

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 5 No. 3d

*We are Westmount*

March 22-23, 2011

*Westmount Square store shuts Saturday*

## New SAQ outlet slated to replace two closures

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It's "very likely" that residents in eastern Westmount will have a new SAQ outlet "in the general area" opening within a year to replace the two destined to close, Mayor Peter Trent said last week after meeting with SAQ officials.

While the store in the Pepsi Forum will

remain open until May 31, the Westmount Square outlet is closing this Saturday, March 26, according SAQ Public Affairs director Isabelle Merizzi. Both dates coincide with the end of long-term leases.

The city hall meeting took place March 16 following two letters from Trent to the SAQ decrying the decision to close its two outlets serving neighbourhood residents. This would leave only the large one at Sherbrooke and Victoria.

"It was a very upbeat meeting, and we're going to partner together to try to find a new location," said ..... Trent.

*continued on p. 3*

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## Quarter century of reffing winds up



Jacques "Rocket" Hébert will retire Friday, March 25 as Westmount's senior hockey referee. He is pictured here getting ready to ref the Sharks and Hawks of Westmount's Senior B league on March 18. See story, p. 15.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

## Earth Hour comes to Vic Hall Saturday

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For the first time since Westmount began marking Earth Hour with stargazing and music at the Summit lookout, the celebrations will move into Victoria Hall this Saturday (March 26) from 6 to 10:30 pm.

Members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada will also bring telescopes into Westmount Park from 8:30 to 10 pm and help residents explore the heavens, including Saturn and the Orion Nebula.

Along with an array of exhibits on energy conservation, light pollution, climate change and the screening of films, others

will highlight the work of the Healthy City Project, now marking its 20th anniversary.

Invited speaker Robert Lamontagne, executive director of the Mount Megantic Observatory, will talk during special presentations from 7 to 7:45 pm along with Mayor Peter Trent and MP Marc Garneau.

The ringing of church bells at 8:30 pm will signal the start of Earth Hour "when we're asking residents to turn off their lights to show their support for the need to curb climate change," said environment commissioner Theodora Samiotis.

The city will turn off street lights at the Summit, in Westmount Park and around Victoria Hall.

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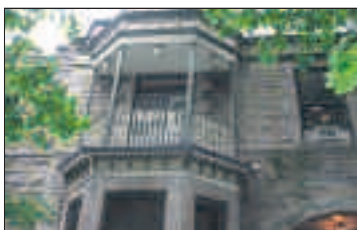


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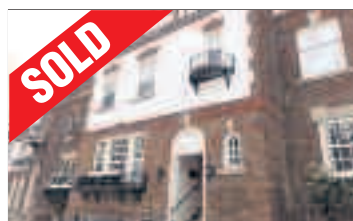
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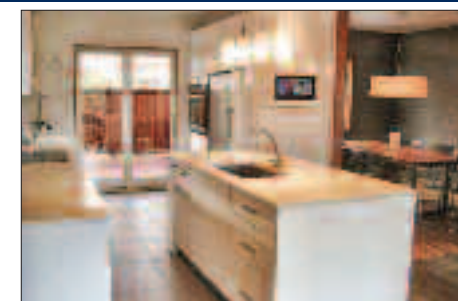
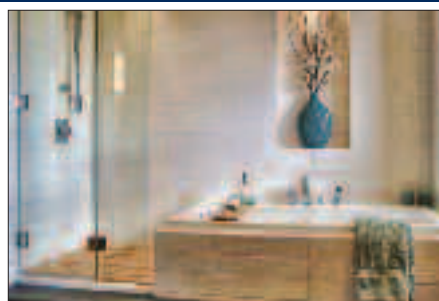


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## Downsized entry, same good times at St. Pat's Day parade



Westmounters were among the thousands who turned out March 20 for the annual St. Patrick's Parade downtown. Seen here on René Lévesque Blvd. while waiting for the parade to start were, from the left, Daniel Mehta, Marc Lagacé, Griffin Leahey, Councillor Kathleen Duncan, Public Security assistant director Gregory McBain, public security director David Sedgwick and parking inspector Richard Lemere. The entry was cut back to meet safety requirements.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

## SAQ news

continued from p. 1

While the SAQ was non-committal about choosing a location in Westmount, he said, it would be looking in the "general area" and would be going out to tender this summer seeking a long-term lease.

The meeting included Cllr. Theodora Samiotis, who represents the concerned district, city director general Duncan Campbell, the SAQ's Irène Anioia, director of real estate development, and Merizzi.

Merizzi later said the SAQ was committed to finding another location nearby.

"I personally feel this is exciting news," Trent said. "We should know within a short period of time when and where a new outlet will open."

Trent said he felt his involvement in this issue and efforts to prevent the permanent closure of the 5 Saisons store were part of council's "desire to maintain" key retail enterprises that were easily accessible to residents, not only to maintain a sense of community but to reduce their dependence on cars.

It was explained at the meeting that SAQ sales at the Westmount Square outlet had been dropping ever since their peak in 1999, Trent said.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## SNOW, SIDEWALKS... THE STRUGGLE

I am concerned that the city of Westmount doesn't appear to be enforcing the rules when it comes to clearing snow on private property.

Too many times this year we have been forced to walk over or around piles of snow left on the sidewalk by private contractors. Most able-bodied pedestrians can manage to navigate the obstructions, but anyone with limited mobility may be forced to walk in the road or stay at home.



Photo courtesy of Peter Naylor

It is almost impossible for my daughter to take my grandson out in his "big wheels" stroller after a snowfall.

The city does an excellent job clearing sidewalks, but the private snow removal companies seem not to care about the public path. They should be required to get out of their vehicles and clear the sidewalk after plowing out driveways and parking lots.

PETER NAYLOR, ABBOTT AVE.

## DORIS HAPPY IN NEW HOME THANKS TO 9 LIVES

We wish to thank you for your support and your great help in the adoption process of our beloved Doris. We have found her a good home, thanks to your great article published in the February 15 edition (p. 20).

DR. VAILLANCOURT AND THE  
WESTMOUNT ANIMAL HOSPITAL TEAM,  
VICTORIA AVE.

*Editor's note: See story on Doris' new home,  
p. 16.*

## ANOTHER SIDE OF MAY CUTLER

May Cutler was a person of many outstanding qualities and numerous accomplishments, but in the many memorials I read, I did not notice the one for which I remember her best.

May Cutler, then Miss Ebbitt, was my freshman English conference leader at McGill in 1948-49. She was an outstanding educator, encouraging, stimulating, deeply knowledgeable and always well-prepared.

Her enthusiasm and vivacity were truly inspiring. She was a major influence in leading me to a lifetime of serious reading and study in English literature, which continues to this day.

LAWRENCE CAPELOVITCH  
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## WHY NOT A LITTLE SILENT HUMOUR FOR OUR GLOOMY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM?

When I am walking past the Mark Lachance hearing aid establishment on St. Catherine St., west of Metcalfe, I usually stop for a few minutes to enjoy the best show in town, bar none.

