

City: Fixed-price contract to be signed by Dec. 22

‘Race is on’ to find building consortium for arena project

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The ball is rolling now to choose a contractor/architect consortium to bid on the arena/pool project with the launch September 23 of a two-step tender process. Interested parties have until Tuesday, October 11 at noon to submit qualifying applications.

“The race has begun, and we’ll see very soon which companies make it to the podium,” said project chair Patrick Mar-

tin. A fixed-price contract is expected to be signed by December 22.

The request for qualification came four days after city council at its mid-month meeting adopted a new design-build approach to ensure the project remained within budget and following renewed endorsement from the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA).

“Our support is predicated on respecting the \$37-million budget without fault,” president Jean-Pierre Picard told the *Independent* following a WMA board meeting, also September 19.

“We are concerned that the project has been delayed,” he stated, “but are encouraged by the steps taken by council ... steps obviously driven by the objective of respecting the continued on p. 8

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Rotary starts up collection again



The Rotary Club of Westmount is starting up its collection of reusable household items and furniture again. From left, front: Nadia Chidean, Debbie Dore, Josée St-Pierre, Haagen Kierulf. Back: Andy Durso, Ted Sancton, Jim Bouchard and Robin Vincelli. See story, p. 30.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Statistical samplings for July/Aug., station 12 news

Crime down – and up again – over summer months

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It’s safe to say that criminal activity in Westmount during July had probably not been so low in a long time. But then a sudden surge in thefts from cars in August turned the tables.

Crime samplings released by police station 12 for the two months show single-digit figures for all types of crimes in July other than the number of graffiti sightings

and hit-and-run reports. But while figures for August had been expected to show a similar trend, a jump in thefts from vehicles from 7 to 23 is so far unexplained, said station commander Stéphane Plourde.

It won’t be known for a month whether or not three youths arrested September 19 for stealing from cars might have been responsible for the August thefts (see story p. 3). Or, continued on p. 10

Sat., Oct. 1: Free compost, p. 28.

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Five arrested in Greene Ave. robbery follow-up

By DAVID GOLDBERG

Montreal police have made five more arrests during their investigation of the September 12 robbery outside the TD Bank at 1289 Greene Ave., a heist that netted three robbers almost \$40,000.

The suspects used an electronic device to stun a gas station employee and steal his deposit bag, moments before he was about to enter the bank.

The driver of the getaway car was arrested that day after a high-speed chase west along Sherbrooke St. Police say the 25-year-old Chateauguay man's Blackberry was used to help locate the two other suspects directly involved in the hold-up.

“Our investigators obtained search warrants for locations in NDG and St. Henri,” said station 12 constable Adalbert Pimentel. “In total, five more arrests were made thanks to the information from the Blackberry.”

Police say they found more than just the suspects.

“We also recovered a .38 special handgun and drugs, including crack cocaine

and marijuana,” said Pimentel.

Two of the suspects, those who were in the get-away car, have been charged with armed robbery, conspiracy to commit armed robbery, obstruction of justice, being involved in a high-speed pursuit and possession of a prohibited weapon.

One of the suspects was charged with possession of drugs with the intent to traffic.

Two of the other suspects arrested during the execution of the search warrants were also charged with possession of drugs with the intent to traffic. The fifth suspect was wanted for an outstanding warrant.


Police say none of the stolen money was recovered..

Ethics by-law on the way

City council gave notice of motion at its meeting September 6 that it intends to adopt a Code of Ethics and Good Conduct of Council Members as required by law by December 2.



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Overnight crime spree foiled by undercover watch

Three youths arrested after tailing by PSO's

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Three youths reported to be searching cars as they walked around Westmount in the early hours of September 19 were tailed by public safety officers in marked and unmarked vehicles until arrested by police on Victoria just north of Westmount Ave.

The three males, all aged 17 from NDG, are to be charged with theft and possession of stolen goods, police said.

Recovered at the scene of the arrest were numerous electronic items including at least seven GPS devices, as well as cell phones, chargers and binoculars. Most were believed stolen in Westmount.

"Six different car owners have come to the station so far to claim their belongings," said police community relations officer Guylaine Julien September 21 as the investigation continued. "There are some items we have not been able to trace."

The crime spree, as related by Public Security officials, conjures up the intrigue of a spy novel in the dead of night. It began to unfold just after 3 am when Sgt. Jennifer Chabot noticed the dome light on in a grey Lexus parked at a house on Murray Hill.

