

Martin Swiss rides the 401 challenge for Sarah Cook Fund



Photo: Andy Vathis

Martin Swiss bike shop provided the technical support for cyclists of the August 10-12 CIBC 401 Bike Challenge, a fundraising bike ride from Toronto to Montreal in support of the Sarah Cook Fund for the hematology/oncology division of children's hospitals. Above, participants get ready to leave, including shop owner Steve Dennis (seated) and mechanic Cameron Laurie, who accompanied the riders. The event raised \$205,802, 48 percent more than last year.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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We are Westmount

August 16-17, 2011

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City to make first claims after two graffiti arrests

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount is in the throes of initiating claims against two people to recover graffiti removal costs. These are the first civil actions to be taken by the city since it announced a new get-tough policy on graffiti a year ago, the *Independent* learned last week.

Both persons were caught by public safety officers in incidents August 6 and 8, and both are also to be charged with vandalism, police confirmed.

The city intends to pursue them civilly as soon as the costs are known, confirmed assistant city clerk Nancy Gagnon.

"This is our first experience," explained

city clerk Mario Gerbeau in describing the graffiti action as "trailblazing."

This year to date, clean-up bills have cost the city \$62,500 of its \$70,000 graffiti budget for the year but recovered nothing. Last year, it paid out \$35,000.

Questions raised

Until the two recent catches, police statistics show that a total of 11 arrests for graffiti had been made in the 13 months since the city adopted its aggressive new policy to charge offenders criminally and recover damages.

Of six arrests reported this year in January, only one person was reported to have been *continued on p. 6*

Crime stats this year compared with last, p. 5

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Dolphins hold last meet at current Westmount pool



The Westmount Dolphins swim team hosted its last meet ever at the current Westmount pool on August 10, competing against Windermere from Beaconsfield. The pool, which is more than 46 years old, is slated to be replaced as part of the city's new arena/pool project, which is scheduled to break ground in early 2012. The Dolphins beat Windermere, which had not been beaten by any team in three years.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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Pedestrian lights for Clarke/Sherbrooke?

The city will look into a suggestion from a resident concerning the lack of pedestrian lights at Sherbrooke and Clarke, Public Security director David Sedgwick told the *Independent* last week.

Considering three schools are located at the intersection, why is this one the only major crossing on Sherbrooke without the pedestrian signals? asked Patricia Dumais at the August 1 meeting of city council.

Dumais spoke on behalf of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA).

"While the crossing guard is helpful," she explained, "that intersection remains dangerous."

Sedgwick said she "raised a good point," and it is something "we'll be looking at."

Lone appeal confirmed for 215 Redfern demolition

Only one appeal was received by the end-of-day deadline August 8 to the demolition approval for 215 Redfern, according to assistant city clerk Nancy Gagnon.

As reported at press time that morning, the lone appeal had been received August 6 from attorneys representing one of the building's tenants, Ceraco Immigration Services, on behalf of David Cohen (see August 9, p. 2).

Cohen's argument, introduced at the

demolition hearing June 28, was based on terms of his lease, which he claims prohibits demolition of the building or any change in its destination – that is, its conversion from commercial to the proposed residential condo development.

The city's Demolition committee approved the application for demolition in a written decision dated July 8. No date has been set for the appeal by city council in a public session.

Third noisy party brings \$146 ticket

A noisy backyard party cost a resident of Metcalfe Ave. a \$146 ticket August 6, Public Security officials said. Loud laughter and voices could be heard from the sidewalk by responding officers at 12:18 pm. The ticket was issued to the homeowner's daughter. It was reported to be the third time in a month that officers had been called to the house on a similar complaint from neighbours.

Bike patrol finds man in breach of conditions

Bike patrollers who found a man sleeping on a bench at Olivier and St. Catherine August 2 asked him to move on at 11 am, Public Security officials said.

He moved a couple of times but when he was found still loitering in the area at 4 pm with a bottle of alcohol, police were called.

He was arrested for breach of conditions imposed by the court.

PSOs working on corner-parking issue

Public safety officers have started identifying street corners that lack signage or line-painting that designates how far cars must park from the intersection, Public Security director David Sedgwick said last week.

The problem of corner parking was raised at the city council meeting August 1 by Arlington resident Stanley Shapiro, who pointed out that a lack of markings on his street at the northeast corner with Sherbrooke "presents a potentially dangerous problem."

Cars parked too close to the corner make it difficult for cars making a right-hand turn off Sherbrooke, he explained.

Sedgwick said last week that the Public Security Unit would be conducting an education campaign to sensitize motorists to the issue. It would also propose measures to be put in place to identify the required "no parking" distance.

This can vary from corner to corner depending on location and configuration, he explained.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MORE SIGNS NOT SOLUTION FOR EDGEHILL SPEEDING

Contrary to Mr. Schwartz's letter in the issue of August 9 ("Edgehill area residents say they need stop sign," p. 4) and the related article "Edgehill residents want speeding curbed," (p. 9), complaints about the temporary stop sign on Edgehill last summer were not made by "drivers in a hurry, not from an area near Edgehill," but by people like myself, who live in the area, are not in a particular hurry and use Edgehill judiciously to go to and from their homes.

What Westmount does not need is more signage. We already have too many signs, and this creates visual pollution, which to some is just as bad as the noise pollution that the Edgehill residents refer to.

