

Education issue: See profiles, p. 8-10 and schools, p. 13.

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 5 No. 8e

We are Westmount

August 30-31, 2011

## Bye bye Irene!



Photo: Ralph Thompson

Tree down near memorial for Canada's centennial.



Another tree down at lagoon. For story, see p. 3.



Photo: Belinda Bowes

Molly takes the storm in her stride, giggling and screaming as she struggles with her umbrella the afternoon of August 28 at the corner of Greene and de Maisonneuve.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

The Study has announced a new head of school: Nancy Lewis Sweer.

## City asked to outlaw new wood-burning units

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A recent request from Montreal for the island's suburbs to outlaw the installation of new wood-burning fireplaces and stoves isn't likely to gain much traction in Westmount, if Mayor Peter Trent's viewpoint is any indication.

"I'm not in favour of an outright ban on any existing or new fireplaces or stoves but I am on using these to heat a house," he

said.

The issue came to light last week following an announcement by Quebec of a \$6-million rebate program for households across the island of Montreal – including Westmount – that either replace wood-burning fireplaces or stoves with cleaner alternatives or that permanently disable their use. Alternatives include gas-fired units and pellet-burning stoves.

Details will be forth-

continued on p. 7

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# August 28 tropical storm Irene roars through Westmount



Some of the many Westmount tree victims of storm Irene at the corner Sherbrooke and Redfern.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



A tree is uprooted on Sherbrooke near Grey.

Photo: Westmount Independent

## Another tree lost at lagoon

The remnants of hurricane Irene toppled a huge tree at the lagoon in Westmount Park overnight August 28-29. (See photo, p. 1.)

Its demise follows the loss of the former climbing tree last summer. The storm's heavy rain and strong wind brought down other trees and branches,

some onto cars and wires, Public Security officials said.

Of 25 calls received, all were described as non-urgent. Public Works and Hydro Westmount crews were kept busy cleaning up the debris and restoring power in a number of areas throughout the city.

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# Vandals knock over statue at 4141 Sherbrooke before dawn

By KRISTIN MCNEILL

The locally renowned man-reading-the-



A still shot captured from the building's security camera film shows three young people at work to uproot the statue, August 21.

Extracted by James Bourgeois from film

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newspaper statue at 4141 Sherbrooke St., located between Elm and Greene, was toppled by youths August 21, report police. Three men, white, aged between 25 and 30, finally managed to unhinge the statue by breaking the bolts holding it in place sometime before 4 am.

They were caught on the building's security camera. The building filed a report with police the next day.

One of the suspects is believed to have filmed the vandalism on a cell phone. He was dressed in a black t-shirt, pale shorts, black shoes and a black baseball cap. Another was wearing a black t-shirt, pale pants and shoes. The third was wearing a black t-shirt, the only description clear on the film.

According to James Bourgeois, the building's superintendent, there were three small abrasions on the statue's hand, elbow and knee. He said the artwork will remain inside until the building's management decides where it will be placed outside, though he predicts it will likely be in the same location.

The statue titled "Catching Up" was created by John Seward Johnson II in 1985 and depicts a life-sized man leaning on the building, holding a copy of the *Gazette* with a 1985 date. A briefcase sits beside him on the ground.

"I can't tell you how many people are concerned about it," said Bourgeois.

"From Monday on, everyone coming in is asking: 'Where is he? Was he stolen? What happened?'"

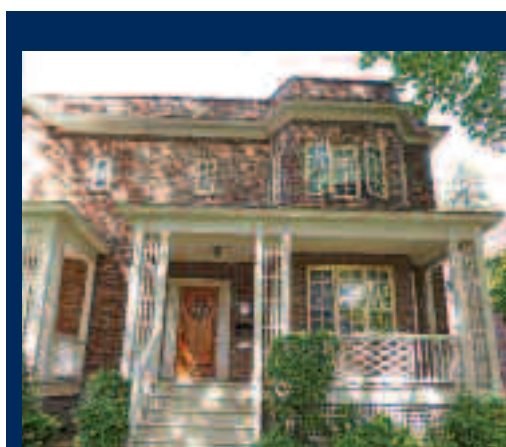
He said it's often the statue that is frequented for people coming to the building for appointments, not the address.

## Seward Johnson statue back on his feet soon



Tenant Morton Grostern (left) of 4141 Sherbrooke St. (at Elm) discusses the August 21 act of violence against the building's beloved statue with superintendant James Bourgeois on August 26. Tenants have been passing by often to check on the reader's status. The famous newspaper lover is currently being kept inside until plans are complete for his return to the outdoors.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



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*Will present brief on Quebec land-use changes*

# Trent to oppose referendum exemptions for cities

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mayor Peter Trent will present a brief September 15 at Quebec government hearings on changes to the law on Land Use, Planning and Development that include allowing municipalities to exempt portions of land from the zoning referendum process.

“I’m nervous about giving this power to any city because it takes away the power of citizens,” he told the *Independent* last week.

Trent will go to Quebec City to present the brief before a standing committee of the National Assembly in his capacity as president of the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM).

The referendum changes are contained in section 82 of draft Bill 58 to amend cur-

rent land-use legislation.

Interestingly, as Trent pointed out, “if anyone on Earth” would welcome the change in referendum law it should logically be he, yet he still upholds its value as is. On two occasions in 1996, citizens overturned his council’s development plans through the referendum processes in the search for a suitable site for a new protective services building.

Trent also said he intends to call on the province to designate a belt of land surrounding Greater Montreal – the regional Montreal Metropolitan Community (MMC) – where further development would be prohibited. This would help contain urban sprawl (see story at right).

Despite the creation of the Montreal agglomeration council, “zoning is still the responsibility of local cities.”

*I say, that’s just not cricket, old chap*



This is the time of year when some insects become clearly audible. Though the insect pictured above may sound like a cricket, the way it produces its song is completely different. It is, in fact, a cicada (Latin for tree cricket), an insect that is about 4 cm long from its stubby little nose to the tips of its wings. Unlike crickets, whose familiar call is made by rubbing two parts of their bodies together (called stridulation), the cicada makes clicking sounds by contracting and relaxing tymbal muscles. Each of the 2,500 species has its own distinctive song. Photographed August 22, this insect joins the chorus of other insects in full song at this time of year.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

# Trent: Greater Montreal development plan too weak

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A master development plan for the greater Montreal region doesn’t go far enough to curb urban sprawl, reduce dependency on the car and address fiscal unfairness borne by island of Montreal taxpayers, Mayor Peter Trent said last week.

It’s a compromise that provides “white-glove treatment” to off-island communities, he contends.

The draft development plan lays down a broad blueprint for land-use, transportation and the environment for the Montreal Metropolitan Community (MMC) that has already adopted it, subject to upcoming public consultation.

The MMC is the regional body that comprises some 82 communities on and off the island. This includes Laval as well as parts of the north and south shores – a total population of some 3.5 million that is predicted to increase by 320,000 in 20 years.

The plan, however, allocates the majority of population increases to off-island communities that already benefit from a number of provincially funded services that on the island are funded through municipal property taxes, he explained. These include police and school bussing services.