There, in full view through the shop window, is playing one of Charlie Chaplin's hilarious satirical comedies for the entertainment of patients waiting to be attended.

The ingenious little tramp's classics – *Modern Times*, *City Lights*, *The Great Dictator*, *Gold Rush*, etc. – run non-stop

through the work day.

No matter which film is playing, I invariably leave in tears...of laughter! And while the films have the obvious cheer-up effect on the patients, they seem to be contagious with the staff as well. Often when they spot me in convulsions outside, someone will invite me in to watch. (I always politely decline, knowing I'd never leave.)

On my latest stop last week, it suddenly occurred to me that the Chaplin oeuvre should be available in all the jam-packed rendez-vous of our overwhelmed health care system.

What an inexpensive tonic for dispelling the heavy gloom in the emergency wards and waiting rooms, where hour after hour, patients are left in despairing contemplation of their afflictions.

The system might also rummage around for reels of other masterful funny-men of the silent film era, such as Mack Sennett and Harold Lloyd.

The key word is *silent* because the films don't disturb anybody, not even the language cops. No x-rated stuff, either. The masters didn't need it back then.

They didn't even need dialogue.

TIM BURKE  
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## THE LIBRARY LAMENT

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"You see we've twenty thousand dollars to find.

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"Although they say they are proud of what we achieve!

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"So, please, help our cause

"We need more than applause."

ANN LLOYD, ATWATER AVE.

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

**We are Westmount.**

Weekly  
Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: David Price  
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CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

### LETTERS & COMMENTS:

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. If you do make amendments, please "redline" them instead of resending the whole letter. Email any letter or comments to [indie@westmountindependent.com](mailto:indie@westmountindependent.com).

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## Councillor's Column

# Earth Hour 2011 – It's time to go beyond the hour!

BY THEODORA SAMIOTIS, COUNCILLOR  
DISTRICT 8 & COMMISSIONER OF  
THE ENVIRONMENT

Earth Hour began in 2007 as a simple celebration in Sydney, Australia. The next year, more than 400 cities participated. This year, more than 4,600 cities are planning to participate, representing some 1.3 billion people.

It's being called the biggest grassroots environmental movement in history.

But is this why you might decide to turn out your lights between 8:30 and 9:30 pm on Saturday, March 26?

The fact is that it is not simply about turning off our lights, but rather about turning on our minds to the reality of climate change and the role we can all play as individuals. In the end, it is the sum of all our individual actions that will ultimately

make the difference.

"Take Earth Hour beyond the hour" is the slogan for this year's event, which means that we should not just mark it on this day, but every day.

So the next time you pass that light switch ask yourself: "Does it need to be on?" And the next time you get into your car to drive less than 500 meters, ask yourself: "Do I really need to take my car?"

If you would like to celebrate Earth Hour with other Westmounters and to learn about other ways that you can be more sustainable in your everyday living, I invite you to come by Victoria Hall starting at 6 pm this Saturday, March 26. We are planning an evening of activities organized by the Westmount Healthy City Project that will include stargazing in the park, which will be easier if we all turn out our lights.

## City to explore safer ice, pilots new mouth guard

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The building of Westmount's new arena will provide "a great opportunity" to incorporate new safety measures into the design of the two underground rinks, Sports and Recreation director Michael Deegan said last week.

Angling the stanchions – padded bars or posts that support the ends of glass at the players' benches and penalty boxes – could be one way to prevent concussions of the type recently suffered by Canadiens player Max Pacioretty, he explained.

The increased awareness of ice safety and repeated injuries at all levels of hockey was brought to light when Pacioretty crashed into a stanchion at the Bell Centre on March 8 at high speed, resulting in a severe concussion and a fractured vertebra.

"When it comes to safety, a 5-year-old or a 12-year-old can be just as susceptible to injury," Deegan said.

"It's our duty to put some thought into the design of the new arena to make our ice, as well as our equipment, as safe as possible," he said. "We'll look at everything out there on the market. It's the right direction for us to take."

The city is already piloting one piece of

equipment this season to reduce head injuries. It's a new type of mouth guard being worn by the Atom A Wings that absorbs hits to the side of the head.

"The team has been relatively injury-free," Deegan said. "Hopefully, we will extend this initiative to all of our youth teams in the future."

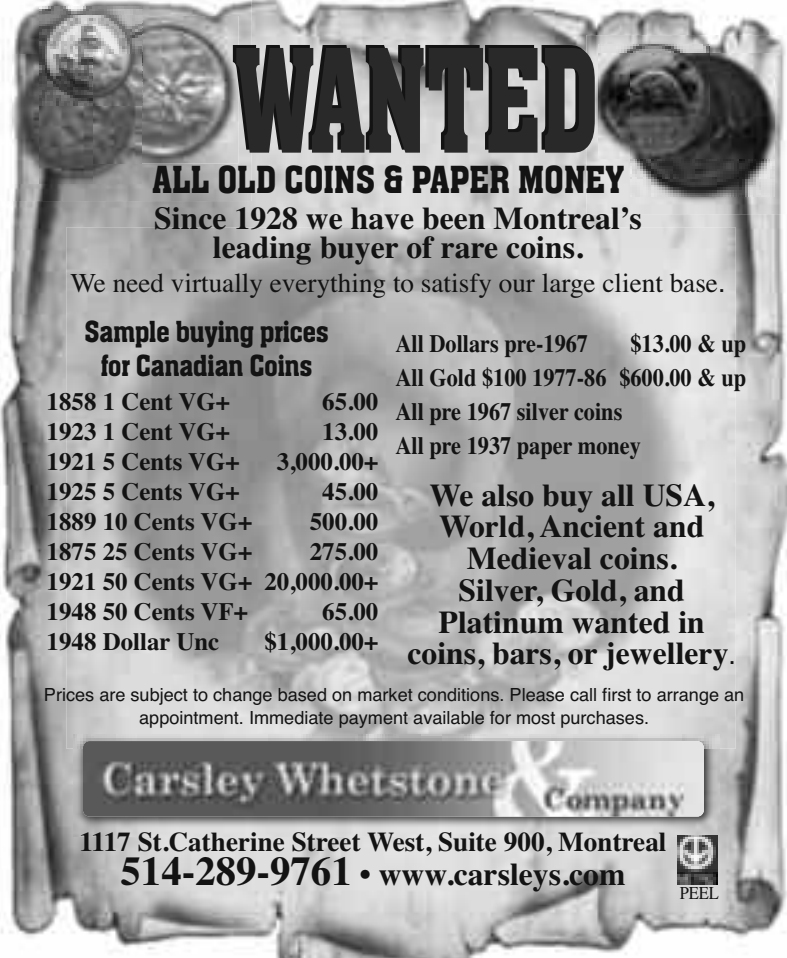
This mouth guard was also demonstrated at the North American Sports Concussion Summit in Philadelphia March 14 to 15.

### *No contact for now*

While the risk of serious injury can increase with speed and bodychecking, no games at any age or level are currently played on Westmount ice involving body contact, Deegan explained. These start only at the inter-city double-letter Bantam level (age 15 years) and require 90 minutes of ice time, which cannot be provided at the existing arena.