She also spotted three suspicious-looking young people nearby and began watching them as they headed east on The Boulevard and turned north onto the upper portion of Clarke. When they came back down, she called for Public Security's unmarked car to assist in the surveillance and watched them as they proceeded down to Montrose.

Watched from unmarked vehicle

That's where their trail was picked up by PSO Nicolas Bouchard in the unmarked vehicle, who followed and watched as they began walking around cars and private property on Aberdeen.

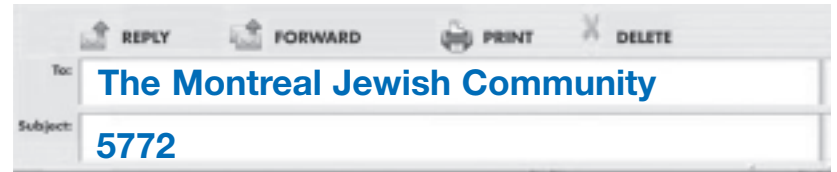
When suspicions were confirmed, a call was placed to police at 3:32 am.

The three were found again on Westmount Ave. at Forden and were shadowed as they proceeded west, stopping to check out the doors of at least one car along the way.

Turning north on Victoria, it was in front of number 627 that they were stopped by police at 3:41 am, questioned

and arrested.

Among vehicles reported to have been searched as the investigation continues was one on Earncliffe in NDG, three on Lansdowne and one each on Murray Hill, Victoria and Clarke. Public Security officials said it was likely the cars on Lansdowne had been hit as the group proceeded east, just before they were spotted at Murray Hill.



Wishing friends, clients and colleagues a very Healthy, Peaceful and Joyous New Year.

Penny



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Photo courtesy of Morris Shore

Morris Shore at the triathlon in China.

Shore wins bronze in world triathlon

Westmounter Morris Shore, 75, won a bronze medal in his age group (75 to 79) at the World Triathlon Championships in China, September 10 to 11.

His race comprised a 1.5-km swim, a 40-km bike ride and a 10-km run. His time was 4:10:36.

Shore dedicated his race to the Westbury YM-YWHA and raised \$22,000 from over 200 people.

"It was a wonderful experience," he said.

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Photo: Ralph Thompson

From left: Régine Chassagne of Montreal indie rock band Arcade Fire; Paul Farmer, chair of the department of global health and social medicine, Harvard University and UN deputy special envoy to Haiti; and Westmounter Dominique Anglade, board member of KANPE.

Dominique Anglade, a Westmounter who helped create the Kanpe Foundation for Haiti last year along with Arcade Fire band member and fellow Haitian René Chassagne, took part in a panel discussion "Up Close and Personal: A Panel Discussion on Engagement in Haiti" at Concor-

dia University on Sept. 22.

Although the groundwork for Kanpe began in 2009, Anglade was further compelled to start the group when her mother and father were killed in the catastrophic earthquake that struck Haiti in January 2010.

– MCB



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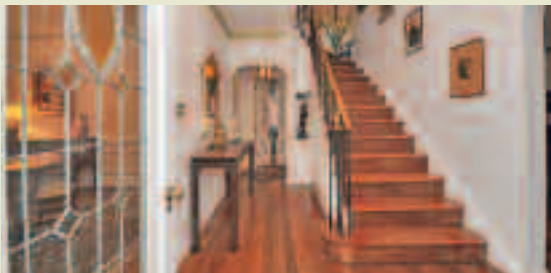
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City issues permit for inside work as demo appeal dropped for conversion of 215 Redfern

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A city permit was issued September 19 for interior demolition work at 215 Redfern, city officials said the following day. The move came four days after a tenant of

Another raccoon stuck in garbage bin

A month after five baby raccoons became trapped in a garbage bin on Grosvenor, another raccoon was stuck in one on Lansdowne Ave. September 7, Public Security officials said. A patroller tipped over the bin to free the animal.

While the ingenious urban wildlife inhabitants seem able to find their way inside the large containers, it appears they encounter trouble getting out. Solutions used by some people include placing a heavy article on top of the lid or fastening it down with an elasticized luggage cable. This may keep them from entering in the first place.

the building dropped his appeal of the city's decision to allow the demolition.

"The permit is for removal of interior partitions," said Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier. "The exterior work – removal of the facade – will wait for the spring and better weather."

Work to convert the former Reader's Digest building into 63 condominiums had been delayed by the appeal by Ceraco Immigration Services and immigration lawyer David Cohen, of the favourable demolition decision rendered July 8.

Cohen was the only tenant of the commercial building understood to have not reached an agreement or relocation settlement with the building owners and had launched the appeal August 5 on grounds his lease prevented the building's "change of destination" (see August 9, p. 2).

