

Budgets reflect fact and forecast

Real estate market cools, more snow in 2011

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

If you're trying to sell your house or anticipating upcoming heat waves, here are two cooling thoughts for this first week of summer. Both emerge from the city's latest financial results and outlook tabled by city council June 6.

The hot real estate market in Westmount last year has plunged into a relative deep freeze, generating not even \$1 million in welcome tax by the end of April. This compares with \$1.7 million for the same period in 2010 when they reached \$4.5 million by year end – \$2 million over expectation.

Weather-wise this year, streets in the early winter months (January through April) required close to \$2 million to clear and salt when 158 cm of snow fell. This cost was fully \$700,000 more than the same period in 2010 for 126 cm.

"Snow removal budgets are difficult to predict," explained Finance commissioner Tim Price.

As a result, city council decided to set aside \$750,000 from last year's overall operating surplus as a snow removal reserve.

\$5.5-million surplus

Thanks in large measure to the welcome tax, this surplus reached \$5.5 million on a budget of \$86.3 million, according to the audited financial report for 2010.

This is fully 13 percent of the city's own operating costs of \$39 million, net of the \$46.4 million Westmount was required to pay in shared costs for island-wide agglomeration services and close to \$1 million in fees to the regional Montreal Metropolitan Community.

The larger than usual surplus also stemmed from higher than expected interest on tax arrears as well as revenue from licences and permits, Price said. This trend is not expected to continue, with the city forecasting a more modest surplus of \$228,000 for this year.

Council earmarked \$4.6 million of the \$5.5-million surplus for a number of items. "Much of this to be spent, I guarantee, in the current fiscal year," Price said.

Among the items specified were snow removal, pay-as-you-go for capital expenses, debt, green spaces and active transportation and upgrading of the Hydro Westmount network.

Looking ahead to year end compared with last *continued on p. 10*

Glee at MADA fundraiser



Photo courtesy of Renee Baltuch

The Masterpieces 4 MADA gala event took place June 15 at the Time Supper Club. Pictured above, Westmounters Alyssa Yufe, left, and Renee Baltuch surround actor Josh Sussman, who plays

the character Jacob Ben Israel in the TV show Glee. The event, whose theme was "There will always be a seat at our table," raised over \$125,000 for MADA's soup kitchen and mobile cafeterias through an auction of chairs and paintings from students, professional artists and community members. Besides Sussman, a guest appearance was also made by CJAD's Tommy Schnurmacher, who hosted the event. MADA is a kosher soup kitchen and food bank that provides basic necessities to those in need.

INSIDE



ROMA CHAYKOWSKY RETIRES, p. 19



City page p. 17

Art Scene BY H. BLACK p. 23

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Parking tolerated during long weekends

Holiday parking toleration will be in force for time-related restrictions over both the St. Jean and Canada Day holiday weekends, Public Security officials announced last week.

On both Fridays, the legal holidays – June 24 and July 1 – no tickets will be issued for metered parking or street maintenance restrictions, said assistant director Greg McBain. Meters will need to be fed on the two Saturdays, however.

For unmetered one-, two- or 4-hour parking as well as overnight parking, no tickets will be issued throughout the entire three days of each weekend. No permission will therefore be required for overnight guests. Public safety officers will ticket cars they find parking illegally at fire hydrants or in other no-parking zones.

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Walnuts spread message on prostate cancer



Medical administrator Lina Ordonselli and urologist Dr. Peter Chan of the McGill University Health Centre are seen here with some of the tools they used during a Men's Health Day promotion held at Alexis Nihon Plaza on June 16. The souvenir walnuts they're holding are similar in size and shape to the prostate. Free checkups were available all day. This year, more than 25,000 Canadian men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and 4,000 will die from the disease.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Meet up with Lolë in the park



Laura Warf (second from right), lifestyle manager at Lolë, leads a "meet-up" the evening of June 16 in Westmount Park. Meet-ups are free group fitness classes organized by Lolë and given by certified fitness instructors in local parks. The idea is part of the Lolë brand philosophy, which is "inspired by wellness." Atelier Lolë carries a line of fitness wear for women and opened June 15 at 4846 Sherbrooke St.

Photo: Marlene Eisner



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Bike patrol goes to rescue of baby and dog

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Public Security bike patrollers went to the assistance of a frantic mother who accidentally locked her baby in the car during the Sherbrooke/Victoria sidewalk sale Friday, June 10, officials report. They also managed to track down the owner of a found dog shortly after.

The patrollers, Jason Souza and Rébecca Décary-Corbeil, came upon the mother who was described as in “quite a panic” outside 360 Victoria shortly after noon. Her 20-month-old child was inside the car, and she was still awaiting the arrival of a taxi she had called to unlock the door, a service most taxis provide.

Because of the heat and the emergency,

one of the patrollers flagged down a cab whose driver was able to open the doors after a couple of attempts.

“We would have smashed the window because of the circumstances if the door couldn’t be opened otherwise,” said assistant director Greg McBain.

Also on the same day, a tan-coloured pug was found running loose at Sherbrooke and Roslyn, believed to have possibly broken away from its owner at the sidewalk sale. The dog, who wore no identification, was taken to Public Security headquarters while the bike patrollers went in search of the owner.

Working their way south on Roslyn, they asked a man playing outside with his children if he knew of a neighbour with

such a dog. He did and the patrollers informed the owner, who said the dog had escaped from its walker. She was able to pick it up before it was taken to the SPCA. She was also informed about the need to acquire a licence which would have identified the owner.

“This shows how important it is for dogs to have a licence,” McBain said. He also noted that both incidents that day showed how effective the bike patrol can be in its flexibility. “It’s closer to the people.”

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Clean-up at St. Léon



Over 130 kids from St. Léon de Westmount school and their parents joined forces June 11 to do a summer clean-up. New grass turf was rolled out, several trees planted and new bushes were dug in around the school yard. Participants toiled inside as well, organizing the library, repairing books and cleaning lockers from the remnants of winter. A pizza lunch was shared by all. The event was organized by the school and its volunteer organization.

Photo: St. Léon de Westmount



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PUBLIC SECURITY CAN NOW...

Now that we have “card-carrying” dog walkers in Westmount to relieve Public Security of having to check each and every dog, perhaps it could encourage trucks, i.e. construction, gardening, etc. not to park on, or over, the sidewalks (or on both sides of the street) when it is clearly marked “no parking.”

I have had to be led through cars and trucks parked on both sides, which makes me wonder what would happen if it were a fire truck.

This is a wonderful city. Let’s keep it that way, please.

SUSAN KHAN, MONTROSE AVE.

PARTY-POOPER WESTMOUNT

On Friday, June 10, I was in the Little Italy area of St. Laurent Blvd. An annual festival involved the closure of the street for a considerable length. Returning to Westmount I ventured forth to our own sidewalk festival.

The comparison was striking.

Sherbrooke, between Grosvenor and Claremont, was glutted with traffic forcing all of us onto a congested sidewalk. Piles of uncollected garbage competed for space with merchants’ stalls doing little for the ambiance on a hot afternoon.

Is it too much to expect the city of Westmount to arrange for a special pick-up in advance of this occasion? Is a brief closure

of Sherbrooke similar to the one to accommodate a recent cycling event beyond the realm of possibility?

PATRICK FITZ GERALD, GROSVENOR AVE.

PARTY-POOPER, TAKE 2

Clearly Westmount Public Security agents have nothing better to do than keep up appearances.

I am an employee in the Sherbrooke/Victoria neighbourhood and was lying down on a bench, taking in the beautiful sun during my lunch break after several cold and rainy days.

Apparently this does not fit Westmount’s image of itself, since an agent came by and harassed me for lying down. He insisted that I sit up.

Instead I just went back in to work, since my enjoyment of the moment was totally spoiled. Thanks, Westmount, for making my day!

A sunny one to all of you who make 500 grand a year with your own deck and backyard. The rest of us who sell you stuff for minimum wage, clearly, should move along.

