

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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We are Westmount

May 17-18, 2011

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Boeckh foundation creates Samarthji Lal award

Symposium to highlight mental health breakthroughs

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

What is being billed as a cutting-edge symposium on mental health is bringing together key global researchers May 26 to seek new directions in the field spearheaded by Westmount investment forecaster Tony Boeckh.

"To our knowledge, this is the first time in Canada an event of this level will feature such a star-studded line-up of world class mental health researchers," said Boeckh.

The occasion will also recognize the work of the late Dr. Samarthji Lal, another Westmounter, through the inauguration of a newly created research award in his name by Graham Boeckh Foundation.

The "Frontiers in Mental Health Symposium" is co-sponsored by the Graham Boeckh Foundation, of which Tony Boeckh is president, and the Toronto-based Gairdner Foundation.

It takes place at the Centre Mont-Royal with the aim of highlighting effective research outcomes.

Pitiful payoff

"Until now, billions of dollars have been put into research with pitiful pay-

off," Boeckh told the *Independent*. This is largely because government funding tends to be conservative and focuses on incremental results.

"We need to aggressively seek out new and better treatments, and channel our resources into areas where the probability of breakthroughs is the highest," he said. "To get breakthroughs, we need to tap into the smartest researchers in the world."

Many of these will be presenting at the symposium, which is open to all health-care professionals and others interested in mental health issues by advance registration without charge.

Doidge to speak

Expected to attract an even wider public is a concluding lecture at 5:15 pm by Norman Doidge, author of *The Brain that Changes Itself*, who will address the brain's ability to compensate for damaged portions.

"This is the biggest breakthrough in understanding the brain," Boeckh said. Doidge's lecture, he said, "will blow people's minds – no pun intended. It will capture their imagination, especially regarding stroke and Alzheimer's."

The Graham Boeckh Foundation was founded by Tony Boeckh in memory of his eldest son, a Westmount graduate of LCC, whose death in 1986, at age 22, due to schizophrenia was a catalyst in the foundation's

MUHC piling to continue into summer, traffic snarls

BY ISAAC OLSON

Knock, knock. Who's there? More piling and continued traffic snarls as work crews with the city of Montreal and McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) struggle to make up for time lost to rainy weather, a near-bankrupt contractor and other unexpected complications.

During a meeting of the Committee for Good Neighbourly Relations on May 10, Charles Chebl, senior vice president with SNC-Lavalin, announced late June as the new finish

continued on p. 8

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Don't Miss It
"Dining on the Avenue"
Thurs., May 19, See p. 19.

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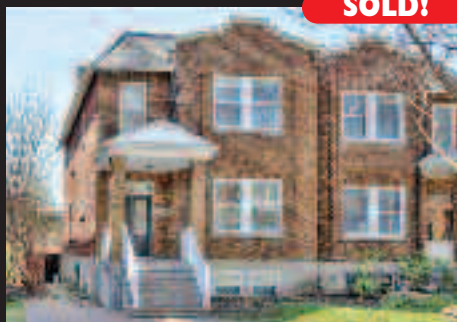
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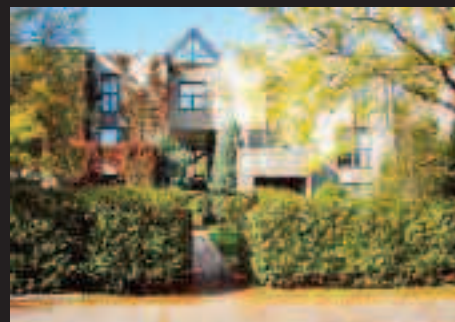
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Parade gone, inflatable games added

Upcoming Family Day geared to changing times

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

This year's Westmount Family Day is expected to start with a bang on May 28. But not to the traditional sound of drums.

After 35 years, the dwindling parade has been abandoned in favour of a rousing start of activities at the same time throughout Westmount Park at 10 am, said Claude Danis, the city's program and community services coordinator.

The parade, which traditionally started off at 9:30 am, had begun to wane in recent years, she explained. It attracted fewer participants and was becoming logistically challenging to organize.

"So, we're changing with the times and starting off with a real bang," she said. "This means the park will be the place to be at 10 o'clock."

That's when races take off, face painting starts, the petting zoo and pony rides

begin and five inflatable games will start up – an increase over the three of last year. And that's also by popular demand.

The Scouts' climbing wall, the army's aerial runway over the lagoon and many exhibits of community groups will also be featured. Police will provide baby-seat installation and checks (see p. 10).

At lunchtime, people will be able to buy refreshments, including the traditional hot dogs and drinks from Girl Guides and Scouts.

Novelty races kick off the afternoon program highlighted by the carnival booths in which "everyone's a winner," Danis pointed out. While most of the main attractions will continue through to 4 pm, the petting zoo and pony rides will wind down by 2 pm.

A schedule of events is expected to be delivered to all households.

Tour de l'Île to bring hundreds of cyclists into Westmount

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It's only two weeks away. And this year's route for the Tour de l'Île on Sunday, June 5 will close off a number of Westmount streets, according to Public Security officials.

Among them are Claremont, from top to bottom, and the dead-end portions of its intersecting streets such as Parkman Pl., Windsor and Chesterfield. As a result, anyone who parks on those sections or in the driveways can expect to be locked in for a major part of the cycling event.

"We think people will want to know

about this as soon as possible so they can make their plans accordingly," said Assistant Director Greg McBain.

The route selected by tour organizers for this year will bring the hundreds of cyclists east along NDG Ave., south on Claremont and east along St. Catherine to the Lansdowne/Glen intersection, where they will turn south to St. Jacques.

Further information, details and times as applicable for Westmount residents are expected in the next week. The tour website, which contains the route's map, is www.veloquebec.info.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PRESSURING WESTMOUNT

The water pressure in our area has been drastically increased in recent weeks.

Upon investigation, I discovered that within the 200 Lansdowne building alone, several residents have incurred expensive plumbing repairs due to extreme water pressure. Upon contacting the Westmount Public Works department to obtain answers, I was passed around from one fonctionnaire to another.

