer gourmet kit., dbl prkg \$2,998,000
- Westmount Adj.** 3980 CDN #A34 – Bright and charming 1900+sq.ft. 3bdrm condo in The Trafalgar w/int. park. \$669,000



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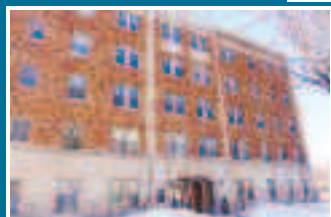


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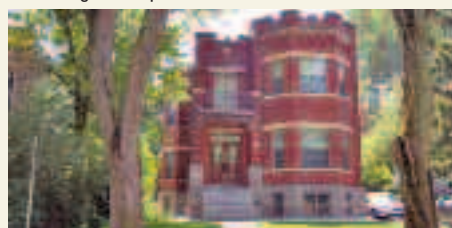
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Always playful kittens: Adèle & Eureka



Kittens Adèle and Eureka have made a new life start at the SPCA Montréal cattery, each being brought in from the cold as tiny little ones.

Adèle has a bit of the calico in her, like a hood and coat over a white shirt. She is about five-months-old and one of the most loving kittens you will ever have the pleas-



Adèle

ure of meeting: a cuddly and purring cutie with a beautiful disposition.

Eureka is a short-haired grey and white fellow with soulful eyes and a perfect pink nose. He is about eight months old, incredibly affectionate and super cute to boot! They are both fully vaccinated and the picture of health, as kittens should be.



Eureka

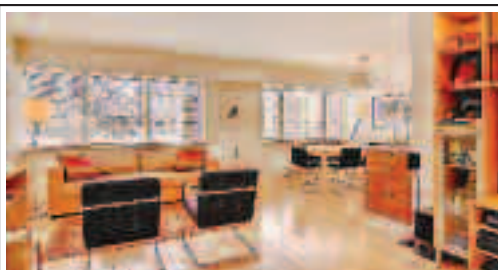
If you would like more information on Adèle and Eureka, please contact Cindy at 514.386.5960 or email info@spcamonteregie.com. If you would like to drop by the cattery, it is open every day for visitors from 2 to 4:30 pm or by appointment. The SPCA Montréal is located at 178 du Vide Rd. in St. Angèle de Monnoir (exit 37 on autoroute 10). Your neighbour, Lyzanne

Fundraiser for street kids attracts Westmount support



Susan McDougall-Chartrand (right), who grew up in Westmount, stands with Westmounter Jamie Wilson at the Atwater Club during a fundraising cocktail reception for the street-youth-focused foundation called From the Streets to Success! McDougall-Chartrand, co-founder and president of the organization, said \$15,000 is enough to keep one kid off the streets for a year.

Photo: Isaac Olson



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Soutar's play on de la Concorde collapse attracts crowd



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Theatre company Porte Parole, founded by former Westmounter **Annabel Soutar**, held a benefit performance of "Sexy Béton, L'Intégrale" on February 21.

Honorary co-chairs of the event were Westmount lawyer **Maurice Forget** and **Jan-Fryderyk Pleszczynski** of Digital Dimension. A co-production with the Théâtre Denise-Pelletier, the play was dedicated to the memory of the victims of Laval's Concorde overpass that collapsed in 2006, killing five and seriously injuring six people.

Playwright and company manager Soutar welcomed guests while her husband, actor and director **Alex Ivanovici**, prepared to perform.

Noted amidst the theatre goers were Westmounters **Linda Leith**, founder of Blue Met, and **Elizabeth Gomery**, head of development at the McCord Museum, and **Julie and Claude Bédard**, VP at Gestion

d'actifs Burgundy, the evening's sponsor.

Also present were **Lucille and Antoine Panet-Raymond**, lawyers **Marie Sénécal-Tremblay** and her husband **Bruce McNiven**, **Francine Léger** and **Vasco Ceccon**, **Marie Giguère**, and retired judges **Pierrette Rayle** and **John Gomery**.

The production was amazing. Actors played different roles ranging from the victims' family members to lawyer **Julius Grey** to **Pierre Marc Johnson**, head of the government-sponsored commission of inquiry into the collapse.

After the performance, **Michel Arpin**, former vice chair of the CRTC, moderated a discussion period with the audience. Accompanying him was **Claude Goyette**, father of one of the victims, who explained to a stunned audience that after his son **Mathieu's** death from the collapsed overpass, the insurers delayed settlement for six months, while investigating whether the death was a suicide.