It is possible, however, that these games might be held on the new Westmount rinks whose scheduling could allow for the longer games, Deegan said.

"Certainly the new Westmount rinks will offer proper protection," said Councillor Patrick Martin, who chairs the arena/pool project.



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"Wind Catcher" by Natasha Turovsky, is more narrow than it appears here, and is in colour. The original will be on display at the concert

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# Residents pack council chamber over traffic plan

## *Master plan to include 'active transportation'*

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It was standing room only as some 60 Westmount residents packed the city council chamber March 14 to hear terms of reference unveiled for what is now being called the city's "Traffic and Active Transportation Master Plan."

And after listening to the mandate for consultants, residents urged the city to hire those with new ideas, to guide them closely and provide a process for public consultation.

Almost half the audience sported "Protect Lansdowne" stickers and raised ongoing concerns over trucking and traffic expected from the MUHC, Turcot and arena projects. They also raised safety issues over bike lanes and the proposed additional arena entrance off Lansdowne.

In presenting the terms of reference, Public Works director Marianne Zalzal, who heads the city's Administrative Traffic Committee (ATC), said the plan would serve as a guide for council in future decisions.

She outlined a sweeping mandate that would require a team of experts to delve into all aspects of traffic, cycling, pedestrian safety and impact from major construction sites and to produce a final report within six months.

### **Enormous mandate**

"Given the enormity of the mandate," the city would have to keep the consultants on track and aware of the city's uniqueness, cautioned Maureen Kiely. A resident of The Boulevard, Kiely served on the city's defunct Citizens' Traffic Advisory Committee (CTAC).

She suggested the city require more frequent progress reports than every 60 days as scheduled. Councillor Gary Ikeman, who chaired the meeting, suggested every 30 days.

The consultants are to analyze strengths and weaknesses of existing traffic patterns and control, Zalzal explained.

They are to propose long-term solutions for reducing volume and speeding, to "optimize" the flow of traffic through Westmount, improve parking for residents, set up trucking routes, and produce a policy for traffic management.

The city is also looking for ways to decrease car use within the city itself and encourage active transportation – the new buzzword for walking, cycling and use of public transit.

But Dan Lambert, president of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Associa-

tion, said the mandate should set out concrete objectives stating what targets in percentages the city would want to achieve for reducing traffic within a specific time-frame. His comment generated a round of hearty applause.

With the call for tenders expected to be posted in April on the required Quebec government website, a consulting team could be in place in May, Zalzal said.

The final report, in English and French,



*Jean-Pierre Picard addresses concerns over the evaluation of potential consultants.*

would be due six months later.

It was expected the tenders would solicit response from consultants in Quebec and Ontario, she explained.

But one Lansdowne resident urged the city to find a way to attract consultants from Europe and other places, who might be able to inject new ways of dealing with traffic issues.

A special steering committee to direct the consultants includes four city councillors: Kathleen Duncan, Gary Ikeman, Cynthia Lulham and Patrick Martin with environmental input from Theodora Samiotis.

It also includes the members of the ATC. These are Zalzal and Elisa Gaetano from Public Works, David Sedgwick and Gregory McBain from Public Security, Steven Goldberg from local police station 12 and Bruno Villeneuve of Hydro Westmount.

### **Plan overdue**

"Welcome to all of you to standing room only," said Ikeman, in opening the meeting. The master plan was long overdue, he said, explaining that many projects had been held up as a result.

One by one, councillors spoke to changes in traffic since the city's last master plan 26 years ago. Changes since then include increases in car ownership as well as an influx of through traffic and that gen-

erated by schools, the expansion of Dawson, arrival of Marianopolis and large construction projects at the city's doorstep.

Georgina Smith, the first to speak during the question period, quickly resubmitted petitions from Lansdowne residents.

Andrew Liebmann introduced concerns of condo residents from 200 Lansdowne at St. Catherine over the impact of the proposed arena entrance on Lansdowne and asked to see a drawing of it.

"Drawings are still not finalized," Zalzal explained. They would, however, be available at an upcoming arena/pool public information meeting, whose date has not yet been set. The project's Lansdowne entrance also would be looked at by consultants.

Joyce Faughnan, also of 200 Lansdowne, said southbound cars needed two lanes at the intersection of St. Catherine. These have been reduced to one since the addition of the bike lane. Zalzal agreed, saying the ATC was looking at restoring the two by merging bicycles into the car lane.

"The ATC won't stop working on day-to-day traffic issues" during the preparation of the master plan, she pointed out.

Another building resident, lawyer Michael Levinson, said he had "honed in" on the word "validate" in directives to the consultants. He hoped this did not suggest they were to produce results already determined by the city. Zalzal responded with a strong defence of the city's integrity and assured him this was not so.

In the evaluation of tender bids, how many points would be allocated toward the bidder being a "forward thinker and not a traditionalist?" asked Jean-Picard Picard, president of the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA).

In some communities, he noted, traffic lights had been eliminated "to great im-

provement." Locally, he added, "it was great when the lights at Lansdowne and St. Catherine didn't work!"

Could social media – maybe even an app – be used to inform people how long it would take to go by car or bike in Westmount? asked one woman. "We don't want people to use it to get through our city more quickly," Lulham replied.

Was there a process in place for public input? asked Don Taddeo of de Maisonneuve who represents Westmount Citizens for Safe Cycling. "We haven't discussed that," Ikeman said, "but we'll look into it."

### **Likes city as is**

Former city councillor George Bowser of Lansdowne, explained how he liked Westmount just the way it was, saying "I like what it's like." He asked about introducing photo radar. Police constable Steven Goldberg replied that photo radar was still a pilot project of the Quebec government.

Speaking a second time, Dan Lambert said he found some of the directives to the consultants to be contradictory: The city was asking for reduced traffic and car use, yet it was calling for optimizing through traffic and increased parking.

The object, Ikeman explained, was to get the through traffic onto "efficient" streets with traffic light progression. Zalzal said that parking meters were needed to provide turnover to meet the needs of merchants. Residents also needed more on-street parking.

Lansdowner Roch Carrier asked if air quality would be studied. Zalzal said it would improve with a reduction in traffic. Lulham added that pollution also came from outside Westmount.

John Hill, also of Lansdowne, asked how much influence the city of Montreal would have over the master plan. He was told Westmount had control over many of its traffic issues.

Potholes and quality of streets was also raised by Annette Pankrac. Zalzal said that Westmount is the only place that still uses concrete as a base for the reconstruction of roads, which enabled them to last some 70 to 80 years. "You don't find that anywhere else," she stated. The paved asphalt surfacing can be more easily repaired when the roadbed remains in good condition.

The terms of reference presentation can be viewed on the city's website, [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org).