LOREN CARLE, NDG

LET THE ARENA MOVE AHEAD

Depuis plusieurs mois nous lisons chaque semaine des lettres concernant le projet d’agrandissement de l’aréna. Il est clair que la majorité des résidents sont

d’accord avec ce plan. La pétition en ligne contre ce projet semble compter à ce jour environ 700 signatures (dont certaines sont anonymes!!!) la population de Westmount compte plus de 20 000 résidents, peut-on s’entendre que ceci n’équivaut même pas à 4% de la population?

Nous avons acclamé notre maire et voté pour son équipe, nous leur avons accordé notre confiance pour gérer notre ville et mener à terme certains projets dont celui de l’aréna. Pouvons-nous maintenant les laisser travailler?

Que quelqu’un ait demandé la résignation de notre maire à ce sujet est déplorable. Je suis née à Westmount. Je vis ici depuis plus de 40 ans. Si j’y élève ma famille, comme mes parents et grands-parents l’ont fait avant moi, c’est grâce à des gens comme notre maire actuel. Le Maire Trent a plus que fait ses preuves depuis 15 ans. Notamment sur la rénovation de notre remarquable bibliothèque. Nous avons la chance d’avoir pour maire un homme intègre, un homme de tradition et de conviction et surtout un homme qui aime passionnément sa ville. C’est grâce au Maire Trent que notre ville est encore une ville. Ne l’oublions surtout pas.

Je comprends que certains soient mécontents face au projet de rénovation de l’aréna mais de grâce ne mêlons pas les cartes. Et souvenons-nous qu’on ne peut faire d’omelette sans casser d’œufs.

CATHERINE BEAUBIEN, HOLTON AVE.

LET’S GET ON WITH ARENA

In regards to the latest “petition” I have seen circulating electronically regarding the arena/pool project, the simple fact is we need a new arena and pool.

The costs of maintaining the current one is extremely expensive in regards to both the arena and the pool. The demand is factually there from a demographic standpoint to build two rinks. The age of the facilities is past due.

Location has been debated over and over but this one makes, by far, the most

sense from many perspectives.

We have come upon a windfall from the provincial and federal governments in the amount of \$20 million. The longer we wait, the higher the costs will run.

There has been an exhausting amount of consultation, designs, redesigns, consultations on the redesigns. The views of anyone who wanted to make them known were heard and discussed at length.

People randomly signing electronic petitions after all of the work that so many people have done in an attempt to realize this project at the best cost and working with everyone’s issues concerning it is, frankly, insulting.

Where were these people for the nearly two years of consultations? You had ample opportunity to voice your opinions. Let’s get this done already before the costs go through the roof and/or we lose our grant!

AARON FRASER, HALLOWELL ST.

INCREASED PARKING FEES = AVAILABLE PARKING?

I read the notice in the June 15 *Independent* that the council intends to double the costs of the on-street parking stickers from \$120 to \$240. The notice is unclear as to when this would be going into effect. It is also an obvious intent to get anyone with a car to help pay for the overpriced arena.

NDG charges \$60, Rosemont \$65 and Outremont \$60. How can Westmount, which already charges double for the same thing, justify doubling the cost again?

As this increase will affect mostly people living in lower Westmount who do not have access to a garage or other parking facility, it is grossly unfair. I don’t use the arena facilities at all. Why should I have to pay for them?

Will council be able to guarantee that those of us who would have to pay this increased cost still have parking in our general area, e.g. on Academy Rd., where the parking is *continued on p. 5*

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In NDG & Hampstead last week:

- Stray paint shuts down ‘permission’ graffiti wall
- Mayhem erupts at Hampstead’s June town council

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Letters, cont'd.

continued from p. 4

impossible during hockey season? Is it going to change Academy Rd. into a parking zone for residents only?

We are basically prisoners evenings and weekends because if we go out we may not get a place to park again. I once waited two days to be able to park on my own street.

What extra services are you going to give us for this increase? There are no real services in connection with the cost now except the street sweeping. So what else are you going to provide to justify this increase?

BELINDA BOWES, ACADEMY RD.

OPEN LETTER TO CITY: 100% PARKING COST INCREASE?!

Before I start another Westmount protest/petition, please explain the 100-percent increase in parking permits. I might understand a 25-percent increase with a reasonable excuse, but 100 percent!

A resident of Westmount with off-street parking can get a "W" permit for \$5. Why not raise this token amount to \$120? There are probably just the same amount of these permits as there are 24-hour permits, if not more. These residents park in

our limited allotted spaces for up to four hours, leaving the rest of us with no hope of finding parking near our homes. I am also very much aware of many residents with off-street parking who have the 24-hour permits. Is no one from Public Security checking prior to issuing permits? This was done when the permit system first came into being.

This and my previous e-mail have gone to every resident in my neighbourhood with a 24-hour permit.

I hope that any Westmount resident who feels the same way my neighbours and I do, writes, calls, takes whatever means available, to get the city of Westmount re-think a 100-percent increase.

FLORA-LEE WAGNER, CLAREMONT AVE.

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We continue to use distribution methods other than Canada Post, given its actual and threatened strike situation. If you aren't getting a paper (or are getting too many), please contact me.

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St. Jacques exit to open mid-August at last

By ISAAC OLSON

Montreal city officials have targeted the second week of August for reopening the Ville Marie Expressway’s St. Jacques west-bound exit, meaning Westmount commuters who rely on the busy ramp will finally be able to use the exit after some seven months of detours.

The St. Jacques exit was first barricaded on February 1 for what city officials erroneously predicted would be a five-month closure. Montreal spokesperson Philippe Sabourin confirmed mid-August is the goal.

The June 14 meeting of the Good Neighbourly Relations Committee was held in the temporary “construction vil-

lage” on the Westmount side of the super hospital construction site for the first time. During that meeting, Sébastien Deshaies, an urban planner with Montreal, said there have been several unforeseen setbacks in the city’s ongoing effort to upgrade underground infrastructure around the Glen Yards site.

At the corner of de Maisonneuve and Decarie, for example, workers attempting to install massive concrete sewer lines under the railway tracks unexpectedly unearthed an unused section of sewer and electrical conduits.

These types of issues, found in the city’s three major work zones, delayed the process, Deshaies explained. Mother nature’s near constant offering of rainy

weather has also been cited as a delaying factor and, as Deshaies pointed out, a new contractor had to be brought in on Decarie Blvd. after the original firm ran into money issues.

With 1,800 workers expected during the hospital’s peak construction period, Charles Chebl, a project manager and vice president with SNC-Lavalin, said it is expected that 47 percent will rely on public transportation. There are currently 450 workers on site and MUHC’s piling will be done by the end of August, said Chebl.

Along with the temporary 900-stall gravel parking lot now in operation on the

Westmount side of the site, there are also stacks of office modules, showers and stalls for 40 bicycles.

Rabbit found near park

Lost your rabbit? It may be the one reported found by Public Security near Queen Elizabeth Gardens (at Wood and Sherbrooke) June 12 at 12:35 am. It was described as appearing to be domesticated. No calls were received by anyone looking for their lost pet. It was taken to the SPCA.

Rotary for Richelieu



The Rotary Club of Westmount sent its truck to help out in the SOS Richelieu clean-up operation in the Montréal flood zone June 6. Over 2,000 volunteers from the Montreal area joined city workers in the operation throughout the weekend. According to photographer Ralph Thompson, a Westmount Rotarian, “SOS Richelieu was very well organized to handle the bus loads of volunteers but were not expecting volunteers to use their own pickup trucks for the operation.” However, the Rotary Club truck was eventually dispatched to the city depot to pick up sandbag pallets and later to help a homeowner bring the contents of his basement to the dump. Rotary was registered to go as a team the weekend of June 18-19, however the operation was cancelled as there was not enough work left to do.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Westmount Park students use drama to explore bullying issue



Grades 3 and 4 students at Westmount Park School acted in a play, “Joining in for what’s right,” June 8. They created it as part of a program devised by their drama therapist Carlos Wilson. The children played reverse roles, so that bully and bullied could see through the other’s eyes, using the medium of theatre. Seen here from left: Brian Doce, Carlos Wilson, Elijah Qatramiz, Ryann Tyler and Aza St. Hill.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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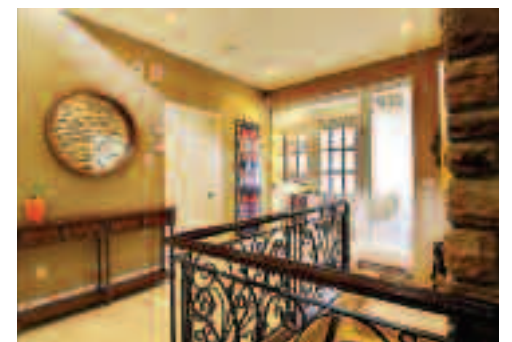
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Recognized for 'essential service'

Roma retires after 32 years

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

To many Westmounters, Roma Chaykowsky is the voice behind their phone calls to the director general's office and the bridge between them and the city's management.