Monies raised by the February 21 benefit and the casino later that week went to Porte Parole Theatre company's general fund, as part of its annual fundraiser.

You can follow the discussion and petition on this issue at www.porteparole.org.



Brother and sister Julie and Stéphan Arsenault, with Annabel Soutar.

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Social Notes



Westmounters Elizabeth Gomery and Maurice Forget.



Westmounters Julie and Claude Bédard.

continued from p. 15

Hillside work

continued from p. 1

cluding a work trailer installed on the street,” explained Public Security director David Sedgwick.

Noise complaints have also been received concerning work starting before 8 am on Saturday and extending late into the night. This is caused by concrete curing slowly in cold temperatures, a process that has to be followed by noisy polishing, said Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier.

As result, she said, a communiqué has been issued to residents informing them that the late night work would be allowed to take place on Friday night, March 4, rather than on week nights when people typically have to go to work the next day.

According to the communiqué, “The pours with the extended hours will be done at an approximate rate of one per week until the completion of the concrete structure which is scheduled to be finished by April 30, weather permitting.”

The congested work site is described as a difficult one for the contractor. It is located at the foot of Hillside Lane and surrounded by an armoury, St. Margaret’s residence, the 80 Hillside seniors’ housing, Place Kensington and apartments on St. Catherine. The current problems were anticipated and expressed by residents at a demolition hearing on June 15 to allow for the condo development. They were assured that a series of restrictions would be imposed to minimize disruption (see story June 22, p. 5).

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Snow banks pose problems at Westmount dog runs



At the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) dog run, snow clearance at the front entrance was satisfactory. However, the mooring of a steel post for the inner gate is breaking loose from the concrete foundation of the lavatory building that supports it.

Photos: Martin C. Barry



During an inspection of the Lansdowne dog run, an accumulation of snow seen next to a fence at the inner gate would allow dogs to effortlessly walk over the fence from the dog run's main area into the enclosed entrance section. Except for a minor ground clearance problem because of snow build-up, both gates appeared to be in working order.

Don't walk into a black hole

The door to a construction site at 77 Sunnyside was found open by public safety officers, on February 18, exposing what was described as "many dangerous materials." The foreman was later asked to ensure the site is secured. The gate was found open again for a third time on February 27 at 7:42 pm. Construction sites may contain hazards such as excavations, machinery and dynamite, Public Security officials pointed out.

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Obscenities erased

Obscene language was found scrawled on a bus shelter at Sherbrooke and Strathcona February 27 but a public safety officer was able to wipe it off, Public Security officials said.

Stolen bag found in backyard

A handbag was discovered in the backyard of a house on Grosvenor Ave. February 24. Traced to a car break-in two days earlier, it appeared to have been thrown over the fence from the lane behind the SAQ, Public Security officials said. It was taken to local police station 12 and a message left for the owner.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

While the gates at Westmount's three official dog runs appear to be in relatively good working order, an investigation by the *Independent* on March 2 has determined that low fencing in conjunction with high snow banks at two of the facilities could allow dogs to get out.

Although the city has responded to complaints about the low fence surrounding all three dog runs by raising the height with snow fencing, a section of the enclosure at the WAG facility has no additional fencing. Snow accumulation there could easily allow dogs to escape, despite an outer hedge which larger dogs would probably not find very challenging.



Though snow fencing has been placed around the perimeter of each dog run (except at the entranceways), this section of the WAG dog run remains enclosed with the regular fence only. At the Murray Hill dog run entrance (not pictured), areas immediately next to the fence were relatively clear of snow banks. However, the latch on the outer gate didn't function perfectly.

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Merchants comment on recycling

The following are excerpts, by street, of a sampling of comments from some of the 44 small merchants surveyed on their use or non-use of the city's on-street commercial recycling mobile container.