By suggesting a stop sign, as requested by the 11 residents on Edgehill, we neglect to understand that there is a seasonal event in Westmount called winter, and Edgehill is steep enough that if a car were forced to stop part way up Edgehill during a snow or ice episode, that car might have extreme difficulty in getting started again, creating additional noise pollution with spinning tires, etc.

The answer, quite clearly, is not a stop sign but better enforcement of the posted 30 km/h speed limit.

Just as a police cruiser has had a very

calming effect on streets such as Grosvenor and Victoria between The Boulevard and Westmount Ave., as well as The Boulevard near Aberdeen, a couple of mornings of police presence (and speeding tickets) would send out a clear message to speeders that their actions are no longer going to be tolerated.

Although I sincerely empathize with what the Edgehill residents are concerned about, more signage is not what is needed.

If that were the model, there would be stop signs and speed humps every 100 meters on every street in Westmount, and that is clearly not in our collective best interests.

ALLEN RUBIN
LEXINGTON AVE.

CYCLISTS: A RUN-OVER PEDESTRIAN CAN BE MESSY

Twice in less than 48 hours, cyclists ran red lights as I was crossing the road. The first instance early evening at Lansdowne and St. Catherine; the second mid-morning at de Maisonneuve and Claremont.

The former situation was particularly frightening as I was halfway across when the cyclist zipped past.

Let me ask these cyclists: if you're riding a bike because you want to "save the planet," how come your concern doesn't seem to extend to a human life?

And it's not just ignoring a red light but

the action of a startled pedestrian to get out of harm's way that can be dangerous: a pedestrian stumbling backwards can trip or, worse, fall.

And the mess of my smashed head on the pavement is going to be a lot harder to clean up than any carbon footprint.

DOROTHY LIPOVENKO
YORK ST.

WHO PAYS FOR GRASS IN MURRAY PARK?

Who are these vandal fitness freaks wrecking the grass in Murray Park each summer?

They attach heavy ropes to trees and whip and pull on the ropes with all their might, wiping out the grass with their sliding feet.

Is my (hefty) tax dollar paying for the grass repairs I see each fall, or does this group pay a fee to Westmount for the priv-

iledge of destroying grass in my local park?

DIANE MUNZ, MONTROSE AVE.

LOVE TO READ ABOUT WESTMOUNT ONLINE

As a former resident of the beautiful city of Westmount, I would just like to say thank you for posting the *Independent* online.

I recently moved to Toronto and after feeling a little homesick was thoroughly pleased to find that I could read about what's going on in my old neighbourhood while sitting in my new home with my eggs and coffee.

I was particularly impressed by (and admittedly disappointed for having missed) *Glee* actor Josh Sussman being in town. Keep it coming guys!

HENNA TUOHIMAA
TORONTO



Ropes tied to trees in Murray Park for exercises.

Photo: Diane Munz

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- Editor: The time is now for action at the Empress
- A truly dedicated volunteer – NDGSA coach Doug Allan

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FREE PRESS

Westmount policeman in Haiti with UN

Crime samplings show overall rise for first half of 2011

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Burglaries rose 5 percent during the first six months of the year in Westmount compared to the same period in 2010, while the number of robberies – theft with violence – declined by 53 percent.

These are among key crime samplings for the first six months ending with June results released last week by police Station 12 police commander Stéphane Plourde.

They also show a 7-percent rise in stolen cars and a 27-percent increase in the theft of items from inside vehicles. This compares with an overall 20-percent increase in this type of crime within the entire Station 12 precinct (east of Westmount to Guy St.) reported by Plourde.

A 60-percent hike in the number of graffiti reports, however, tends to belie the fact that figures reported in 2010 probably do not compare with those this year since it was only at the end of June last year that the city launched a campaign to encourage the reporting of all graffiti incidents.

93 tickets issued to cyclists

From January through July this year, police issued 93 tickets to cyclists in 39 “bi-cycle operations,” Plourde said. Most were issued in May with 13, June with 58 and July with 18. This compares with 77 tickets and 22 bicycle operations for the same period last year, according to 2010 figures.

Council follow-up: Edgehill

Along with cycling, “Traffic is a big concern for Westmounters,” Plourde noted. “It seems to be always the same thing at the council meetings. One of the things



Sgt. Marc-André Perreault in Haiti where he is serving for nine-months with the UN police contingent.

Photo courtesy of Marc-André Perreault

we’re working on now is Edgehill.” This includes following up on a request at the August 1 session to place the city’s mobile speed indicator on the steep hill of Edgehill at The Boulevard to sensitize motorists to the 30 km/h speed limit. “We have to get it fixed,” he said of the device. “After that, we will carry out radar enforcement and then look at street engineering.”

He said officers were well aware of the speeding issue raised by Michael Schwartz, who presented a petition of nearby residents to the city at the meeting (see August 9, p. 9).

(Likely unknown to many residents. the

city actually owns the mobile speed indicator but it has not been used for some

time and requires servicing before it can be put out on Edgehill, noted Public Security director David Sedgwick. This servicing is currently in the works, he said.)