The only useful information and ultimately the solution was supplied by Westmount Plumbing, and consequently our building is in the process of installing a system that will control and reduce the pressure.

I was told the normal water pressure should be approximately 80 pounds per square inch. Pipes, fixtures and valves are calibrated to that level.

We are currently receiving anywhere from 130 to 150 pounds of pressure. The consequences can be expensive and far reaching, such as breakage of various plumbing fixtures, valves, pipes, etc. Safety valves on hot water tanks are calibrated to 125 pounds pressure.

The city of Montreal, which manipulates the water system, “according to their needs on various construction projects,” has never advised us of their actions.

Worse, Westmount Public Works was aware of both the cause and consequence,

yet never published any public notice or advised people how they can prevent expensive disasters from happening. Whether this was through negligence, ignorance or non-caring is almost irrelevant.

It is a frightening thought that the same people are in charge of constructing a \$40-million arena complex! And if the same level of incompetence exists, this does not bode well for the future of this or any other project.

ANDREW LIEBMANN, LANSDOWNE AVE.

MISSING GREENE REST SPOT

It was a pleasure welcoming the arrival of the Bixi station at Greene and de Maisonneuve this week; but it also served as a reminder of the lamentable absence of the former gathering place on the plaza near the 5 Saisons store across the street. The spot, complete with tables, chairs and umbrellas, had long served locals and others who gathered there for *al fresco* lunches, and especially the many seniors for whom it served as a place to linger on an afternoon stroll, or to break up their walk to and from the grocery store. Here, they would sit for a few minutes and greet each other and chat.

Surely if we can find the budget and space for Bixi stations and their constituency, at least as much can be done to temporarily replace the “rest stop” in front of the 5 Saisons.

Perhaps it could be located adjacent to the Bixi station or even on the large and mostly unused plaza at the Greene Ave. entrance to Westmount Square until the re-opening of the new 5 Saisons.

DAVID ENGELS, OLIVIER AVE.

DOG LICENSE OVER THE TOP?

Having to carry a licensing card? (“Dog keepers must carry new licence,” May 10, p. 6). This is absolute nonsense. The current dog tags work just fine.

Was this the idea of bureaucrats with too much time their hands? A better idea would be to license all the bike riders and then enforce the traffic laws.

STEPHEN O’BRIEN, GROSVENOR AVE.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Parks and Urban Planning, replies: “The need for such a card is to make it easier to check dogs carrying Westmount dog tags. It was felt that the Public Security officer would not have to physically examine the collar on the dog if the owner were carrying this card. Not all dogs are open to being approached by our personnel, and this would reduce the chances of being bitten while the officers are carrying out their responsibilities. This applies particularly in the dog runs where the animals are not on a leash and checking the tags is difficult.”

BIXI NEEDS HELMETS

Last week’s announcement that Bixi bikes will be available in Westmount raises the question of bicycle helmets.

I understand they’re not mandatory in Quebec, but I think there’s a general consensus that they do provide major protection for the cyclist.

While most regular cyclists probably do wear helmets, I think it would be reasonable to assume that the casual renter wouldn’t carry (or even own) one. Given the furor that erupted earlier this week over the dooring accident on Van Horne (in which the cyclist, reportedly, wasn’t wearing a helmet), has anyone stopped to

consider the implications of so many more people, some with only limited cycling experience, riding around without one?

WILFRID DE FREITAS, KITCHENER AVE.

A REFERENCE FOR HÉBERT

I am pleased to report that we at St. Matthias’ Church hired Jean-Guy Hébert to help out at our recent rummage sale.

He was fabulous – cheerful, thoughtful and most helpful. He responded to the opportunity we offered with enthusiasm, arrived on time and stayed to the bitter end. His presence was appreciated by all the hard-working volunteers.

I recommend him highly for any job he agrees to undertake.

LOY DENIS, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

BIXIS WON’T SLOW CYCLISTS DOWN ON BIKE PATH

This is in response to a comment made by Councillor Gary Ikeman in the May 10 article (“Bixis hit the road in Westmount,” p. 3) where he says “the Bixis would help reduce speeding on the de Maisonneuve bike path.”*

How do you figure Mr. Ikeman? I live on Kensington just north of de Maisonneuve, and I literally fear for my life when driving on Kensington below de Maisonneuve heading north. I make a complete stop, inch my way forward and often have to jam on my brakes again for cyclists, who not only are cycling way above the speed limit, but fail to stop at all along the entire strip of de Maisonneuve.

I challenge you to ring my bell at any time, and I will gladly stand with you on the corner of my street and de Maisonneuve, and you can witness what I live every day during bike season.

TRACEY WINTER, KENSINGTON AVE.

* *Editor’s note: The preface to Councillor Gary Ikeman’s quotation is his reference to the Bixis’ “heavy duty” design that would help reduce speeding.*

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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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.

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In NDG & Hampstead last week:

- New NDP MP Morin says she is eager to get to work in NDG-Lachine
- Poll: Majority of Hampsteaders favour 16-storey condo at old Macdonald firehall

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Doug McDougall was WMA president

Businessman and community leader Douglass McDougall died suddenly early Sunday morning, May 15, at the Royal Victoria Hospital. He had been fighting cancer for several years but had remained active and interested in municipal affairs. He was 64.

McDougall is survived by his wife Sally Drury, daughter of the late C.H. (Chip) Drury, mayor of Westmount from 1963 to 1964, and four sons – Todd, John, Reid and Peter – as well as several grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements had yet to be announced at press time Monday morning.

McDougall was president of the Westmount Municipal Association from 1998 to 2000, involved in the merger/demerger fight, and chaired the board of the Westmount YMCA during the period of its renovations and capital campaign.

“He was a great leader – an extraordinary guy who was strong willed and opinionated,” said Councillor Victor Drury, his first cousin.