Concerns over traffic

No other appeals had been received by the city though other interveners – residents of the street – had expressed concerns over traffic, safety and general

disruption during the demolition/construction process (see July 5, p. 4, 5).

With the matter now settled between tenant and owner, the way has been cleared for work to begin. Poirier met last week with the architectural firm of Karl Fisher to arrange for all required documents to be submitted.

Plans call for the interior of the building to be gutted and the entire facade re-

placed. A section of two floors is to be demolished as well. Two additional storeys are to be built on part of the existing structure, topped by a recreational penthouse.

The city's demolition decision lists a number of conditions related to the construction site, safety and other concerns of residents. It also set a monetary guarantee of \$500,000 to ensure the project is carried out according to approved plans.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RESERVED BUS LANES WILL UP TRAFFIC ON NEARBY STREETS

In your September 20 issue, you have a story about the probable implementation of reserved bus lanes during the morning and afternoon rush hours. ("Reserved bus lanes expected to have huge impact," p. 1).

Since the city's ill-conceived revamping of the Sherbrooke St. traffic light system in the Claremont-Grosvenor corridor about two years ago, we have seen a large increase in the congestion, tailbacks and the blocking of intersections by motor vehicles in the area.

Now we are informed that this main east-west artery is to be even more reduced in carrying capacity through a plan by a group of faceless bureaucrats to make reserved bus lanes during the busiest traffic hours of the day.

I can only imagine how this will increase the traffic congestion on the surrounding residential streets, as well as causing even larger traffic jams on Sherbrooke St.

Oh, and let's not forget the increase in air pollution from all those idling vehicles. The traffic jams, increase of road rage and the ensuing impatient and dangerous driving will be interesting to say the least.

GENE KRUGER, CÔTE ST. ANTOINE RD.

WHY NO ENFORCEMENT OF TRAFFIC LAWS FOR CYCLISTS?

A recent letter from Mme. Pecknold about cyclists riding on the sidewalk under the very nose of Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM) officers illustrates what has been painfully obvious for years: cyclists haven't obeyed traffic laws in Westmount since the island police forces were merged.

A philosophical question: is the non-enforcement the result of orders from the SPVM's (nominal) civilian superiors? Or from somewhere up the SPVM hierarchy?

Or do individual officers decide *proprio motu* whether or not to enforce the law?

In any case, be sure to look both ways before getting off the curb when you are crossing on a pedestrian signal.

JEAN TURGEON, MOUNT STEPHEN AVE.

ARENA/POOL PROJECT: WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

The *Independent's* recent story on the arena/pool project ("Lemay out, consortium sought," September 20, p. 1) brings to mind the following questions addressed to project chair Patrick Martin:

- Noting that the arena/pool project will now be tendered on the basis of incomplete architect's plans and specifications, the city's project description for tendering

will have to be prepared in considerably greater detail. How much time will it take to make the necessary revisions to the project description?

- Will the final project description be available for public review at city hall and/or at the Westmount Public Library, and if so, at what stage in the contractual process?

- To what extent will other contractual documentation for tendering be made available for public review and when?

- Is it planned that the two underground hockey rinks will be located on the same level or one above the other?

- Will the arena's drainage system be configured for a gravity feed into the city's sewer system, and, if not, what provision will be specified to assure that the underground facility will not be endangered by flooding in the event of a power failure during heavy rain?

JOHN DOREY, VICTORIA AVE.

DECISIONS BY REFERENDA NOT DEMOCRATIC IDEAL

I write in connection with the report on the September 20 article in the *Independent* regarding the use of referendum to settle any proposed change in land use. ("Trent defends democratic referendum process," p. 7).

I have not had the opportunity of reading the presentation made at the hearing on Bill 58. However, the article states that allowing citizens to participate in the decision process by means of a referendum is a "fundamental" hallmark of democracy.

I take issue with this statement. In fact, most people are able to accede to the views of their elected representatives, i.e. one assumes that a Conservative, Liberal or NDP member of parliament will vote according to the party's stated platform. In fact, referenda are generally used for divisive matters such as conscription or, more recently, separation.

As far as I am concerned, once a representative is elected, be it in the municipal, provincial or federal arena, he or she is empowered to vote as they deem to be appropriate in the circumstances.

I certainly do not consider referenda to be more democratic than "one man one vote" or "no taxation without representation."