But because her work is largely behind the scenes as executive assistant to the DG – Duncan Campbell – a few may not recognize the “essential service” she provides in keeping city business on track and making his life easier, he says.

“She’s constantly putting out fires,” he explained, while at the same time keeping the proverbial home fires burning. “By the time things reach me, they’re often a done deal.”

Retiring June 30 from Westmount,

Roma – as she is widely known throughout city hall and by many residents – also views city hall as a “home.”

“It’s the Westmount family,” she said last week when asked why she kept working there so long. “It’s just been very, very wonderful.”

She has spent 12 hours of every day at the “home away from home” when one counts the time she spends commuting between Mont St. Hilaire and Westmount. She’s on the road by 6:40 am and rarely back before 6:30 pm, latterly in her silver diesel-fuelled Smart Car – distinctive for being parked behind city hall almost since the model made its debut.

“I’ve never not made it in,” she said. Not even during the ice storm in 1998 when her home in the “triangle” was blacked out for some three weeks. If there was heavy snow, she took the train.

“That’s the way it is. It’s in the blood.”

Born in displaced persons camp

She was raised to appreciate love of work and the values set by her parents in their flight to freedom from the Ukraine



Roma Chaykowsky June 13 with DG Duncan Campbell, right, and former DG Bruce St. Louis.

to a post-World War II camp for displaced persons in Landeck, Austria. This is where Roma was born in 1946 before the family made it to France – and eventually to Canada in 1951.

“We’re tough people,” Chaykowsky said, recalling how her parents – professional engineers by training – worked in a bakery for a few years in Montreal and her father drove a cab in Westmount before he assumed a management position at an iron ore mine in Baie St. Paul.

In order to continue her schooling in English, she spent her high school years boarding at a convent in Ancaster, Ontario.

Started in 1969

Chaykowsky started working in Westmount in the city clerk’s office in 1969, 42 years ago, but left for a 10-year hiatus to raise her children, Stephen and Andrea. This means she is credited with only 23 years, counted from her return – also to city clerk’s in 1988.

It was new era. She had left with electric typewriters and returned to the challenges of Word Perfect.

But within a year, Chaykowsky had assumed the position of executive secretary to the city clerk and, during one period, took responsibility for the management of the office in the absence of the city clerk and assistant city clerk.

Putting together a council agenda of 20 or more items “is not an easy feat,” she explained. “Before today’s newer technology, we used to store everything by hand, pigeon-hole the agenda and put everything into binders for council members and staff. Sometimes we worked at night. It was nice to get the overtime but a lot of physical work.”

Even now, Duncan Campbell said: “I have to shoo her out of the office.”

It was a big change, she said, moving into the “inner sanctum” from the city

clerk’s structured environment that had involved elections, formal meetings, by-laws and the sheer “go-go-go volume” of that work.

Rollercoaster years

Her appointment by then director general Bruce St. Louis came in September 2000 in the heat of the city’s merger/demerger fight. “Those were the rollercoaster years,” she recalled. “So many people were in and out of the office. You never knew what the next day would bring.”

Proud of her efforts to preserve the Ukrainian culture and language, which her parents retained in her upbringing, Chaykowsky is well known among colleagues for the handcrafted materials she brings into the office on special occasions.

During much of her time in Westmount, Chaykowsky has also provided secretarial support to the Healthy City Project, embracing its mission. “I’m very conscious of the environment,” she explains.

“I’m really a recycled employee,” she adds, referring to her “split service.”

In that respect, one of her regrets in retiring just short of 25 years is that she will not qualify to attend the city’s annual Quarter Century Club Banquet and renew acquaintances with so many of the 25-year retirees she knows so well. It’s an event she has either helped organize every year or worked at.

But that’s a situation that Campbell says he will find a way to correct “considering she has really worked for us for 32 years.”

As retirement approaches, Chaykowsky said, people tell her she will now be able to do everything she always wanted to. “But I’ve already done the things I want to,” she explained. “Been there, done that: embroi-

continued on p. 12

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Mighty oak has fallen



Tree climbers David Dos Santos (left), standing in the open cavity after a main branch broke off from the trunk, and Kyle Bray of Arborfolia Tree Preservation take a break during the cutting down of a massive white oak at the back of a Lansdowne property June 13. The 300-year-old tree was severely damaged during the wind storm that hit Westmount on June 1. It was cut down after being deemed unsafe by certified arborist Jesse Bouchard-Nestor, president of Arborfolia, who was recruited by the owner to analyze the damage. Clippings were taken from the tree and sent to the Macdonald campus forestry faculty of McGill University and to the Morgan Arboretum in an attempt to propagate new trees from the ancient tree's gene pool. Like getting a car tuned up every spring, Bouchard-Nestor advises owners of properties with trees to invest every few years to do a tree "tune-up" and trim, which, he explained, would greatly reduce the possibility of damage such as what happened to this oak. Arborfolia specializes in tree preservation and health.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

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Rec Centre Q & A

What about older residents and spectators at the new facility?

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.

What is being done in the project to meet needs of older residents? My kids play hockey in winter and swim in summer. They also sometimes play indoors in the arena in summer. The kids would love that their grandparents come to watch them, but there's no real seating or proper viewing area in the gloomy and damp old arena, and the pool deck is very crowded with no place to sit on a decent chair other than the balcony (when it's open!), where they are unprotected from the blazing sun, and which is inaccessible to people with mobility problems. Furthermore,

there are no refreshments offered.
– Resident, Kensington Ave.

I know that you, your kids, and their grandparents will all enjoy the new recreation centre. In addition to superb new changing rooms and state-of-the-art ice-making, the new ice rinks will have ample comfortable seating for all, with well-designed lines of viewing. The temperature and humidity in the building will be carefully monitored and controlled. And there will be refreshments available in an agora-like area where people can sit for a beverage and conversation, or carry a healthy snack to their seats to watch the activity on the arena floor. Restrooms will be brought up to modern standards of design and sanitation, fitting of Westmount.

You can rest assured the building will be designed for a high degree of accessibility. Whether residents enter from Academy Rd. or from Lansdowne, they will be able to reach all levels of the facilities either with ramps or by elevator. Wheelchairs will be able to be accommodated in all areas, with reserved spots for viewing

the action. The new pools will have ample room for lounging, either in full sun or dappled shade, as well as a separate shaded terrace for quieter relaxation while watching activities in the pool or in the expanded park. The latest technology in water purification will assure not only a more pleasant swimming experience, but also a safer and healthier atmosphere for both employees and guests.

From the terrace, new vistas toward the old grove of trees at the Glen will carry us back to a much earlier time when a maze of wooded ravines lent a special character to this area. In a sense, the swimming pools and the sunken rinks will respect the original lower landscape before it was raised by 20 to 40 feet to create flat land for building lots development in the 1910s. Westmount council later decided to keep this land for sports fields and park.

There will be other places to sit and enjoy the passing scene and meet friends, such as on the north side of the pavilion

near the new tennis courts. This area is close to the café, and will be a popular gathering spot for area residents as well as for seniors from Contactivity.

But let us not think that all elders are relegated to viewer status. I know many people in their 80s and 90s who swim regularly, a few 70-year-olds who play hockey, and two in their 90s who play tennis. And I hope to become one of them. – PM

Thief is no golfer

A thief left behind a number of valuable items after breaking into a Toyota Prius June 8, Public Security officials report. Among them was a set of golf clubs. The car's smashed window was discovered by a parking inspector at 4:48 pm on Mountain Ave. near Sherbrooke. The victim, a resident of Verdun, was contacted and stated his briefcase and iPhone were missing.