To Councillor Kathleen *continued on p. 7*


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Arena skeptics distribute flyer

Compost to be moved to plant exchange

Any city compost leftover from the distribution Saturday, May 13, is expected to be moved to the site of the arena for the Perennial Plant Exchange this Wednesday, May 18, according to Public Works officials. Shovels will also be provided but anyone wanting compost should bring their own bags.

Arena plan opposition has gone old school – the door-to-door delivery of flyers by mail.

Residents of Westmount received a single sheet of paper in their mailboxes starting May 12 opposing the arena/pool plan. The unsigned, English-language flyer asks residents whether they are “concerned about the financial, social, environmental, traffic and security problems of this minimum \$37 million” project. It then encourages them to sign a petition on the web by searching for “Change Westmount

Arena Plan.” The first site that comes up using those search words on Google is the www.ipetitions.com signup sponsored by Save the Park! (See story, April 26, p. 5).

Save the Park! spokesman Patrick Barnard told the *Independent* that both the organization and other supporters had provided the funds for the flyer. He also said that, for reasons of economy, only the “H3Z” postal prefix (Westmount below Sherbrooke) had been targeted and that the mailing was expected to be completely distributed by May 16, the same day he was contacted. He had seen a bump in the petition results after each of the first two distribution days. The petition had 294 signatories at 10 am that day.

Is Barnard optimistic about changing council’s plans? He is upbeat, while refusing to make predictions. The matter is “now in the hands of a large number of people” as opposed to smaller group of interested people, he said. “It’s a dynamic process.”

And what kind of result is he looking for: a reversal by council, a waiting period or something else? “Transparency.”

The new arena/pool plan now has a project manager, Genivar Inc., and a

fundraising advisor, Colleen MacKinnon (see stories April 26 and May 10, p. 1). The city is preparing a package for bidders and could choose a contractor by September. Groundbreaking could also be that month, after the pool closes for the summer, with the possibility of some preparatory work being done beforehand.

Beatlemania is back

The Beatles – or at least a good facsimile of the real thing – will be making an appearance on Wednesday, May 25 at Victoria Hall, where they’ll perform a concert called “Replay – The Beatles.”

According to a press release issued by the Westmount community events department about the performers, Replay “has that special ability to recreate the magic of the era through their costumes, musical ability and Beatle-like stage presence.”

John Oriattas, Jean-François Cyr, Ted Doyle and Ricardo Branchini (who portray Paul, George, Ringo and John respectively) are seasoned professional musicians who’ve been active since the early 1970s.

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Garneau steps up in the interim

BY MARLENE EISNER

Westmount-Ville Marie MP Marc Garneau wants to help rebuild the Liberal Party of Canada and says he can do it as its interim leader.

Garneau, who won by a 658-vote margin over NDP candidate Joanne Corbeil in the May 2 election, last week announced his intentions after Michael Ignatieff lost his seat in Etobicoke-Lakeshore and stepped down as party leader.

“Obviously we just suffered a humbling defeat, and we need to rebuild and we need an interim leader,” Garneau said.

“I do not aspire to be a permanent leader but I do have a set of skills to help with the rebuilding process, which starts with choosing an interim leader.”

Those skills come from his tenure as president of the Canadian Space Agency, where he was responsible for a number of projects, a \$300 million-a-year budget and a staff of 700.

Garneau certainly has his work cut out for him. Canadians sent a strong message that virtually decimated the Liberals, giving them only 34 seats in the house of commons, the fewest number in the party’s history.

“We need a number of things to do to gain the credibility that has eroded over the last few years,” he says.

“We are at the crossroads in the life of our party. We’re up against the wall, and I felt a strong personal motivation to do as much as I could to help. I think the interim job will be particularly crucial.”

As for his responsibilities in his own riding, Garneau could not say for sure how the added role as interim leader would affect his availability to constituents.

“I might be called upon to travel more and most certainly I would be [travelling more], but I think I would still be a good MP for Westmount-Ville Marie.”

Since the election, he has been asked if he will run for party leader, but Garneau says he’s not interested.

“I wanted to help improve the image of politics and it was never my intention to run for party leadership. It was my intention to be a good and competent MP.”

To date, no one else has come forward to vie for the interim leader position, although there is still time. The party has until May 30 to make its selection, which will be done as soon as the caucus meets, “probably in the next 10 days.”

McDougall

continued from p. 5

Duncan, who succeeded McDougall as president of the WMA and regards him as a mentor, “he regenerated the WMA as a viable organization to represent citizens outside of council.”

She recalled the WMA survey of municipal services he had spearheaded which was subsequently used by the city as a guide to future planning.

McDougall, who had grown up in Westmount, moved with his wife after the demerger to a pied-a-terre in the trendy St. Ambroise district. They spent much of their time at homes in the Eastern Townships and the Laurentians.

Correction

In “Digital literacy project aims to help groups get comfy with technology,” (May 10, p. 33), the HipHopNoPop program was incorrectly described as an Atwater Library program. It is an independent community program. It was not accurate to say youth participants learn how to make video documentaries in the HipHopNoPop program.

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Superhospital sewer installation delayed due to rain

continued from p. 1

date for the main piling, with the exception of a smaller month-long project slated for August near the Vendôme train station.

Chebl couldn't speak for the planned installation of the Shriners Hospital for Children which, he said, will be built in Block A, located in the southwestern section of the site. The MUHC's Children's Hospital has been modified to accommodate the addition, though more piling will likely be needed given the quality of the soil. There were no estimates for when the Shriners project will start, though media reports have indicated construction will begin this coming fall.

"It just seems to be getting longer and longer and longer," Westmounter Wanda Potrykus told Chebl during the meeting. "First we were given one date, then another date and then it was May. Now we're in May and we don't have an exact date. If it's going to be Christmas, tell us Christmas."

Potrykus, a York St. resident, said she struggles to rent out her apartments. While knocking on the table methodically, she added, "it drives you nuts. I don't know how the people on the site do it."

Chebl said piling is a very special activity that "you cannot have control over like you do, for example, concrete work."