Three to compete in world games

Three officers from Station 12 are off to New York City to compete in the biennial World Police and Fire Games (August 26 to September 9). These, according to Plourde, are one of the largest multi-sport events after the summer Olympics. Competing will be Cst. Mathieu Chartrand-Côté in the cross-country 10-km run, Cst. Marc-Michel Roy in karate and Sgt. Marie-Claude Dandenault in volleyball. “We certainly hope to medal,” Dandenault said.

They will also attend the 10th anniversary service of the September 11 terrorist attack. After visiting the on-site memorial this summer, Plourde said, “You feel something very special. You see the pictures, badges and a number of uniforms.”

New acting lieutenant, sergeant in Haiti

On her return, Dandenault, who has been act- *continued on p. 14*

Westmount crime samplings

January to June, 2011 vs. 2010

Type of crime reported	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	2011 total	2010 total	% chg.
Break and enter	10	3	2	4	13	8	40	38	+5
Robbery	2	2	2	0	0	1	7	15	-53
Theft from vehicles	18	21	20	28	16	11	114	90	+27
Theft of vehicles	4	3	1	3	3	2	16	15	+7
Graffiti	42	16	19	21	31	8	137	86	+60
Hit-and-run	21	31	21	13	16	23	125	120	+4

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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Graffiti suspects trailed

continued from p. 1

charged criminally and the city clerk's office was not made aware of anyone to pursue for monetary damages, Gerbeau confirmed.

The results raise questions as to why so few offenders are actually arrested and charged, or seem to fall through the cracks on the civil side.

The answer is that in reality, the process isn't as easy as it sounds (see separate story).

"It's very difficult to catch people in the act," said Public Security director David Sedgwick in reporting the two recent incidents. "It's the first time in a while that we've been able to catch someone in the act. And it happened within two nights."

Relating the first incident, August 6, Sedgwick said PSO Tina Lanzon noticed three suspicious-looking people at 1:40 am near a freshly-sprayed wall at 10 York St. This is the condo building at the north-west corner of Victoria and St. Catherine. (Other graffiti was later found along St. Catherine from Lansdowne to Victoria.).

She and PSO Rodrigo Garcia followed the trio to Decarie and Sherbrooke, where

they stopped and detained them for police. Cans of paint spray were found in their possession and paint on the hands of one suspect identified as an 18-year-old woman from Verdun.

Local police commander Stéphane Plourde said one suspect would be charged with vandalism to property over \$5,000.

Two nights later at 3:30 am, the same Public Security shift headed by Sergeant Stephen Payne followed two people whom a doorman had seen spraying a number of city signs and lampposts on de Maison-neuve east of Claremont. The east-west route was later found to have been plastered with spray paint.

The pair fled east along St. Catherine resulting in a search by PSOs, who called police to the area. PSO Marie-Ève Parent discovered one suspect, a juvenile, hiding under the Ville Marie Expressway at Hydro Westmount, Sedgwick said.

Police Sergeant Marie-Claude Dandenaault said the juvenile, a 16-year-old from Montreal West, was wanted on a warrant for breach of conditions in 2009 in another matter. The second person had managed to escape custody.

Officials challenged in pursuit of graffiti culprits

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It's been more than a year since the city declared war on graffiti perpetrators.

"Anyone who carries out vandalism on our property will pay," stated Public Security commissioner Gary Ikeman at the time. (See July 6, 2010, p. 10).

The process can be challenging.

The city's new policy was to press criminal charges against suspects rather than to ticket them under the municipal nuisance by-law. It would also pursue offenders, or the parents of a juvenile, civilly to recover removal costs.

So, until two recent August arrests (see story, p. 1), why is it that only one criminal charge has been reported by police this year and no monetary claims made by the city – in spite of numerous graffiti reports, sightings and tracking of suspects?

Burden of proof complex

Local police commander Stéphane Plourde told the *Independent* last week that laying criminal charges involves many factors: There has to be a complainant, sufficient evidence to hold up in criminal court, and the graffiti has to constitute "real" damage. This is damage that cannot be removed easily but requires a team of professionals.

As well, when a juvenile is involved (as many are), police won't charge on a first offence and many steps are laid down in a lengthy process that includes the parents.

Reduced ticketing

The city's decision to go the criminal route has reduced the Public Security's previous procedure of ticketing offenders under the city's nuisance by-law. It's a case of "either/or," explained director Sedgwick.

As a result, only one ticket this year has been issued to date for graffiti, he said. This involved the marking of a bus shelter at 4560 Sherbrooke (at Metcalfe) on January 9 when, for one reason or another, police were not involved.

In trying to fine-tune procedures, the unit has recently abandoned one part of the new policy. That is to obtain pre-signed cleaning waivers from the owners of vulnerable commercial buildings. This had bogged down the process, and Public Security is now concentrating on speeding up overall removal.

It will also be using its graffiti contractor, Solutions Graffiti, to remove graffiti from street signs and hydro equipment, as well as buildings. This has proven to be an overwhelming task for city crews to keep up with.

Recovery of costs

The city's decision to recover removal costs through civil action means the city does not require the same burden of proof as that required to press criminal charges, notes city clerk Mario Gerbeau.

Nevertheless, it is largely dependent on police supplying the city with the names and addresses of offenders as per an agreement forged last year. In practice, however, for whatever reasons, his office has not received any names, Gerbeau said.

