

## Concerns voiced over new interpretation of building laws

# Demolition: a rising trend?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Can a trend toward more demolition hearings for Westmount houses be expected in the near future?

The answer is “yes,” said several key architects and city officials who foresee increasing numbers of renovation projects requiring removal of 50 percent or more of the façade – or outright destruction. Both require demolition permits.

But this is further borne out by recent changes quietly introduced by the city for calculating site coverage and the size of

sloping roofs. This was brought to light last week when the *Independent*, unaware of the changes, set out to explore demolition trends.

Site coverage, it was learned, is now being calculated by the edges of roof’s overhang in the case of a sloping roof rather than by the footprint of the walls.

As well, the area of a sloping roof is now measured by the entire surface rather than as a “flat projection” – a bird’s eye view, a concept used for years.

Both charges are raising the ire of two leading architects, especially for being implemented without announcements to professionals in the field, including real estate agents.

“It’s simply nonsensi- *continued on p. 9*

## Lovebird lost, found and loved



Joyce Keith is trying to find the rightful owner of this lovebird, which she took in after spotting it in her back yard on Hillside. See story, p. 4.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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## Neighbours, city want site landscaped

# Controversial, unfinished Côte Rd. house for sale

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It’s on the market for \$3.7 million, but a high-profile and controversial new house at 310 Côte St. Antoine, overlooking Murray Park, lies dormant and unfinished.

After years of demolition hearings, appeals and construction, the project continues to raise the curiosity of passers-by and spark the outrage of neighbours over the state of garbage and materials strewn about while work to complete it appears at a stand-still.

The owner and his family, who re-

quested and were given an occupancy permit March 11 when minimum plumbing and safety basics were completed, have since moved out and the city has taken steps to have him renew an expired landscaping permit.

City Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier explained last week that a city inspector had followed up by letter to the owner June 16 on renewing the permit. None has since been renewed.

“The house is habitable but we have not given back the entire ..... monetary guarantee,” she *continued on p. 14*

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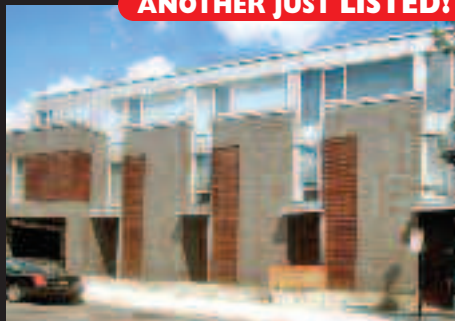
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## Place K's Craimer celebrates 100 with 3 generations of family



Photo: Martin C. Barry

For her 100th birthday, Gertie Craimer got a special treat: a visit from three generations of her family – from Toronto, Calgary and Berkeley, California. They came to visit her at Place Kensington, where she lives. A sing-along reception and luncheon were held on August 15 in her honour. "It's even difficult for me to believe that I made it to 100," she told the Independent. Born in Poland, Craimer came to Canada by boat with her parents when she was age 3. For many years she lived in Côte St. Luc. From the centre, moving clockwise, Gertie Craimer, Nimrod Elias and his young daughter Nava, Marilyn Craimer, David Craimer, Avi Craimer, Jane Craimer, Rachel Craimer and Seymour Craimer.

## Too soon for leaf blowers

Autumn may be on the way, but one contractor working in Westmount learned the hard way that it's not here yet.

Working at the Château Maisonneuve apartment building (Claremont and de Maisonneuve) on August 15, the man was issued a \$267 ticket for using a leaf blower out of season. The noisy device is allowed only during the fall and spring clean-up seasons, from October 1 to November 15 and from April 1 to May 1.

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## Metro shoplifter caught

The Public Security bike patrol spotted a man being chased west along Sherbrooke at Claremont August 12 by a woman yelling at him to stop, officials said. The woman turned out to be a security agent at the Victoria Ave. Metro store. The man stopped for patrollers, who called police. A known 35-year-old shoplifter with no fixed address was arrested and detained at the Guy St. police station.



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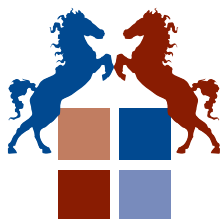
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# Hillside woman seeks lovebird’s owner

A resident of Hillside Ave. is trying to find the owner of an exotic bird she took in after spotting it on August 6 outside her home.

At first Joyce Keith tried to lure the parrot-like bird, but it finally flew over and landed on her head without enticements.

However, after calling the SPCA and a radio station to see if a lovebird was reported lost, she has yet to find the rightful owner.

“Two people called, but their description didn’t fit this little guy,” she told the *Independent*.

Based on her own experience as a one-time budgie owner, she believes it is no more than a few months old.

In the meantime, the bird – which



Keith thinks is a masked lovebird – is being kept in a hamster cage.

She can be reached at 514.935.4127.

– MCB

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### WHAT DEFINES GRAFFITI?

Interesting that the feature article concerns a crackdown on graffiti vandalism, then on p. 14 of the paper (August 16) appears “Some humour to ease construction woes on Windsor” with a photograph of a defaced street lighting base.

So is graffiti only graffiti if it is not considered cute?

DEBORAH LEAVITT, WINCHESTER AVE.

### Correction

The owner of Martin Swiss was incorrectly identified in our August 16 p. 1 photo caption. Martin Stamp is the actual owner. The *Independent* received incorrect information.

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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# BBQ-book sale raises more than \$800 for Atwater Library



In addition to hardcovers and paperbacks, hot dogs and soft drinks were on the menu during the Atwater Library’s annual book sale and BBQ on August 17. The food, which was donated by Metro Fletcher on Victoria, was available in exchange for a donation to the library. More than \$800 was raised for the library’s educational and cultural programs. Seen here, from left, are library user Liliane Constable, staff member Dan Buda and library volunteer Alex Nataros.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

## Celeb watch



Lansdowne resident Nealy Chea met some interesting people at this year’s Grand Prix in June, including Cirque du Soleil co-founder Guy Laliberté.