Gold for Vermes-Monty

Westmount swimmer Juliette Vermes-Monty, 11, started swimming the summer of 2008 with the local Dolphins swim team. Now, three years later, she is ranked in the top 10 in Canada for her age group, according to her mother Anne Monty.

The young swimmer who "got the swimming bug with the Dolphins" now competes with the Pointe Claire Swim Club, but continues to swim with the Dolphins during the the summer.

She recently returned home from a meet in Etobicoke, where she swam 23 events, winning 16 gold and 4 silver medals. Vermes-Monty also won the High Point Champion Trophy for the second year in a row.

The Dolphins will be practising under new head coach Mike Calcutt this summer. The swim team is run by parents and is sponsored by Sports and Recreation, which gives them free access to the city's outdoor pool.

Gymnast, too

Vermes-Monty is also a gymnast, who trains at Gadbois gym and competes at the provincial level. She came in second overall at the provincial championships held in Laval at the beginning of May and was a gold medalist on beam. She was competing against the top 32 gymnasts in her category.



Juliette Vermes-Monty, 11, receives a medal and trophy May 15 at a swim meet in Etobicoke. She broke a 25-year-old record with the Pointe Claire Swim Club in the 50-meter long-course butterfly.

Photo: Anne Monty

Budget update

.....
continued from p. 1

year, he said the city expected to experience increased costs of snow removal and reduced contributions from Hydro Westmount along with lower welcome taxes.

While the welcome tax was expected to pick up, the city is still forecasting it would bring in \$2.5 million as budgetted for 2011. And that's \$2 million less than last year.

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Stir it up!



Elliott Cohen

Summer is here. I'm thinking Gazpacho, mangoes, salads, dips, strawberries, anything grilled and no ovens. So where are you shopping? Here are a few recommendations.

I'm a big fan of Costco. Their prices are excellent and so is their quality control.

The problem with Costco is almost everything comes in a larger format. You can't buy one steak, but three to a pack. So buy the pack and freeze some.

Costco has Canadian AAA beef and great lamb. It sells filet mignon – whole pieces trimmed or untrimmed, both great buys. If you have no butchering experience, buy the trimmed and slice the piece into individual steaks about 1-inch thick and freeze individually.

The Australian rack of lamb is great. It's about \$20 to \$23 for a rack, which is about seven delicious chops. One rack is

perfect for two people and at about \$3 a chop it's unbeatable. A restaurant will charge you \$40 to \$50 for a half rack main plate!

The boneless rib steaks are also great and the boneless leg of lamb is wonderful. It comes tied up like a roast and it's trimmed and cleaned nicely. It unrolls pretty flat and is great for marinating and grilling, and it's about half the price of the rack. At about 5 pounds for \$35, that's enough to serve 10 generous servings.

Costco's fruits and vegetables are very good too. I also enjoy shopping at both markets, Atwater and Jean Talon. Supporting local farmers is a good thing. I particularly like the Atwater Market fish store.

I welcome your email questions and comments at elliott@ecca.ca.

Here's a simple and fabulous recipe for my favourite summer soup. It's refreshing and beautiful to look at. All you need is a few ingredients and a blender. For a stunning presentation serve this in a wine or martini glass.

Chilled cucumber and mango soup

3 mangoes, peeled and pitted (2 pounds total)

2 seedless cucumbers (1 1/2 pounds total)

3 tablespoons finely chopped red onion

3 tablespoons fresh lime juice, or to taste

2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro

Place soup in the fridge covered for at least two hours.

Just before serving, stir in cilantro and 1 1/4 teaspoons salt. It will keep covered in the fridge for about five days.

Makes about 7 cups

Finely chop one mango and one cucumber and set aside. Coarsely chop remaining mango and cucumber and purée with 1/4 cup water in a blender until almost smooth.

Transfer to a bowl and stir in finely chopped mango and cucumber, onion, limejuice and two cups cold water.



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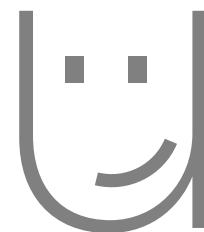
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with
Chef Elliott Cohen

Roma: ‘choosy’ in retirement

.....
continued from p. 8

dery, pottery, working with flowers. I always had to keep busy. Now I can really be choosy.”

While she and her husband Zenon love to travel, including trips to Mexico, Thailand and Costa Rica, “we haven’t planned next year’s adventure yet,” she said.

Christine Joly, who has been working in Human Resources, has been selected to assume the position on Chaykowsky’s departure – “big shoes to fill,” Campbell said.

It’s not simply that she’s a fountain of information and so capable, he said, but “I’ll miss her because of her attitude and very pleasant demeanour. You have to have

a sense of humour to work here because of the stress and the number of people you deal with. You have to roll with the context. She has a great attitude with a bit of mischief. She likes to have fun.”

Chances are, however, she may occasionally return. As she said, she’s used to being recycled.

No sawing on Sunday

A resident of Grosvenor Ave. was asked to stop using a power saw June 12 following a neighbour’s complaint to the Public Security Unit at 12:23 pm. City by-laws prohibit such work on Sundays.

Sicotte rides section of Tour



Marie Sicotte standing on Summit Circle, June 6, after a weekend training ride from Montreal to Kennebunkport in Maine.

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Westmounter and Sutton realtor Marie Sicotte is preparing to tackle one of the toughest stages of the Tour de France.

Modane Valfréjus to l’Alpe d’Huez is 109 kilometres of steep mountainous terrain and one of two stages open to amateur cyclists. Sicotte and her brother Luc will be among 6,000 cyclists who will depart Modane Valfréjus, at the foot of the Alps in the south of France, July 11.

They first traverse Col du Télégraphe

(5,137 feet above sea level) and then continue through Col du Galibier (8,681 feet). After a long descent, they will climb back up Col du Lautaret (6,751 feet).

The last stage is to climb Alpe d’Huez and its 21 legendary turns. When asked why she would take on such a gruelling challenge, Sicotte responded “It’s a personal goal. I like to take on challenges.”

As part of her training, she cycled to Kennebunkport in Maine the first weekend in June.



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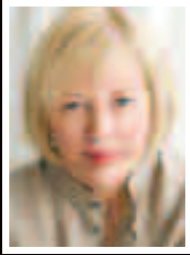
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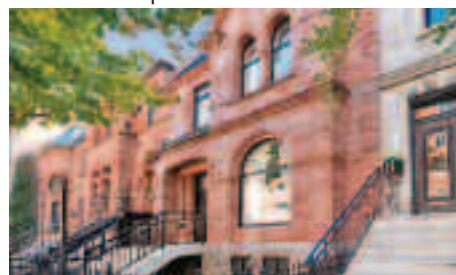
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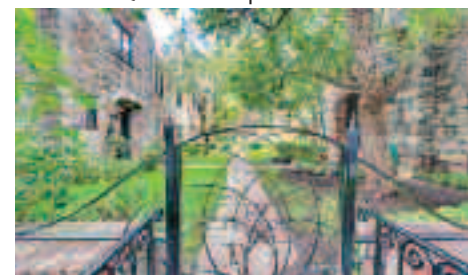
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Roaring twenties at McCord's 90th anniversary



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

In celebration of its 90th anniversary, the McCord Museum held its annual fundraising ball May 19, under the theme “The Roaring Twenties.”

The gala attracted a gaggle of glamorous guests, with many women opting for fringes and feathers reflecting the mood of the eve.

Ball prez, Westmount resident **Elise Nesbitt**, attending with her husband **Graham**, had her young, top hat-clad sons opening the front doors for arriving guests.

Honorary patron and mayor of Montreal **Gérald Tremblay**, with **Suzanne Tailleur**, addressed the black-tie crowd, as did honorary chair **François Côté**, presi-



Westmounters Vanessa Laframboise, Elizabeth Gomery and Elise Nesbitt.



Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay, Line Rivard and François Côté.

dent of Telus Québec and Telus Health Solutions, attending with his wife **Monique**

Légaré.