ETHEL JOAN ADYE, PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR TRENT: DESIGN/BUILD CHANGES INPUT OPTIONS

I noted with astonishment the move to a "design/build approach" to the arena/pool project. That a project of this complexity should be started without final plans in place, which the community has had an opportunity to vet, is hard to be-

lieve.

At the August meeting of city council you made several commitments in the interests of transparency and good governance. The "design/build approach" seems to fly in their face.

1. How will citizens have a roughly two-month window to comment before it goes to tender(s) if there will be no final project even after the tender?

2. How will citizens be allowed to express their views on significant changes to the project if such changes may well occur as mid-course corrections?

3. Isn't the move to this radical new procedure in and of itself a significant change that citizens should have a chance to comment upon?

In the interests of transparency, there are several items which need to be addressed at this juncture:

1. What was the last cost estimate furnished by the Lemay group before its contract was cancelled? Did this cancellation impose any financial penalties upon the city?

2. Does the commitment to hold expenditures to \$37 million include the cost of the reconstruction of the water and sewer lines announced by arena/pool chair Patrick Martin as the "launch [of] construction work for the Westmount Recreation Centre"?

3. If not, are there any other expenditures which will be incurred due to the project which have not been included in the \$37 million figure? What are they and how much will they cost?

Given your own commitment to democratic governance, I am comfortable in thanking you in advance for providing these responses in a timely fashion.

NATHAN BOSSEN, YORK ST.

THANKS FOR THE BIXIS

I would like to publicly thank the Bixi people for bringing their bikes to Westmount, and the city of Westmount for letting them do so.

Commuting to and from work has been a pleasure this summer, knowing I can jump on a Bixi whenever I want.

I'd also like to thank 99 percent of Westmount road users for respecting each other while driving or riding or walking. Apart from the very occasional exception, I've seen all our road users give each other the space they need to drive/ride/walk safely.

MARK STYLES, SHERBROOKE ST.

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Sunday morning fire alarm rings out at Le Dorchester



Alarms bells were sounding at Le Dorchester at 4282 Dorchester Blvd. on the morning of September 18. At least three fire trucks were present at 12 pm after a fire alarm was triggered in the apartment building. Some residents evacuated the building, though there seemed to be no fire. Residents returning to the building were calm. A resident, who preferred to remain anonymous, said he felt it was nothing serious.

Photo: Lauren O'Loughlen

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Arena process outlined

.....
continued from p. 1
original budget.”

Picard was the only member of the public, other than journalists, to attend the council meeting when the search for a consortium was announced and details of the selection process were presented by Martin.

The first stage was launched on Quebec’s official call-for-tenders website called SEAO (Système électronique d’appels d’offres).

Qualifiers known Oct. 17

With announcement of successful qualifiers on Monday, October 17, the more lengthy second stage is to be launched the next day, October 18, as a “request for proposals.” This is open only to those who qualified in the first stage, possibly only as few as three would be chosen by the city, Martin suggested.

This would make it worth their while taking the time – perhaps up to five weeks – to work up detailed designs and costs, knowing they had a one-in-three chance of winning. Hopefully, this would produce lower bids.

The proposals would be prepared according to a “design-build stipulated price contract” endorsed by construction and architectural associations and well understood by those in the trades and professions.

“We’re looking for consortia that have worked in an institutional setting, are bondable for \$30-million projects, have built arenas and pools and have certification experience with LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design],” Martin said.

Bonding essential

He told the *Independent* he expected there were only about 12 contractors in Quebec who would be able to meet the necessary bonding, an important component of the fixed-price contract. These would be medium to large companies because “it’s very hard to get bonding.”

The importance of the bonding is to ensure that in the event the contractor is unable to finish the project, the insurer would pay the cost of completion.

Despite the new direction, a group of 20 residents proposed an entirely new plan September 21 for two hockey rinks, as well as indoor and outdoor pools using both the current site and the nearby Public Works yard at the foot of Bethune (see story p. 14).

As reported by the *Independent* September 20, council, as expected, passed a resolution at the mid-month meeting to cancel the remainder of the architectural contract of Lemay et associés as a first step in adopting the design-build approach.

Truck noise ceases with end of work at École internationale

The backing-up beeping sounds made by trucks as they worked on repairs at the École internationale on Côte St. Antoine Rd. over the last few months has finally ceased with completion of the work.

“It’s been going on for a very long time,” explained Beverley Hutchison, who lives on Kitchener Ave. near the corner of Sherbrooke St.

Isabelle Marcotte, the high school’s director, said the trucks were involved in major repairs being done on the school’s stone outer walls.