“Fiscal imbalance is one of the drivers of urban sprawl,” he pointed out.

As a result, “I would advise Westmounters that their interests are very much at stake and their quality of life gravely affected in terms of fiscal burden and the future of public transit. I encourage them to attend public consultation meetings that are coming up during the period of September 28 to October 20.”

The final plan is slated for adoption on December 31.

While Trent was named to the MMC in

May as a representative of island suburbs, his first meeting will come in September, he said.

He intends to raise a number of points. These include the plan’s lack of a designated buffer ring around the MMC territory where further development would be prohibited. This “green belt,” as he called it, would serve to prevent ..... “leapfrogging,” a strategy *continued on p. 10*



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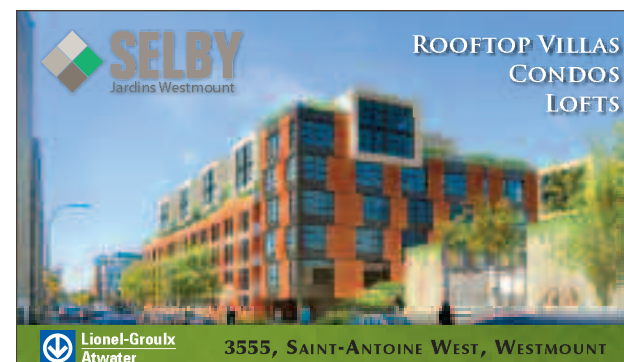
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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## MORE POWER TO COUNCIL FOR ‘THINKING BIG’ ON ARENA

I would like to add my heartfelt thumbs-up to the hard-working mayor and council re: the on-going subject of the new arena, pool and hockey rinks.

Although my children are grown up and I do not have any grandchildren in Montreal, I feel privileged to live in this community, which cares sincerely about its young people, and in fact, its older folks too.

Eada Rubinger recently wrote an excellent letter, published in the *Gazette*, which was apparently picked up and chided by the *Globe and Mail*. I can’t stand it – they even dared to use that old cliché about “tony” Westmount. They dared to belittle our concerns in relation to “real” problems elsewhere. Our children are in fact the most real thing in our lives.

Some people in Westmount are wealthy, many more are not. But everyone cares about their children, and even those of us whose children are long gone, we care too.

True, the world has starving children in Somalia, girls unable to get an education in Afghanistan and many other serious problems out there. But what has that to do with our caring for our children?

All parents want their children to have

opportunities – in school, sports, music lessons, in living up to their potential. And in having fun, too.

Let’s not be naysayers and pretend that this is a concern only of “tony” Westmount.

It concerns every nationality, every citizen. Many people have specifically chosen to live in Westmount because of our excellent schools and our attractive parks. We must also offer our young people the very best in opportunities to play sports.

I, for one, am proud of Westmount’s “thinking big” and constant consultation with its citizens. More power to all of you working for this good cause!

SHEILA WHITZMAN,  
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

## WHAT? NO SQUIRREL ADMIRATION TRAINING?

The Westmount Squirrel Anti-defamation task force has been working diligently to foster the acceptance of squirrels in Westmount over the last couple months. Sadly, our modest gains are so easily eclipsed by the actions of a careless few.

Last week one of the graduates of our squirrel admiration workshop was sharing some peanuts with his new squirrel friends (“Man ticketed for feeding peanuts to squirrels,” p. 17, August 23) when pub-

lic safety officers decided to break up the party. The PSOs disparagingly called us squirrels “wildlife” – as if we are somehow a lesser class of Westmouter – then issued our friend with the peanuts a stiff fine for feeding said “wildlife”!

Will Westmount Public Security admit an institutional bias against squirrels? When will squirrel admiration training be required of all PSOs?

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WESTMOUNT SQUIRREL ANTI-  
DEFAMATION TASK FORCE,  
RESIDENCE: TALL MAPLE BY LIBRARY IN  
WESTMOUNT PARK

## WHY DO SOME NOT HAVE TO GO THROUGH DEMO PROCESS?

In reference to your article “Demolition: a rising trend?” (August 23, p. 1), rightly so, the rules for granting of demolition permits have changed, yet this process has long existed in Westmount.

With the exception of 72 Summit Circle (actually 72 Summit Cr.) those other properties mentioned are true demolition

projects. Their owners purchased those particular properties with the sole intentions of knocking down whatever stood on their respective lots.

In the case of 72 Summit Cr., the existing building remained intact along with its original footprint.

What did change was the roof line, due to the extension of the second floor over a first floor roof. It took close to two years and two different architects to gain the city’s approval.

It was only after the project was accepted in principle that I learned it would now have to go through the demolition process for reasons which seemed questionable, if not abusive.

All one has to do is question how 74 Gordon Cr., 42 Roxborough, 30 Surrey Gardens, among other projects, acquired their respective permits without going through a demolition process.

Now that would be an interesting story to investigate.

BARRY COHEN, 72 SUMMIT CR.



72 Summit Crescent

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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Weekly  
Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

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EDITOR: Kristin McNeill  
CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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# FREE PRESS

# Council yet to discuss wood burning

.....  
continued from p. 1

coming, Trent said.

While neither Montreal nor the agglomeration council has jurisdiction over the suburbs in this area, he explained, Montreal executive committee member Alan De Sousa attended a recent meeting of the Association of Suburban Mayors (ASM) to seek an island-wide ban on new installations similar to Montreal's.

Two years ago, Montreal enacted legislation prohibiting the installation of any new fireplace or stove (with exceptions for those using gas or pellets) in an effort to reduce health problems and premature deaths related to smog, Trent said. There were 36 to 39 smog days last winter.

"I told De Sousa – and a lot of the other mayors felt the same way – that we should focus on the main problem first," Trent stated. "That is, the use of wood-burning fireplaces and stoves as the main source of heating."

While some of the suburbs, such as as Hampstead, Pointe Claire, Beaconsfield and Dollard des Ormeaux, have varying forms of restrictions, Westmount has none, he said.

It is estimated by Montreal that across the island some 17,000 households burn wood to heat homes – 2,500 as the only heat source. A standard wood-burning stove in nine hours emits the same quantity of ultra-fine particles as a car in one year.

The issue, Trent said, "is something I have yet to discuss with the council. But I don't see Westmount contributing to much of the problem. It's extremely unlikely that even one house is heated this way."

Furthermore, Trent said, De Sousa "didn't discount an outright [retroactive] ban on the use of all wood-burning fireplaces and stoves. But I feel that's going too far."

Fireplaces tend to be a hallmark of Westmount houses and at most, are probably only used occasionally – maybe once a week, Trent pointed out. A number of wood-burning stoves were installed following the 1998 ice storm as a back-up during power outages.

But while figures from Montreal indicated there were 3,461 fireplaces and stoves in Westmount, Trent said: "I don't know how they came up with that," especially since it corresponds to the number

of single-family homes.

Other figures listed a total of 85,000 wood-burning fireplaces and stoves on the island of which 50,000 were in Montreal and 35,000 in the suburbs.