Photo courtesy of Nealy Chea

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# FREE PRESS



# Suburbs up against a wall on agglo budget

*Will Trent and Tremblay get to Quebec on pension issue? No information forthcoming*

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Even though Mayor Peter Trent represents Montreal suburban municipalities as vice-chair of the agglomeration council's standing committee on finance and administration, he said last week that efforts to obtain information on the 2012 agglo budget have led nowhere.

And specifically, he added, this involves a trip he is supposed to be making in September with Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay to Quebec to request from the government some way of reducing rising costs to island-wide taxpayers of employee defined-benefits pension plans.

Since a major press conference June 22 on the issue by Tremblay in conjunction with Trent, "We haven't heard 'boo' about it," Trent said August 17.

"The message is that we can't get anything out of Montreal. The municipal government seems to be closed down for the

summer."

Trent said he considers the issue of pensions and remuneration so serious and relevant to the 2012 agglo budget that if Tremblay does not come through with their trip to Quebec, he wonders what use it is to remain on the committee.

He and Baie d'Urfé mayor Maria Tutino quit the agglo committee in protest at the end of last year when it turned out that the agglo budget did not respect the guidelines the committee and the Montreal council had approved, essentially because of the employee issues.

While the agglo budget does not affect preparation of the Westmount budget now under way, Trent explained, the added tax burden it places on residents is of much concern. The agglo share gobbles up more than half the city's revenue and last year accounted for much of the tax increase.

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# Storytime was a splash



A “Splash Storytime” took place recently in the Westmount Public’s Library’s Storytelling Garden with the mascot Froggy (from Jonathan London’s popular Froggy books). Photo courtesy of Westmount Public Library

A water- and frog-themed event was part of the Westmount Public Library’s summer reading club. The library invited kids to listen to stories, sing songs, take photos with the frog character, paint with water, run through a sprinkler and eat frog cupcakes.

Two more activities for the reading club

included a film on August 18 and next an ocean craft Thursday, August, 25 at 4 pm.

The closing party for all summer reading club members takes place Saturday, September 10, 2 pm at Victoria Hall. Theatre troupe Rag & Bone Puppet Theatre is set to perform *A Promise is a Promise*, followed by prizes, cake and juice.



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## Riopelle and Béliveau: New works and old favourites

BY HEATHER BLACK

Oscar Wilde once remarked that “a work of art is the unique result of a unique temperament.” One glance at the newly arrived works of Jean-Paul Riopelle at Galerie D’Este and of Paul Béliveau at Galerie de Bellefeuille confirms this assessment.

### *Jean-Paul Riopelle at Galerie D’Este*

Riopelle (1923-2002) is considered Canada’s leading abstract painter of his generation, his work conveying spontaneity within a measured sequence of line or shape. The lithographs, drawings and pastels on display at the gallery include graphic depictions of birds, as well as abstract compositions.

“Automne (1969)” consists of angled blue, ochre and black shapes juxtaposed with curved lines. Creating a controlled chaos of line, colour contributes to the composition’s dynamic yet lyrical harmony. In contrast, the abstracted black

shapes of the series “Un Promeneur (1988-1990)” evoke trees, flowers and hayfields.

For Riopelle, birds are a subject for creative expression. In “Hibou VI (1970),” the owl’s shape is barely discernible amid the black scribbles, while in “Hibou IX (1970),” it is surrounded by mosaic-like black blocks. However, “Touché (1981-1983),” features a shot duck in mid-air. Painted in sky blue, ochre and green, black broken lines accentuate the duck’s flight and fall.

With dynamic, asymmetric yet balanced composition, Riopelle’s art remains contemporary 50 years on. These works are currently at the gallery on 1329 Greene Ave.

### *Paul Béliveau at Galerie de Bellefeuille*

Although Béliveau depicts his subjects within various layouts, he is known for his colourful and lively book compositions.

Painted in acrylic on canvas, what appears to be a playful mix of titles on book jackets often imparts a sociological message. Depicting themes of interest to the artist – music, art and biography – his newest series “Vanitas” is no exception.

In “Vanitas 11.05.04,” a striking image of actress Louise Brooks on the cover of *Looking for Lulu* dominates the composition. Arranged with one of Lichtenstein’s comic book seductress on a book entitled *Pop*, and one on the vanity internet address Dot Me, another book is indicated by pages and a red bookmark.

“Vanitas 11.06.27” pays tribute to musicians Bob Marley, Jimi Hendrix, Jim



*Touché, 1981-1983 – Jean-Paul Riopelle*

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*Vanitas 11.05.04 – Paul Béliveau*



# ‘Demolition’ may need new definition

continued from p. 1

cal to interpret site coverage by the edge of the eaves,” said architect Bruce Anderson, who has worked in Westmount for 40 years, taught in and directed the McGill School of Architecture and even helped author the city’s building guidelines. “Quebec land surveyors never plot coverage that way.”

Architect Adam Borowczyk said the new interpretation of site coverage could prevent someone with a large roof overhang from adding even a small kitchen extension, for example.

## Forced ‘demolition’

The new calculations of roof area could force someone with a bungalow or split-level into demolition just to modify the roof, he said. “There is nothing wrong with this going through a public process,” he said, “but it should not be considered as a demolition.

“This is unfair, discriminates against houses with large roof overhangs and is unsustainable,” he said.

The danger, he explained, is that once a house goes through the demolition process it technically becomes a new one without vested rights, especially in the area of newer setbacks.

This, he suggested, could lead to unnecessary demolition in whole or in part of an otherwise good house to the annoyance of neighbours, extra costs and a waste of building materials.