This comes as Alain Trudeau, Montreal's site manager, reports that sewer in-

stallation, needed to accommodate the hospital and mitigate area flooding, was delayed by rain and, like the piling, some unforeseen technical difficulties. Also, the contractor working on Decarie Blvd. nearly went bankrupt, he explained, meaning a new crew will be brought in with only 20 percent of the work complete.

Citing environmental concerns and frustrating congestion, Westmounter Maureen Kiely suggested somebody be hired to direct traffic at problematic intersections. Montreal city officials said they

would consider her suggestion, though they quickly changed subjects without elaborating.

In other news, Pierre Major, the MUHC's associate director of facilities development and construction, said the MUHC has been working with Quebec's minister of Municipal Affairs in an effort to force Westmount to allow construction workers to access the site via Glen Rd. Westmount's zoning specifically allows the gated route to be used only in emergency situations.

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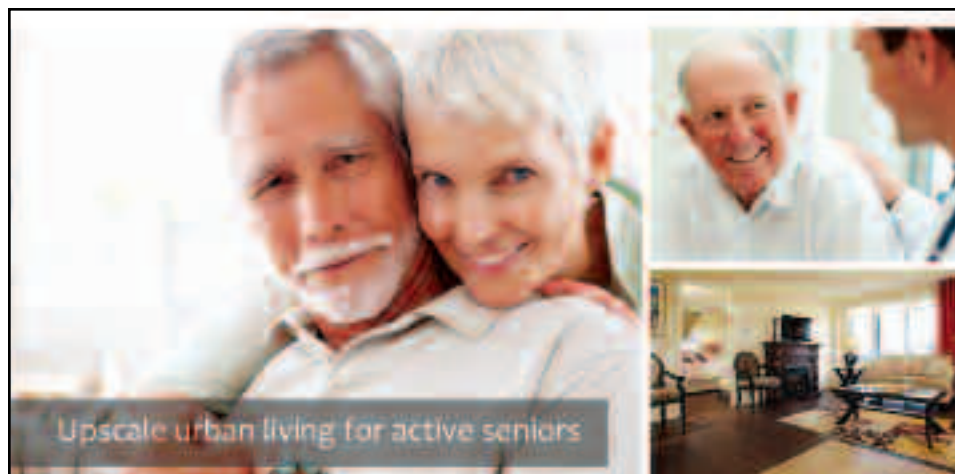
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Rec Centre Q & A

MUHC site, underground playing, Lemay's selection

Councillor Patrick Martin, the chair of the recreation centre committee, has invited Westmounters to write him with questions and comments about the project and plan.

You can contact him with further questions at pmartin@westmount.org. Your questions and his answers will appear in subsequent issues of the *Independent*, space permitting. Please indicate whether you want your name published or not.

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

Why not on MUHC's eastern portion?

The MUHC hospital has again recently reaffirmed that it does not intend to build on the Westmount side of the site (south of the CPR tracks) and that it wishes to keep it as a green space. Why could Westmount not have bought land there to develop the arena pool project? We would have saved the underground construction expenses. Also, the city has access rights from the Glen Rd. and, furthermore, an underground passage already exists near Westmount railway station.

– John Fretz, Lansdowne Ave.

Although the MUHC does not intend to build immediately on the Westmount portion of its land, it is holding it in reserve for future expansion. It is not for sale. We have checked with them, twice.

In any case, as we all can hear every morning starting at about 7:30 am, construction in the MUHC area requires the driving of deep piles due to the poor quality of the soil. It would be expensive. And, of course, it would cost about \$5 million to buy the land if it were for sale, further adding to the project cost.

The recreation centre project site under the southwest corner of Westmount Park is indeed the best location for our new building, as it sits on soil of good bearing capacity, and it allows the economies of scale of proximity to other community facilities.

As for the underground passage near the railway station, this is somewhat of an urban myth. In fact, the old Victoria Ave. railway station once had a narrow passageway under the tracks to the south side for eastbound commuters, but it is now in poor condition and is subject to water infiltrations. It is owned by the railway, which would be highly reluctant to allowing its use for non-railway purposes, under their precious tracks above. – PM

Who will play underground?

Underground rinks are a brilliant idea on

paper, but will people want to play hockey underground?

– John Fretz, Lansdowne Ave.

Yes, of course they will. The fact that the roof of the new ice rinks will be grass and trees and tennis courts will make it a very special place. The ice surface will not be much lower than that of the Lachine arena, and not as deep as some others in Montreal. There are many newly built underground gymnasiums, including ones in Westmount, that are very popular. Going underground is becoming a standard for new sports facilities in densely populated urban areas.

– PM

How was Lemay selected?

I would like to obtain the following information concerning the project: with regard to the selection of the architectural firm, was open competition considered for selection?

– Janos Baracs, Springfield Ave.

The selection of the project architects was undertaken a few years ago, under the previous council. At that time, the standard procedure of the city of Westmount for the selection of professional services firms was followed. It involved the preparation of detailed terms of reference including the expected scope of the project (the “programme”), and a widely published invitation to bidders, open to all firms having a licence to practise in Quebec. Twelve groups of consultants responded. The interested architects were expected to team up with engineering firms to complement their bid with expertise in structural, electrical and mechanical engineering. A proposal evaluation committee composed of senior relevant city staff declared Lemay & Assoc the winners, together with their team’s engineering firms CIMA+ and BPR.

At the time, some consideration had

been given to an open competition, whereby as a first step, there is an open invitation to all architectural firms to submit their qualifications for a project of this type, and the city’s evaluating committee then selects between three and five firms as having the best presentations. These latter firms are then each given a budget to develop a concept, in competition with each other. A jury panel then must be set

up to evaluate and compare various proposed concepts, and a winner selected. It can be a time-consuming and expensive process, and often controversial. Westmount rather adopted the traditional route for selection of architects.