Other VIPs noted included vice president of Christie's Canada, **Brett Sherlock**; **Jocelyne and Jean Monty**; and **Karine and Jean-Sébastien Monty**.

Guests were greeted by McCord execs CEO **Suzanne Sauvage**, board chair **Line Rivard** and executive director of the Museum's Foundation, **Elizabeth Gomery**.

continued on p. 25



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Vol. 5/12

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HÔTEL DE VILLE

Horaires d'été en vigueur

Veillez noter que les bureaux administratifs de l'hôtel de ville, du Victoria Hall, d'Hydro Westmount, et des Services des travaux publics, des sports et loisirs et de la sécurité publique (y compris le bureau des permis de stationnement) seront ouverts du lundi au jeudi de 8 h à 16 h 30 et le vendredi de 8 h à 13 h. Cet horaire est en vigueur du 6 juin jusqu'au 26 août. De plus, la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée le dimanche du 12 juin au 4 septembre et la Galerie du Victoria Hall sera fermée le dimanche du 22 mai au 11 septembre. Info : 514 989-5200. 🌿



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Concerts d'été au parc Westmount

Le premier des six concerts du dimanche débutera le 10 juillet avec l'Ensemble du Carré Saint-Louis à 14 h près de l'étang du parc Westmount. Consultez l'horaire de la série dans la section calendrier au www.westmount.org. Info : 514 989-5226. 🌿

DATES À RETENIR

Le 4 juillet à 20 h

Séance du conseil
Hôtel de ville



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Club de lecture vacances

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Club d'échecs et de Scrabble

La prochaine rencontre du club aura lieu les vendredis 8 et 15 juillet à 14 h. Nous sommes toujours à la recherche de nouveaux joueurs. Info : 514 989-5386. 🌿



CITY HALL

Summer hours in effect

Please note that Westmount's administrative offices at City Hall, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Recreation and Public Security (including the Parking Permits Office) will be open Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This schedule is in effect from June 6 to August 26, 2011. Westmount Public Library will be closed on Sundays from June 12 to September 4 inclusively. The Gallery at Victoria Hall will be closed on Sundays from May 22 to September 11 inclusively. Info: 514 989-5200. 🌿



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Summer Concerts in Westmount Park

The first of six Sunday concerts will take place July 10 with *l'Ensemble du Carré Saint-Louis* at 2 p.m. at the lagoon in Westmount Park. See the full schedule in the calendar at www.westmount.org. Info: 514 989-5226. 🌿

DATEBOOK

July 4 at 8 p.m.

Council Meeting
City Hall



LIBRARY

Summer Reading Club

Ahoy mateys! Come read about far away islands, rogue pirates, mysterious mermaids and sly sea serpents as we celebrate water this summer. Throughout the summer months, the Library's Children's Department will host a number of events designed to inspire kids to read. Ask for your Reading Kit at the Children's Desk – you'll earn great prizes!

Chess and Scrabble Club

Our club will meet on Friday, July 8 and 15 at 2 p.m. Drop by for a friendly game as we look forward to meeting new players. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌿

FÊTE DE LA SAINT-JEAN 2011 PARC WESTMOUNT PARK

Fêtez la Saint-Jean le 23 juin au parc Westmount avec un programme aussi varié qu'amusant. La compagnie Artiflette présente « La Famille Fanelli », un amalgame de cirque, musique et théâtre dans un univers rocambolesque pour un voyage à travers l'Italie et les générations. De plus, Boréal Tordu, un groupe de musiciens de souche franco-américaine provenant de l'état de Maine, présente un concert de musique acadienne et québécoise selon leur tradition 'Maineque'. Apportez-vous un pique-nique à partir de 17 h ou achetez une collation sur les lieux. La soirée se terminera par un grand feu de joie à 21 h ! En cas de pluie les activités se tiendront au Victoria Hall, 4626, rue Sherbrooke Ouest. Info : 514 989-5226.

Celebrate Saint-Jean on June 23 in Westmount Park. A Circus Musical Comedy with *la compagnie Artiflette* presenting *La Famille Fanelli*, for all ages that will take you on an imaginary journey through time via Italy. Then Boréal Tordu presents a concert of traditional Acadian and Québécois music as passed down to them through their Franco-American parents from the state of Maine. Bring your picnic from 5 p.m. or purchase refreshments at the park. The traditional Saint-Jean bonfire will close the evening at 9 p.m. In case of rain, activities will take place at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke Street West. Info: 514 989-5226

FÊTE DU CANADA 2011 CANADA DAY PARC WESTMOUNT PARK

Venez célébrer le 144^e anniversaire de notre pays le vendredi 1^{er} juillet avec des jeux aquatiques et des activités pour tous : courses originales pour tous les âges, concours de la plus grosse éclaboussure et de plongée pour une rondelle de hockey, ainsi qu'un barbecue et pique-nique.

Midi : Barbecue, chemin Academy, près de la piscine, organisé par les Dolphins de Westmount.

14 h : « Splash Bash » familial - piscine de Westmount, jeux, prix et gâteau de la Fête du Canada.

Celebrate our country's 144th birthday with activities for the whole family...novelty races for all ages, biggest splash contest, puck diving contest, barbecue and picnic.

Noon: BBQ lunch, Academy Road, next to the pool, hosted by the Westmount Dolphins.

2 p.m.: Family Splash Bash - Westmount Pool, games, prizes and Canada Day cake.

Westmount, à votre portée. Pour toute question ou commentaire, veuillez nous contacter :
Westmount at your fingertips. Contact us with any comment or question:

www.westmount.org
assistance@westmount.org

CABINET DU MAIRE
HÔTEL DE VILLE
WESTMOUNT QC



Ville de Westmount

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL
WESTMOUNT QC

Le Centre des loisirs de Westmount : rapport d'étape

Juin 2011

Cher concitoyen, chère concitoyenne,

Cela fait déjà plus d'un an que nous avons sollicité par courrier vos commentaires et votre approbation à l'égard de la construction du centre des loisirs de Westmount. Dans cet envoi de huit pages, nous vous avons expliqué en détail la réflexion ayant mené à sa conception et à l'établissement de ses caractéristiques :

- L'ensemble du complexe sera construit sous terre avec, en surface, un seul petit pavillon donnant sur les piscines et les courts de tennis. Cette construction souterraine permettra de créer de nouveaux espaces verts, de réduire la demande énergétique et d'apaiser les inquiétudes des résidents qui ne voulaient pas d'une nouvelle intrusion architecturale dans leur quartier. En fait, cela ouvrira de nouveaux horizons.
- La construction souterraine coûte à peu près la même chose que la construction en surface, surtout si on utilise des matériaux de construction traditionnels de Westmount comme la brique ou la pierre. Il s'agit en outre d'une approche très respectueuse de l'environnement.
- Grâce aux 20 millions de dollars reçus sous forme de subventions et aux dons prévus totalisant quelque 5 millions, le centre coûtera 12 millions de dollars aux contribuables de Westmount, ce qui correspond à une hausse de taxes de 200 \$ répartie sur dix ans pour la maison moyenne, soit 2 % du compte de taxes annuel. Ainsi, les contribuables ne paieront qu'environ un tiers du coût total de 37 millions de dollars.
- Nous passerons d'une patinoire et demie à deux, ce qui permettra d'offrir plus de périodes de hockey féminin, de patinage libre, de patinage pour enfants et d'autres activités comme le ballon-balai. À la demande des baigneurs et, notamment, des familles avec jeunes enfants, la superficie de la piscine extérieure sera accrue de près de la moitié. Nous ajouterons de nouvelles salles d'exercices et augmenterons également la taille de la maison des jeunes.
- Si nous nous étions contentés de rénover notre aréna actuel, dont la construction remonte à 1958, cela nous aurait coûté à peu près la même chose que de construire un nouveau centre des loisirs, puisque les subventions ne se seraient pas appliquées.

Au moins 28 % des ménages de Westmount ont répondu au questionnaire joint à notre envoi : 83 % d'entre eux étaient généralement en faveur du projet tel que décrit. Les ménages avec enfants étaient en faveur dans une proportion de 91 %, tout comme 81 % des personnes âgées, 77 % des personnes vivant seules et, même, 73 % des personnes qui *ne sont pas des usagers*. La firme Ipsos Descarie, qui a reçu et compilé les réponses, a calculé qu'avec un taux de participation aussi élevé, si chacun des ménages de Westmount avait répondu au questionnaire, le taux d'approbation total se serait situé entre 81 et 85 %.