## Residents asked to burn hard wood

In the wake of concerns about the amount of fine particles released by wood-burning fireplaces, Mayor Peter Trent has suggested that Westmounters ordering wood for the coming season choose hard wood, such as maple.

This is because hard wood gives off half as much of the offending fine particles as soft woods, he said. Those include pine and other coniferous types. "This is one way to help."

The message is in the same vein as advisories issued by fire departments during the winter holiday season that ask people not to burn fir and pine boughs in fireplaces since these generate very hot temperatures and create a substantial amount of fire-generating creosote in the process.

Trent said figures relating to premature deaths from inhaling the emission of ultra-fine particles – 900 a year in Montreal – leave little doubt that there is, indeed, a health problem.

But he feels the issue requires more research before applying universal bans on all units regardless of their frequency of use.

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## Education profile

## Garneau: Learning is a life-long experience

BY MARLENE EISNER

Ask Westmount-Ville Marie Liberal MP Marc Garneau where he went to school and his answer is not simple.

His father was a military officer and his family moved around a lot. Ask him which aspects of his education contributed to his later successes, and his answer is clear.

"I had the benefit of being in very small classes that were rarely more than 30 students in a class. Sometimes later on, toward the end, sometimes as few as 10, so we got a lot of individual attention.

"I had very good teachers, so if I was in trouble I was able to be in contact with the teachers off-line. I was lucky in that respect. What helped me succeed was good quality teachers who not only knew their subject but were enthused about it."

Garneau, 62, was born in Quebec City. His high school education began in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu and continued at the French Lycée in London, England and then at l'Académie de Quebec, in Quebec City. His post-secondary academic journey began at the College Militaire Royal (CMR)

in St. Jean, and ended with him graduating from the Royal Military College in



Marc Garneau during the May 2011 election.

Photo: Marlene Eisner

Kingston, Ontario. He later received a PhD in electrical engineering from the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, England.

*Innate curiosity*

It was Garneau's innate curiosity that steered him toward engineering.

"I wanted to understand the world, and although I loved liberal arts and it was something I was good at, I felt I needed to understand the world around me ... I've always been curious about how things work.

"I chose to become an engineer and ... I would have to say the military college option worked for me," he said.

It's been 40 years since Garneau earned his doctorate, but he said learning should never stop. He has continued his education throughout his professional life.

"When I started, we were just moving from vacuum tubes to transistors. Everything has changed. It's important to keep up to date with evolving changes."

Today's educational system needs to inform high school students of all the options available to them, said Garneau,

especially in the area of new and emerging areas of study.

"A lot of people who get to university are just starting to think about what they are going to do with themselves, and they have no idea. Schools need to put a focus on what the options are so people can choose what interests them, but they can also get a sense of where the world is going."

If Garneau had the chance to do his post-secondary education all over again, would he change anything?

"I've really loved what I've done but if you're saying 'Hey, if you could have a second turn?' I would go for medicine," he said.

*Interested in medicine*

"In life you realize there are so many interesting things one can do, and I've always been interested in medicine. I remember an astronaut I met at NASA. He was a medical doctor but every year he took courses at the university on totally different subjects only because he was interested in them. I admired him for that."

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## Education profile

# Study what you love and you'll succeed, says Chagnon

BY MARLENE EISNER

Ask Liberal MNA Jacques Chagnon about his high school days, and he answers with a chuckle.

"I was an awful student," said the 59-year-old representative for Westmount-St. Louis.

"I had good reports but I was very, unquiet, I would say. I think for my five years of high school, I went to seven different schools. If it's not a record, it's certainly a good average."

With a curriculum that included courses such as Greek and Latin, Chagnon's "trouble" with school may have been because he wasn't especially interested in what he was studying. He spent his summers travelling and at 16 stood by the water in Anchorage, Alaska and contemplated his future.

### Japan or study?

"I had the possibility of working on a ship that was going to Japan. I thought about it the whole night, if I should go or not. I decided to go back to school. It's from that moment that I can say I thought

my studies were the first thing I had to do, a sparkplug where I took my studies seri-



Jacques Chagnon at Westmount city hall, September 2009.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

ously."

The importance of education started in his home, with parents who loved to read and a house filled with books. His mother was a librarian and his father was a CBC radio producer, who was friendly with people like René Lévesque and Pierre Elliot Trudeau.

"We had a lot of those people around us," said Chagnon. With his father's help in 1968, Chagnon began volunteering for the Liberal party. "That was when I became interested in politics."

Two years later, while taking a summer course at King's College in Cambridge, England, he had an epiphany that would change the course of his life.

"I had a tough time because I couldn't understand English well, and it was then that I thought I should learn English."

### Off to Dawson

He went to Dawson College from 1970 to 1972 and continued his university education at Concordia, where he majored in political science and minored in history. He went on to study political science and law at the University of Montreal.

"I was very, very surprised and moved by the climate at Dawson and more again at Concordia. It was like my integration into a United Nations. There were so many people from so many places, I was flabbergasted. I was very interested in that. Those young people come from so many different cultures and experiences, I was amazed by this."

### Study what you love

The recipe for academic success, he said, is to study what you love.

"I believe strongly all young people should study in the field they like. It doesn't matter if it's archeology and you don't have a job the day after your PhD. But if you want that field of study, then go there and do it."

If he could do it all over again, would he do it differently? No, said Chagnon, he wouldn't change anything, but he would like to "study elsewhere in the world, or in Europe, maybe pass two or three years at Harvard or the *lycée*."

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## Education profile

## Bilingualism was key to success for Picard

BY MARLENE EISNER

The best decision Jean-Pierre Picard ever made about his education came after he failed a course. The president of the Westmount Municipal Association grew up in Quebec City, where he attended a French high school that followed a classical curriculum. When he failed English in grade 10, Picard decided to change schools. “I had to repeat the year, and I



Jean-Pierre Picard at a Westmount city council meeting March 2011.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

thought if I had to do that, if I did it in English, it would not be a waste of time. And that was probably the best decision I made for my schooling because it helped me to become bilingual.”

After high school, Picard went to Laval University to study business and received a master’s degree in commercial science, the equivalent of today’s MBA.

The English he learned during his final years of high school also helped him as he studied in French at university.

“Even in those years, being bilingual helped me doing business school,” said Picard.

“Many of the books were in English and the French books from France, they were not in the right context.”

His courses in business school helped

him become a good communicator, which landed him a successful career as a marketing and sales specialist at companies such as Mittal Steel International, Sidbec Dosco and British Steel Canada. Engaging in extra-curricular activities, however, was his way of learning life skills not always taught in the classroom.

## Refereeing

“I was very involved in basketball. I was playing university basketball, and I also earned my living at that time by refereeing basketball. Being a referee when you’re young is good training to be able to make quick decisions and control difficult situations. It’s quite formative,” he said.

“I was also president of an investment club at university. There you learn to deal with the real world. Being on the student council you learn about the rules of debating, you learn about motions and Robert’s Rules [of Order], which they don’t necessarily teach in school.”