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• Milk Chocolate Espresso Wafers	250g bag	\$11.00	
• Pure Milk Chocolate Lollipop	50g	\$3.50	
• Milk Chocolate covered Matzoh Clusters	300g tin	\$15.00	
• Gift tin of Chocolate Almond Bark, Almond Clusters & Raisin Clusters	600g tin	\$26.00	
	1 kg tin	\$38.00	
	1.65kg tin	\$50.00	
• Gift Basket of Assorted Chocolates	2 kg	\$90.00	

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• Dark Chocolate Almond & Raisin Bark	400g bag	\$12.00	
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• Dark Chocolate covered Raisin Clusters	400g bag	\$11.00	
• Dark Chocolate Espresso Wafers	250g bag	\$11.00	
• Pure Dark Chocolate Lollipop	50g	\$3.50	
• Dark Chocolate Hazelnut Truffles	300g bag	\$18.00	
• Dark Chocolate Coffee Praline Truffles	300g bag	\$18.00	
• Gift wrapped box of Assorted Dark Chocolates	200g box	\$11.00	
	430g box	\$20.00	
• Dark Chocolate covered Matzoh Clusters	300g tin	\$15.00	
• Gift tin of Dark Chocolate Almond Bark, Almond Clusters & Raisin Clusters	600g tin	\$26.00	
	1 kg tin	\$38.00	
	1.65kg tin	\$50.00	
• Gift Basket of Assorted Dark Chocolates	2 kg	\$90.00	

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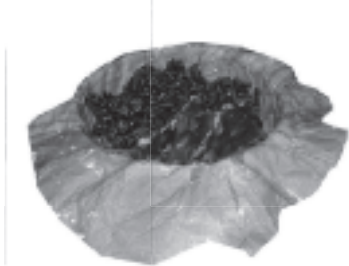
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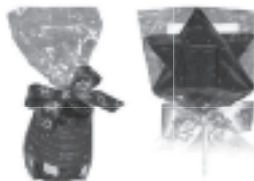
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# Memorial for May Cutler brings out family, friends, associates



From left, the sons of May Cutler: Michael, Roger, Keir and Adam.

Photos: Robert J. Galbraith



Westmount author Roch Carrier speaks during the service for May Cutler, March 19.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

She had told the family she wanted a memorial – at Victoria Hall, on a Saturday – saying she had “a wonderful life.” And May Ebbitt Cutler, Westmount’s first woman mayor received her wish.

Close to 300 friends, associates and people from many walks of life turned out March 19 to share in her achievements and the recollections of sons Adam, Keir, Michael and Roger, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

They described her as teaching them to stand up for what they believed in, to reach out and move forward “after you’ve made your point,” to bring something new into

the world and to believe “anything was possible.” Even in her final days, she had still been “pushing the boundaries.”

Cutler died March 3 at age 87 – a trail-blazing journalist and book publisher, activist, art and theatre lover, globetrotter and adventurer, and Westmount mayor from 1987 to 1991.

Three key players from Cutler’s life also spoke: Mayor Peter Trent, Tundra publish-

ing colleague Catherine Mitchell and Roch Carrier, author of *The Hockey Sweater*, one of her most celebrated books.

The May Cutler Arts Fund has been set up in her memory to realize her dream to establish an international sculpture garden.

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## Nothing small about Pee-Wee teams’ success

BY JARED BOOK

To say that Westmount has depth at the Pee-Wee level would be somewhat of an understatement.

Both the Pee-Wee A Wings and Predators have had very successful regular seasons in the 11- and 12-year-old division, and they were all Westmount Hockey was planning to have at the level in terms of intercity teams.

The two teams had tryouts and then drafted players to fill out their rosters. However, because so many of the players left out had already played intercity at younger levels, Westmount chose to create a third, Pee-Wee B, team, also the Wings. And all that team has been able to do is win their regular season championship.

In the Pee-Wee A division, the Predators won the regular season championship, and the Wings finished in third position. Both coaches say that the teams have a friendly rivalry.

“Definitely more of a rivalry for the kids,” said Predators head coach Warren Garfield. “Most of them have played to-

gether before and have grown up together. They get up for those games more than any other.”

“It’s pretty intense with the Predators,” said Wings head coach Howard Scheffer. “It’s friendly but competitive with them.” The Predators have won both meetings between the two teams this season, 1-0 and 4-2.

The Predators have actually won every game of their 22-game season except for their final regular season game against Lachine but Garfield feels it was one loss he could deal with.

“If there’s one game you want to lose it’s that one and not in the playoffs,” he said. “We had already wrapped up the regular season championship, and it is a lesson for the kids after a relatively easy regular season. We started strong, but the other teams were catching up even though we were winning.”

The way that the playoffs are shaping up, the only way for the two Westmount teams to meet would be in the final.

Garfield is helped by his girlfriend Stephanie Gliksman as team manager and his brother Bruce serves as the team’s as-

sistant coach. Scheffer and the Wings are helped by assistant coaches Michael Osterland and Tobin Howes.

### Pee-Wee B

On the Pee-Wee B side, the Wings had a 19-2-1 record to win their regular season championship.

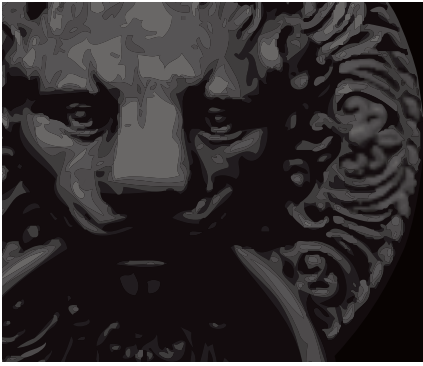
McShane Jones, the team’s coach, says that despite their good record, the league is competitive going into the playoffs. The team’s two losses have come against the second place and last place teams.

“Sometimes you need a check-up once in a while,” he said. “When you’re winning easily there is a complacency that sets in. All you have to do is work on teaching the kids and improving,” Jones said.

The assistant coaches on the B Wings is Pierre Grenier, and Dan Mehta is the manager who also helps behind the bench. Mark Gauvreau, Tim Tokarsky and Fred Shiff have also helped the coaches.

In addition to their league playoffs, the Pee-Wee A Predators and B Wings are also taking part in the regional championships. They qualified based on their regular season success.





# christina miller

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# ‘Red Flag’ contemporary Chinese art exhibit opens



## Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Montreal Museum of Fine Art's (MMFA)'s contemporary gallery premiered "Red Flag, Contemporary Chinese Art in Montreal Collection" on March 2.

An intimate cocktail was hosted by MMFA president **Brian Levitt** and **Nathalie Bondil**, director.

The show features works from several Montreal private collectors, including **Pierre Bourgie**, president of Urgel Bourgie, **Andrew Lui** of Han Gallery, and **Debbie Zakaib** and **Alexandre Taillefer**, XPND Capital.

Works of some of today's greatest contemporary Chinese artists were beautifully spot lit. Pieces ranged from a huge "flag" (America 1990) by **Gu Wenden**, made of

hair, glue and cord, from the collection of **François Odermatt**, to "Fake Armchair" (2007), made of different brightly coloured pieces by **Danful Yang**, from the museum's own collection.