Since the city now has information relating to two August incidents, it will be issuing the required *mise en demeure* to start the legal process, he said. Should claims wind up in court, costs to the city could far exceed the amount of actual damages. It would, however, make a strong statement and reinforce the get-tough policy, he said.

A previous attempt by the city earlier in 2010 to claim through insurance some \$30,000 for

continued on p. 15

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On the Market

Modern mixed with old at 3657 The Boulevard



3657 The Boulevard from the outside, showing stone facade.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Built in 1929 in a then new area of Westmount that was soon to become fashionable, this three-storey stone mansion looks conservative on the exterior but is

strikingly modern on the inside.

Although the current owner of 3657 The Boulevard undertook an extensive interior renovation some years back using some of the finest materials with modern design in mind, he was careful to preserve

the house's stately integrity.

"The juxtaposition between the old and the modern architecture is something that's very European in a lot of ways," said Sotheby's International Realty broker Liza Kaufman, who is representing the seller.

On the ground floor, Venetian plaster walls complement hardwood floors. A central marble floor in the main hallway adjoins a marble staircase leading to the upper floors.

Some of the house's original elements become apparent as you step into the living room. Vertical lead-lined windows allow light to stream in from three sides of the room, which is surmounted by a beamed ceiling rarely seen in residential

design anymore.

One example of the house's modern touch is that every door is made of durable thermoplastic.

Lush front and rear gardens offer a buffer of privacy, while leaving the impression you are in a forested enclave. The dense but well-maintained foliage also helps cut noise from traffic on The Boulevard at rush hour.

Adjoining the ground floor dining room, the kitchen is fitted with European accessories, including a Miele six-burner gas grill, a Gaggenau oven and a built-in sub-zero refrigerator.

The house, with an asking price of continued on p. 14



Real estate broker Liza Kaufman in the living room.

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Adventures in urban farming

Bringing in the light: Pruning trees in the city

BY MARCI BABINEAU

When I visited Nara, Japan years ago, I was given a tour of a wealthy man's garden. He was in his eighties and met us in what looked like his pyjamas. A keen gardener, he led us through his garden, stopping several times to remind our guide to tell me the importance of space in garden design. Did I understand that the space between the plants was as important as the

plants themselves?

Now that the sun is out and the leaves are thick above us in Westmount we are seeing what can grow in our shady community – that is shade lovers. Many of us cannot grow flowering plants because of the combination of shade from buildings and trees. While volumes can be written about pruning (and much pruning is specific to the plant being pruned), bringing space and light to our city gardens in the

lower canopy is possible. And this is where we vitamin-D deficient Canadians tend to hang out.

When my family moved into our little Westmount garden, it was packed with impatient, bleeding hearts, begonias and hostas. I thought to myself: "Would it ever be possible to grow a tasty summer tomato again?" I did two strategic things: First, I

tracked the sun to find the places it might be possible to let more light in. Next, I experimented with planting raspberries and red currants in different spots to see if they would produce. It turns out they would fruit with two to three hours of direct sun once the temperature got above 20 degrees celcius regularly.

Then I tried blueber- *continued on p. 11*

Skunking around Westmount

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Anyone with a dog in Westmount is well aware of the resident skunk population. Unlike punks, drunks and funks, skunks are rarely heard, occasionally seen and more frequently smelled. Their powerful odour, emitted from two small glands in their posteriors, can be detected from as much as a mile away.

The handsome, stylish black and white furry mammal prefers the more sombre and dark hours. Omnivorous

skunks indiscriminately forage for food as diverse as mice, insects, worms, fungi, leaves and berries.

Westmount's director of Public Security David Sedgwick said: "We don't have many complaints. One did get into a home in upper Westmount a few years ago and skunked around their second floor, but other than that, they don't cause any significant problems. If there were any issues, we'd ask the SPCA to relocate them to somewhere like Summit Woods."



A young skunk feasts on fallen bird seed in an Arlington back garden July 26, a mere five feet from where the photographer and his family were having dinner outdoors. Undisturbed by the human presence, the skunk saw no reason to spray. Maybe he figured spraying is rude when one is mooching.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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WINDOW & DOOR SPECIALISTS



Sunsets Fiesta helps support JGH's new skin cancer centre

Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Sunsets Fiesta was held in late June at Bice, one of Montreal's favourite chic restos in The Square Mile. The delicious reception, which attracted 300 people, was held after a doubles round-robin tennis tournament at Jarry Park.

The 14th annual Jewish General Hospital (JGH) CIBC Tennis Classic was held to support the creation of the Skin Cancer Centre at the hospital, under the direction of Westmount resident **Dr. Manish Khanna**, who attended with his wife **Dr. Geneviève Fortier-Riberdy**, coolly elegant in a flowing white dress.

Tennis Classic co-chairs were **Pat Ifrah**

and **Richard Stein**, **George Itzkovitz** and **David Souaid**.

Jon Hountalas, **Sylvain Vinet** and **Demo Trifonopoulos** attended from the CIBC, the event's lead sponsor.

After rousing tennis games, ever-so-chic guests arrived for Bice valet parking. Noted were Westmounters **Bernice** and **Morton Brownstein**, **Ari** and **Robyn Brojde**, **Bhavna Khanna** and her husband **Vittorio D'Angelo**, **Sheryl** and **Ron Black**, and **Vanessa** and **Guy Laframboise**.