## Define demo differently

Instead, he said, “a new definition of what is ‘demolition’ is required. The city should do away with the number bench-

mark of 50 percent and hold public hearings for all major projects.”

“That’s an excellent point,” said Councillor Patrick Martin, who chairs the city’s Demolition committee, adding: “But that’s my personal opinion.”

Martin disagreed, however, that the city’s new calculations would ever lead to actual demolition of a perfectly good house – though they should have been made public, he said. “I don’t believe council would ever do that. It makes no sense and is not sustainable.”

The problem, Borowczyk suggested, “is that we might never get to the level of a council decision because there’s no official appeal process to a decision by the Board of Inspections of the PAC (Planning Advisory Committee).”

“Each case,” said Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier, “has to be judged on its own merit.”

## Reflects council position

The new calculations, she said, were indeed intended to be more restrictive and require more projects to go through the demolition process. But that reflects the position of the city council, “which wants major projects go through public review. This is a way to do it by reading the by-laws in a more restrictive way.”

The changes were also intended to reduce a negative impact on neighbours in congested areas and to restrict architects from “playing to the maximums.”

But Borowczyk reiterates that there should be a public process for major projects that is distinct from a demolition hearing.

He points to a number of smaller bungalows and split-levels with large eaves

built just after World War II on the summit whose owners are in the throes of wanting to modify them for the future.

Poirier, however, doesn’t see the changes causing a problem in an area where lots tend to be large enough to accommodate additions to smaller houses despite the recent changes.

In fact, she said, “we’re easing up on some of by-laws to provide more freedom in such areas as bay windows but being more restrictive in other areas.” She pointed to other recent by-law changes that had been made regarding vested rights for setbacks as well as loosening up on sloping roofs at Borowczyk’s suggestion.

The time has come, Anderson said, for the city to hold another round-table meeting with architects like one held a few years ago “to listen to the people helping design for taxpayers affected by smaller lot sizes.”

A number of demolition projects are ongoing in the city including one by Anderson at 26 Aberdeen to create a formal Georgian garden, and work on homes designed by Borowczyk at 72 Summit Circle, 28 Devon and 310 Côte St. Antoine (see story p. 1).

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# Westmount art scene

continued from p. 8

Morrison, and Janis Joplin – all of whom died young. Yet, as other titles reference composer Henry Purcell and artist-inventor Leonardo Da Vinci, short-lived fame is compared to the longevity of genius.

What is most striking is Béliveau’s stylistic virtuosity. His repertoire includes cartoons, pop, old masters and photo realism. “Vanatas II.07.05,” for instance, features the title “Callas” with the diva’s image, as well as a cartoon opera singer on a book entitled *Les femmes dans le univers d’herbege*.

Although the message is at times ambiguous, no one can dispute the original-

ity of these works. Béliveau’s work is displayed upstairs at Galerie de Bellefeuille, 1367 Greene Ave.

Another painting featuring Montreal legends Leonard Cohen and William Shatner will be auctioned at the Hadassah-WIZO fundraiser on Tuesday, October 18.

## Rich legacy

From books to owls, the art of Riopelle and Béliveau command our respect. Although these works vary in style and subject, both painters produce distinctive – and recognizable – art.

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# Senécal hosts fundraiser for St. Justine at Just for Laughs fest



*Social Notes  
from Westmount  
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

On a hot humid eve at the end of July, the newly-elected president of the Collège Jean de Brébeuf alumnus **Éric Senécal**, corporate controller with Croix Bleue du Québec, hosted a successful fundraiser for St. Justine hospital.

The elegant affair was a cocktail-dinatoire (sponsored by Raymond James) and then theatre performance, presided by honorary president, media celeb **Herby Moreau**, also a Brébeuf alumnus – as are many members of Quebecor Inc., such as **Pierre Karl Péladeau**.

Held outdoors at the Club Charlot tent at the Festival Juste Pour Rire, the event, Juste Pour Les Enfants, had a fabulous silent auction. Guests outbid each other on art, Canadiens’ signed memorabilia, tickets to Cirque du Soleil’s “Totem” and seating at the 2012 F1 race.

Arriving ladies received beautiful sea pearl earrings from Laura & Aline Boutique as the *prix de présence*. Then the chic crowd moved into Place des Arts for “Soirée New York,” the show of **Gregory Charles** – also a Brébeuf alumnus!

Noted amidst the stylish theatre-goers were Westmounters **Nicole Forbes** and **Linda Smith**, as well as **Gloria Catracchia** and **Richard Blouin**, **Aline Papazian** and her daughter **Laura Zakem**, the college’s

**Chantal Montreuil** (director, Fonds Brébeuf), and **Julie Godin** and **Sebastien Benoît**, VP of institutional equity, Raymond James.

CN’s Miracle Match matched the \$62,500 raised by Senécal’s event. On July 25, live on TVA, he presented a donation cheque of \$125,000 to the St. Justine UHC Foundation.

*Please let me know of any social events or fundraisers involving Westmounters for our fall social calendar by emailing redgrave@videotron.ca.*



Westmounter Linda Smith, Éric Senécal and Nicole Castellano.



Chantal Montreuil and Westmount city councillor Nicole Forbes.



Aline Papazian and Laura Zakem.

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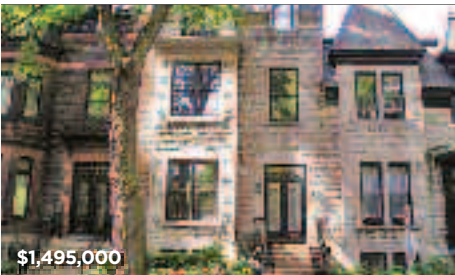
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continued from p. 1

also said.  
This was an amount deposited with the city at the time of demolition of the previous house. This was a bungalow that had fallen into disrepair and had been bought in 2006 by Yuri Arutyunov. He had stated through an interpreter during a demolition appeal hearing (see story January 20, 2009, p. 1) that he intended to live in the new house.  
But the family moved out after about two months, neighbours said.