“It’s more than a year that we’ve been doing this work,” she said, adding that about \$1 million worth of renovations on the school’s cafeteria and kitchen was taking place around about the same time. She said the work is completed now.

According to Marcotte, the workers were starting on weekdays as early as 7 am, although they weren’t there on weekends. She said the Commission scolaire de Montréal, which operates the school, obtained all the necessary permits from the city of Westmount.

– MCB



Workers were at the École internationale when these shots were taken by the Independent on September 9.



At the council meeting Sept 19, Councillor Patrick Martin explains how the consortium will be chosen.

Overheard on the streets of Westmount

Words were exchanged on Roslyn and the Boulevard on September Wednesday 14, shortly after 2 pm when a jaywalker, wearing a *Crocodile Dundee*-style hat, stepped in front of the driver of a silver car. “Did you see that light?” the elderly driver shouted from his car window to the jolly jaywalker, who sarcastically responded “sorry your majesty!” and continued on his way.

Woman trips, falls in street

A public safety officer noticed an ambulance stop September 7 on Metcalfe just south of Sherbrooke where a small group of people had congregated around a woman lying in the street. Public Security officials said the 58-year-old woman was believed to have been crossing it when, according to Urgences Santé personnel, she apparently tripped and fell on a crack near where she lay.

While she was given medical assistance, the officer retrieved her purse from her parked car, issued it a parking tolerance, directed traffic and tried without success to contact her husband. She was taken to hospital.

Ikeman stands up for District 5 residents complaining about construction noise



Councillor Gary Ikeman, representing District 5, defends Sara Meland and other Westmount residents who have been waking up to the beeping sounds of reversing trucks on the McGill University Health Centre's construction site. During a public meeting on September 22 at the MUHC building on de Maisonneuve Blvd., Ikeman told Montreal officials and an SNC Lavalin representative that the situation was unacceptable. "The beeping is going to put me in the hospital if it ever gets built," said Meland. A Montreal police officer, Mina Lévesque, recommended that residents dealing with construction noise before 7 am call 911 to complain.

Photo: Isaac Olson

Jazz night at library draws a crowd



The "After Hours" event at the Westmount Public Library September 17 attracted over 160 people, according to Donna Lach, programming and outreach librarian. From left, author John Gilmore, who read from his book about the history of jazz in Montreal; Lach; singer Vivienne Deane; and pianist Felix Stüssi. Martin Franklin at the keyboard.

Photo courtesy of the Westmount Public Library

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Parking inspector pushed by angry trucker

A parking inspector was threatened and pushed September 13 on Arlington Ave. by an angry deliveryman who refused to move his truck for the street sweeper, Public Security officials said.

The request had been made around 12:30 pm after the sweeping machine had already finished the east side of the street and was starting to do the west side. While some drivers of other parked cars had rushed out to move them, the deliveryman was reported to have yelled insults and replied that he was working and would remove the truck when he was ready.

On his refusal, he was given a ticket, prompting more threats and insults. It was then that he is reported to have knocked the ticket book out of the inspector's hand, pushed him with both hands and threatened to punch him in the face.

Police were informed that the city wanted to press assault charges, said assistant director Greg McBain. "We have zero tolerance for any such abuse of our people."

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‘Too risky’ to steal in Westmount?

.....
continued from p. 1

suggested Plourde, it could be that a known suspect who had been lying low in July had resumed his activity.

The earlier targeting of this person had likely made him feel the heat, Plourde suggested. “We know from this person’s MO (*modus operandi*) that he has been doing around 15 break-ins a month, many in Westmount, but we haven’t been able to catch him in the act,” he explained.

“We’ve been watching him, and he

knows it. Usually when they feel it, they move to another sector,” he added. Police in plain clothes along with the city’s public safety officers have worked together in this respect, he said. “Probably he knows it’s too risky now to steal in Westmount.” The suspect is reported to live in Little Burgundy but has been “hanging around in Westmount.”

Bronze medalists

Following up his report last month of three local officers bound for New York City to participate in the World Police and Fire Games (August 26 to September 9), Plourde announced that the station produced two bronze medalists.

Sgt. Marie-Claude Dandenault was part of the bronze-winning women’s beach volleyball team fielded by Montreal police. “She was very happy and what’s very special is that they beat the Quebec City team, which has been our rival for a long time,” he said. Gold went to a team from Finland and silver to an RCMP team from Alberta.

Cst. Marc-Michel Roy also brought home bronze for his individual performance in karate with gold won by Romania and silver by Spain. Meanwhile, Cst. Mathieu Chartrand-Côté never got to compete



Sgt. Marie-Claude Dandenault



Cst. Marc-Michel Roy

in the 10-km run because it was cancelled by Hurricane Irene as were many of the events.