Many gallery goers gathered to glimpse the Gao Brothers' "Sense of Space – Wake 2000," a colour photo of different naked bodies squeezed into differently-sized wooden boxes within a frame – also from the MMFA collection.

"TV No. 6," also by the Gao Brothers, was donated to the museum by **Serge Sas-seville**, VP at Quebecor, and **François Del-l'Aniello**.

Noted amidst the packed wine-sipping crowd were museum execs **Hilliard Gold-farb**, associate chief curator, curator of Old Masters; and **Danielle Champagne**, director of donor relations.

Westmounters seen admiring the pieces in the Red Flag show included artist and art collector **Andrew Lui** of Westmount's Han Gallery, with his daughter **Olympia**; and collectors **Marisa** and **Peter Stern**.

Red Flag continues until June 19, and admission is free. Go after you see the Terracotta Warriors.



Westmount art aficionados Peter and Marisa Stern.



Westmounters Olympia and Andrew Lui of Han Gallery.

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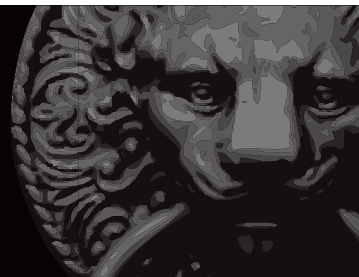
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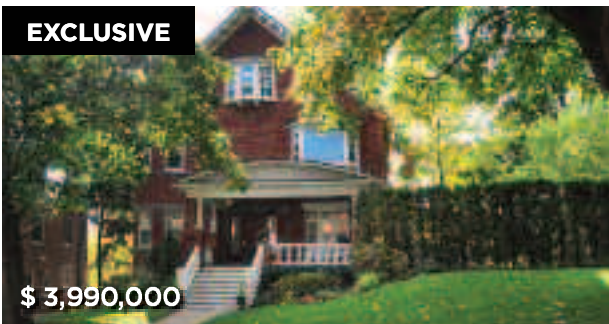


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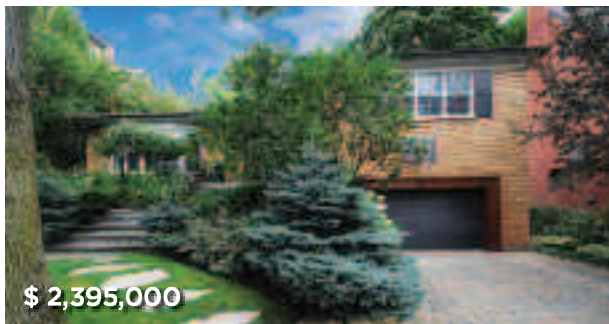
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# Artist attracted by Brais’ special eyes for exhibition

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Courtney Brais has a blue and a green eye. She has modeled for artist Ewa Scheer, who will feature the drawing of Brais' eyes in her exhibition called "The Beautiful Organ."

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Nineteen-year-old Courtney Brais, a Lansdowne resident, has a pretty face, a beautiful smile and long auburn hair. From a distance, she looks just like any other lively teenager. So, why would Montreal artist and NDG artist Ewa Scheer be so keen to have Brais model for her?

Scheer has an interest in eyes, and the

eyes of this teenager caught her attention: Courtney Brais has one green and one blue eye.

When Brais was four years old sitting in the back seat of her parent's car on New Year's Eve 1996, her mother noticed something unusual about her child's eyes. The family made an immediate visit to a Montreal hospital emergency room to be told it was

*continued on p. 17*

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## Comin' Up

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

- **Montreal Storytellers' Guild** hosts a storytelling event at the Westmount Public Library, 7 to 9 pm. Free, includes coffee and cookies. Info: [www.mtlstorytellers.ca](http://www.mtlstorytellers.ca) or 514.593.9947.
- **Alfredo Abeijon** exhibition at the The Gallery at Victoria Hall, until April 16. Info: 514.989.5521.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

- **Tap dance workshop** with "So You Think You Can Dance" participant Justin Jackson at Centre Greene, 7:15 to 8:30 pm. Info and registration: [www.DanceJustinJackson.com](http://www.DanceJustinJackson.com).
- Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom hosts a **Shabbaton** with Friday night services at 8:15 pm and Saturday morning, 10:30 am, followed by luncheon and culinary demonstration. Cost: \$20. Reserve: 514.937.3575, ext. 212 or [anita@temple-montreal.ca](mailto:anita@temple-montreal.ca).

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

- The Healthy City Project invites residents to mark Earth Hour from 6 pm to 10:30 pm at Victoria Hall with activities, information booths, movies and special guests. Stargazing in Westmount Park with members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada from 8:30 to 9:30 pm. **Earth Hour 2011:** lights off between 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

Silent movie screening of **Buster Keaton's** *The General* with accompaniment by Jamie Woollard on a vintage upright piano, Atwater Library, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Admission by donation. Info: 514.935.7344 or [alanna@atwaterlibrary.ca](mailto:alanna@atwaterlibrary.ca).

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

George Wall **Shakespeare lecture** on *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, 11 am at the At-

water Library. Cost: \$20. Info: 514.935.7344. Also Wednesday, March 30, at 7 pm.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

Quality used book sale at Centre Greene, from 10 am to 6:30 pm, and Saturday, April 2 from 9 am to 3 pm. Donate your books to the Centre Greene before the sale. 1090 Greene Ave., 514.931.6202.

MONDAY, APRIL 4

- **City council meeting**, 8 pm, city hall.
- The Montreal Camera Club presents **Jeff Plomley** on "street photography" from his reportage series in Cuba, 7:30 pm at the Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve. All welcome. Info: [johnzimmerman@videotron.ca](mailto:johnzimmerman@videotron.ca) or [www.montreal-cameraclub.com](http://www.montreal-cameraclub.com).

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

The Association of English-language Publishers of Quebec presents **Mike Shatzkin**, founder and CEO of the New York-based company Idea Logical speaks on the future of books. Atwater Library auditorium, 4 pm. Admission is free. RSVP: [aelaq@bellnet.ca](mailto:aelaq@bellnet.ca). Info: 514.932.5633 or [www.aelaq.org](http://www.aelaq.org).

The Unitarian Church of Montreal will be hosting a "Building a Vocal Community" workshop, where both singers and non-singers learn and sing different styles of song, including rhythms, chants, traditional and spiritual songs, ring shouts, hymns and more. Located at 5035 de Maisonneuve, west of Claremont, the church will host Ysaye Barnwell of female acappella ensemble Sweet Honey In The Rock, who will lead the workshop, which takes place on Friday, April 1 (7 to 9:30 pm); Saturday, April 2 (10:30 am to 5 pm) and Sunday, April 3, (9:30 am to 2:30 pm). The cost is \$140. Information: [events@ucmtl.ca](mailto:events@ucmtl.ca).