**Painful situation**

“This is a situation that has been very painful for us,” said Janet Weinroth, who lives immediately west, where a narrow construction ditch separating their house from an unfinished retaining wall along the excavation for the new driveway remains unfilled. It’s dangerous, she explained.  
“On the positive side, however, the diminished light and loss of park views we anticipated did not happen even though we still find the house is too massive.”  
Other neighbours were actually more affected, said her husband Jean-Pierre Aubert. “Our problem has been with the ditch that was supposed to be only tempo-

rary. Nothing has been done for three months. The site is an eyesore in the neighbourhood.”  
To this effect, Aubert said that in May – about the time the family moved out of the house – he put a notice through the door, with a copy to the city, asking the owner to fill the ditch, landscape and clean up the site.  
**Dilemma not unique**  
The Auberts’ dilemma will no doubt resonate with a number of other residents who have also endured – and are experiencing – work sites left in limbo either because builders ran out of money, encountered difficulties with contractors and building supplies or other reasons.  
This is an issue the city is taking steps to deal with (see story June 14, p. 6).  
Records show the house was built on an original permit issued in July 2009 based on estimated construction costs of \$1 million with a renewed issued December 2010 for \$100,000. The house is not yet on the property valuation roll, but the land is assessed at \$859,800 according to the current roll.  
At the current asking price, the municipal tax .....

continued on p. 15

# Controversial Côte St. Antoine



Jean-Philippe Aubert and his wife Janet Weinroth discuss the state of an unfinished house next door at 310 Côte St. Antoine. Their house is to the right.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney



Ticketed vehicles were seen parked at 310 Côte St Antoine July 12.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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# house unfinished

.....  
continued from p. 14

bill alone would exceed \$38,000.

The 19-room house is described as including some six bedrooms and six bathrooms or powder rooms as well as a gym, home theatre and family room with a custom-built waterfall and geothermal heating.

It is solidly built of steel frame and concrete construction, said architect Adam Borowczyk, who succeeded, the Auberts feel, in allaying their original concerns. Borowczyk said last week he was not aware of what remained to be finished inside.

While online photos of the house depict ceiling art and ornate moldings and flooring, there are understood to be interior areas yet to complete.

Outside, along with the ditch, the driveway lies unfinished as does the application of slate shingles on the mansard-type roof above a network of metal scaffolding where only tar-paper covering can be seen on the west side.

A pile of wire meshing for construction of the driveway lies rusting in the driveway excavation immediately next the neighbours' house. A yellow truck belonging to one of the workers had remained broken down on the site for some time but was eventually removed. "People complained," Aubert said.

Scorch marks can be seen under a side window projection where fires had been doused by firefighters on two occasions, the Auberts said.

Now what also remains is a large "for sale" sign and the hopes of neighbours

that at least some basic landscaping and cleaning up can be undertaken soon.

## Graffiti suspect caught mid-afternoon

A Westmount Public Works employee spotted a group of people in the throes of painting graffiti on the structure of highway 720 (the Ville Marie Expressway) across from Hydro Westmount August 10 at about 2:40 pm, Public Security officials report.

When public safety officers arrived on the scene, they reported finding three people set up with a platform and an array of paint cans and water bottles. Two fled but one was kept on the scene for the arrival of Montreal police.

A man identified as a 20-year resident of Rosemount was subsequently turned over to the Sûreté du Québec since the highway is in provincial jurisdiction.

## Two octogenarians fall on city sidewalks

Two Westmounters in their 80s were taken to hospital by Urgences Santé in separate incidents last week after falling on public sidewalks, Public Security officials report. One, who hit the back of her head outside 4290 de Maisonneuve on Au-

gust 11, was known to have been still hospitalized a week later. The second casualty, at 4430 St. Catherine, occurred the next day, causing assorted injuries to the victim's right side.

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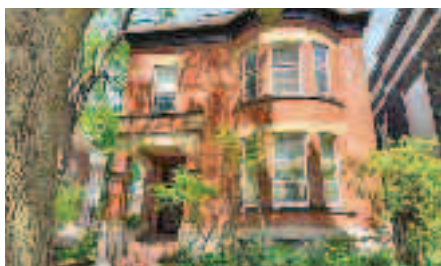
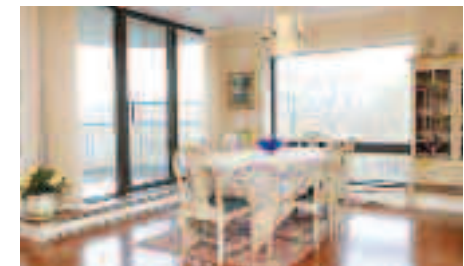
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**Illegal ‘police’ scene**

A Public Security patroller came upon an unusual scene August 11 at 4:30 am. There, at the corner of Sherbrooke and Prince Albert were unfamiliar people in police uniforms. They turned out to be actors dressed up as police for a film shoot. “Real” police were called and the event was broken up. Public Security officials told those responsible for the filming to obtain a permit from city hall.

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*Where have all the pigeons gone?*



Anyone noticed how few pigeons are in the Westmount area recently? This photograph was taken in June in a local garden but nary a pigeon has been spotted in the garden since. Possibly the screechy Merlin (otherwise known as the pigeon hawk), who raised its family in Murray Park, is responsible for the absence of these columbiformes. Did you know that pigeons are part of the same family as the now extinct dodo bird and that unlike most other birds, they are capable of drinking by sucking up water without needing to tilt the head back?