“We’re very excited that the World Games are coming to Montreal in 2017,” Plourde added. “This is very good for the economy of the city because this is the largest athletic event in the world outside of the Olympics.”

‘Emotional’ moments at Dawson

While memorial ceremonies September 13 to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the shootings at Dawson College brought back memories that were too painful for some to attend, Plourde said he, along with a number of other police and city officials from Westmount, did.

“It was pretty emotional,” he said. Plourde was the commander in charge that day though not yet serving at station 12 and was one of the first to arrive. “It was chaos,” he recalled. “We were searching everywhere for shooters.”

Among those also attending the memorial was community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel along with officers who

have since left station 12. These included then station commander Nathalia Shuster (now in charge at station 8 in Lachine), Pierre Liboiron, who was the station lieutenant (now with the Eclipse group) and officer Anne-Marie Dicaire.

Edgehill and master traffic plan

Plourde said he had followed up on a request from Trent at the September 6 meeting of city council to ticket speeders on Edgehill north of The Boulevard and Roslyn. Since the main complaint seems to involve evening traffic, he said police on the evening shift would be on hand last week with radar to “validate that there is a problem,” assess the situation and ticket offenders.

Though the speed limit is 30 km/h, he said the officer would have discretionary power to ticket those deemed to be speeding depending on weather and other conditions. “It’s almost impossible to drive up a hill at 30,” he said. Local resident Michael Schwartz has been requesting slowing devices such as stop signs, speed bumps *continued on p. 11*

Study on bright and gifted children

I am a doctoral student in psychology studying children’s intellectual and adjustment levels and parenting styles. I need the cooperation of: **Parents and children between the ages of 7 and 11** Parents will be asked to complete 2 questionnaires. Children will be asked to complete 1 questionnaire and 1 I.Q. test.

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Westmount crime samplings

March to August 2011

Type of crime reported	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
Break and enter	2	4	13	8	6	6
Robbery	2	0	0	1	0	1
Theft from vehicles	20	28	16	11	7	23
Theft of vehicles	1	3	3	2	1	1
Graffiti	19	21	31	8	13	6
Hit-and-run	21	13	16	23	14	14

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

Crime stats

continued from p. 10

and better enforcement for more than a year (see August 9, p. 9).

Plourde said he was surprised to learn that the mobile radar indicator had been placed on the street for only one day. It was been reported by Schwartz as being extremely effective.

Speed limits

Plourde said that the current speed limit on Edgehill and on some other streets is probably not realistic. "This is something the Genivar consultants preparing the city's master traffic plan will have to look into."

Despite some perceptions, he said, the Quebec Highway Code sets maximum speed limits in municipalities at 50 km/h everywhere. It empowers, but does not require, municipal councils to impose reduced limits in certain areas such as school zones. When he was working at another station, he recalled, "I found it very wrong as a police officer that the school zone at St. Urbain and Bernard was 50 km/h."

Value of attending council meetings

Traffic is so important to residents that

Pedestrian safety campaign starts Oct. 1

Police will conduct an island-wide pedestrian safety campaign from October 1 to 30, it was announced last week.

Tickets will be issued to jaywalkers and people failing to obey pedestrian signals and other regulations.

As well in Westmount, station 12 community relations officer Cst. Adalbert Pimentel will be visiting seniors' residences said Commander Stéphane Plourde.

"We will target seniors and ask them to be especially aware of the fact that they may not have the capabilities they once did in having enough time to cross the street safely."

inevitably after a city council meeting he relays concerns to traffic officer Steven Goldberg, he said. By regularly attending council meetings, "We have the pulse of the citizens. I think it's very important for police to be there. Otherwise we wouldn't know what was going on with the arena project, for example.



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October 3, 8:30 - 11:00 am
3 octobre, de 8h30 à 11h00



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Profile: Miriam Reich

At 100, Reich doesn't think about age, she just keeps busy

BY MARLENE EISNER

"I'm a very ordinary person. I didn't contribute much to the world," said Miriam Reich as she opened the door and welcomed the *Independent* into her Westmount condo. Ready for an interview was a petite, impeccably dressed woman, who looked at least 20 years younger than the century she has lived on this planet.

Reich celebrated her 100th birthday in April surrounded by approximately 120 friends and family, including her two children, four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren – solid evidence that she has indeed contributed much to the world during a life filled with many joys and rewards, as well as tragedy and loss.