Sherbrooke

Sharyn Scott on Consignment: "I don't have a lot of boxes but I think it's a good service. It's good for the environment and for our grandchildren." – *Sharyn Scott, owner*

Ben & Tournesol: "It's a nightmare. It's always very, very full. When you call, they tell you not to leave your cartons beside it on the sidewalk or you'll get fined. Then they take it away to empty it but don't bring it back. I know it's a test but it's not very helpful." – *John Benoit, owner*

La Fougagerie: "We tried it the first couple of weeks but it was very complicated. Now I just throw out the cartons, and recycle cans and bottles where I buy them." – *Richard Barland, manager*

Art-enfant: "It certainly gets used but I never see it on my side of the street where it's supposed to be. I have to lock the store and run across the street with the dolly and sometimes it takes three loads, espe-



Boxes from Oink-Oink are waiting to be put into the on-street recycling container on Greene Ave.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

cially now with all the orders coming in. I have to wait for all the lights to change. Then the container can be full and I have nowhere to store my boxes." – *Connie De Melo, owner*

Folklore I: "It's usually parked right in front of us so it couldn't be more convenient for me. Not being on schedule is our prime concern. One of the problems is

that the city just set up its own system that doesn't necessarily meet the needs of the shops. It tried to inform everyone about the new service but there was no follow-up." – *Gerard Fellerath, owner*

Westmount Stationery: "We want to be positive in our relations with the city. They provided something we needed but with no input or feedback. They came up with a system that takes away two parking spaces, which they need to back the trailer into one. The garbage service works perfectly. So why can't the recycling work the same way, at the back of the lane?" – *Tom Forestell, owner*

Ritsi: "I'm not aware of the program. I think I would use it. How long would I have to keep the boxes? Where do I store the stuff?" – *Nicole Brum, sales person*

Bark & Fitz: "I've never noticed the trailer. I really could use it. But it sounds incon-

venient and awkward for one person. I was shocked there was no commercial recycling in Westmount when I moved here from NDG." – *Evelyn Couture, owner*

Masska: "Recycling? When is that? All my stuff goes in the garbage container at the back." – *salesperson*

Sunsource: "I don't really need recycling. Our merchandise comes in small boxes that we give back to the supplier. The city system sounds complicated. I received the schedule but I've never actually seen the trailer. Oh, maybe once." – *Ornella Novarini, replacing the manager*

Centre du Rasoir: "I've never seen the city trailer. We break up the boxes and put them out with the apartment building blue boxes but they never take it away. It's a shame because I recycle and it's ignored." – *owner*

Victoria Ave.

Vie de Campagne: "We want to recycle. It depends on who is in the store at the time. Sometimes we have to piggyback on the apartment building recycling, which we have a right to do." – *Kelly Ramer*

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continued next page

First step in commercial recycling operates on minimal cost

.....
continued from p. 1

ing from the back lanes," explained Public Works director Marianne Zalzal.

Acknowledging there were times the container was absent from its scheduled locations, she said this was the first step in providing commercial recycling that had been undertaken at minimal cost using existing city personnel.

Depends on worker availability

When the workers were needed for snow removal or other pressing matters, there was no one available to empty the container, put it back on the street or move it to the next block.

"We want to be positive, but it's the wrong solution to a longstanding problem," explained Tom Forestell, owner of Westmount Stationery.

One of his prime concerns was the loss of on-street parking spaces due to the container and meter hoods not removed after it leaves.

Some shopkeepers who tried to use the trailer found it filled to overflowing by 8:30 am. They described the "hassle" and strug-

gle of carting 50 or 100 cartons down the street, almost a block away. Some smaller stores had no space to store their boxes.

Lone merchants experienced the added problem of having to lock up during business hours to take out their cartons to where the trailer was supposed to be parked.

"It's a lot of work for us," said Ben & Tournesol owner John Benoit. "We have to take out all the popcorn packing and fold up the boxes. Then we find the trailer's full, and they take it away to empty it and don't bring it back." He receives 2,000 boxes a year, he said.

One of the most frequent users is Tony's shoe store on Greene. Just like Oink-Oink and Martin Swiss, Tony's is fortunate to have enough staff to be able to load the trailer.

"I can fill it up every week," said manager Luc Pelletier. He filled the container twice over on February 28 with 120 cartons and 23 bags of paper, calling the city to empty it between fills. With the procedure taking more than an hour at a time, the trailer was off the road for much of the morning.

And what do merchants do with their recyclables – mostly packaging – when they can't, or don't, use the container?

Most said they put them out with the regular garbage in the rear to be removed by the city's contractors or services handled by their building management.

Some left their garbage for cleaners to remove. A couple of others said they returned their boxes to suppliers or re-used them.

Some take it home

Some committed recyclers took home as much as they could to recycle in their own communities.