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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# Casey the hipster



## The Underdog Club

CYNTHIA LEE

Casey is a small German shepherd mix, who had a wonky hip. When she was found wandering the streets alone, her hip was already giving her trouble.



Casey

Was she injured *en route* somewhere? Or dumped because of her injury?

Whatever the circumstance, Casey was lucky enough to be taken in by Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions. She was given surgery to repair her hip.

Casey has recovered well and is by all accounts an affable dog with an excellent temperament. She would be ideal for a family as she is playful but respectful. This nice sized girl gets along well with other dogs and loves to be among humans.

Ever wonder if the hip bone connects to the tail bone? Maybe Casey could let you know. Please contact Gerdy on her pager at 514.203.9180 or email [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org).

*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](http://www.underdogclub.org).*

## Peppy was adopted!

A reader of the *Indie Underdog Club* column fell in love with Peppy, the Shih Tzu poodle mix featured in the August 9 issue, p. 19. The emergency shelter of the SPCA, thrilled with the adoption, said the downtown Montreal resident jokingly said that it was a case of "her husband or the dog." Her husband, who was at first a little more retiscent, came around.

## Electronic Independents available

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# Licensed dog returned, owners warned

At least one Westmount resident learned the value of obtaining a dog licence last week when her beagle was found running loose at the dog run in Westmount Park around 7:30 pm August 13. Public Security officials said they returned the dog to its home on Lansdowne within 20 minutes.

In recent spot checks at dog runs, officers found six dog owners without licences and cards at Summit Woods, Murray Park and Westmount Park. The names of all

were recorded, and the people were given 14 days to obtain the required permit. One lived downtown, one in NDG and four in Westmount.

Another local resident was cautioned in the Westmount Athletic Grounds for letting his unlicensed dog run off leash.

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## Man ticketed for feeding peanuts to squirrels

A ticket for \$146 was issued August 12 to a man for feeding wildlife in Westmount Park, Public Security officials said. He was throwing peanuts to squirrels from a bench near the tot lot. This not only contravened the municipal by-law but was described as potentially life-threatening to anyone with peanut allergies.

Angered by the intervention, the man began acting aggressively and making indecent gestures, also within sight of the children, causing officers to call police. Identified as a 53-year-old resident of NDG, he eventually left the area.

## Gas leak requires traffic diversion

A gas leak near 380 Elm and Sherbrooke August 12 caused traffic to be rerouted off the major artery at 2 pm until the gas could be turned off an hour later, according to Public Security officials. The leak was caused by contractors working on the reconstruction of Elm between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve. Public safety officers blocked traffic at both intersections at the request of the fire department.



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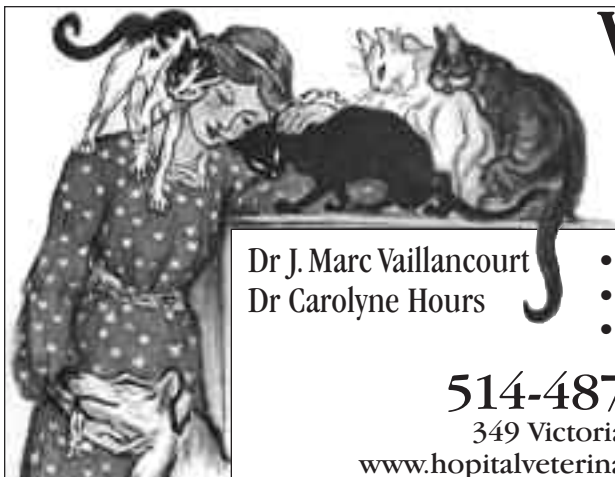
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## Young little Miss Tippy



*9 Lives*

LYSANNE FOWLER

This adorable one-year-old was found in a backyard as a starving kitten.

As soon as she was discovered, Miss Tippy was taken to a vet and she had all the basic care administered: she was vaccinated, spayed, tested for everything. She came out with a clean bill of health.

Miss Tippy is now in a foster home through Gerdy's Rescue and Adoptions and is ready for an adoptive family.

As the summer is coming to a close and families are coming back from holi-



*Miss Tippy*

days, it is great time to introduce a kitten into a new home.

This grey and rust striped kittie is a lovely domestic shorthair tabby with perfectly matched markings. She is very playful and affectionate, with a sweet nature and a kittenish attitude towards the joys of life (playing and sleeping).

If you would like to find out more about Miss Tippy, please contact Gerdy's Rescue by paging 514.203.9180 or email [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org).