Reich was born in a small town in Lithuania, the youngest of seven siblings, and came with her family to Montreal in 1923 when she was 12. Her father, who had come to Montreal years earlier, had established a business selling cleaning materials. The family lived on Hutchison and

Reich attended Bancroft School and then the Girls' High School. But the excitement of a new life was short-lived when her parents passed away a few years later, a year apart.

"It was a very bad time. I had to leave school, and I had to live with my older sister who was married."

But with every cloud there is a silver lining. The man she fell in love with and wed was the brother of her sister's husband. The young couple settled into married life until another premature death shook her life – her husband Marcus died from cancer. Reich was left alone to care for her five-year-old son Lawrence and her 10-year-old daughter, Susie.

"When her husband died, she was devastated," said her daughter-in-law, Carolyn Reich.

"But she has a great resiliency to just carry on. She's just a sweetheart. She listens, she's non-judgmental and she has such a natural affinity to her. Her children

and all the relatives just love her. She's what keeps the family together."

Reich stayed in the Outremont home long after her husband died until her daughter convinced her to sell the large house and move into the same apartment building where Susie lived in Westmount.

"I sold the house for next to nothing, and bought this condo for next to nothing. Homes were cheap," said Reich of the four-bedroom apartment that she bought in the late 1970s as the building was being transformed into condos. At the time, condominiums were a strange new breed in the housing market.

She recently took down a wall between two small bedrooms and converted the space into a sitting room and den. On one of the walls in a gold frame hangs a congratulatory birthday letter signed by Queen Elizabeth II. The top of a credenza is covered with photos of her children, grandchildren, great- grandchildren.

continued on p. 13



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Ce samedi, venez chercher du compost GRATUIT!

Le compost fabriqué à partir des feuilles mortes ramassées l'automne dernier sera mis à la disposition des résidents de Westmount à compter de **9 h, le samedi 1 octobre** aux Ateliers municipaux situés au 1, rue Béthune, jusqu'à épuisement des stocks.

Les résidents doivent apporter un contenant (soit un sac de plastique ou une poubelle) et une pelle. Comme la quantité est limitée, nous vous prions d'en laisser pour vos voisins.
Interdit aux camions et aux remorques !

Le compostage domestique

Westmount simplifie le compostage encore davantage en offrant des composteurs domestiques au prix modique de 30 \$. Téléphonez au Service des travaux publics pour en savoir plus.

Composteur 'Soil Saver'

Dimensions : 28 x 28 x 32 po (h)
Capacité : 12 pi³
Fabrication en plastique noir recyclée
Coût : 30 \$

This Saturday, come get your FREE compost!

Compost made from leaves collected last autumn will be available to Westmount residents from **9 a.m. Saturday, October 1st** at the Public Works yard, 1 Bethune Street, while supplies last.

Residents should bring a container (either a plastic bag or bin) and a shovel. Supply is limited so please leave some for your neighbours. **Trucks and trailers are prohibited!**

Backyard Composting

Westmount makes composting even easier by offering backyard composters for the low price of \$30. Contact the Public Works Department to learn more.

'Soil Saver' Composter

Dimensions: 28" x 28" x 32" (h)
Capacity: 12 ft³ capacity
Black recycled plastic construction
Cost: \$30



Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount

Services des travaux publics
Public Works Department

Info : 514 989-5390
www.westmount.org

Reich: resourceful, busy

continued from p. 12

Family has always been a priority for Reich, and she has cared for a number of relatives; her sister who was left paralyzed after a surgery to remove a tumour on her spine and a cousin who was orphaned at a young age. More recently, she cared for a neighbour with Alzheimer's.

Reich attributes her longevity and good health to keeping busy.

"You have to be resourceful. I cook, I read a lot. I read the news – I'm very interested in the news. Exercise is really important."

She plays bridge once a week at Victoria Hall and during the week with friends.

"I am very fortunate," she said. "My friends are deceased, and all my new friends are French-speaking, and I play during the week at their homes. I get to practise my French."

Does she feel 100 years old?

"No," she said. "I never think of the age, I really don't."



Centenarian Miriam Reich holds a congratulatory birthday letter from Queen Elizabeth II. Reich turned 100 on April 21.

Hockey beginnings

Lace up your skates, ladies

BY INGRID KOVITCH-DANNENBAUM

It began in the spring.

Relegated to the sidelines with an injury, I began chatting up the other bored, disconsolate mums slumped in resignation along the boards. Stirred by the unmistakable looks of longing on their faces that read "let me play, too!" I had a flash of inspiration.