Sizzling Brazilian dancers, clad with Rio carnival-style feathers and marvelous mini outfits added a punch to the cocktail party.

Décor was divine, with South Beach-style gleaming gold sofas and huge mirrors set against Bice's fun fake grass walls.

Doctors noted were JGH executive director **Hartley Stern** and his wife **Dorothy**, **Janet Shinder** and **Lawrence Klein**, **Rubin Becker** with his wife **Marsha**, **Sam Is-**



Westmount couples **Dr. Manish Khanna** and **Dr. Geneviève Fortier-Riberdy**, and **Bhavna Khanna** and **Vittorio D'Angelo**.

raelovitch and wife **Sarah**, **Alan Azuelos** with **Myrla**, **Richard Payne**, and **Stephanie Klam**.

Some \$270,000 was raised for the Skin Cancer Centre, which will offer sustainable solutions in preventing skin cancer, while increasing survival and quality of life for those who develop the disease.

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Dr. Rubin Becker and his wife Marsha.



Westmounters Vanessa and Guy Laframboise.

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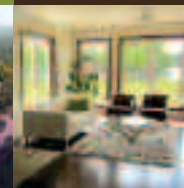
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Tout le Monde – interesting name for a cat!



Tout le Monde is an elegant three-year-old domestic long-hair male, who looks like he is wearing a shirt with a fluffy ruff at the collar and a pinstriped suit.

He is incredibly affectionate and super intelligent.

This cat is friendly with other cats and

doesn't mind gentle dogs. As with so many cats at this time of year, he was found on someone's doorstep one morning, starving and thin, and he was brought back to health by Gerdy's Rescue and Adoptions. He is now in a foster home, vaccinated and neutered, and gaining weight quite nicely as you can see. Please consider adopting him as he is a wonderful family cat.

For more information on Tout le Monde, please contact Gerdy on her pager at 514.203.9180 or email info@gerdysrescue.org.
Your neighbour, Lysanne

Little Bear sidewalk sale to benefit Gerdy's Rescues

Little Bear pet store will be having a sidewalk sale Saturday, August 20 and Sunday, August 21 to benefit Gerdy's Rescue and Adoptions. Pet items, toys, accessories, clothing, food and grooming will be available. There will also be a raffle. The shop is located at 4205 St. Catherine St., corner Greene Ave.



Tout le monde

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BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at the June 20 meeting of city council.

468 Grosvenor: at a Category I house, to replace some windows;

4086 St. Catherine: to erect a sign for Petit Monde Restaurant;

17 Grenville: to landscape at the rear including new patio and a rock garden;

37 Roxborough: alterations to include new brick veneer on all the façade and replacement of some windows and doors including garage doors;

4141 Sherbrooke: alterations to include the primary front entrance and a secondary one, as well as replacement of walkway surfaces;

694 Aberdeen: to build a bay window at the side;

624 Victoria: alterations to include the exterior walls of the sunroom, replacement of its windows and some others;

3720 The Boulevard: side and rear landscaping to include a patio, stepping stones, fence, retaining wall and stairs;

533 Victoria: to replace some windows and doors;

68 Sunnyside: to install a heat pump at the rear;

49 Windsor: to modify rear openings to add a new door;

4960-4966 Sherbrooke: to replace some windows;

434 Grosvenor: to replace a rear door;

Alexis Nihon Plaza: landscaping on de Maisonneuve to include plant beds, new walkway paving and the installation of new street furniture;

3 Roxborough: landscaping to include a new parking area as well as a new curb cut on the street;

4 Windsor: at a Category I house, to restore woodwork, flashing and roof slate;

4490 Sherbrooke: at a Category I building, to replace a front door;

4855 de Maisonneuve, #103: to replace the rear door;

418 Wood: to reduce the size of some openings and replace windows and doors;

688 Grosvenor: to replace some windows;

54 Summit Circle: to replace the front door;

31 Holton: to replace some windows;

716 Upper Roslyn: to replace some windows;

24 Willow: to replace basement windows;

436 Elm: at a Category I house, to replace some windows and a back door;

64 Aberdeen: to rebuild front balconies;

4292 Dorchester: at a Category I house, to restore front door;

764 Upper Belmont: to replace some storm windows and a rear door;

3169-3173 St. Antoine: to restore the front façade and repair stone lintels;

4917 de Maisonneuve: to replace some windows and doors;

399 Clarke, #3D: to replace some windows;

48 Holton: to replace some windows;

657 Roslyn: rear landscaping to include a patio, new fence and gate, planting beds and trees;

349 Kensington: to replace garage door;

4134 Dorchester: at a Category I building, to replace some windows;

515 Grosvenor: to create new side and rear window openings and replace a door;

625 Côte St. Antoine: to install a back fence;

660 Murray Hill: to replace some windows and doors.

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at the July 4 meeting of city council.

528 Lansdowne: at a Category I house, to replace some rear windows and doors;

4476 St. Catherine: to replace some doors.

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at the July 15 meeting of city council.

4451 St. Catherine: to erect a sign for pharmacy "Praxim";

Pruning in city gardens

continued from p. 8

ries, which were equally cooperative once they got established. Soon I was experimenting with growing fruit trees on the walls of my house. This is a European practice called espalier that prunes the tree flat against a sunny wall where it both produces fruit and does not cast a shadow. We have been able to grow apples and pears this way.