*Your neighbour, Lysanne*



<div></div> <div><h1>Westmount vous informe...</h1><h1>Westmount vous informe...</h1><h1>Westmount Page</h1></div>		<div><p>www.westmount.org info : 514 989-5200</p></div> <div><p>Vol. 5/15 Publié par Westmount • Published by Westmount</p></div>
<div></div> <div><h2>HÔTEL DE VILLE</h2><h3>Fermeture des bureaux administratifs le 5 septembre</h3><p>Veillez noter que les bureaux administratifs de la Ville, soit l'Hôtel de ville, Hydro Westmount, les services de la Sécurité publique et des sports et loisirs, ainsi que le centre communautaire Victoria Hall seront fermés le lundi 5 septembre en raison de la Fête du travail. De plus, la Bibliothèque publique sera fermée les dimanche 4 septembre et lundi 5 septembre. Prenez note également que la collecte des résidus alimentaires s'effectuera selon l'horaire normal.</p></div>		<div></div> <div><h2>CITY HALL</h2><h3>Administrative Offices Closed September 5</h3><p>Please note that administrative offices of the City of Westmount (City hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security, Recreation and Victoria Hall) will be closed on Monday, September 5 for the Labour Day holiday. Westmount Public Library will be closed on Sunday, September 4 and Monday, September 5.</p></div>
<div></div> <div><h2>DATES À RETENIR</h2><div><div><h3>Le 24 août à 14 h</h3><p>Club de cinéma d'été : Le Concert Bibliothèque</p></div><div><h3>Le 6 septembre à 20 h</h3><p>Séance du conseil Hôtel de ville</p></div></div></div>		<div></div> <div><h2>DATEBOOK</h2><div><div><h3>August 24 at 2 p.m.</h3><p>Summer Film Club : Le concert (in French) Library</p></div><div><h3>September 6 at 8 p.m.</h3><p>Council Meeting City Hall</p></div></div></div>
<div></div> <div><h2>Fin de l'horaire estival</h2><p>Les heures normales d'ouverture des bureaux administratifs, soit du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30, reprendront le lundi 29 août. 🌿</p></div>		<div></div> <div><h2>End of summer office schedule</h2><p>Please note that regular office hours for administrative services will resume on Monday, August 29th (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).</p></div>
<div></div> <div><h2>TRAVAUX PUBLICS</h2><h3>Herbe à poux : rappel à tous</h3><p>À Westmount, les résidents et commerçants doivent s'assurer qu'il n'y a pas d'herbe à poux sur leur propriété. Renseignez-vous en consultant le site web de la ville; vous trouverez des photos et d'autres informations. Des inspecteurs remettront un avis si de l'herbe à poux est détectée sur une propriété privée. Si vous observez de l'herbe à poux dans un espace public, nous vous prions d'appeler le Service des travaux publics immédiatement pour demander qu'elle soit enlevée. Info : 514 989-5268 🌿</p></div>		<div></div> <div><h2>PUBLIC WORKS</h2><h3>Ragweed reminder</h3><p>In Westmount, residents and business owners are responsible for ensuring that ragweed is not left to flower of their property. Check the City's website for photos and other information about the plant. Inspectors will issue reminders where ragweed is detected. If you find ragweed on any public property, please contact the Public Works Department immediately to ask that it be removed. Information: 514 989-5268 🌿</p></div>
<div></div> <div><h2>ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES</h2><h3>Mots et musiques</h3><p>Rendez-vous à l'étang du Parc Westmount le 27 août à 14 h pour entendre la musique de <i>Under the Three</i> et des œuvres de poésie. Apportez votre chaise. Consultez l'horaire complet dans la section <i>calendrier</i> au <a href="http://www.westmount.org">www.westmount.org</a>. En cas de pluie, l'événement aura lieu au Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5226</p></div>		<div></div> <div><h2>COMMUNITY EVENTS</h2><h3>Words and Music</h3><p>Join us for live music by Under the Three and poetry by local performers at the lagoon in Westmount Park on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Bring a chair. For more details, consult the calendar at <a href="http://www.westmount.org">www.westmount.org</a>. Rain location: Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5226</p></div>
<div></div> <div><h2>Poésie en plein air</h2><p>Une soirée de musique et de poésie d'artistes du quartier. L'événement aura lieu de 18 h à 20 h le mercredi 31 août près de l'étang du parc Westmount. Apportez votre chaise. En cas de pluie, l'événement aura lieu au Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5226 🌿</p></div>		<div></div> <div><h2>Poetry in the Park</h2><p>Join us for a music and poetry event from 6 to 8 p.m. on August 31<sup>st</sup> at the lagoon in Westmount Park to hear local performers. Bring a chair. Rain location: Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5226 🌿</p></div>
<div></div> <div><h2>SPORTS ET LOISIRS</h2><h3>Inscriptions : activités automne/ hiver</h3><p>Les résidents peuvent s'inscrire à l'aréna de Westmount selon l'horaire suivant :</p><p>Les jeudi, lundi et mardi 25, 29 et 30 août: 9 h à 16 h 30 le vendredi 26 août : 9 h à 13 h le mercredi 31 août : midi à 20 h Les inscriptions pour les non-résidents débiteront le 1<sup>er</sup> septembre à 9 h. Info : 514 989-5353 🌿</p></div>		<div></div> <div><h2>SPORTS &amp; RECREATION</h2><h3>Registration for fall/winter activities</h3><p>Residents may register at the Westmount Arena until August 31<sup>st</sup> according to the following schedule: Thursday, Monday, Tuesday August 25, 29 &amp; 30: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, August 26: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, August 31: 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Registration for non-residents begins September 1<sup>st</sup> at 9 a.m. Info : 514 989-5353 🌿</p></div>





# Stir it up!



Elliott Cohen

I can smell those crackling husks on the grill. Yes, corn season is here, and I love it.

Once a year for a month, I devour those delectable, sweet, crunchy yet tender pearls. So let's talk about how to choose and cook corn. The two most

common mistakes people make is not buying it fresh and overcooking it.

Fully ripe sweet corn has bright green, moist husks. The silk should be stiff, dark and moist. You should be able to feel individual kernels by pressing gently against the husk. As soon as corn is picked, its sugar begins a gradual conversion to starch, which reduces the corn's natural sweetness. Corn will lose 25 percent or more of its sugar within 24 hours after harvesting it.

Fresh corn, if possible, should be cooked and served the day it is picked or pur-

chased. This is why you want to go the Jean Talon or Atwater markets, or anywhere else like a roadside stand next to a cornfield and buy direct from a farmer who has picked it the same day.

Between purchasing and cooking, keep the corn moist and cool. Pack it in a cooler for the trip home from the farm or market and refrigerate the corn immediately after taking it home.

Refrigerating the corn helps it stay sweet by not letting the sugars turn to starch. If the corn is not being cooked the same day or has been purchased from the supermarket, add sugar to replace that which has been lost. Add one teaspoon of sugar for each quart of water and cook it within two or three days.