## Westmount's first Irish pub



Mayor Peter Trent beamed with delight when he won the Good Egg Award in a limerick contest held in conjunction with an Irish pub night at Victoria Hall on March 16, the eve of St. Patrick's Day. Trent submitted four limericks, some of which had unmistakably political overtones. A sampling: "A recycled mayor neurotic/His return to the job was quixotic/He wants his own way/And gives no one a say/A clear inclination despotic." Former Westmount city manager Bruce St. Louis served as bartender. Traditional Irish music was provided by musicians Jessica Gal on fiddle, Gord Fish on guitar, Brad Hurley on flute and Elizabeth Johnston on bodhran.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

## In Other Words

### Sabia robbed while shopping on Greene

The CBC website reported on March 16 that Caisse de dépôt et placement CEO Michael Sabia had financial documents and two BlackBerrys stolen from his car on Greene on March 10. All the documents were recovered but one of the BlackBerrys is still missing. A spokesperson for the Caisse, which is reevaluating its security procedures, said the phone is password protected.

### Renaud applauded by heritage network

Quebec Heritage News, the newsletter of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network, favourably reviewed Westmounter

Anne Renaud's book, *Into the Mist: The Story of the Empress of Ireland*, "Renaud has rendered a great service to the memory of the *Empress of Ireland* ... she might well have titled her work *Out of the Mist*, since that is what she has accomplished."

## Not a skateboard hill

Public Works crews were called to Murray Park March 8 to remove a large skateboard ramp that three individuals were using to leap 15 to 20 feet in the air off the lookout wall at Belmont Cresc. Public Security officials said the three, spotted just after 7 pm, were cautioned about the dangers. They were reported to have packed up their equipment and left.

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## Westmount Florist launches Facebook page



The wine flowed freely and spirits were high at Westmount Florist on March 16, as management at the Victoria Ave. flower shop celebrated the launch of their new Facebook page. Among the roughly 200 guests were Mayor Peter Trent and Councillor Cynthia Lulham. Seen here from the left are Ralph Lauder, Cheryl Besner-Cohen, Judy Lauder, store manager Christine Pickrell, and Sharie Bierbrier-Fishman. The new page can be viewed at: [www.facebook.com/westmountflorist](http://www.facebook.com/westmountflorist).

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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## BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at the March 7 meeting of city council.

- 473 Clarke:** at a Category I\* house, to add a one-storey breakfast room at the rear;
- 4016 St. Catherine:** to erect a sign for Copie Express;
- 1 Thornhill:** to enclose a roof overhang at the rear to create a new entrance;
- 507 Claremont:** to replace the windows;
- 4500 de Maisonneuve,** to replace the garage doors;
- 609 Roslyn:** to change a rear window and door opening into a French door.

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## Local flavour of the week

# Hogg's manager marries sweetheart of 19 years

By VERONICA REDGRAVE

Now that Hogg Hardware is operating out of its new location, shoppers can remain inside the *quartier* to get their fill of Lyle's Golden Syrup, shiny new BBQs, Scottish oats, wind chimes, marvellous mints – and affable advice.

On a recent visit to the shop, I chatted with store manager Sylvain-Guy Lavoie, who has been with Hogg's since 1992, when it was opened by the Hogg family, who have been Westmounters for over 100 years.

Lavoie is a well-known soul. His customers often hail him on the street early in the mornings when he arrives at 7:30. He has worked his way up at Hogg's, starting in shipping and moving onwards and upwards to his current role as store manager. For the past four years, Lavoie has been overseeing the store's operations four days a week.

But besides sharing news of his history with the shop, Lavoie had some exciting news. He is getting married after 19 years – the same number of years he has worked

at Hogg! His fiancée, Francine Ouellette, stays at home and “prepares my lunch every day.”

Keeping an eye on seasonal favourites, Lavoie said “Westmounters are keen for spring. We have already had requests for BBQs – since January!”

He proudly shows me spring seed packages that are selling out to keen gardeners. Life comes full circle. Lavoie's father was a gardener. “It was his passion.” Certainly the groom-to-be will have beautiful flowers for his July wedding.



Sylvain-Guy Lavoie

## Too much barking

A resident of Chesterfield Ave. was issued a \$75 ticket when neighbours complained about barking dogs at 10:50 pm March 8, Public Security officials said. It was reported to be his fourth infraction of the bylaw against barking dogs. He had also been ticketed previously.

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*Jacques Hébert to officiate Friday for last time*

# Referee retires after 25 years in Westmount

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After 25 years of refereeing hockey games at the Westmount arena, Jacques Hébert will officiate at his final games this Friday night, March 25, at 9:30 pm and 10:30 pm, in the Senior B league.

For 19 of those years, the city's senior referee has driven back and forth from Rigaud, sometimes not arriving home until 1:30 am in a blinding snowstorm. And now, turning 72 on April 29, his family says enough is enough, he explains.

Why did he stay so long in Westmount? Because he likes the people, he says.

"Every referee likes to go to Westmount," Hébert explains. "They want a clean game. They don't want fights. Everybody's very nice. Beautiful people."

And given his long service, he now gets to meet the kids of the fathers he's known

for many years. In fact, it was through hockey that he became good friends with Mike Deegan, now Sports and Recreation director, when Deegan played with the Concordia Stingers in 1983.

"Jacques was already a respected referee at that time," Deegan says. "He's fair, personable and brought charisma to the game. He was also a great skater and earned his nickname of 'Rocket' after Maurice Richard."

Hébert, whose life has been dedicated to hockey, played defence for a year with the Junior Canadiens when they were in Ottawa. It ended "after two guys hurt me in a game, so I started refereeing."

Since then he has worked "sometimes seven days a week" at many different levels. These include American Hockey League games in Sherbrooke and the university league that includes McGill and

Concordia.

At the insistence of his family, he says, he's been gradually reducing his workload and for the last two years has been limiting his games in Westmount to one night per week.

The city will recognize his service with the presentation of a plaque before his final games. "He's given so much back to us. It's sad to see him go," Deegan said.

See p. 1 for photo.

## Electronic *Independents* available

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## Doris the cat adopted by Indie reader

Lisa Power, with Doris, the Persian, whom she adopted from the Westmount Animal Hospital in February. The Victoria Ave. vet took Doris in after she was found in a duffle bag left in the doorway of the clinic on December 23. Power, who works at Westmount Park United Church, was reading the Independent one day during her lunch hour and saw the 9 Lives story on Doris (February 15, p. 20). Within days, she had visited Doris several times, submitted her name on the potential adopters' list, and was finally chosen to be Doris' new owner. According to Power, "Doris gets along great with my male cat, Conrad. She is very affectionate and cuddly, soft tempered and playful. I feel extremely grateful towards the Westmount Independent for showcasing Doris and the Westmount Animal Hospital for granting me my new friend."

Photo courtesy of Lisa Power



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## Social Calendar

# Local fundraising events

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

• Westmounter **Marina Cutler's** Avenue Art Gallery. Uncorked for a Cause wine tasting benefit. 7 pm. 10 King St. West, Old Montreal. Tickets \$110. Portion of proceeds to benefit the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation. [www.uncorkedforacause.com](http://www.uncorkedforacause.com); 514.867.3745; [info@studio10King.ca](mailto:info@studio10King.ca).