Picard said he’s not that familiar with the current educational system, although he said he thinks overall it “does good things.” He stresses the importance of students being able to effectively communicate, to write and speak well in either English or French, or both.

## Communication skills important

“I feel some of the things that people could improve upon is communication skills, really writing properly, especially with the new media and so on, that’s a bit lost. Whatever you do in business or the field of your choice, to be able to write and communicate properly will distinguish you from the rest of the pack.”

If he could have a chance to do it over again, would he study something else? “I wouldn’t change. I ended up in the right

field.”

But Picard didn’t sit still. “When I retired, I was 66 and I felt I still wanted to do things and to a degree share some of the experiences I had acquired,” said Picard. He knew someone at CDC Coaching, and trained for 14 months to become an executive coach, which he does three days a week.

“I started in 2008, and it keeps my mind young.”

## Regional plan

continued from p. 5

used by developers to avoid the zoning restrictions of a specific jurisdiction.

He said he also intends to raise this during his presentation of a brief to Quebec on the provincial government’s proposed changes to the Land Use, Planning and Development law (see story at left).

While calculations used in the MMC plan for allocating its predicted population increase of 320,000 mean that “the vast majority of development will occur off island,” Trent said, the Montreal agglomeration can accommodate 175,000 more residents. “So I say let’s fill up the island first.”

The future of public transit will also be severely affected by this, he said. He also pointed out that Quebec’s five-year spending plan for transportation across the province allocates six times the amount of spending to highways than it does to public transit.

He also expressed concern for what he sees as the plan’s lack of focus on the water around Montreal in respect to views, bathing and clean-up.

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# Chamandy to represent Canada at Junior Pan Ams

By JARED BOOK

It has been a quick rise in the sport of diving for Westmount native Olivia Chamandy.

The 10-year-old started diving three years ago, and her success at the provincial level caught some attention (see “Westmount diver rises to new heights,” May 10, 2011, p. 29). Thanks to her performance at the Junior National Diving Championships this summer in Pointe Claire, Chamandy will now compete in the Pan American Junior diving championships in Medellin, Colombia. She qualified for the event with two silver medals and a fourth place finish.

“I was very excited,” she said. “I was also surprised. I never thought I was going to go through.”

“It’s crazy,” her mother Marie-Hélène Loranger said. “Everything is happening so fast. At the beginning of the season, the goal was to do well in regionals, to go to provincials and then to nationals. We never expected her to get through nationals.”

One of the biggest and most recent challenges for Chamandy and her family is that she had to train throughout the summer instead of enjoying the time off like most 10-year-olds.

“There has been an adjustment,” Loranger said. “At her age, you have to be careful not to overdo it. We’ve had to manage it correctly, and she has trained with some of the best in the country.”

Some of her training partners this summer included senior national team members Émilie Heymans and Jennifer Abel.

The junior Pan Am diving championships will take place from September 8 to 11.



Olivia Chamandy

Photo: Eric Bindman

## Kung Fu Panda 2 screened in Westmount Park



Local mums, dads and kids got a chance to see the computer-animated comedy film Kung Fu Panda 2 on August 26 in Westmount Park, courtesy of the Westmount Public Library. Although the movie was released in theatres last May, it won't be out for home viewing on DVD for more than month. The outdoor viewing was a first for the library, and around 800 people showed up, said outreach librarian Donna Lach.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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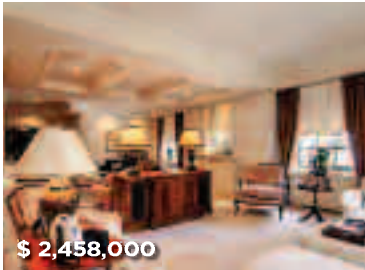
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PDec page 17



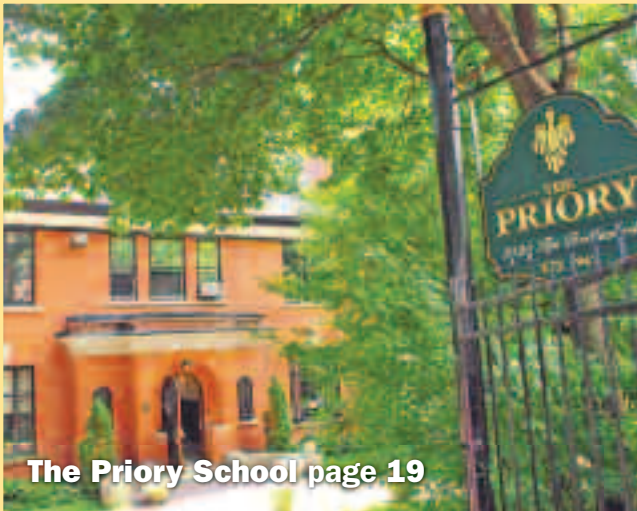
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The Priory School page 19



*Marc Garneau, MP: "Schools need to put a focus on what the options are so people can choose what interests them, but they can also get a sense of where the world is going." p. 8*



*Jacques Chagnon, MNA: "I was very, very surprised and moved by the climate at Dawson and more again at Concordia. It was like my integration into a United Nations." p. 9*



*Jean-Pierre Picard, President – Westmount Municipal Association: "I feel one of the things that people could improve upon is communication skills, really writing properly. Especially with the new media and so on, that's a bit lost." p. 10*

A student in a purple and white shirt and black shorts is climbing a rock wall. The wall is made of large, light-colored panels with various climbing holds. A safety rope is visible on the right side of the wall. The student is positioned in the center-right of the frame, reaching up with their right hand. The background is a blurred view of the climbing wall and other holds.

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"Fostering leadership, collaborative learning, global citizenship and the development of philanthropy are key priorities. At the heart of The Study is the education of girls who will one day be great women, eager to make a difference," says Ms. Sweer.

"We invite you to learn more about The Study at [www.thestudy.qc.ca](http://www.thestudy.qc.ca), and we warmly welcome you to our **OPEN HOUSE ON OCTOBER 6TH.**"

**The Study is looking for girls who want to become great women. Scholarships and bursaries are available.**

**SAVE THE DATE: We'd like to meet your daughter on Thursday, October 6th!  
8:30 to 11:30 AM, and 5:30 to 7:30 PM**

↗ Inside one of The Study's kindergarten classrooms as students clearly enjoy their time with music teacher Miss Metwalli.

↗ The Study's 2010–2011 head girl, **Alexa Kruyt**, pauses for a photo with her classmates **Olivia Régimbal** and **Olivia Tory** during The Study's annual Closing Ceremonies this past June. All of The Study's 2011 graduates were accepted into the post-secondary institution of their first choice. Ms.



Kruyt is off to Trinity College in Ontario, Ms. Régimbal to Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf and Ms. Tory to Marianopolis College, also notably **Sofia Essayan-Perez** (missing from photo) is off to MIT.

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- Enhanced leadership opportunities are available to all.

**UCLA recently released a national study that shows the advantage girls' school graduates have over their co-ed peers:**

- Graduates of girls' schools have significantly higher self-esteem than their counterparts in co-ed schools.
- 47.7% of women entering college from single-sex schools feel well-prepared in math, compared to 36.6% from co-ed schools.
- 95% of recent girls' school graduates said that having a career and profession was very important to them.
- 71% of girls' school graduates consider college a prelude to graduate school.