Somewhat ironically, the Babar-en-Ville bookstore drives cartons to its sister store in Pointe Claire village for re-use or collection by Pointe Claire's combined commercial/domestic recycling pickup every Tuesday.

Restaurants and food establishments typically had little to recycle since their containers tend to be contaminated by food and were generally not surveyed.

Other survey findings revealed that none of four small shops visited on Sher-

brooke between Victoria and Grosvenor used the trailer, which is scheduled to be parked in that block one half-day. The short block includes larger retailers that hire their own recycling services: Metro, the SAQ and Pier 1. So does Hogg's, just across Victoria.

No users of the city service could be found among eight applicable stores visited on St. Catherine St. from Clarke to Atwater where the recycling container is supposed to be parked in two locations all day Thursday.

Personnel at Little Bear, just west of Greene, however, said they would like to use it but had seen it only once when it was parked around the corner on Greene. Like other single operators, however, they couldn't scout around looking for it.

Public Works director Zalzal said that the city would find comments from the *Independent's* survey useful in planning the second step in commercial recycling and would be following up with its own.

The Victoria/Sherbrooke merchants' association has also been preparing a questionnaire to survey its members, said Gerald Fellerath, owner of Folklore 1.

program, after four months

continued from previous page

Westmount Florist: “We use it when it’s here, usually for our smaller containers. Our flower boxes are too long. It’s usually easier for our driver to take them to Kruger or Public Works along with our compostable material. We have too much for once-a-week service.”

– *Esther Tremblay, environmental specialist*

Foot Solutions: “We used it initially but I haven’t seen it for three or four weeks. The recycling should be collected like the regular garbage.”

– *Simon Bitton, owner*

Avenue des Arts: “This system is inefficient, poorly planned and doesn’t work. People have become disillusioned and disappointed. Ideally you need to use the back alley. Many of our store owners are also residents who care about the city. We asked to make input.”

– *Pierre Le Gourriérec, owner*

Martin Swiss: “We’re very serious recyclers. We use it every week. We can have 20 large bike boxes but usually the container only holds six or seven. We usually fill it up. We take whatever is left over to the Public Works yard.”

– *Jesse London-Wallace, assistant manager*

Greene Ave.

West End Gallery: “The program is well intentioned but you can’t expect people on a high-scale street with a lot of high-scale boutiques to be carting their boxes down the street while nicely dressed and wear-

ing high heels. It’s still my opinion that we need regular recycling from the back at the same time as the regular residential collection from the apartments above the stores. I just have a few papers. I don’t really need to use it.”

– *Michael Millman, owner*

Westmount Wellness Centre: “Never heard of it! The cleaners just take everything away.”

– *Catherine*

Marie Dumas: “I only saw it once, before Christmas. We wouldn’t be able to walk with our boxes while customers are coming in the front. I would use it if it were in the back.”

– *Francine Dumas, owner*

Babar-en-ville: “The container is inconvenient because it’s at the end of the block and the boxes are bulky. I was under the impression it would eventually be at the back door.”

– *Sarah Patterson, manager*

La Cache: “Unfortunately we were not aware of any recycling program. You mean I would literally have to drag all my boxes down the street fighting the weather and the traffic? I’d have to bring in extra staff. When we get an order we can have 100 or 200 boxes at a time. We have a back alley where the garbage is picked up and the composting truck comes through. So they should be able to get a recycling truck through.”

– *the manager*

Oink-Oink: “Our shipper puts the boxes in the container every Monday. Some also get re-used for shipping to our store in Toronto.”

– *Hilaria Pascal, manager*

Birkenstock: “I think it’s ridiculous because no one is going to drag their boxes down the street. I feel badly because I’d like to use it. Two years ago the city sent around forms asking questions about our needs. But they weren’t met.”

– *Glenn Even, owner*

Galerie d’Este: “Never heard of it. I bring some things home with me to recycle.”

– *Mark Leibner, owner*

Tony’s: “Yes, we do use it. This morning we had 120 cartons and 23 bags of paper. It was already a quarter full at 7 am. It mustn’t have been emptied on Friday. It was a third full at 8:15 am and I filled it up, called the city and they took it away. When they brought it back again (90 minutes later) I filled it up again.”

– *Luc Pelletier, manager*

St. Catherine St.