When we lived a year in France, I was struck by the sight of industrious Parisians pruning their trees and shrubs in the summer. I had always learned that pruning was done in the fall before the trees entered their winter in dormancy, *mais non!* The Parisians wanted to prune when they could see what light they could recover on the ground. If this careful pruning after the tree has bloomed and fully leafed out respects the tree's structure and keeps its limbs balanced, it will actually take a load off the tree, reducing the surface area it must send nutrients to.

To be good for the tree, the pruning must leave enough leaves to give the tree sufficient food, not taking more than 10 to 15 percent of the canopy during any one

year. This kind of regular pruning of our large city trees might also reduce the dangerous shedding of limbs or self-pruning they are prone to during storms.

The pruning of trees and shrubs is as important for their health as watering and feeding them. As city gardeners interested in growing plants other than "shade lovers," we can consider the strategies of careful and regular pruning for the health of our trees, gardens and ultimately ourselves.

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More building permits

continued from p. 11

windows and doors and create new side and rear openings;

366 Kitchener: to replace the front door;

105 Sunnyside: to replace some doors;

635 Murray Hill: to replace a window;

40 Arlington: at a Category I house, to replace the front door;

241-245 Melville: to repair masonry;

323 Victoria: at a Category I house, to rebuild front balcony;

247-251 Melville: to repair masonry;

764 Upper Belmont: to modify some openings on north façade;

468 Mountain: to build a rear deck;

73 Columbia: to replace some windows;

4684 Westmount: to replace some windows;

467 Strathcona: landscaping to include new configuration of pathways, new retaining wall and resurfacing of driveway; to build a new rear deck and retaining wall with fence;

4341 Montrose: to replace some windows;

4867 Sherbrooke: to replace front door;

337 Elm: to modify some rear openings;

654 Grosvenor: to build a rear extension under the existing second-storey sun-room;

646 Roslyn: to replace the windows;

62 Somerville: to replace some windows.

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at the August 1 meeting of city council.

28 Devon: to build a new house;

30 Sunnyside: landscaping of rear yard to include patio, retaining walls, and new plant beds;

28 Edgehill: relandscaping to include rebuilding the retaining wall, new patio pavers, new plant beds and a new fence and gate;

37 Windsor: to replace some windows;

129 Irvine: to erect a fence at north property line;

28 Devon: landscaping to include a rear pool and pool house;

3769 The Boulevard: to modify some rear openings;

309 Melville: to replace some windows;

4216 de Maisonneuve: at a Category I building, to replace all windows and balcony doors;

3778 The Boulevard: to replace garage door;

41 Devon: to replace storm windows;

343 Olivier: at a Category I house, to redo front walkway and carry out some landscaping;

608 Grosvenor: to replace some windows.

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Operatic auditions, ‘sing-through’ set for Vic Hall

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Montreal West Operatic Society will hold auditions at Victoria Hall on August 31 and September 1, 6 and 7 for its first-ever bilingual non-Gilbert & Sullivan production. This is *Orpheus in the Underworld* by Jacques Offenbach to be presented in late April and early May.

Information and appointments are available by phone at 514.990.8813 or by

email at casting@mwos.org, according to Andrew Macdougall, one of several West-mountainers who participates annually in the productions.

This year, he said, the society will also present a “sing-through” at Victoria Hall August 29 at 7:30 pm to which the public is invited.

As well, a special event called Gilbert & Sullivan Soirée will follow on November 23 at the same location.

Comin’ Up

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17

Atwater Library’s annual lawn book sale and barbecue, 10 am to 3 pm. Donations of books and DVDs in good condition (no encyclopedias, text books, out-of-date computer books and *National Geographic* magazines) are accepted at the drop-off location on Tupper St.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

Summer concerts in the park with **Robert Burman Trio** at the Westmount Park lagoon, 2 to 4 pm.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

- **“Words & Music”** at Westmount Park lagoon, 2 to 4 pm. An afternoon of music and poetry featuring local performers Bruce Campbell, Rosemary Danielis, Jocelyne Dubois, Dzian Kadja, Shira Katz and Wanda Potrykus. Bring a chair. Rain location is Victoria Hall. See Saturday, August 27 for following event.

- Shakespeare in the Park presents **Macbeth**, 8 to 10 pm in Westmount Park, corner of de Maisonneuve and Lansdowne. In case of *heavy* rain, the show will be cancelled. Bring lawn chairs and blan-

kets. Repeats Sunday, August 21. Info: www.repercussiontheatre.com.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

Family film in the park, featuring *Kung Fu Panda 2* at 8 pm. Bring lawn chair and blankets. Info: 514.989.5299.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

“Words & Music” at Westmount Park lagoon, 2 to 4 pm. Local performers include Alice Cantine, Aileen Lebofsky, Jessica Magonet, Ilona Martonfi, Dale Matthews and Paris Sea. Rain location is Victoria Hall.

Want to more know about Greene Ave.?

An exhibition on Greene Avenue is currently on in the architectural department of city hall. The exhibit is organized by Doreen Lindsay of the Westmount Historical Association. It is free admission and is open during regular office hours of city hall.

Police Beat

Belmont booty leads to Murray Hill break-in

BY DAVID GOLDBERG

The remnants of a break-in left on the back porch of a Belmont house led police to a crime scene on Murray Hill.