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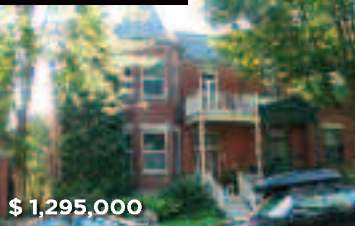
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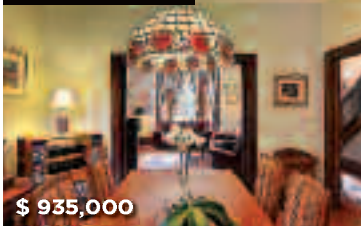
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## Hair today, gone tomorrow, all for a good cause

BY MARLENE EISNER

Wellesley McDonald never gave much thought to her hair – aside from it being long, blonde and healthy. Like most people, she took it a bit for granted. But the 7-year-old Westmouter, who attends École Buissonnière in Outremont, began to see



Wellesley McDonald, 7, after she cut her hair and donated it to Wigs for Kids.

her hair in a different light after hearing a disturbing story.

“[My younger sister] Islay has a friend who has a cousin in Boston who has alopecia, and she was being teased at school,” McDonald told the *Independent*.

Alopecia areata is a medical condition that affects 0.1 to 0.2 percent of the population who are otherwise healthy and have no skin disorder, and causes hair loss from

some or all areas of the body, usually from the scalp.

“I felt badly for her and decided to grow my hair with Erica [Sutton],” who is McDonald’s 34-year-old cousin. Sutton lives in Toronto and was growing her hair long enough to have it cut and donated to Wigs for Kids, a US-based organization that makes wigs for children with cancer, alopecia areata and other disorders that cause hair loss. Hair must be cut into 12-inch-long ponytails before it is sent to the organization.

It took a year for McDonald’s hair to reach the required length and in mid-July she, her sister and her mother, Tara Wilkie, went to Toronto where Sutton had made an appointment in a salon.

McDonald was the first in the chair.

“I was excited and nervous,” she said. The hair cutting was a shared effort as everyone took a turn snipping off one of McDonald’s five ponytails. Afterward June, the stylist, spent time shaping the haircut.

At first McDonald liked her new do, changed her mind, but now likes it again. When asked if she will keep her hair short, she said: “I want to grow it long.”

Would she consider one day donating another set of ponytails to Wigs for Kids?

Yes, she said, and she wants to tell others about it as well.

“It makes me feel good to let other people have hair,” said McDonald. “I might tell my teacher so I could do it for show-and-tell and tell my class, and maybe they will do it, too.”

## Welcome Hall Mission welcomes kids back to school with backpacks and supplies

Welcome Hall Mission, located at 606 de Courcelle, is holding for the 10th year its “Back-to-School with Heads Held High” campaign. Every year, new school supplies are distributed to children of financially disadvantaged families. A western-themed block party was held this year to get kids excited about going back to

school.

Each of the 2,200 children registered with the mission’s family services unit receive new backpacks, school supplies, clothing and shoes.

Welcome Hall continues to accept donations year-round. Visit [www.welcome-hallmission.com](http://www.welcome-hallmission.com) or call 514.523.5288.

### Electronic *Independents* available

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

## A farewell to summer



### Parenthood Uncensored

SOPHIE TARNOWSKA

I love summertime. It’s where all the best clichés about childhood come from. Our kids become scraped knees, sticky pink popsicle juice, grass stains, and they smell of chlorine and suntan lotion. Summertime is the sound of their squealing, splashing, chasing, running every ounce of their energy into every minute of blissful daylight.

My daughter and I spent the best and happiest moments of this summer at the lake. When we’re there, she’s still young enough to hesitate about which popsicle flavour she wants – as though choosing the wrong colour might change the course of her day.

But back in town, she’s old enough to want to pick tomorrow’s t-shirt the night before because she wants to make sure she looks cool, old enough to beg me to buy her Justin Bieber’s diabolically stinky cologne (I’d rather she roll in skunk spray), and old enough to roll her eyes at me. I love summertime for allowing her to forget about being “old enough.”

### Lives in bathing suit

When we’re at the lake she lives in her bathing suit and runs in a pack with half a dozen other kids her age. They know the rules: don’t wander up the road, don’t go near the water unless there’s an adult present, don’t hit each other, watch over the little ones, and please pass Mummy her sangria, thank you.

Compared to our day-to-day “real” life, it’s like having no rules at all. She can run

as fast as she wants, scream as loudly as she likes and swim for as long as she chooses to. And so can I.

But two nights ago, I found myself begging an elderly woman to let me into her school supplies store even though it was one minute past closing time, and I realized that I used to put the same energy into flirting with bouncers at trendy nightclubs to get them to let me skip the line-ups.

Goodbye summer, hello back-to-school.

I’m writing this surrounded by shreds of sticky plastic roll left over from my attempts to plastify my daughter’s schoolbooks. I say “attempts” because I had to stab every book to pop the large air bubbles I managed to trap in each one of them. If any of you hear of some smart mum-trepreneur who will plastify and put name tags on everything my kid owns for a reasonable fee, please call me in time for fall 2012.

### Justin Bieber-loving second grader

Perhaps it’s my imagination, but it feels as though with each degree that the temperature drops, the child in my daughter fades away a little more. These past few days I’ve noticed her focusing on assuming the role of being a big kid, a 7-year-old, Justin Bieber-loving second grader.

She chose her outfit for the first day of school a week ago, she picked a lunchbox that matches her school bag, and she’s worried that her second grade teacher might be “*méchante*.” Last year none of this mattered – all she cared about was seeing her friends again.

So goodbye sticky, sweaty, sunny summertime, goodbye long days and popsicle decisions.

It’s time for school, for schedules, big kid time. It’s time for the clichés of fall to take over.

## Teens ticketed for fireworks

Reports of gun shots in the area of Westmount Park in the early hours of August 17 turned out to be fireworks, Public Security officials report. Two teens were ticketed for violating the city bylaw. They were also fined for being in the park at 1:26 am after the midnight curfew.

A 17-year-old was issued two tickets for \$118 each – the maximum amount for a juvenile. The other, reported to be young adult, was ticketed \$146 for the fireworks and \$217 for the curfew. Both lived in Anjou.

## Pool pump readings under review

The sound of a pool pump in the still of the night August 18 resulted in noise readings being taken for further study, Public Security officials said. The complaint stemmed from a resident on Roslyn Ave. at 4:03 am. The problem seemed to be a malfunctioning pump but the readings were described as being too technical for on-the-spot analysis and were forwarded to the city’s Urban Planning department.

## Previously...Car crashes



Photo: Ralph Thompson

This Norway maple near the northern entrance to the Westmount Public Library was hit by a car on August 3 (see photo at left), as previously reported (August 9, p. 3). In order to help the tree to heal (right), the city has used a process called “bark tracing,” which involves cutting the damaged portion back to allow it to scab over. The tree’s structure was not affected.