To boil corn in or out of the husk, put a pot of water on the stove and drop the corn into the boiling water. When the water starts to boil again, remove the corn. It's done!

There are a few ways to grill corn. Check out these links for detailed information:

- [www.yesyoucangrill.com/cornoncob.php](http://www.yesyoucangrill.com/cornoncob.php)
- <http://whatscookingamerica.net/Vegetables/GrillingCorn.htm>

There are many ways to add flavor to your cooked corn. Flavoured butters are the best way and the possibilities are endless.



To prepare the following recipes, combine in a small bowl all ingredients, then spread on grilled or boiled corn.

Can keep covered in the fridge for about three weeks or frozen for three months. To start, here's a zesty Mexican-

inspired recipe that serves four:

### Chili butter

- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon lime zest
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon finely cracked black pepper

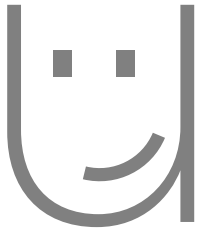
In a small bowl combine the ingredients and spread onto corn.

### Sun-dried tomato butter

- 1/4 cup butter, softened
  - 2 ounces sundried tomatoes (about 6 large), softened in boiling water or from an oil-packed jar and chopped
  - 2 tablespoon Italian parsley, finely chopped
  - 2 tablespoon fresh basil, finely chopped
- For 8 cobs of corn.

### Fresh herb butter

- 4 tablespoons butter, softened
  - 2 tablespoon finely chopped fresh herbs, one or a mix such as thyme, rosemary, cilantro, basil
  - Pinch of salt
- For 8 cobs of corn.



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## Speeding car plunges into park, hits tree

A young driver was reported to have been speeding along de Maisonneuve at around 2:20 am August 14 when she braked suddenly at its Melville dead-end but jumped the curb and plowed some 20 meters into Westmount Park. The car stopped against a tree.

In reporting the incident, Public Security officials said none of the four occupants suffered serious injury but Urgences Santé and police were called to

the scene. Alcohol was not said to be involved. Brake marks suggested the car was simply travelling too quickly to make a complete stop at the edge of the park. The Mazda 3 was subsequently towed away. Some bark was broken off the tree, which was not otherwise believed to have been damaged.

The mishap had been witnessed by someone using the bike path. A nearby resident called emergency services.

## Rotactors swing for Y's refugee centre



Photos: Ralph Thompson

Participants swing dance at Cat's Corner on August 14.

This is what happens when you ask Flash Mob dancers to pose. From left: Liam Peuckert, Westmount Y teacher Laurie-Lynn MacDonald, Stephanie Ruard, Jillian Barnes, administrative secretary with Westmount's Community Events, and Cheryl Hewitt.



The Rotaract Club of Montreal (affiliates of The Rotary Club of Westmount) organized "An Evening in Harlem" held August 14 at Cat's Corner on St. Laurent Blvd. Kids and adults enjoyed swing dance programs, learned about jazz and enjoyed food prepared by Chef Alain Pignard. Cocktails from the 1920's and 1940's were served. Donations will go to support the YMCA Residence, a refugee centre located on Tupper, which provides programs for

refugee children. The Rotaract Club is a community service organization for youth aged 18 to 30. It meets weekly at the Westmount Public Library on Fridays from 7 pm to 9 pm. For more information, visit [www.rotaractmontreal.org](http://www.rotaractmontreal.org).

## Comin' Up

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.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

**"Poetry in the Park,"** 6 pm to 8 pm at Westmount Park Lagoon. Music and poetry by performers Beverley Ackerman, Suzanne Daningburg, Hannah Franklin, Jan Jorgensen, Jeffrey Mackie Noor, Wanda Potrykus, Gina Roitman and Corinna Rose. Bring a chair. Rain location is Victoria Hall.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Adventure traveller and photographer **Victor Breedon** gives an illustrated talk on "Istanbul to Samarkand by Bicycle," 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater. Free.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

**City council meeting**, 8 pm at city hall.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

• Information evening for **parents of new Marianopolis College** (4873 Westmount Ave.) students, 6:30 pm for light refreshments; the event begins at 7 in the auditorium. Info: 514.931.8792, ext. 206.

• George Wall discusses aspects of **William Shakespeare's** work and life and gives a preview of his upcoming lecture series, 12:30 pm. Free; donations invited.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

**Thomas Schnurmacher** discusses "9/11: Ten Years After." Lunch at 12 noon; lecture at 1 pm at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim (425 Metcalf Ave. entrance). Cost: \$5 for lecture and lunch. Reserve: 514.937.9471, ext. 139.

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## Baby raccoons freed from garbage bin

Five baby raccoons were freed from the bottom of a garbage bin behind a house on Grosvenor August 9, where they had become trapped, Public Security officials said. Officers were able to tip over the can where they were found crying loudly, and the young were reunited with their mother nearby. The call for assistance was received at 1:09 am from the resident of the home concerned about the crying.

The family of **Sally Aitken** would like to record their thanks to **NOVA Montreal** for the outstanding care she received during her two months at home as a terminal patient.



# Contactivity sets seniors up to grow own veggies

BY LAUREN O'LOUGHLIN

Seniors with a gift for gardening received self-contained potted gardens this summer as part of the urban gardens for seniors program, run by the Contactivity Centre.

Erica Booth, Contactivity's assistant program coordinator, came up with the idea of bringing nature to seniors with limited space at home or to those with reduced mobility. She was inspired by the rooftop gardens project of Alternatives, a non-governmental organization that aims to promote justice and equality among individuals and communities worldwide.

"There isn't much opportunity to garden in apartment buildings," explained Booth. "This project makes it simple to grow things. We drop the gardens off to people...It's easy to care for the plant."