Plus de la moitié des citoyens ayant répondu au questionnaire y ont joint des commentaires et/ou des suggestions. Bon nombre d'entre eux nous ont dit qu'ils aimaient le concept de centre souterrain, qu'ils approuvaient le coût et que nous devions carrément aller de l'avant. Certains se sont toutefois dits déçus qu'il n'y ait pas de piscine intérieure. Tous les utilisateurs ne sont pas satisfaits de la piscine du YMCA et il n'y a qu'un nombre limité de résidents qui ont accès à une piscine dans leur immeuble d'appartements ou de condominiums. Malheureusement, l'ajout d'une piscine intérieure aurait grugé la superficie du parc, accru les besoins en stationnement et doublé la hausse de taxes. Parlant des taxes, la raison de *ne pas appuyer le projet* qui a été de loin la plus citée avait trait à son coût ou aux éventuels dépassements de coûts, ce que nous surveillons d'un œil vigilant.

Même si nous avons reçu le feu vert de la population, il restait une difficulté à surmonter. La loi exige que le financement de tout projet soit approuvé par le biais d'un référendum tenu à l'échelle de toute la ville si au moins 500 personnes habilitées à voter le demandent dans un registre public. En août seulement 114 personnes ont signé le registre. À partir de ce moment-là, ce fut en avant toute !

Au fil des dix derniers mois, nos architectes ont peaufiné les détails du projet. Comme nous étions de pionniers dans la construction d'un aréna souterrain, il fallait régler plusieurs questions techniques. Nous avons aussi eu recours à beaucoup de ce qu'on appelle de l'« ingénierie de la valeur » afin de nous assurer que lorsque nous lancerons un appel d'offres, la plus basse soumission respectera le budget que nous vous avons promis. Nous venons d'embaucher un directeur de projet qui a soumis tout le projet à une évaluation architecturale « par les pairs » afin de s'assurer que nous avons le meilleur projet. Outre une réduction passablement importante

de la taille du pavillon et l'aménagement d'un terrain de stationnement hors terre, peu de changements ont été apportés aux croquis qui avaient été joints à l'envoi de l'an dernier. En construisant sous terre, le moins fait bien plus : pas grand chose ne paraît, et l'approche minimaliste était précisément l'objectif visé par le conseil.

Avec un appui aussi important de la part de nos citoyens, nous nous engageons à respecter l'étendue du projet et, par conséquent, ses éléments fondamentaux (deux patinoires, piscine à huit couloirs, courts de tennis, maison des jeunes, salles de yoga et d'exercices et ainsi de suite) ont été établis depuis l'envoi postal. Toutefois, certains détails de l'aménagement peuvent encore être modifiés. À cette fin, nous rencontrerons les divers groupes d'usagers afin de recueillir leurs points de vue. Le 21 juin, il y aura une assemblée publique à l'intention des résidents habitant à proximité du site afin de discuter de leurs préoccupations particulières comme la circulation, le stationnement, le parc canin et les détails des travaux de construction.

Un modèle du design final sera plus tard mis à votre disposition au Victoria Hall. Une représentation tridimensionnelle sera également accessible sur le site Web de la ville (www.westmount.org), ce qui permettra aux citoyens de visiter le nouveau centre des loisirs avant même qu'il ne soit construit.

Selon nos plans actuels, nous prévoyons procéder au lancement de l'appel d'offres vers la fin de l'automne. L'excavation devrait débiter peu de temps après. Si vous voulez recevoir des comptes-rendus réguliers sur l'avancement du projet, il vous suffit d'en faire la demande par courriel à centredesloisirswestmount@westmount.org.

J'aimerais saisir cette occasion pour remercier tous ceux et celles qui ont rempli le questionnaire et qui nous ont transmis leurs suggestions. Ensemble, nous bâtirons un centre des loisirs dont nous pourrions tous être fiers.

Veuillez agréer l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.

Sincèrement vôtre,

Peter F. Trent

Maire

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WESTMOUNT QC



City of Westmount

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL
WESTMOUNT QC

The Westmount Recreation Centre: a Progress Report

June 2011

Dear Fellow Citizen,

It is now over a year since we sent you a mailing seeking your comments on, and approval of, the construction of the Westmount Recreation Centre. In that eight-page mailing, we explained in detail the thinking behind its design and features:

- The entire complex will be built underground, with only a small above-ground pavilion overlooking the swimming pools and tennis courts. Going underground creates new green space, lowers energy demand, and deals with the worries of residents who did not want a new architectural intrusion in their neighbourhood. In fact, new vistas will be opened up.
- Going underground costs about the same as building aboveground, especially when using traditional Westmount building materials such as brick or stone. And it is a very environmentally-sound approach.
- Thanks to \$20 million in grants and an expected \$5 million in donations, the Centre will cost Westmount taxpayers \$12 million – or an additional \$200 in taxes for the average house for ten years, representing 2% of your annual tax bill. Taxpayers will pay, therefore, roughly one-third of its total cost of \$37 million.
- Our current 1½ ice rinks will be increased to 2, permitting more girls’ hockey, general skating, kids’ skating, and games such as broomball. A the request of swimmers and particularly families with small children, the outdoor pool surface will increase by nearly one-half. We will add new exercise rooms and increase the size of the teen centre as well.

- Simply fixing up our existing arena, which was built in 1958, would have cost about the same as building the new Recreation Centre, as the grants would not have applied.

Fully 28% of Westmount households responded to a questionnaire in our mailing: 83% of them were generally in favour of the project as described. While households with children were 91% in favour, seniors were 81% in favour, people living alone were 77% in favour, and even *non-users* were 73% in favour. Ipsos Descarie, who received and tabulated the responses, calculated that with such a high participation rate, had every single Westmount household responded, the overall approval rate would have been somewhere between 81% and 85%.

Over half of the citizens responding to the mailing gave us their comments and suggestions. Many liked the underground concept, approved of the cost, and told us to just get on with it. Some, though, were disappointed there was no indoor pool. Not all users are happy with the YMCA pool and only a limited number of residents have access to pools in apartment or condominium buildings. Unfortunately, an indoor pool would have eaten up parkland, increased parking requirements, and doubled the tax increase. Speaking of taxes, by far the most common reason given for *not* supporting the project had to do with its cost or potential cost overruns - something we are watching like a hawk.

Even though we had our marching orders from our citizenry, there was one hurdle remaining. The law requires that any project’s funding be approved by a City-wide referendum if at least 500 voters demand it in a public registry. In August, only 114 signed the registry. From then on, it was full steam ahead.

Over the last 10 months, our architects have been working on the detailed designs. Since we are pioneering the concept of an underground arena, there were additional technical

matters to address. We have also done a lot of what is called “value engineering” to ensure that, when we go out to bid, the lowest tender will be within the budget we promised

you. We recently hired a project manager who has put the whole project through an architectural “peer review” to make sure we’ll have the best design. Other than making the pavilion quite a bit smaller and uncovering a parking lot, there have been few changes since the sketches in last year’s mailing. Building underground means less is more: there is not much to show, but minimalism was precisely Council’s goal.

With such an overwhelming citizen approval, we are committed to respecting the scope of the project and therefore its fundamental elements (two rinks, 8-lane pool, tennis courts, teen centre, yoga and exercise rooms, and so on) have been fixed since the mailing. However, some details in the layout can still be modified. To that end, we shall meet various user groups for their views. On June 21, there will be a public meeting for residents living near the site to discuss their particular concerns, such as traffic, parking, the dog run, and the details of construction work.

A model of the final design will eventually be available in Victoria Hall. A 3D representation will also be available on our city website (www.westmount.org), allowing citizens to experience the new Recreation Centre before it is even built.

Our current plans call for going out to tender in the late fall. Excavation should begin shortly after. If you would like regular updates about the project, please email us at westmountrecreationcentre@westmount.org.