## Follow-up: City working to save library tree



Photo: Westmount Independent

## Accident on The Boulevard not the first



A red car travelling west along The Boulevard August 25 at Belvedere Rd. smashed into the back and side of a parked black truck belonging to a contractor working nearby. The impact pushed the truck up onto the sidewalk and into a parked white car, then hit a beige sedan. Three vehicles were damaged. The driver of the red car was extricated by firefighters and taken by Urgences Santé to the hospital. No pedestrians were injured. This location has had a number of serious accidents over the years, many resulting from a combination of a dip in the street and speeding in a school zone.

Photo: Patrick Martin

## Man found bleeding from head

Public safety officers mounted a search August 18 around noon for a man seen bleeding profusely from the head. A caller to Public Security stated she had seen him running through a lane from Bruce to Hallowell and into the parking lot behind Westmount High.

He was intercepted at Hillside and Abbott where he was given first aid for a

“rather large cut.” Officers described him as appearing to be unsteady and unable to say how the injury had occurred, though it was thought he had probably fallen. Police were called to the scene, as were Urgences Santé personnel who re-banded the wound and took the 42-year-old to Rosemont-Maisonnette hospital near his home.

## Boutique’s keys recovered

Keys left in the door of a store on Sherbrooke St. on the evening of August 21 were spotted by a passerby who called Public Security. An officer retrieved them and left a card for the owner, who was reported to have collected them within a short period of time.

## Tree limb falls onto bike path, house flooded, tires popped during pre-Irene storm

A large branch broke off a tree during heavy rain Sunday, August 21, city officials said. It fell across the sidewalk and bike path on the west-side slope of Glen Rd. at the tunnel. No injuries were reported. The incident occurred around noon. Branches were removed and the area cordoned off until crews could remove larger chunks the next day.

In another incident, the driver of a car experienced quite a shock, Public Security officials said, when two of its tires were flattened by hitting an uncovered manhole near 3033 Sherbrooke St. at about 9:50 pm. The lid was reported to have been displaced by the surge of rain into the sewer.

Soon after, a basement on Summit Crescent was reported flooded when a sewer backed up. Firefighters were called to help clean it up.

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*The Underdog Club*  
CYNTHIA LEE

“People who need people are the luckiest people in the world.” When Streisand sang these words, she struck a chord with most folks. But ever wonder about dogs who need people? Are they also the luckiest in the world? In Marlon’s case, no.


For this 4-year-old shih tzu, dogs who need people are the loneliest dogs in the world. He should know. He is a needy character.


It used to work well for Marlon when he lived with an elderly lady – they were a perfect match. So perfect in fact that when it came time for her to part with him and live with her relatives, she left a long hand-written letter explaining why Marlon had become so clingy.

To summarize, she had spoiled him rotten, and he was used to getting what he wanted, when he wanted it.

This little guy likes to make low grumbling noises when he wants treats or attention. When Marlon protests, you’ll

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Marlon

Photo: Antonina Cagara

know – he snorts!

But all this funny stuff is just window dressing for a lovely little creature. Marlon is happy to sit on your lap or go for a walk. He also does okay with kids, just as long as they don’t mind a few snorts at first.

Do low grumbling noises get you

going? Ever meet a snorter you didn’t like? Spare a thought for Marlon, he excels at both. Contact the SPCA emergency shelter at 514.915.7311 or [adoptions.sPCA@gmail.com](mailto:adoptions.sPCA@gmail.com).

If you can’t adopt, please consider fostering. You could be an invaluable resource for the dog rescue world providing an interim home for a dog until a permanent situation is found.

*For Montreal’s star underdogs, please visit [www.underdogclub.org](http://www.underdogclub.org). Dog bless you.*

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**Name change**  
Please note that Serge Poisson Whose home address is 995 Harvard, Montreal, Quebec, H4A-2V6 Will be submitting to the Registrar of Civil Status an application to change his name to Serge Basque. Notice completed and signed by Serge Poisson in Montreal on August 23rd 2011.

# Comin' Up

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.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

The **Westmount pool closes.**

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.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

The **Thomas More Institute** holds an open house and café with live music, coffee, photography exhibit, and presentations about upcoming courses, 6 to 8 pm. Also Saturday, September 10, from 10 am to 4 pm. 3405 Atwater. Info: 514.935.9585.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

The family of **Ilyse Segal** will be selling all of her work from noon to 5 pm at her

home at 434 Wood Ave. Quilts, buttons, drawings, paintings, prints, graphic design work, pillows, needlepoint, batik t-shirts, knitting will be for sale. Proceeds go to the Montreal SPCA and Montreal Children’s Hospital Foundation.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

The **Jane Austen Society of North America** reading group meets to discuss Frances Burney’s *Cecilia*, 5 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Free. Info: 514.481.4555.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

The MUHC **Good Neighbourly Relations Committee** meets 7 pm to 8:30 pm. For location, contact 514.934.8317 or po@muhc.mcgill.ca.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

• The **University Women’s Club of Montreal** holds its first dinner meeting of the season at the Atwater Club, 3505 Atwater Ave. Cost: \$30.76. Reserve and info: Carly at 514.288.9765 or Margaret at 514.932.3922. Newcomers welcome.

• Author **Mary Soderstrom** leads the Atwater Library Book Club in a discussion of *Secret Daughter* by Shilpi Somaya Gowda, 7:30 pm. Free. Info: 514.935.7344.

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## BUILDING PERMITS 🏠 *What’s permitted*

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at the August 22 meeting of city council.

**226 Clarke:** to enclose a balcony;

**37 Surrey Gardens:** to make exterior changes;

**46 Forden Cres.:** at a Category I house, to modify an opening and replace a door;

**4325-4327 de Maisonneuve:** at a Category I building, to make a new basement entrance under the main front porch;

**52 Arlington:** to replace a door and add a new railing;

**530 Lansdowne:** at a Category I house, to add a new fence and do some landscaping at the rear;

**82 Belvedere Rd.:** to replace the roof;

**14 Arlington:** to replace front and basement doors;

**40 Arlington:** at a Category I house, to build a retaining wall at the front;

**66 Forden Cres.:** at a Category I house, to build a back fence;

**698 Grosvenor:** to modify some elements on the exterior wall;

**4880 Westmount:** to replace some windows and doors;

**115 Côte St. Antoine:** at a Category I house, to change front landscaping;

**392 Roslyn:** to replace some rear windows;

**434 Strathcona:** to replace doors and windows and introduce subdivisions in the upper panels of the double-hung windows.