• Former Westmounters Nadia Niro and Alexandra Schwarz co-chair the Young McCord Sugar Ball – The Roaring Twenties. 7:30 pm. VIP cocktail. Tickets \$160. Ball 9:30 pm. Tickets \$80. McCord Museum, 690 Sherbrooke St. W. [Sugarball.balsucre@gmail.com](mailto:Sugarball.balsucre@gmail.com).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

Westmount's **Lou Goldberg Jewellers** has donated a \$5,000 shopping spree as one of the prizes for the Miriam Foundation Car Raffle. 8 pm. Le Windsor, 1170 Peel St. [www.themiriamfoundation.ca](http://www.themiriamfoundation.ca); [nancy@miriamfoundation.ca](mailto:nancy@miriamfoundation.ca)

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

Westmounter **Michael Hendy** was the driving force behind the Michael Hendy Gala for the Montreal Neurological Insti-

tute. Tudor Hall, Ogilvy's, 1307 St. Catherine St. W. Tickets \$65. [pamhendy@hotmail.com](mailto:pamhendy@hotmail.com); [stephaniebm@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniebm@gmail.com).

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

Westmounters **Karma Hallward, Barbara Molson, Elizabeth Cundill, Christine Harkness** and **Mark Lowe** are working with former Westmounters Tina Khan and Erin O'Brien on the Batshaw Foundation Cocktail Challenge Fundraiser. 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Parisian Laundry, 3550 St. Antoine St. Tickets \$125 general and \$80 for 35 and under. [www.batshawfoundation.ca](http://www.batshawfoundation.ca); [chantal\\_bergeron\\_bat@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:chantal_bergeron_bat@ssss.gouv.qc.ca).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

• Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom is celebrating 100 years in Westmount. Spring Fling 5 à 7 Cocktail benefits the Temple's Torah School. Raffle tickets \$100. Chair: Ian Shulman. [info@templemontreal.ca](mailto:info@templemontreal.ca); 514.937.3575, ext. 213.

• Westmounter **Jennifer Campbell** joins Cheryl Besner-Cohen as a commentator at the Alzheimer Groupe Inc.'s A Closet Affair II – A Night to Remember! Tickets \$150 and up. La Mouche, 1284 St. Denis. [www.closetaffair.org](http://www.closetaffair.org); 514.485.7233.

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## Local

### Notice

"The City of Westmount and Richard Blondin, former Director of Public Security, have settled the dispute which arose from Mr. Blondin's suspension with pay from his duties on February 10 2010. An agreement was concluded between the parties, the terms of which are confidential."





# Stir it up!



**Elliott Cohen**

**Current occupation:** Private chef, caterer and instructor.

**Residence and workplace:** NDG.

**To reach him:** [elliott@ecca.ca](mailto:elliott@ecca.ca).

**Education and training:** New England Culinary

Institute, Culinary Institute of America at Greystone and 5-Star Inn at Spanish Bay Resort in Pebble Beach, CA.

**Experience includes:** Whole Foods Market, an upscale retailer of natural and organic products, and work on several motion pictures cooking for Robert De Niro, Martin Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio.

In the world of cooking, we're always guided by seasons, which determine the availability of local fresh ingredients. As

we move from winter to spring, it's exciting to start thinking about lighter, flavourful food and of course one of my addictions — BBQ. Ah, there's nothing like cooking outside over an open flame.

Would you believe I worked in a place in Carmel, California where there was not one drop of rain for seven months? My kitchen had no roof and every meal was served outside. BBQ was a huge part of our menu. So expect to see lots of tips and recipes for the grill, including desserts. My students are frequently surprised to hear that amazing desserts come off the grill, like grilled bananas with honey rum glaze, grilled fruit salad and grilled pound cake with strawberry sauce. I'll even share with you how to smoke ribs on your gas grill. I realize that most of you may still have some snow covering your BBQ, so I'll leave you today with a simple, quick, yummy recipe for oven-baked baby back ribs. Email me and let me know how they turn out; I'd love to see a photo. You can check out my website and cooking classes here: [www.ecca.ca](http://www.ecca.ca).

## Asian Oven-Baked Marinated Ribs

Serves 4

- 1 1/4 cups light brown sugar
- 1 cup soy sauce
- 1 tbsp. Asian sesame oil
- 1/4 tsp. crushed red chile flakes
- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 two-inch piece peeled fresh ginger, finely chopped
- 3 lbs. pork baby back ribs, 2-3 racks
- 3 scallions, thinly sliced.

1. Whisk together brown sugar, soy sauce, sesame oil, chile flakes, garlic, ginger, and 1/4 cup water in a large Pyrex dish. Add the ribs and toss to coat. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and let marinate for at least one hour at room temperature, or refrigerate overnight, turning occasionally to coat. You can also cut each rack in half and put the ribs and marinade



in a ziplock bag.

2. Heat oven to 450°. Remove ribs from marinade and arrange, curved side up, on a rack set over a rimmed foil-lined baking sheet. Roast for 20 minutes.

3. Meanwhile, heat the marinade in a two-quart saucepan over medium-high heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, until thick and syrupy, about 15-20 minutes. The marinade contains sugar, which burns easy so be careful not to burn it by letting all the liquid evaporate.

4. Reduce heat to 400. Using tongs, flip ribs and cook, basting frequently with the reduced marinade, until the ribs are browned, glazed, and tender, about 20-25 minutes. Transfer ribs to a platter, brush with any leftover marinade and garnish with scallions.

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## Drawings of eyes on exhibit

*continued from p. 12*

nothing serious. But mother's instincts were telling her something else.

On their return to Boston, where they were living at the time, Brais and her mother visited the Newton-Wellesley Hospital, where she was diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA), also known as juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. Its symptoms are often non-specific initially and can include lethargy, reduced physical activity and poor appetite but commonly lead to joint inflammation.

Eyes are affected in some forms of the

disease. In Brais' case, a swelling in her right eye eventually lead to a cataract and a change in the colour of her iris.

Thirteen years after the diagnosis, the teen has been able to reduce the number of daily eye treatments from 15 to one, and can see perfectly from both eyes with the aid of a contact lense.

The physical differences of Brais' eyes was the characteristic that interested Scheer, who has created a series of pencil drawings of eyes. Scheer has worked with ophthalmologist Dr. Mark Lesk, looking deep into patient's eyes with the use of a slit lamp. "The eye is a universe where

consciousness and the sublime reside," said Scheer.

In an email, Brais described the artist: "Ewa Scheer captures the light, beauty and most importantly the life within the human eye, and it is this that is most fascinating and remarkable."

An exhibition of Scheer's drawings "The Beautiful Organ," including Brais' left eye in a work titled "The Precious Eye" and the right, damaged eye in "The Miracle Eye," opens Monday, April 4 and runs to April 29) at the George Laoun Boutique, 1368 Sherbrooke St. (beside the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts).