– PM

Spinners raise money for Y's Strong Kids



Lynn Herzog, centre, reaches the end of a frantic session of spinning held at the Westmount YMCA on May 15 as a fundraiser for the Westmount branch's Strong Kids Campaign. The fundraiser, chaired by Westmounter Susan Doherty, supported the campaign that helps send children with special needs to summer camp. According to a Y official, at least \$1,000 was raised during the morning marathon. Also seen in the front row of the photo are Monroe Charlap, left, and Laurie Rosenthal.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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Lieut. Liboiron joins Éclipse

Crime remains constant, and low

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Little change was reported in the incidence of crime in Westmount during March with the trend continuing into April, according to local police Station 12 commander Stéphane Plourde.

Many Westmounters who had come to know the station's lieutenant, Pierre Liboiron – the second-in-command – may be interested to know he has received a promotion and has left the station after seven years, Plourde said.

Liboiron is now the acting commander of Groupe Éclipse, an anti-gang squad formed in 2008 but recently reoriented to target criminals in general “since street gangs are no longer a problem.”



*Pierre Liboiron has left Westmount
 after seven years.*

Interestingly, it was a well-liked former Station 12 commander, Natalia Shuster, who took command of Eclipse when it was formed.

“Pierre was well known in the community, all the time adjusting to different leadership styles under four different station commanders,” Plourde explained. “He had the mindset of a commander and never counted his hours.” He served under Patrick Lalonde, Shuster, Michel Wilson and Plourde.

Liboiron was thanked in absentia for his service to Westmount during the May 3 city council meeting by Public Security commissioner Gary Ikeman.

Until a successor is chosen, Sgt. Marie-Claude Dandenault will be assuming his responsibilities.

Family Day to feature baby seat check

Representatives of the police department's mounted squad will mingle on horseback with those attending Westmount Family Day on Saturday, May 28, Plourde said.

Officers from Station 12 will also park a cruiser on site for visitors to “inspect” up close. As well, Community Relations officer Adalbert Pimentel will be available to

discuss crime prevention issues.

Police will also help install baby seats or check out those already in place. “It's important for people to take a new seat out of its box first so it is ready to be attached,” he said. “We don't want to be given a baby seat that's all packaged.”

Proper use of car seats can be complicated depending of the size and age of the child and the type of car involved.

Working with Inuit visitors

Following the move April 10 of Nunavik House into the YMCA refugee residence (the former Reddy Memorial Hospital) on Tupper St., police have been working with those in charge to help familiarize the visitors – patients who come to Montreal from the far north for medical treatment and their caregivers.

“We're working on a brochure and a video to show them what to expect of big city life before they arrive here,” Plourde said. “They can be targetted as easy victims of theft or other crimes because they tend to trust people and often come to Montreal with larger amounts of money for shopping.”

“We want them to be safe and return home with good memories of Montreal.”

Selected crime stats from Station 12

November '10 to April '11 – Westmount

Type of crime reported	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
Break and enter	10	7	10	3	2	4
Robbery (theft with violence)	2	0	2	2	2	0
Theft from vehicles	13	14	18	21	20	28
Theft of vehicles	2	2	4	3	1	3
Graffiti	23	21	42	16	19	21
Hit and run	16	21	21	31	21	13

NB: Statistics released by local station 12 no longer include sexual assault, a broad category that may often be mistaken only for rape cases.



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Techno Titanz celebrate at Westmount Park School



The Techno Titanz and their "technical support" team. From left: Leftraru Gonzales-Tucas, Vaibhav Nandakumar, Alan Koblansky, Jamarko Jervis Babb, Ethan Wong, Pamela Price, Darren Garbish, Jerron Santhiapillai, Khaleem Curtis-Inniss, and Jun Woo Kim. Photo courtesy of Westmount Park Elementary School.

BY LAUREN O'LOUGHLIN

The "Techno Titanz," students of the after-school computer refurbishment program at Westmount Park Elementary

School, celebrated the program's first year at the school. To mark the event and acknowledge the hard work done by both students and staff an award ceremony was held at on May 11 at the school.

Students formally thanked Don MacKinnon of the Rotary Club; Allan Kabelansky, the program's creator; Pamela Price, the school's resource teacher and principal Nathalie Lacroix-Maillette.

The students received Techno Titanz t-shirts, which were donated by Rotary. They were delighted by the presence of a TV cameraman from CTV who was present to cover the event. The ceremony was followed by a pizza party.

The after-school program teaches students *continued on p. 18*



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A Churchill Society gets started in Westmount

BY LAUREN O'LOUGHLIN

Bruce Kippen of Mount Pleasant Ave. is the man behind the founding of Montreal's chapter of the International Churchill Society of Canada (ICSC).

The ICSC's aim is to "foster leadership, statesmanship, vision, courage and boldness among democratic and freedom-loving peoples worldwide through the thoughts, words, works and deeds of Winston Spencer Churchill," according to the society's official website.

Kippen's endeavour began about a year ago with the compilation of a list of people he felt were "Churchillian" and proceeded to send them invitations to join the

society. "I received 50 to 60 responses," he said.

From there, the group established an official charter. To celebrate its inauguration, the Montreal ICSC will host a dinner on May 13 at the University Club of Montreal, where Randolph Churchill, the great-grandson of Winston Churchill, will share his memories of Churchill's early life.

Kippen met with the Churchill family during his visit to London and had the honour of meeting with the now late Winston Spencer



Bruce Kippen stopped by the Indie newsroom the day of the ICSC's inaugural dinner, May 13.

Churchill, grandson of the British prime minister.

When asked what motivated him to start the Montreal chapter, Kippen explained, "I have been a student for many years of Churchill's career. I have always followed it closely, and as I travelled around Canada, to Calgary [and] Toronto, and to the US, I discovered there were ICS chapters there. They said, 'Why don't you start one in Montreal?'"

The society holds regular events where influential

guest speakers are invited to share their personal stories, and is responsible for the Churchill Canada Award, bestowed on individuals who have worked towards preserving the memory of the late prime minister.