Little Bear: “We saw it once, on Greene. It’s impossible to keep our boxes a week. We need to get rid of our boxes once a day. Maybe we could all share a recycling bin

Random recycling recon

PHOTOS BY BETH HUDSON



Bin is not present at its designated location on a Friday afternoon (February 18), on the east side of Victoria, near de Maisonneuve.



Bin is not present at its designated location on a Friday morning (February 18), on the west side of Victoria, corner Somerville.



Bin is not present at its designated location on a Thursday morning (March 3), on the north side of St. Catherine St., between Clarke and Greene. The bin was likewise not present at its designated location on March 2 on Sherbrooke between Grosvenor and Victoria.



The bin was likewise found at its designated location on March 1 on Sherbrooke between Claremont and Prince Albert.

Calories to re-open March 11

Calories, a St. Catherine St. restaurant that has been a favourite among sweet teeth in Westmount since the early 1980s, is reported to be re-opening under new ownership on March 11. It has been closed since February 15.

“We are getting a new look,” said Yuiwei Yang, the new manager, adding that the menu is being expanded beyond the line of cakes and desserts for which Calories is famous.

“We’re going to continue with that, but we’re going to go a step further to serve sandwiches, salads, croissants,” he said. Calories will also be open longer – from 8 am to 11 pm.

– *MB*



Calories' front window papered-up, March 4, with notice of its re-opening.

in the back.”

– *Ani Macgillivray, weekend manager*

Han Art: “I don’t need it. The only thing I have to recycle is this bottle!”

– *Andrew Lui, owner*

TNT: “I haven’t heard of it. We collect our

garbage for the cleaners and they put it out, but we do separate out the water bottles.”

– *Jordan Grover, product specialist*

Dépanneur 7 jours: “I’ve seen it several times but it’s too small. I could use a third of it! Everything goes out back.”

– *Xiao Bing Fan*



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Cutler, a young activist

continued from p. 6

me a cynic about everything.” And it caused her to “look at everything with a jaundiced eye,” she said.

“My philosophy of life? I love it. I think I appreciate it much more because I’m an atheist.”

As a young activist, she was involved in women’s rights and other issues of the day.

Hired by Canadian Press in 1945, she also worked for the information unit at the United Nations in New York City before returning to work at the now defunct *The Montreal Herald* newspaper and *The Montreal Standard* magazine. She taught journalism at McGill and obtained another BA, this time in English literature in 1951.

The next year, she married Phil Cutler, a labour lawyer who once went to jail briefly for leading a labour march and later became a Superior Court judge.

They had four boys in three and a half years, including twins. They moved to Westmount in 1961 to 3200 The Boulevard, where May founded and ran Tundra Books in the basement while raising her family.

When her husband died in 1987, she sold the house and bought the building at 4545 Sherbrooke at the northwest corner of Mount Stephen.

It was a landmark year in which she also celebrated Tundra’s 20th anniversary and decided to run for mayor as a protest candidate spurred on by the way she had been denied a permit to move the business into her new building.

A strong fitness advocate, Cutler did exercises every morning and created a how-to illustrated book for her grandchildren so they would be able to do them too.

She walked where possible or took public transportation and taxis. She had no other choice. “Phil made me give up my licence after a few accidents,” she once said with an amused laugh.

In 1991, she moved Tundra from a downtown office to the top floor of 345 Victoria Ave., where she devoted herself to its operation. She had marked its 30th anniversary before selling to McClelland & Stewart. She wanted to devote more time to writing.

Cutler wrote and produced three plays including *Ahh Pootee! That’s Snow!*, a full-scale musical comedy. She also wrote several books, including a biography *In Search of Paul-Émile Borduas*, which she completed shortly before her death.

Now in the editing stage, it is expected to be published shortly,” said Marina.

“She finished in the late fall and was so pleased. I think it pushed her and kept her alive. That’s how she was.”

New condo building to live on Redfern

continued from p. 3

an “exceptional location” in one of Westmount’s most coveted neighbourhoods.

Among other amenities, 215 Redfern will have a large terrace garden and indoor saltwater pool on the roof, above-average unit sizes, ceiling heights of up to 13 feet, luxurious kitchens and bathrooms, and views of Mount Royal and the St. Lawrence River.

Fischer was chosen on the basis of his experience with residential, commercial and industrial buildings in the US and Canada, including some in Westmount.