I would like to thank all those who filled in the questionnaire and who sent us their suggestions. Together, we can have a Recreation Centre we can all be proud of.

Yours very truly,


PETER F. TRENT

Mayor


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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

- **Public consultation meeting** on swimming pool enclosures, 7 pm, city hall;
- **Public consultation meeting** on the fast-tracking for many types of permits at 7:15 pm at city hall.
- **Speed dating** event takes place for Jewish singles aged 30-50 at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 395 Elm, 7:30 pm. Info: heidi@templemontreal.ca.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

St. Jean celebrations in Westmount Park, 5 to 10 pm include music and activities. Bring your picnic or purchase refreshments at the park. Bonfire will close the evening at 9 pm. Info: Community Events 514.989.5226.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28

Public demolition hearing to detail condo development at 215 Redfern, 7 pm at city hall.

More storm havoc

Heavy winds June 8 snapped off branches and toppled trees in an evening thunderstorm at some 21 locations in Westmount, Public Security officials report.

Among the damage was a tree that fell on a car outside 61 Somerville and electrical wires pulled down at the Somerville tot lot. Another fallen tree was reported at 110 Sunnyside and one at Windsor and Victoria, all around 7 pm. A tree was also reported down the next morning at 40 Surrey Gardens.

Heavy rains June 12 also caused water to accumulate in many locations through Westmount requiring catchbasins to be unblocked.

Contractor fined \$1,517

A contractor working at 77 Sunnyside was issued tickets June 10 totalling \$1,517. It was the latest of several recent reports concerning construction materials left on the road or obstructing the sidewalk at the location. Public Security officials said the work site was “a mess.” One ticket for \$1,250 related to not having a permit for installing a container on a city street. Another for \$267 was given for dumping material on the street and sidewalk.

GoWestmount.ca

Our on line calendar has it all!

Concerts, exhibitions, launches, events, public meetings, community links, sports and swim schedules

NEW – RESTAURANT PROMOTIONAL COUPONS each week

Quebec Classifieds

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QCNA (Quebec Community Newspapers Association) can place your classified ad into 25 weekly papers throughout Que-

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The latest thriller by bestselling Montreal author Sheila Kindellan- Sheehan

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This is her best yet.

– Scott Taylor, The Ottawa Sun



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Rotary reaches out to respite facility

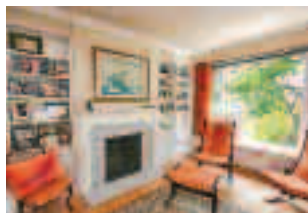


The Rotary Club of Westmount donated a significant portion of the funds for the Eleanor Côté Home, a new specialized children's respite home in Beaconsfield that serves the west end of Montreal. It opened June 16 and will provide a break to parents of children with intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders and/or severe behavioural ones. It accommodates up to six children and offers them a variety of fun activities tailored to their interests and needs. From left, Rotarians Don Mackinnon, Nadia Chidean, Andy Durso, Ted Sancton, with, in the background, Gary Whittaker (chairman of the WMRC board), and Rotarians Merle Binmore (president), Jim Griffin, Ian Moodie (also president of the Taylor-Birks Foundation), Anne McArel, Cynthia Campbell and Robin Vincelli.



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BUILDING PERMITS 🏠 What's permitted

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at the May 16 meeting of city council.

431 Mount Pleasant: to replace some front and rear windows and doors and introduce Juliette rails and a new rear deck;

473 Prince Albert: to reduce the size of a window opening and add a rear bay window;

33 Rosemount: to replace some windows and doors;

463 Mount Pleasant: landscaping to include the reduction of the parking apron and increase greenery and planting areas;

631 Côte St. Antoine: landscaping to include new front steps and landing and resurfacing of the driveway with pavers;

7 Parkman Place: to replace some windows;

660 Grosvenor: to install a heat pump in the side yard;

615 Roslyn: to build a rear deck; landscaping to include a new rear fence and resurfacing of the driveway with pavers;

131 Clandeboye: at a Category I house, to replace some windows;

602 Lansdowne: to change the rear façade and replace some windows;

333 Metcalfe: at a Category I house, to replace some windows;

4891 Sherbrooke: to erect a sign for Design Adjust;

4022 Dorchester: at a Category I building, to replace some windows and a back door;

54 Aberdeen: to restore bricks and chimney;

4300 de Maisonneuve: to replace some front windows;

720 Upper Roslyn: to replace sunroom windows;

493 Lansdowne: rear landscaping to include planting areas, a patio and establish a new parking area.

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at the June 6 meeting of city council.

87 Sunnyside: to add stairs to the sunroom at ground level; enlarge two openings into French doors and replace some windows and doors;

64 Belvedere Rd.: at a mixed Category I-II property, to build a two-storey extension at the rear and carry out modifications to various openings;

4912 Sherbrooke: to alter the front façade by removing canopies, lowering the main floor to sidewalk level and elimi-

nating the front steps; to replace windows and doors and introduce new balconies at the rear;

630 Roslyn: to build a new deck and stairs at the rear and modify some openings;

777 Upper Lansdowne: to build a two-storey addition at the side and rear;

4868 Sherbrooke: at a Category I building, to replace the front door and erect a sign for "Lolë";

37 Roxborough: to landscape the front yard including plant beds and changing the walkway;

15 Anwoth: to enclose a second floor balcony at the rear and build a roof terrace on the garage;

3755 The Boulevard: at a Category I house, to enlarge one opening and replace some windows;

4292 Dorchester: at a Category I house, to build a second and third floor extension and balconies at the rear;

333 Metcalfe: at a Category I house, to replace a window, introduce a Juliette rail and add a skylight to the roof;

41 Windsor: to change certain openings in the rear façade;

3255 Cedar: to replace the windows and doors;

11 Renfrew: to replace some windows;

463 Lansdowne: to replace some windows and doors;

647 Grosvenor: to replace some windows and doors;

4721 The Boulevard: to replace a back door;

659 Victoria: to replace some windows and modify openings;

323 Redfern: at a Category I house, to replace some windows;

350 Victoria: at the Visual Arts Centre, a Category I building, to alter the front façade by replacing the canopy and adding new signage as well as decorative elements.

Rooftop gathering at St. George's

A group of seven young people were found sitting on the roof of St. George's School shortly before 1 am on June 8, according to Public Security officials. Following up on a noise complaint from a neighbour, they found a door providing access to the roof had been left unlocked. A rooftop surveillance camera was functioning. Police were called to the scene and the subjects were identified and asked to leave without charges.

Westmount Art Scene

Knowles and Swanson: Nature reigns

BY HEATHER BLACK

This month, Westmounters have a unique opportunity to view Dorothy Knowles' famed prairie landscapes at Han Art and ceramist Linda Swanson's magical installations at the McClure Gallery.

While Knowles is celebrated for her unique style of capturing nature, Swanson has viewers marveling at nature's regenerative power.

Knowles at Han Art

The retrospective exhibit "Woven Beauty" spans several decades of this Canadian icon's career. Known for her charcoal drawings overpainted with acrylics, "Blue Mountain Variation" (1980) features a muted mountain scene. Although similar in subject to the Group of Seven, Knowles, by leaving areas of raw canvas, creates a unique watercolour effect.

Often capturing stark prairie parkland, Knowles prefers to paint unfamiliar vistas. A new work painted at eye level "Afternoon Light" depicts sunlight on foliage and water. In this work, the artist returns



Dorothy Knowles "White Daisies"

to a more realistic style, combining British watercolour tradition with Cézanne-like impressionism.

Throughout her career, Knowles experimented with materials and at times a more abstract style. For the garden scene "White Daisies" (1990), Knowles brought the vivid pink and red flowers to life with thick brush strokes.

One of Canada's most distinguished landscape artists, the Saskatchewan native was awarded the Order of Canada in 2004. The exhibit of Knowles work continues until July 10, at Han Art, 4209 St. Catherine St.

Swanson at the McClure Gallery

For the exhibit "In Formation," Swanson creates magical art, which often takes



Linda Swanson "Aqua View"

form over time. "Osmogenesis" features a clay bed, which evolves into lava-like craters of rusts and gold. As water drips through a suspended nylon tarpaulin onto the clay below, topography forms. Changing moment to moment and in various lights, the artist captures nature's metamorphosis.