ICS membership is open to all, and membership fees begin at \$60. Members receive a quarterly publication called *Finest Hour*, titled after a speech given by Churchill a month after he became prime minister. Regular bulletins are also sent to inform members of events and talks that take place across the North America. Information on membership and events can be found at <http://www.winstonchurchill-canada.ca/index.php>.



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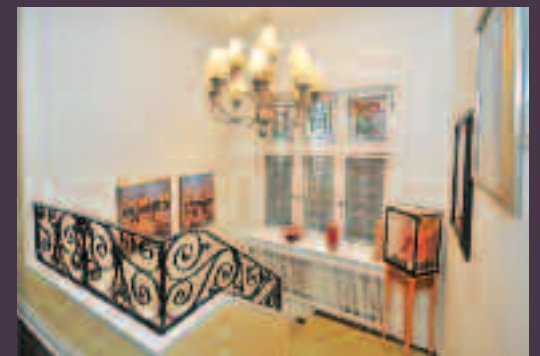
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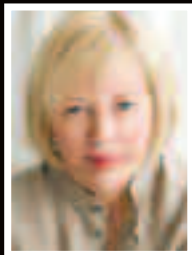


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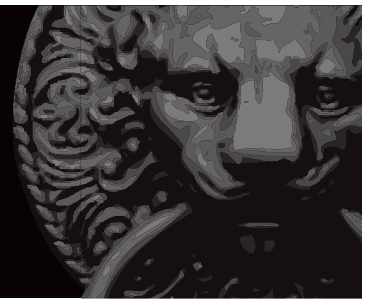
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Westmount Profile: Maureen Kiely

Uniting career with community service

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

What is it that drives a busy healthcare professional like Maureen Kiely to become so persistently and doggedly involved in community causes over three decades?

“It comes through from my family,” she says. “My father was involved in everything.”

And her penchant for detail comes from “rigorous scientific thinking” that developed through her training and career as a researcher in psychiatry – which requires precision and accuracy, she explains.

“I try never to ask a question unless I have a reason to – even if you may not agree with my reasons. And the same questions keep on presenting themselves over the years,” adds the regular city council meeting attendee.

With the title of McGill assistant professor in psychiatry and MUHC medical scientist, Kiely has spent most of her career after 1978 working at the Montreal General in collaboration with her husband, the late Dr. Samarthji Lal, a prominent biological psychiatrist in Montreal,

who has himself been honored recently (see story p. 1).

Nevertheless, Kiely made time to serve on the board of the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA), the city’s now defunct Citizens’ Traffic Advisory Committee and the board of the Municipal Housing Bureau in Westmount. She was a demerger “foot soldier” and is currently a member of the Healthy City Project’s Community Life Committee.

It’s the new MUHC superhospital, however, that is uppermost in her mind these days. She’s a driving force behind two community organizations dedicated to integrating the Glen campus into the surrounding neighbourhoods of Westmount, NDG and St. Henri.

Kiely serves as the WMA representative on both: the CIQ (Concertation inter-quartiers) and CURA (Community-University Research Alliance). The latter is a committee for which she helped secure a \$1-million grant and into which she successfully brought psychosocial researchers from the Douglas Hospital.

As a result, it’s primarily for these con-



Maureen Kiely discusses her community service.

tributions that Kiely is being honoured by the WMA this Wednesday (May 18) as its Volunteer of the Year and recipient of the Derek Walker Award.

She considers her input to both MUHC groups to be her number one volunteer accomplishment, partly because of the impact they are having on the WMA’s outreach to other community groups. “CIQ and CURA have allowed the WMA to move in new directions. The current di-

alogues with St. Henri and NDG concern serious issues that will affect our communities for decades to come.

“The impact of the Turcot reconstruction and the superhospital on our three communities will be enormous.”

On traffic and safety, her longstanding concerns, Kiely puts things into perspective: “The reality is that this a small community close to downtown that people continued on p. 27

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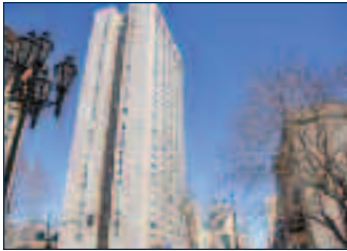
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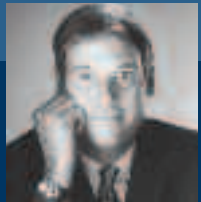
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Techno Titanz

continued from p. 11

how to rebuild a fully functional computer using parts from old computers and how to instal open source software, which is all free. The computers are then redistributed into the community to those without the

financial means. Students at Westmount Park Elementary can also make a written request for a computer should they need one themselves.

The computer refurbishment program was the idea of Allan Kabelansky of Redfern. Kabelansky is an engineer by profession. "I wanted to get the public interested in open-source software instead of needlessly spending money," he said. Kabelansky has already successfully started the after-school refurbishment program at Roslyn School, which has now been running for two years.

'Making it useful again'

The computers refurbished by the Techno Titanz are donated by McGill and Concordia University. "You can take something that would have been thrown in the garbage and just by fixing it make it useful again," said Kabelansky.

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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

- **Public consultation meeting** on changes in Westmount's architectural and building requirements at city hall, 7 pm.
- **Westmount Municipal Association's** (WMA) annual general meeting at Victoria Hall. Reception 7 pm; meeting 7:30 pm. Presentation of the Derek Walker Volunteer Citizen of the Year Award and guest speaker Richard Filion. Open to all. Info: 514.594.2866 or info@wma-amw.org.
- **L'Art de la Table:** a fundraising event for Meals-on-Wheels at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. Gala patrons evening, 6 pm. Also on Thursday, May 19, from 11 am to 5 pm. Reserve: 514.937.9471, ext. 145. Info: 514.937.9471, ext. 169.
- **Perennial Plant Exchange** at the Westmount arena. Perennials drop-off for vouchers from 4:30 and 6 pm. Plant exchange from 6 and 7 pm. Sale at 7 pm. Info: www.westmount.org or call 514.989.5226. See p. 8 for story.