## Parcours de catéchèse 2011-2012

Paroisse catholique Saint-Léon de Westmount

### Inscription aux parcours

La paroisse Saint-Léon de Westmount offre un soutien aux parents dans l’éducation et dans la formation générale à la foi et à la vie chrétienne des enfants:

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*Through education and ongoing spiritual guidance, the Catholic Parish of Saint-Léon de Westmount helps and supports parents prepare their children to lead a more fulfilled life in the Christian Faith.*

*In this regard, the Parish is currently accepting enrolment for Catechism path specifically created for children to help prepare them celebrate their first steps. Reconciliation, First Communion, and their Confirmation.*

Les parcours offerts sont / The parish offers :

Evêl à la Foi	5 à 6 ans
Initiation à la vie chrétienne	7 à 12 ans
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Pour les inscriptions ou des renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec le secrétaire de la paroisse, auprès de Mme Miri Demers, au 514-935-4950 ou [peo@bellnet.ca](mailto:peo@bellnet.ca)

# New director of AEFAQ comes with a business background and with a love fo the arts

BY LAUREN O’LOUGHLIN

Lara de Beaupré stepped in as the new executive director of the Association of English Language Publishers of Quebec (AEFAQ) on August 10.

The organization, whose acronym relates to its French name, Association des éditeurs de langue anglaise du Québec, is located in suite 3 of the Atwater Library. Its mission is to provide representation and support to the English literary community in Quebec.

A graduate with a bachelor of commerce degree in management from Concordia, her career began in finance and banking. “I decided to get into management in the arts because of a teacher I had,” she said.

Before starting her role at the AEFAQ, de Beaupré was the director of Geordie Productions, a Montreal-based, English-language professional theatre company. “I am very happy to stay in the English arts,” she said, speaking of her new position.

Though, according to de Beaupré, “it is

still too new to have long-term goals,” one of her objectives is to improve the organization’s website and to make the *Montreal Review of Books (mRb)* printed publication available in digital format.

Currently the *mRb*, one of AEFAQ’s main projects, is distributed with newspapers, in bookstores and cafés all over Quebec. It is a quarterly publication highlighting English Quebec-based writers and publishers. “Readers would receive the MBR by email,” she explained.

Though de Beaupré lives in NDG, she is a frequent visitor to Westmount, “I often visit the Westmount Library,” she said. “Westmount is a beautiful and convenient location for me to work from – it’s one of the perks of the job!” she added.



Lara de Beaupré, new executive director of AEFAQ at her office in the Atwater Library. Behind her are previous editions of the Montreal Review of Books (mRB).

## That was then, this is now



Photo: Westmount Independent



Photo: Carol Kremer.

The house at Willow and Claremont is now complete (pictured at left on August 26). The house at right was demolished to make room for it.

# ON THE SHELVES

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

## ***Magazines***

“Pulp stars: These ‘it’ superfruits are ripe for the picking – and their claims actually do live up to the hype,” by Rory Evans in *Whole Living*, September 2011, p. 54.

“Vitality: the state of pain: special pain management report,” edited by Vivian Vassos in *Zoomer Canada*, September 2011, p. 27.

“L’insoutenable douleur: Elle se pointe sans crier gare, draine notre énergie, perturbe notre sommeil, mine notre humeur et embrouille notre esprit. Comment y faire face efficacement?” by Jaqueline Simoneau in *Le bel âge*, September 2011, p. 91.

## ***Adult fiction: Germany past and present...***

*Blood of the Reich* by William Dietrich – The story begins with a German expedition to Tibet in 1938 and moves forward to vengeful neo-Nazis in the present day. Told in alternating chapters past and present, it is a fast-paced historical adventure and a modern-day thriller.

*Field Gray* by Philip Kerr – It’s 1954, and Bernie’s job is to greet POWs returning from Germany and snag one Edgard de Boudel, a French war criminal and member of the French SS. But Bernie’s past as a German POW in Russia is about to catch up with him.

## ***Adult French – detective stories***

*Double disparition* by Christine Brouillet – Detective Maud Graham is investigating the disappearance of a child in Quebec City. At the same time, in Rimouski, a young man finds that he is not the biological son of his dying mother. Distracted, he sets off for Quebec City to find his birth mother. These two unrelated quests will eventually impact on each other.

*L’armée furieuse* by Fred Vargas – Inspector Adamsberg receives a visit from an

elderly woman from Normandy. He learns that in a village rife with superstitions, an army of the living dead has been sighted. This manifestation of an old legend is the sign that a series of murders is forthcoming.

## ***DVDs***

*How I Ended this Summer* – On a desolate island in the Arctic Circle, two men work at a small meteorological station, taking readings from their radioactive surroundings. Sergei, a gruff professional in his 50s, takes his job very seriously, while his new partner, college grad Pavel, retreats to his MP3 player to avoid Sergei’s imposing presence. One day while Sergei is out, inexperienced Pavel receives terrible news for Sergei from HQ. When the truth is revealed, the consequences explode.

*Waste Land* – An uplifting feature documentary highlighting the transformative power of art and the beauty of the human spirit. Top-selling contemporary artist Vik Muniz takes us on an emotional journey from Jardim Gramacho, the world’s largest landfill on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, to the heights of international art stardom as he collaborates with the brilliant *catadores*, pickers of recyclable materials.

## ***Picture books for children***

*Amanda and Her Alligator* by Mo Willems – The author has created another humorous picture book that will entertain both children and adults. Amanda’s toy alligator is always trying to surprise her, but when she surprises him with a new toy, Alligator is not very happy.

*1,2,3, plouf!* by Isabelle Carrier – Achilles the alligator decides to invite all of his friends to the beach. Children will have fun learning to count with this adorable lift-the-flap book.

# Hallward on happiness



John Hallward, August 25, on Victoria Ave.

Photo: Westmount Independent

Carleton Ave. resident John Hallward recently published his second book, *The Happiness Equation*.

The Ipsos pollster has done a study of Canadians to find out what actually leads to happiness. The answer: less stress, lack of debt and friends. Religion, health, age, exercise and community feeling (and more sex) help, too.

Hallward, a proponent of philanthropy through the GIV3 organization, also found charity makes people happier. We are “wired for compassion,” he contends.

What doesn’t make people happy? Income (as opposed to net worth), “keeping up with the Joneses” and screen time (e.g. tv, internet), or as Hallward puts it, “Happiness is not behind your front door.”

Word about the book is “rippling around,” according to the author. An appearance on Global Toronto and an article in *The Toronto Star* haven’t hurt. It is available through Amazon.com and Indigo.ca.

The book’s publisher, Price-Patterson Ltd., and the owner of the *Independent*, Sherbrooke Valois Inc., have a shareholder in common.



Ville de Westmount  
City of Westmount

## Heures d'affaires et services municipaux Fête du travail

Veuillez noter que tous les bureaux administratifs de la Ville de Westmount, soit l’hôtel de ville, le Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, et les Services de la sécurité publique, des sports et loisirs et des travaux publics seront fermés **le lundi 5 septembre 2011** en raison de la Fête du travail. De plus, la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée **les dimanche 4 septembre et lundi 5 septembre**.

Prenez également note qu’il n’y a aucun changement quant à la collecte des résidus alimentaires qui s’effectuera à l’horaire normal.

## Business Hours and Municipal Services Labour Day

Please be advised that all administrative offices of the City of Westmount (City Hall, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security and Recreation) will be closed on **Monday, September 5, 2011** for the Labour Day holiday. Westmount Public Library will be closed on **Sunday, September 4 and Monday, September 5**.