A Belmont resident phoned Station 12 police on July 23 to say he had found a pillowcase, an empty jewellery box and a wallet on his back porch. Police arrived on the scene shortly after the call.

“The wallet contained some ID which led the officers to a home on Murray Hill,” said Constable Adalbert Pimentel. “When the officers arrived on the scene, they saw a screen from a window from the back of the home had been torn and removed.”

Once inside, the police found two dresser drawers open in the one of the bedrooms. A pillowcase was also missing from one of the bed’s pillows.

“The break-in happened sometime between midnight on July 22 and 10 am on July 23,” said Pimentel. “The home’s resident was on vacation but we were able to get in touch with his mother.”

The resident got in touch with police later to confirm what was taken. Police say jewellery worth “a substantial amount” was stolen.

There were no witnesses to the crime, but police say they were able to lift several fingerprints from the scene.

Window too small for burglar

A possibly pudgy burglar picked the wrong window in an attempt to break into a home on Claremont Ave.

Police got a call from the home’s owner, saying she believed a robber tried to break

into her house sometime between midnight on July 30 and noon on July 31.

“The woman said, when she returned home, she noticed the cover of her basement window had been removed and damaged,” said Pimentel. “But there was no damage to the window, which measured two feet by two-and-a-half feet. We believe the suspect found the window was just too small, so he left.”

Man found with ‘very weak pulse’

Westmount’s two summer fire inspection agents helped a Westmount resident obtain medical assistance July 28 after spotting him seemingly asleep in a car outside 4326 Sherbrooke, Public Security officials said. Unable to awaken him, and noticing a bottle of alcohol on the front passenger seat, they called police. When the man was finally able to open the door with difficulty, Urgences Santé was called. He was transported to hospital for what was described as a very weak pulse.

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A PSYCHOLOGY COURSE FOR EVERYONE

The Recreation Department of the City of Westmount and Dr. Henri Lavigueur, a long-term Westmount resident and clinical psychologist, is now offering a longer 12-week version of the psychology course entitled *Understanding Human Behaviour*. A fascinating analysis of narcissism, human behaviour and society, discussions focus on how we defend our personal identities. During the Fall Session there will

be 12 consecutive classes on Tuesday evenings from 6.30 to 7.30 pm, Sept. 27 through Dec. 13 at Victoria Hall.

Registration is at the Westmount Arena: Residents (\$55) August 22 through August 31. Non-residents (\$88) Sept. 1.

Dr. Henri Lavigueur, Psychologist 514-938-5180



Crime and station news

continued from p. 5

ing as interim station lieutenant after the departure of Pierre Liboiron, will be going back on the road and will be replaced by Sgt. Joanne Matte, also on an interim basis until a new lieutenant is chosen.

In other personnel news, Sgt. Marc-André Perreault called by the station recently while on leave from his current nine-month voluntary assignment to the UN's police contingent in Haiti. He has two months left in the assignment before returning to Westmount. He serves as staff sergeant in an isolated inland location called Hinche situated between two mountains.

While this area was largely unaffected by the earthquake, "Perreault just told me the biggest problem they have right now in Port au Prince is land claims," said

Plourde, who also served in Haiti in 1997. People are arguing over who owns what small piece of land.

Kif Kif recognition

Police handed out 50 T-shirts in Westmount during a special program called "Kif Kif" in the spring to reward cyclists and motorists for demonstrating road courtesy to each other. The name means "equal equal," Plourde said, reflecting the need of cyclists and motorists to share the road.

Back to school

Station 12 personnel are busy planning the usual back-to-school safety campaign, which will include posting officers around school zones and ensuring the training of crossing guards.

Some humour to ease construction woes on Windsor



An unknown artist makes a "bonhomme" out of a street lighting base in the construction zone on Windsor Ave.

Photo: Anthony Hobbs

On the market

continued from p. 7

\$4,450,000, has a total of four full bathrooms and two half bathrooms, appointed with chrome and glass fixtures.

There are five bedrooms in all, including smaller ones on the top floor. A large walk-in closet adjoins the master bedroom. Bedrooms facing south offer views of the St. Lawrence River and the South Shore.

There is a large and recently renovated den in the basement and a well-appointed living space with bathroom for a staff member, as well as storage and utility rooms, and a two-car garage.

The municipal taxes for 2011 are \$37,956 and the school taxes \$8,229.

On the Market is content written entirely by the Westmount Independent and is not paid for by real estate sellers or their agents.

In conversation with

Barry Cole on intercultural exchanges and dialogue

BY HEATHER BLACK

For the fourth year, the Cole Foundation is supporting the funding of theatrical performances based on the Quebec immigrant experience. To learn more about the program "Intercultural Conversations", I spoke to foundation's director and president, Westmounter Barry Cole.

The immigrant experience

For Cole, the impetus for the program was the Bouchard-Taylor commission. Reporting in 2008, the commission recognized the need for increased dialogue within Quebec's cultural communities. Cole, a manager in the performing arts by profession, was inspired to fund performances based on the immigrant experience.

As Cole explained, life for newcomers is fraught with difficulty. "Many are torn between cultures, while others suffer professional or financial setbacks. By funding original writing, translation and production costs, the Cole Foundation, established by his uncle in 1980, offers new citizens an opportunity to present both their experiences and challenges.