According to Berger, the city of Westmount was especially pleased with the proposal, since it called for a commercial property to be converted to residential.

“There have actually been a few owners from just across the street who have phoned to let me know they’re pleased,” he told the *Independent*. “I think it will be a wonderful addition and more in keeping with the residential nature of the area.”

Local realty agency owner J.J. Jacobs, who has been given the task of selling the condo units, noted that 215 Redfern will be one of the largest construction projects to be built in Westmount since the late 1980s. She didn’t want to reveal the price range for the units, as the terms for their sale had not yet been finalized with the developers.

Among 215 Redfern’s current tenants is the Argyle Institute of Human Relations, which provides psychological counselling services. Edna Mendelson, the institute’s executive director, said they’ve

UN alive and well at Marianopolis

BY LAUREN O’LOUGHLIN

The fervid atmosphere was almost palpable at Marianopolis College on February 26 as high school and CEGEP students from all over Montreal gathered to discuss disarmament and international security, the continental congress of America and the Rébellion des patriotes at its annual model United Nations (UN) conference.

Nineteen-year-old Marianopolis student Rachel Gibian of Mount Stephen Ave. participated in the crisis committee discussing the Quebec rebellion that took place in the early 1800s. Students on the committee were given the opportunity to re-enact the historic episode and change the course of events using their debating and acting skills.

“It’s very interesting because you do have to become a character,” explained Gibian. “I am very involved in theatre. There is the idea that the model UN is about diplomacy and knowing what is going on in this day and age, but it’s also about being in character and really knowing your stuff about that character,” she said.

However, being able to research and become knowledgeable about a particular political arena doesn’t hurt, especially in a politically challenging situation. Of her previous experience as a model UN club member, Gibian recalled “[once] I had to

be North Korea and talk about nuclear weapons!”

Gibian is secretary general of the college’s model UN, which involves being the chief administrator and spokesperson within the club.

The Saturday conference was divided into a general assembly, which heard different viewpoints about disarmament and international security, and two crisis committees. Delegates in black dress suits represented all of the world’s nations and touched on topics such as the use of landmines, narco-terrorism and global terrorism.

The conference went from 9 am until 8 pm and concluded with an awards ceremony.

Marianopolis’ model UN club will be participating in the annual World Model UN Conference, which takes place in Singapore this March. The Marianopolis team will be representing Ireland, “which is very interesting because it is very much in the news right now,” explained Gibian.

She will be part of a historical general assembly discussing the Soweto massacre that took place in South Africa in 1976. Out of 60 students from Marianopolis, only 12 have been selected to attend the world conference. “We’re the youngest delegation going which is always a little bit exciting and a little bit nerve wracking,” Gibian said.



From left, Rachel Gibian, Tamara Sevunts and Helena Porosnicenco prepare their next move during a break-away session of the Crisis Committee talks – they have decided to gather patriot troops for combat.

nearly completed a search for new premises, which will continue to be in Westmount.

“This is causing a slight upheaval for

us,” she said, while adding that Iscanco, the management company that oversees the building, went out of its way to help the institute with its relocation.

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Permit process reviewed in thesis

continued from p. 3

explains.

The survey found “the vast majority” of respondents achieved their building objectives but many expressed frustrations with lengthy delays and repeated requests for design re-submissions. Most, however, found that city staff had been “co-operative.”

Asked what challenges she faced in ex-

ploring the subject, Duncan said, “It was a fine line to walk wearing both hats – as a city councillor and a student, but I tried to be as transparent as possible.

“I was encouraged by the support I received from McGill and the many people I interviewed.”

With completion of the thesis, Duncan plans to graduate in June and has started testing the job market.

BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at the February 21 meeting of city council.

9 Summit Circle: to build an addition on the second storey above an existing ground floor projection at the rear; to replace windows, doors, some exterior

vener and railings on balconies.

356 Côte St. Antoine: at a Category I house, to replace a basement window;

434 Metcalfe: at a Category I house, to replace coach house windows;

4124 St. Catherine: to erect a sign for China Grill.

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Top scorers, Westmount bridge club

Westmount tally bridge winners with top accumulative bridge scores for the two best sessions in February 2011 were:

- Sheila Kotkin with 12,170 points
- Renee Prendergast with 10,410 points
- Pat Phillips with 10,300 points.