Please note also that the kitchen waste collection will take place according to the regular schedule.

## Fire exit blocked

Westmount’s fire inspection agents discovered bicycles and other material obstructing the fire exit of an apartment building at 227-229-231 Clarke August 3, Public Security officials said.

The safety violation was noticed during the summer inspection visits to residential buildings. A follow-up inspection report August 16 revealed the problem had been corrected.

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# Art auction honours the late Tom Hopkins



*Social Notes  
from Westmount  
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Tom Hopkins Memorial Art Auction, held at the end of June honoured the late Tom Hopkins, artist and Westmounter.

Held at the Battat Contemporary Gallery (7245 Alexandra St.), the cocktail, catered by Westmount’s Simply Wonderful, featured an auction of works by 36 artists, including **Edward Burtnysky, Sophie Jodoin and Marion Wagschal.**

Guests were treated to a performance by the Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal (SMAM) with **Chris Jackson** on

the harpsichord and soprano singers **Maire Magistry, Kami Lofgren and H  l  ne Brunet.**



*Westmounter Peter McAuslan.*



*Westmount photographer Gabor Szilasi and Serge-Jean Lavolette.*

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The emcee of the eve was Westmounter **Peter McAuslan**, there with his wife **Ellen Bounsall**.

Guests included Westmounters **Mary-Anne Ferguson, Clarence Epstein, Maurice Forget, Rubin Goldbaum, Rae Heenan, Gwen Nacos, Honor and Douglas Robertson**, and photographer **Gabor Szilasi**, as well as **Jacqueline McClaran** and **Jonathan Meakins**, who had just premiered their exhibit “The Physician’s Eye: Five Centuries of European Master Prints from the Collection of Drs. Jonathan Meakins and Jacqueline McClaran” at the

Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Also noted were gallery owner **Joe Battat**, the Parisian Laundry’s director **Jeannie Riddle** and owner **Nick Tedeschi**, and gallerist **Joyce Yahuda**.

The cultural eve raised \$45,000 to be shared by SMAM and Concordia University faculty of fine arts. SMAM will use the funds to organize performances in Quebec-area hospitals for the enjoyment of patients, and the fine arts department will use its portion of the proceeds to inaugurate the Tom Hopkins Graduate Award in Painting and Drawing.

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Hugh Nimmons / Louis Balena

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For more than 65 years, the Thomas More Institute has offered an array of courses in the arts, classics, current affairs, history, literature, mathematics, philosophy, religion, and science. Our university-level courses are based upon carefully chosen texts representing different perspectives on the issues and questions that each class has come together to explore. A new set of courses is developed for each academic year so that the material is always fresh. Instead of lecturing, Thomas More's trained leaders guide group discussions. Students come from a variety of economic, cultural and educational backgrounds. Their ages range from their twenties to well into their eighties.

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- *The Rest is Noise: Listening to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*
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- Who Was William Shakespeare?
- Workshop on Writing Skills



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## Summit walkers warned of thefts

A woman walking her dog in Summit Woods August 18 had her knapsack stolen from her car only two hours before she was about to leave on vacation, Public Security officials said. The car had been broken into in the parking area at Summit Circle and Belvedere Rd.

Sgt. Kim Calquhoun was reported to have made a search through the woods to assist the distraught victim in the hopes of

finding the pack, but to no avail. She warned others she encountered not to leave items visible in their cars. The officer also left warning tickets on two parked cars where valuables had been left in plain view.

"This has been a longstanding problem over the years around the Summit, especially in several 'hot spots,'" explained assistant director Greg McBain.



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## Little Bear helps Gerdy's Rescue through sidewalk sale proceeds



Little Bear pet supply store held a sidewalk sale on a sunny August 20. A percentage of sales went to benefit Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions. Shoppers perused pet accessories, enjoyed baked goods prepared by volunteers, and discussed food and grooming. The next sidewalk sale is slated for Saturday, September 24.

Photo: Lysanne Fowler

## Too busy to get the school supplies? Get a personal shopper

It's back-to-school time, and Westmount Stationery is offering an easy solution to busy parents to collect school supplies. A customer can fax, email or drop off the school's list, and the store will assign a personal shopper to fill the order and have it ready for collection or delivery.

"We get the product even if we don't have it," said store owner Tom Forestell. While there is no minimum order, a list is needed, he explained.

Payment can be made over the phone by credit card. Westmount Stationery has offered the personal shopper service for about ten years, according to Forestell.

— L. O'L



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# Sisters with different looks, both affectionate and playful



**9 Lives**

LYSANNE FOWLER

The news from the shelters is grim. They say they have so many abandoned cats who they would like presented to you in the 9 Lives column for a chance at a home, they often don't know where to start.

Here are two favourites at the SPCA



*Lili and Cookie*

Montréal cattery, two sweet sisters for adoption. Let me present to you Lili and Cookie.

They have easy-going personalities and are very generous in sharing affection. The purring begins easily and their loving personalities shine through.

These cats are incredibly serene and would make perfect, peaceful companions at home. They are domestic shorthair sisters, alike but different: Lili is a grey and orange tabby, and Cookie is an elegant white, with an orange coat and cap.

Both very healthy, have been spayed and have had all their shots. These are young cats with plenty of energy and affection.

To find out more about Lili and Cookie, please contact Cindy at the SPCA Mon-  
térégie at 514.386.5960 or email [info@spcamonteregie.com](mailto:info@spcamonteregie.com).

You can drop by the shelter at 178 du Vide Rd. in St. Angèle de Monnoir (exit 37 on autoroute 10). Adoption/visiting hours at the cattery are every day from 2 to 4:30 pm or by appointment.

*Your neighbour, Lysanne*

## Cat found in sports bag

A black adult cat was left abandoned in a sports bag August 16 in Queen Elizabeth Gardens, the park at Sherbrooke and Wood. Public safety officers reported taking it to the SPCA shortly after it was found at 11:26 am.

## Cement mixer blocks street

The driver of a cement mixer was issued a \$52 ticket August 18 when his truck was found blocking the street at 176 Edgehill around 8 am, Public Security officials report. The driver was also found to be working without a construction permit from the city. He claimed not to be aware of the requirement. The information was relayed to city inspectors.

## Squirrel days of August



*This resting rodent was caught stretched out and napping on a sweltering August 5, just outside the Independent's windows. Minutes later he was gone.*

Photo: Westmount Independent

## Windsor work keeps going



*Work continued on Windsor August 26. As previously reported, it is expected to wrap up by the end of September.*

Photo: Westmount Independent

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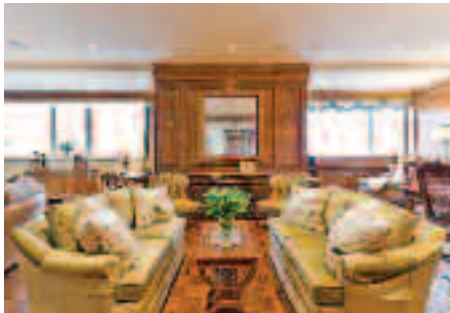
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