She explained that each garden kit is contained within a 20-liter pot with a false bottom. A long tube goes to the top of the pot, into which water is poured to hydrate the plants. This reduces any unnecessary bending and straining for the gardener.

The urban gardens were first distributed in late May to 26 seniors. "We had 50 request in total," said Booth, who was surprised by the positive response. "All I did was put it in the newsletter: 'for anyone

with enough space to grow tomatoes and basil on their balcony – sign up!'"

Marie Miller of Hillside Ave. took part in the project. "I often thought of getting a tomato plant," she said. She is looking forward to tasting the tomatoes once they ripen. "Home grown tastes so much better than what you buy in the store."

However, it seems that "squirrels like them too!" she said. "They took a few of the tomatoes, but I still have some left."

When winter comes, Contactivity will be collecting the pots and storing them until next summer. "There is already quite some interest in having them again next year," said Booth.

Contactivity, located at 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd., is a community organization that promotes active involvement for seniors.

## Wasp nest removed

While patrolling Arlington Lane on the afternoon of August 10, a public safety officer noticed a large wasp nest on a garage door. She cordoned off the area with danger tape. In the absence of the Lansdowne residents, she returned with a special neutralizing spray and removed the nest, Public Security officials said.



Erica Booth, assistant program director for Contactivity, poses with member Marie Miller's tomato and basil plants.

Photo courtesy of Contactivity

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# Farfelu at 20

BY LAUREN O'LOUGHLIN

Farfelu Gallery is neatly tucked away near the corner of Prince Albert and Somerville. Its window display gives a glimpse of the original artisanal works of clay, wood, silk and jewellery to be discovered inside. Farfelu has called this spot home for the last decade, but its history in Westmount goes back further than that.



Don Goddard displays his “crow bowl” at Gallery Farfelu during his shift on August 18.

Don Goddard, a potter, was one of the founding members of the Farfelu artists' cooperative in May 1991. “There were 12 of us” originally, he begins. “I joined an artists' cooperative in the late 1980s. Two of the members lived in Westmount ... The Visual Arts Centre on Victoria and Somerville had a craft gallery and no longer wanted to run it. They needed someone to rent their space and look after it. It worked out well for both of us.”

Farfelu has worked to stay true to its mission over the last 20 years. “We share all the work and duties, and all costs are split between co-op members. There's never any paid staff [...] it's a unique experience because you are buying from the maker,” said Goddard.

Each artist dedicates two days each month to working at the gallery. “People in the community have gotten to know every one of us,” he explained.

When asked what the perks of running a cooperative art gallery are, Goddard replied, “no one else chooses the work. We bring in what we want, and the window looks how we want it to look.”

Though there is no scheduled celebration as of yet for the gallery's 20th birthday, Goddard reassures that something will be planned in the near future.

When asked about Farfelu's milestone birthday, Avenue des Arts owner, Pierre Le Gouliérec said “Whether pottery, jewellery, wood sculpture or silk scarves, when you buy a piece from Farfelu's artists, you know you're getting a unique and beautiful object.”

# Serendipity betters our creativity



## Colourfully Yours

GRETA VON  
SCHMEDLAPP,  
MUSE TO AURÉLIEN  
GUILLORY

As usual, my dears, we have been busy juggling the various aspects of being interior designers both in Montreal and in the heart of the Eastern Townships. We thought that our column this time would be a *bon mélange* of our views concerning the idea of serendipity.

If we are attuned to special vibrations, we can exploit the surprising accidental events that occur, resulting in marvelous new experiences and relationships. This is one of the many definitions of this elusive word, “serendipity” – those special happenstances that can change our lives and often result in a more inventive approach to creative challenges.

## Knowledge, experience and serendipity

We have many examples to tell you, our loyal design fiends. I guess that Aurel would mention that all inventive interior design results by combining knowledge, experience and serendipity. So much of the photos we see published these days are following trends – both in style and colour schemes. We always respond to the question: “What are they showing today?” with: “What do they have to do with you and your home?” We also respond with: “We use colour as a tool, not as a trend.” (So often we have paused during our usual dashing around when we spy a fashion victim. Aurel resists handing them a note that says: “Please don't wear that trendy lime-yellow. It doesn't do a thing for your complexion!”)

Let's get on with those examples, because if we can encourage you to take advantage of those fortuitous accidents, you

will always create a special and personal home.

Recently, Aurel was finishing up the lower floor of a four-storey townhouse. Several rooms and hallways had been soaked by the dying water heater while his clients were in Florida. A grave situation indeed but out came our creative hats.

We replaced the tired wall-to-wall nylon flooring with new wide maple boards that were enhanced by the warmth of the amber walls (“dijon” by Benjamin Moore). As we were discussing the new “theme,” we realized that the study/TV room could display most of the artifacts from the owners' many travels. We decided on a multi-ethnic theme and used a super Persian Qum silk carpet – hung as a tapestry – as the showpiece over the sofa. We arranged some Haida and Maori sculptures along with a superb didgeridoo to display over the new shelving and flat-screen TV.

We used a set of lovely rattan for the guest bedroom headboard, desk and banquette. As he was listing the final items needed for a comfortable guest visit, Aurel asked if there was a small lamp for the desk – both for task lighting and an accent of colour. A search pulled up a special commemorative 2000 Moët & Chandon magnum hand-painted and signed bottle!

You see, the serendipity of finding the perfect size for a lamp base – with the attached memories of a millenium party – resulted in a superb touch for the room. We went immediately to Hugette of Liv-Smart for a unique parchment shade with bands of colours that reflected the painting of the Champagne bottle.

We trust that you will take these lessons to heart, dear designers. Take time to let your intuition nudge you in new directions and may the Muse be with you.

Send us your colourful examples of serendipity care of aurelien@colours-byaurelien.

Colourfully yours, Greta von Schmedlapp

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