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In Conversation with Luis-Fernando Suárez: “Hymn to the Earth”



In Conversation

HEATHER BLACK

Tactile and dynamic monochromatic compositions currently dominate Han Art Gallery – the work of Westmount resident Luis-Fernando Suárez. I chatted with the

artist at his Sherbrooke St. residence.

The title of the exhibit “Hymn to the Earth” references his early life on a Colombian farm. Suárez recreates furrows or horizontal lines in plaster with his fingers. “Blue Furrows” is painted vivid blue with multiple glazes. Capturing his closeness to the soil, the effect is sensual and bold.

Recalls Colombia

Strong reds, yellows and greens define his work and recall Colombia. Trained as a graphic designer in Bogota, colour, form

and texture dominate and provide the “inner structure” of his work. First employed in a print shop, it was there Suárez first “honed his eye for colour” and “became fascinated with colour shifts and subtleties.”

These subtle tonalities are the hallmark of his large and vivid canvases. In one large orange composition, rough plaster slabs are centred within a smooth frame of paint. Entitled “Pachamama” or “Mother Earth” this painting evokes the revered indigenous goddess of Latin America.

For Suárez, “the naming of paintings is equally important to the finished work.” One large dark painting called “Wagner at Cerrejón” evokes the national pride associated with Colombia’s largest coal mine. Yet these works are contemporary and abstract.

Quebec influence

On arriving in Quebec in 1997, Suárez worked first as a graphic designer before painting full time. Intrigued by the use of plaster in construction, the artist chose this medium as a base. Mixed with glue and ink, the material allowed him to create a sculptural effect.

Some works suggest dried earth, while others reference broken pottery. For Suárez “it is the surprise of happy accidents – of odd cracks and pieces breaking off.” In one large work “Coup de Grâce,” a broken area is painted orange against gold framed in tan.

Inspired by Gabriel García Márquez

But this piece has a more serious goal. Inspired by *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by countryman Gabriel García Márquez, the treatment and title recalls Colombia’s indiscriminate killings. Here, he is “a witness” to his culture.

Yet he is also influenced by artistic traditions. One, “Massacre of the Innocents,”

was inspired by the rich reds in Ruben’s masterpiece.

For Suárez, the “value of art is to communicate.” In particular he wants “to introduce the culture of Colombia to Quebec.” But he also speaks affectionately of Montreal. This spring Suárez will exhibit in Bogota “to tell others through painting about Quebec.”

The exhibit “Hymn to the Earth” continues until March 10 at Han Art, 4209 St Catherine St.



Luis-Fernando Suárez at his exhibit “Hymn to the Earth.”



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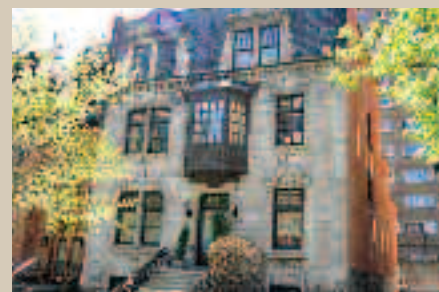
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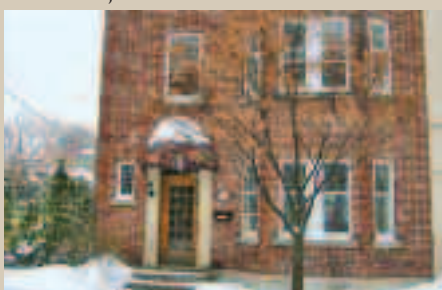
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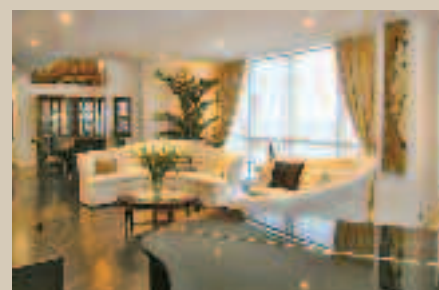
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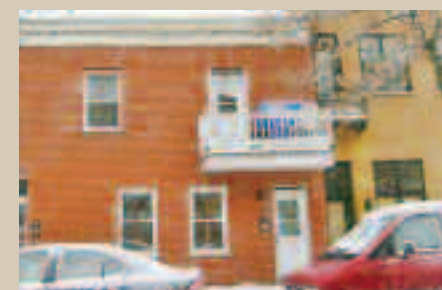
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