THURSDAY, MAY 19

- **"Dining on the Avenue"** presented by Gordana Govic, 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Free for members; \$5 for non-members. Info: Westmount Historical Association, 514.989.5510.
- Montreal screening of the 2010 US documentary "Library of the Early Mind: A Grown-Up Look at the Art of Children's Literature," 7 pm at Selwyn House. Screening to be followed by a Q&A with co-producer **Steven Withrow**. Admission: \$10. Info: Carol-Ann Hoyte at hoytec@selwyn.ca, or visit www.libraryoftheearlymind.com.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

- **Centre de Musique FortePiano's** spring concert at Westmount Park United Church, 5 pm. Admission is free and all are welcome. Info: 514.504.7899 or

music@cdmfortepiano.ca.

- **Reply the Beatles** at Victoria Hall, 7 pm. Tickets: \$20 in advance (\$25 at the door). Info: 514.989.5226.
- **20th Open Gate Gala** at the Shaar Hashomayim, 6 pm. Buffet supper, door prizes and valet parking Proceeds benefit Open Gate program. Tickets: benefactors \$500; patrons \$100; donors \$60. Info: 514.938.1405 or 514.731.0415.
- Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom presents novelist David Brody on "Growing up Gay and Orthodox." Register: 514.937.3575, ext. 217 or heidi@templemontreal.ca.

FRIDAY, MAY 27

Ride to Conquer Cancer fundraiser at Chez Nick Restaurant, 1377 Greene Ave. Donations matched by Chez Nick. All proceeds to benefit the Segal Cancer Centre of the Jewish General Hospital. Also on all day Saturday, May 28. Info: 514.935.9936.

SATURDAY, MAY 28

Bicycle collection (20" or higher) by Cyclonordsud at Westmount Park, 10 am to 3 pm. Benefits Africa and Latin America. \$15 donation per bike; tax receipts. Info: 514.843.0077.

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Brandy on the rocks



Imagine one day you return home to find all the locks changed. You peek into the windows and your family has disappeared...without a trace. Wherever you look and wherever you go, you can't find

them or your home. Suddenly you are alone and without the one person in your life who has always loved you. This must be what it's like for a dog who suddenly finds herself in a shelter without so much as a clue as to why. We wish this kind of situation were rare, but sadly it isn't. Welcome to the world of dogs like Brandy, our beautiful black lab. Her human, the one she loved and cherished, moved to a geriatric home and Brandy finds herself alone and homeless.

This lovely lass is gentle and as laid back as can be. She walks well on the leash and can live with other dogs, though she would do best with an older male. Brandy would be an ideal companion for someone looking for a well-mannered loyal dog who isn't very demanding when it comes to exercise. She enjoys strolls but doesn't have an excess of energy to burn like a young demanding puppy. In fact at the shelter where she is currently staying, Brandy enjoys following the

volunteers around as they do chores and is very happy to rest in her crate. Are you in the mood for some love and affection? Brandy could be the dog for you. Call 514.915.7311 or email adoptionsspc@gmail.com. To read the stories of more underdogs, visit our website at www.underdogclub.org, or drop us a line at PO Box 67 1214 Greene Ave., Westmount, QC H3Z 2A4.



Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount

AVIS PUBLIC VENTE À L'ENCAN

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné, par le soussigné, que la ville procèdera, conformément à l'article 461 de la *Loi sur les cités et villes* (L.R.Q., chapitre C-19), à une vente à l'encan de bicyclettes et d'objets divers non réclamés, le samedi 28 mai à 9 h 00 (visite préalable à 8 h 30) en face de l'école Westmount Park située au 15, Park Place ou, en cas de pluie, à l'Aréna de Westmount situé au 4675, rue Sainte-Catherine Ouest.

Toute personne intéressée peut consulter la liste des bicyclettes et objets divers devant faire l'objet de la vente sur le site web de la ville : www.westmount.org ou au bureau du soussigné situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

Toute bicyclette ou tout objet acheté lors de la vente devra être payé en argent comptant.

La Ville de Westmount n'offre aucune garantie envers les acquéreurs et ceux-ci devront prendre possession de leur acquisition lors de la vente.

DONNÉ ce 17^e jour du mois de mai 2011.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, that in compliance with section 461 of the *Cities and Towns Act* (R.S.Q., chapter C-19), a public auction of unclaimed bicycles and various unclaimed objects will be held on Saturday, May 28 at 9:00 a.m. (preview at 8:30 a.m.) in front of Westmount Park School, located at 15 Park Place or, in case of rain, at the Westmount Arena, located at 4675 Sainte-Catherine Street West.

Interested buyers may consult the list of bicycles and various unclaimed objects to be auctioned on the City's website: www.westmount.org, or at the office of the undersigned located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West in Westmount, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All bicycles or objects purchased at the auction must be paid for in cash.

The City of Westmount sells with no warranty and buyers must take possession of their purchases at the time of the sale.

DATED this 17th day of May 2011.

Mario Gerbeau
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**See paper copy for
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More real estate transfers

.....
continued from p. 22

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Expanding role in mental health

continued from p. 1

creation of a McGill chair in schizophrenia studies in 1997 at the Douglas Hospital.

The decision to create the annual Samarthji Lal prize is a step toward encouraging research breakthroughs, Boeckh said. It's a \$25,000 award to be accorded yearly to a mid-level researcher in mental health.

Lal was co-founder of the Douglas Hospital Mental Health University Institute and founder of the Brain Bank at the Douglas, the only one still in existence in Canada. He was director of the McGill Centre for Studies in Schizophrenia at the time of his death in 2009.

"Sam Lal was instrumental in helping us set up the chair in schizophrenia – and after he died, because he was so well known, we created the prize in his name."

Coincidentally, Lal's widow, medical scientist Maureen Kiely who collaborated with him, is being honoured this week by the Westmount Municipal Association as its Volunteer of the Year for her community service (see profile, p. 16).