For Cole the results have been gratifying. For the past season the foundation received 36 applications from 23 companies. Of these 13 were for commissioned plays from Quebec playwrights, five were for translations and 18 for production grants.

Encouraging creativity

Cole is delighted with the variety of the submissions. Each submission is juried by theatre and performing arts professionals, and productions are selected on merit rather than by language or budget. In one, a Rosemont street theatre company Toxique Trottoir showcased artists and citizens from the Maghreb community. Another, *The Fredy Project*, by Annabel Soutar recalled the shooting death of Fredy Villanueva.

Nine of the current season's performances were for young audiences, which particularly pleased Cole. Théâtre à l'Envers' production of *L'Ezdaï* by Lynn Katrine Richard explores the difficulties that immigrant children encounter.

For Cole, "these grants are often vital

for Montreal companies, some of which receive no other funding." But the foundation also supports productions both by more established companies. Centaur Theatre's *Intimate Apparel* by Lynne Nottage also received a production grant.

Community support

Although the focus is on local audiences, the impact of Intercultural Conversations seems far reaching. One successful production shown in local schools is now touring internationally. An-



Barry Cole

other has been translated into Spanish and is currently on stage in Brazil.

Although funding is available for productions in both English and French, the anglophone community in particular has responded. During the past season, approximately half of the submissions were for English-language productions.

Foundation message

For Cole, Intercultural Conversations encourages an understanding of the many cultural voices that make up our community. By offering a glimpse inside the lives of others, Montrealers are enriched.



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Lovely Leo

The Underdog Club

CYNTHIA LEE



Leo was shipped off to find a new home, but not by courier. Why? Well, for starters, he bit the UPS guy and soon afterwards found a tracking number stamp-

care, but lop it off and voilà, easy as a walk in the park.

Even though Leo is still a young lad (about two years old), we feel a mellow household would suit him best. A one-or-two person home would be ideal as a busy one will likely overwhelm this little guy.

Leo can be high maintenance but is good in the bath and used to the fuss of having his long blond locks tended to.

Do you prefer to communicate by internet and not by courier? Why not give Leo a chance? Contact Sophie's Dog Adoptions at info@sophiesdogadoption.com or call 514.523.5052.

The Underdog Club is a marketing agency for Montreal's select rescue organizations to help them promote their hardest-to-adopt dogs. Visit the Old, the Ugly and the Unpopular dogs at www.underdogclub.org.

Top scorers, Westmount bridge club

Westmount tally bridge winners with top accumulative bridge scores for the three best sessions in July were:

1. John Bower with 10,470 points
2. Shigeko Betts with 9,660 points
3. Mirium Reich with 8,650 points
4. Renee Prendergast with 8,240 points
5. Mac Belfer with 7,730 points.

Graffiti reporting crucial

continued from p. 6

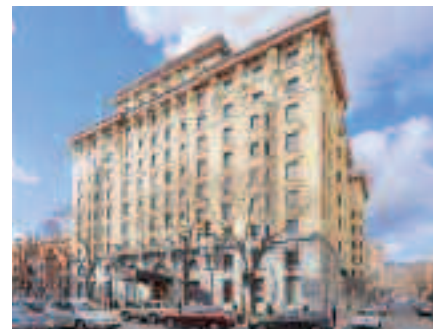
replacement of park and playground equipment damaged by graffiti in 2009 basically fizzled out when, Gerbeau said, it was found the marking could be easily re-

moved at a cost of some \$200.

Stressing the importance of residents reporting graffiti to expedite its removal, the city continues to maintain a graffiti e-mail reporting system at graffiti@westmount.org.

Electronic Independents available

Enjoy the *Indie* at supper time on Tuesdays! Sign up by writing us: office@westmountindependent.com.



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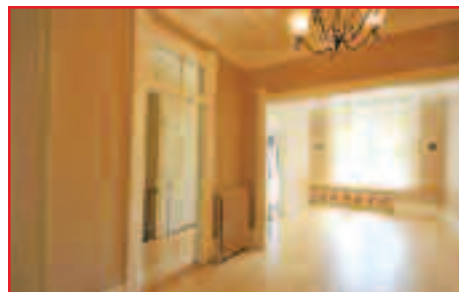
TANIA KALECHEFF

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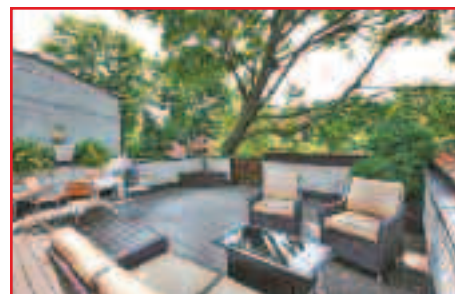
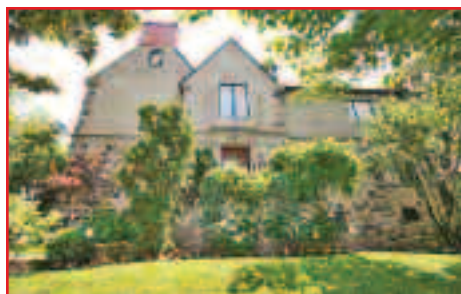


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