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# Retail Watch BY LAUREN O'LOUGHLIN

## Niche Décor relocating to St. Henri

Niche Décor, previously located 435 Prince Albert Ave., opened its new premises in St. Henri on March 1. Its new address is 3289 St. Jacques St., corner of Greene Ave. Co-owner Lori McGuigan explained “We offer a full range in home décor and clothing from the very afford-



Lori McGuigan of Niche Décor

able to more luxury items.” When asked what instigated the move, she answered, “a bigger location and more visibility was the main reason.”

## My Cup of Tea asks customers to visit St. Laurent store

The tea supplier that was open at 344A Victoria has posters plastered on its front windows referring customers to its website and to a store on St. Laurent. Its phone line is also disconnected. – Independent



My Cup of Tea closed up.

## Bark & Fitz to move to NDG

Bark & Fitz, a dog nutrition, accessory and grooming business, will be moving on April 13. The store is currently located at



4868 Sherbrooke in Westmount and will be moving to 5671 Sherbrooke on the corner of Oxford Ave. in NDG.

Owner Evelyn Couture, formerly a resident of Elm Ave. stated, “in the long run it will be better for customers.” Among many reasons for moving, Couture says

that the new location is “more accessible, there is better parking, and it is more suitable as there is a larger grooming area.”

The bigger space will allow Bark & Fitz to have a “larger food and treat selection” in store.

## Mocassini didn't renew lease

Greene Ave. shoe and boot retailer Mocassini didn't renew its lease and has closed shop. The phone number has been disconnected. – Independent

## Minelli vanished

The women's clothing store located on the corner of Sherbrooke and Prince Albert closed its doors in late December. The store's listed phone number has an automated message that says it is no longer in service. – Independent

*The content in Retail Watch is researched and written by the Independent. Businesses that appear do not pay for or approve what is written.*

# Coco and Chanel, a matched pair



day and a fenced yard so that these two can spend lots of time outdoors. With just a little TLC, Coco and Chanel will blossom into the confident, happy dogs they were meant to be.

You can contact the SPCA emergency shelter directly at 514.915.7311 or adoptions.spca@gmail.com. You can also visit the e-shelter at 7314 Mountain Sights, from 12 to 8, Monday to Friday and from 11 to 5 weekends.

Find out about other dogs needing homes by visiting [www.underdogclub.org](http://www.underdogclub.org). You can also drop a line to [contact@underdogclub.org](mailto:contact@underdogclub.org), or The Underdog Club, PO box 67 1214 Greene Ave., Westmount, QC H3Z 2A4.

Through good and bad, Coco and Chanel have always had each other. The SPCA emergency shelter wants to keep it that way.

Chanel, a five-year-old black Lab, and Coco, her two-year-old chocolate Lab daughter, shared a happy home until economic disaster struck. When their owner lost her home, Coco and Chanel were turned over to the SPCA.

It's often tough to find an adopter who is willing to take two dogs at once, but the shelter wants to find a single household willing to do so.

“They are deeply bonded, and so we feel it would be best to keep them together,” said Marilyn Gelfand of the e-shelter.

She describes the pair as “gorgeous, sweet and quiet.” They are also more than a little sad and confused about their strange temporary home.

Coco is coming out of her shell and offers a friendly wag to everyone she meets. Mother Chanel is still watchful and protective of her pup, but even she only needs a little encouragement to warm up.

These dogs are in good health, except for a little kennel cough that is being treated. They are house-trained, and the SPCA will spay them and bring them up to date on all vaccinations.

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Chanel and Coco.



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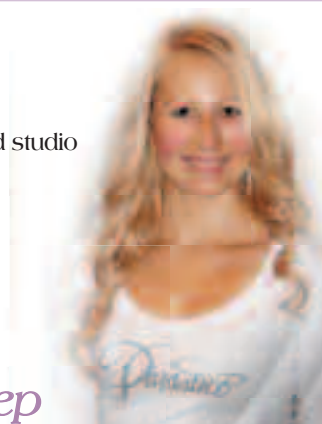
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# Properties to love ... and live



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## **WESTMOUNT 10 Place Braeside \$4,500,000**

Timeless, elegant, sophisticated, classic... there are not enough words to describe the beauty of this magnificent residence. The understated elegance of this home can only be appreciated once you are inside. Call for a visit today.



## **WESTMOUNT 70 Forden Crescent \$1,975,000**

This stately and elegant semi-detached with 4+1 bedrooms is located on a quiet crescent and just steps to Murray Park. A finished basement, new electric furnace, leaded windows are a few of the added features.



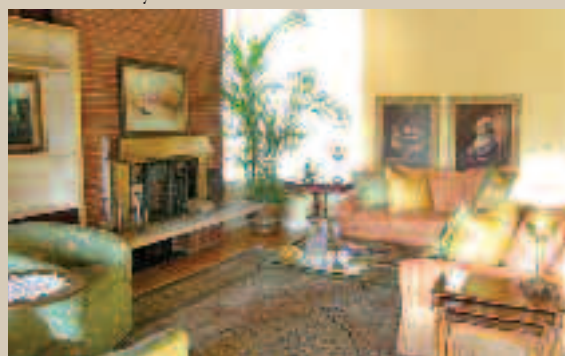
## **MONTREAL 3005 Chemin Barat \$1,175,000**

Walk to downtown from this lovely and charming attached home. Renovated with great care in a contemporary style that has not compromised the architectural cachet of the home. Finished basement, wine cellar, garage, and so much more.



## **WESTMOUNT 4302 Montrose \$2,465,000**

Detached residence with a double garage offering 5+1 bedrooms, elegant living space as well as informal finished basement. Close to all private schools and a large property with room for a pool. A mid-level beauty that should not be missed.



## **WESTMOUNT 52 de Lavigne \$1,395,000**

Are you ready to downsize? This detached home is for you... a split-level classic with amazing views of the city in winter and privacy provided by mature trees in summer. A double garage is a bonus!!!



## **DOWNTOWN 1200 de Maisonneuve, 16E \$865,000**

Live in the heart of downtown in this sun-filled condo with view of the mountain. Features include 2 bedrooms, 2 bathroom, granite countertop, wood floors, close to everything. Interior parking included, all amenities.



## **WESTMOUNT 492 Strathcona \$2,195,000**

Located between Murray and Westmount Parks is a lovely and bright detached home with 2 car garage, 7 bedrooms, large kitchen, terraces, beautiful fireplaces and wood floors. An opportunity to put your roots in Westmount.



## **WESTMOUNT 414 Wood Ave. \$1,295,000**

This charming coach house has been renovated with care and attention to details. Perfect for a couple who are ready to downsize but are not ready for a condo. Facing a park and walking distance to downtown or Greene.



## **NEW RENTAL NDG 4462 Harvard \$3800/month**

Located in the heart of Monkland Village is this completely renovated lower duplex with 2 bedrooms, finished basement, everything completely new! Amazing 20 x 13 covered balcony off the kitchen.

Deeply rooted value



## Marie Sicotte

Affiliated Real Estate Agent Groupe Sutton Centre-Ouest BKR

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