Huebner a finalist in teen songwriting contest

BY LAUREN O'LOUGHLIN

Emma Huebner, 15, of Grosvenor Ave. is one the top 10 finalists in the Acoustic Nights Teen Songwriting Competition.

How did she feel about making the top 10? "I was super happy. I really wasn't expecting it!"

It was through an article in the *Independent* that Huebner first learned of the music competition. She described her style of music as folk and cited Laura Marling, and Mumford and Sons, as musical influences.

Though largely self-taught, Huebner thanks her grandmother for first introducing her to the guitar. "All of a sudden, I really felt like learning the guitar two or three summers ago. Grandma was my first guitar teacher," she explained.

When asked about her hopes for the future, Huebner said, "I would like to do classical guitar at McGill [but] not too many people make it in the music industry." She is also "really into sound recording" and can see herself as a recording

engineer. Full of nature's surprises, Swanson's work is highly original. A native of California, she moved to Montreal in 2008 and currently teaches at Concordia. "In Formation" continues until June 25 at the Visual Art Centre, 350 Victoria Ave.

Nature revisited

Both Knowles and Swanson record nature. Knowles, a creative force for over six decades, paints readily-recognized prairie landscapes. And as for Swanson, her ceramic alchemy celebrates both nature and the nature of creativity.

engineer.

The competition final takes place on Saturday, June 25 at the Centre for Education and Theatre in Montreal (2205 Parthenais St.) from 2 to 4 pm. Huebner will be performing her own piece along with the nine other finalists in front of a panel of judges and an audience. The public can cast a vote online at www.acoustic-nightsmontreal.com/competition/top10.php.



Emma Huebner





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Worldly blondes seeking fun times



Underdog

CYNTHIA LEE

Gigi may look like a Jim Henson muppet gone bad, but don't be fooled. This 10-year-old shih tzu is as gorgeous as gorgeous can be. Gigi may be a decade old and weigh a mere 9 lbs, but she wants everyone to know that she has a lot riding on the next few years. You see, Gigi may



Gigi

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Tina

be in the market for a retirement home of sorts but she isn't the type of gal to spend her days playing bridge. Curling up on a nice sofa or snuggling up to someone warm is her thing. And don't be sending just anyone for the job. Gigi may be getting on in years but she still has her preferences – she is picky with her playmates but once you get on her list of favourites, there is no way you'll fall off. Don't let this scraggly gal deceive you – she is lovely through and through.

Tina

Tina was struck with a very bad case of the blues when she arrived at the shelter some time ago. But wouldn't you be depressed if your heart and soul had just died and you found yourself all alone? You know the drill. No eating or socializing for three whole days. Tina just stayed in her crate (the doggy version of staying in bed, head under the covers), until one kind soul got her out and cuddled her for the afternoon. That was what she needed – that was what she was used to. From then on, she slowly returned to her social self, playing with the other dogs and charming those around her. Tina is very quiet, undemanding and ready for a new family to provide her with

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ON THE SHELVES

Among new materials at the Westmount Public Library singled out by staff are:

Magazines

“Curious & curiouiser: 10 ways to pepper your garden with personality,” by Sara Cation, in *Canadian Gardening*, early summer 2011, p. 36.

“Chelsea 2011 preview: your 18-page guide to the best of the plants and gardens at the world's most dazzling flower show – plus details of the extensive BBC television coverage,” in *Gardens Illustrated*, issue 173, p. 31.

“Épatantes népétas: alors que la chaleur et la sécheresse de l'été peuvent mettre la plupart des vivaces à plat, les népétas sortent championnes des longues périodes de canicule,” by Carole Hall, in *Fleurs, plantes, jardins*, summer 2011 issue, p. 17.

Adult fiction: Scandalous summer reading...

Other People's Money by Justin Cartwright – In the aftermath of a small bank's takeover by the son of an aging owner, manager Artair Macleod learns that a place to chillax for the rest of her life. This 8-year-old gal has very good manners and enjoys walks as well as play. These blondies can be adopted separately, but who doesn't like a good two-for-one? Do you enjoy ice cream on hot summer days? Tina and Gigi could be your dairy queens. Call 514.915.7311 or email adoptionsspa@gmail.com.

The Underdog Club is the first-ever dog marketing agency. We help rescue organizations package and promote hard-to-place dogs: the old, ugly and unpopular. To view more dogs needing homes, visit www.underdogclub.org or email contact@underdogclub.org.

the monthly grant on which his company depends was orchestrated by his wife in a scandalous affair with the bank owner that is exposed by an eager young reporter.

Tabloid City by Peter Hamill – When a wealthy socialite and her secretary are found murdered in a stately West Village townhouse, a flurry of seemingly unrelated people spring into action.

Adult French – Summer reading, made in Quebec

Il pleuvait des oiseaux by Jocelyne Saucier – A photographer goes on a journalistic journey in northern Ontario, trying to find and interview survivors of the great fires that ravaged the region in the early part of the 20th century. She will meet elderly, free-spirited folks who have chosen to live in the woods, cut off from the outside world.

Polynie by Mélanie Vincelette – A lawyer is found dead in a run down motel in the Ungava town of Iqualuit, and his brother sets out to investigate. He encounters a host of dropouts who are fighting their inner demons up in the Far North.

Books on CD

Secret Daughter by Shilpi Somaya Gowda – On the eve of the monsoons, in a remote Indian village, Kavita gives birth to Asha. But in a culture that favours sons, the only way for Kavita to save her newborn daughter's life is to give her away. It is a decision that will haunt her and her husband for the rest of their lives, even after the arrival of their cherished son.

The Tiger by John Vaillant – A man-eating Siberian tiger is on the prowl outside a remote village in Russia's far east. A team of men and their dogs must hunt it on foot through the forest in the brutal cold. As the trackers sift through the gruesome remains of the victims, they discover that these attacks aren't random.

Picture books about water

Three by the Sea by Mini Grey – Three friends, Cat, Dog and Mouse, live together happily in a cottage by the sea, until a mysterious stranger from the Winds of Change Trading Company blows into their world and turns it upside down.

Qu'est-ce que tu vois? by Stéphane Ségas – A little boy is not happy when his parents leave him for an entire week with his Uncle Horace, who lives in a lighthouse. No friends, no bikes, no television – what is a boy to do? It doesn't take long before he realizes all the marvels the ocean has to offer.

Hark the herald



The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada held a gala dinner at the McGill Faculty Club on June 2. From left, Westmount resident Andrew Cook-Jolicoeur, secretary of the society's Montreal branch, stands with Claire Boudreau, chief herald of Canada, who gave an illustrated talk on the inner workings of the Canadian Heraldic Authority, which is part of the governor general's office and oversees the granting and registration of new armorial bearings (arms, flags and badges) and native symbols, approval of military badges, flags and other insignia of the Canadian Forces, among other things. According to Cook-Jolicoeur, "prior to the establishment of the Canadian Heraldic Authority at Rideau Hall in 1988, Canadians had to petition the heraldic authorities in the United Kingdom. With the society's vigorous support, the queen authorized the governor general to exercise heraldic prerogative." Photo courtesy of Andrew Cook-Jolicoeur

Social Notes

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continued from p. 16

Westmounters noted included Anne Birks (with gallerist René Blouin), Martha and Peter Duffield, Cornelia Molson (with Charles Lapointe), Ana Borrallo and husband Javier Planas, Claudia and Maurizio Favretto, Maurice Forget, Denise and city councillor Tim Price, Claire and Peter Kruyt, and Vanessa and Guy Laframboise.

Other guests enjoying the fun were Anne and George McLaren, Elaine and Calin Rovinescu and Sonia and George Hanna. Committee members were Sylvie Chagnon, Nathalie Leclaire, Grégoire Bailargeon, Stephen Albers, Lindsay Hollinger, Claire Frapp, Charlie Flicker, Emma McCavour, Sandra Albers-Chaloub, Joanne Pelletier Charron, Diane Oliver, Cynthia Gordon and Lorna Telfer.

Almost \$300,000 was raised for the McCord Museum.

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