Foundation expands

Since its start 25 years ago, the foundation has developed progressively to the point where it now has a full-time executive director, Inez Jabalpurwala, who has played a key role in creating the symposium and increasing the foundation's stature, Boeckh explained.

"We are also leading the Science of Science for Mental Health Research Network with RAND Europe, world experts in health policy on pay-back from cardiovascular and arthritis funding. The think-tank will now take on the mental health challenge."

The foundation is also forging partnerships, such as the one with the Gairdner Foundation, which awards prestigious

prizes in health sciences that are international in scope. Many of the recipients have gone on to win Nobel prizes.

Boeckh is also vice-chair of Brain Canada, an organization that has just obtained \$100 million to match donations related to neurological and mental health disorders.

On a more personal note, he said it took time after his son's death to be able to speak out publicly on schizophrenia. "Mental health has been the orphan of the health care system because the stigma was such a huge issue for people trying to get



Tony Boeckh in the library of his Westmount home

housing and jobs."

Hopefully, this will change, he said, with high profile events such as the Frontiers in Mental Health Symposium, as well as effective research funding and the development of new treatments and understanding.

The work of the foundation also includes the entire family, Boeckh said: his wife, Raymonde, and sons and daughters Ian, Rob, Joelle and Michelle.

Registration for the symposium takes place by email at caroline@bccl.ca. For further information call Caroline at 514.904.0551.

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Police Beat

Burglar breaks in, finds empty cash register

BY DAVID GOLDBERG

A burglar who broke into the Restaurant Kashima was greeted with frustration – an empty cash register.

Police say the break-in occurred at 6:45 am on May 5. The restaurant's owner received the news from his alarm company and headed to 1232 Greene Ave.

"When he got there he saw the lock from the front door was missing, so he called the police," said Constable Adalbert Pimentel. "The officers entered and found the cash register, which had been ripped from the counter and was lying on the floor."

The register was open and empty. The burglar caused approximately \$150 in damage.

"But it could have been worse, and this owner did a good thing by making sure his register was empty," said Pimentel. "Business owners should not only make sure there is no money in the register, but they should leave the register open. That way, anyone looking into their business can see

there is no cash on the premises, and it will dissuade potential burglars from breaking in."

The suspect was caught on a security camera. He could be seen leaving the restaurant and walking south along Greene before getting into a Chrysler Sebring. The car drove off, also heading south on Greene.

The suspect is described as a white male, 45, 6'1" and 165 lbs. He had brown hair, brown eyes and a small beard. He wore a red and black baseball cap, a black leather jacket and blue jeans.

Apartment cleaned out

An Olivier Ave. apartment tenant returned to his home to discover a burglar had cleaned out the place.

The tenant left his home at 8:30 am and returned at 2:30 pm on May 10. When he tried to open his door, he realized the lock was broken, and the door swung open.

"There were marks on the door, which were traces of a forced entry," said Pimentel. "When he got inside, he saw the

apartment had been thoroughly searched."

Missing were a set of golf clubs, an HP laptop computer, a Sony digital camera, sunglasses and two bomber jackets.

"Our officers canvassed the area, but there were no witnesses," said Pimentel.

Laptops stolen from office

The police aren't sure how a suspect stole some laptop computers from a business at 4124 St. Catherine St.

The building's alarm went off at 5:15 pm on May 7, and the police responded to the scene.

"The officers saw that everything was properly closed; there was no sign of a break-in and no one responded to the intercom," said Pimentel. "The business' owner showed up and opened the front door. The only two items taken were a pair of Apple laptop computers."

The owner told police the suspects appeared to know exactly where they were going and that nothing else was stolen.

Anyone having information about this crime is asked to call Station 12 at

514.280.0112.

Firearm collection update

While they didn't get a slew of weapons off the street, Station 12 police say they are pleased with the results of this year's Firearms Collection Day.

The event took place at Station 12 on May 7. Forty residents came to the station to inquire about gun safety, but only three rifles and 50 .22 calibre bullets were recovered.

"This was our first time, and if we do it next year, we'll do it on a more regional basis, including other districts in Montreal," said Pimentel. "Still, this was a good first effort, and anytime we can get weapons and ammunition out of the neighbourhood, it makes Westmount a safer place."

Pimentel said the three rifles will be destroyed.

Correction: Contrary to what was reported in our May 11 article (p. 5), police collected three rifles during the firearms collection day. See above.

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Profile: Traffic, safety concerns

drive through every day. My objective is to make the best of a difficult situation but we also have to recognize that the super-hospital is being built on a land-locked site.”

Kiely's focus is also on healthcare delivery. “I'm pushing for a 24-hour on-site pharmacy so patients, on discharge, and their caregivers can fill prescriptions at any hour of the day or night.” This is not currently available at existing MUHC venues. As a result, the superhospital issue combines her volunteer and professional

lives.

A trained biochemist, Kiely earned a doctorate in neurochemistry under Westmounter Dr. Ted Sourkes, whose lab is where she met her husband. They married in 1974, and have one son, Alex. She also undertook a postdoctoral fellowship in experimental medicine under another Westmounter, the late Dr. Sam Solomon.

Kiely has deep appreciation for Westmount history because of her own roots. Her grandparents on both sides, and extended families, lived here. She also has

an interest in west-end heritage in general.

“Our small family business – a general machinery company of which I was a co-owner until recently – was located for 106 years in Griffintown and Point St. Charles. Both southwest neighbourhoods are now facing renewal and gentrification with similarities to St. Henri.”

The business was founded by her grandfather Martin Kiely. His father had purchased land in 1862 soon after arrival from Ireland. This is where he established horse stables for journeymen, now the

Griffintown Horse Palace.

Kiely grew up in NDG but attended high school in Westmount at St. Paul's Academy, following in the footsteps of her mother, Elizabeth Gibbons, and other relatives. In 1980, she and her husband moved to The Boulevard, where she continues to live.

Now, with formidable issues facing Westmount, she says, she has agreed to return to the WMA board after an absence of 10 years to help contribute her experience and perspective to local issues.

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