Galvanized with purpose, I marched into the Sports and Recreation office and demanded equal playing time for all. The sports coordinators were polite and receptive. They assured me – with poorly concealed skepticism – that if I could submit a list of 20 interested ladies, the "Introduction to Women's Hockey" program would be a go. Having thus committed, they promptly disappeared behind closed doors, from where I believe I could detect unmuted thigh-slapping and peals of laughter.

Undeterred, I set off for home, names of "friends" racing through my mind. Some were athletes, some gamers, some easily swayed and some beholden to me

and in need of penance. In total, with hardly any effort whatsoever, I was able to generate a list of seven.

To this exclusive group, I sent a rousing email, carefully crafted to disguise both my irrepressible fervour, and pleading desperation. I challenged each to devise their own list of "chosen ones," and further spread the news of this marvellous initiative.

And then I waited. And waited. It was an interminable 43 minutes until I received the twentieth name. A half hour later, the roster was doubled. Overwhelmed, I read one enthralled email after another. A clear pattern of responders emerged. Loosely grouped, they fell into one of three categories:

Category 1: Unreservedly ecstatic: "I love this idea! Sign me up!"

Category 2: Elated, but with conditions: "Over my dead body."

Category 3: Enthusiastic and inspired to share other favourite activities: "I'd rather lick a wall."

I scribbled down all the relevant names, and continued on p. 34

Staying fit in a 'social place'

Michelle Benatar has been working out five days a week at the YM-YWHA Ben Weider JCC for the last 10 years. The mother of a 13-year-old son, Benatar says she chooses the YM-YWHA because "It's a social place where you can keep fit."

Working with personal trainer Monica Roy, a boxing and a swimming coach, Benatar cross-trains to maintain the maximum health benefits.

The YM-YWHA Ben Weider JCC, located at 5400 Westbury Avenue in Snowdon, is a newly renovated facility with a 25-metre, eight-lane pool, 50,000-square-foot weight room and aerobic centre, three gyms, a studio and a comprehensive group fitness schedule that includes all the latest trends such as Zumba, Pilates, spinning and yoga.

Some of the city's top personal trainers choose to work at the YM-YWHA, and specialized services such as Toguri Computraining and therapeutic exercise are available to members and non-members alike. There are also plenty of structured recreational activities for children and teens, from Red Cross swimming classes and swim team, to wrestling, basketball, youth Zumba and yoga.

Housed in the JCC are also a café and a full-service restaurant, a health club and spa services, free WiFi and plenty of indoor and outdoor parking. Open seven days a week, there really isn't any other option to choose for the best health facility in the city.

Advertorial



Michelle Benatar, pictured with personal trainer Monica Roy, works out five days a week at the YM-YWHA Ben Weider JCC.

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New proposal for arena site ‘inclusive’ or ‘tunnel visioned’?

By Laureen Sweeney

An alternative concept for the arena/pool project proposed by a group of 20 residents calls for outdoor and indoor pools at the current arena/pool site with two NHL-size ice rinks across St. Catherine St. on the site of the city’s Public Works yard at the foot of Bethune.

“This is a concept that embraces the needs of both the hockey players and swimmers,” architect David Ludmer told the *Independent*.

Ludmer distributed the plan September 21 as a letter to Mayor Peter Trent, though he had not received it when the *Independent* called for a comment.

“It’s an attempt to show that there are other alternatives,” Ludmer said.

Interestingly, the letter is not signed by Patrick Barnard or the Save the Park group, which contends the project should be downsized. “I knew it was in the works, but I have not seen it,” Barnard said of the letter.

Trent said he would not comment on a letter he had not received.

Project chair Patrick Martin said: “Do I understand then that Mr. Ludmer wants us to move the Corporation Yard to Westmount Park?”

Site said to be too dangerous

That’s one of many reasons building an arena at the site is “on the verge of impossible,” said a knowledgeable source who asked not to be named. Another site would have to be found for the busy Corporation Yard since the comings and goings of heavy work trucks and the city operations would make it too dangerous.

In addition, the site, with restricted access, might not be approved by the fire department. The area, which also contains huge underground fuel tanks at the location of the proposed arena, is wedged between the Ville Marie Expressway, CP

tracks and a steep drop of four to five storeys to the west onto Glen Rd. and the Hydro Westmount power facility.

Attempts to widen the current one-lane Bethune tunnel under the tracks – if even feasible in the tight area – would likely involve a lengthy negotiating process with CP and be extremely costly, said the source. Similar work at Decarie is estimated to be costing some \$7 million.

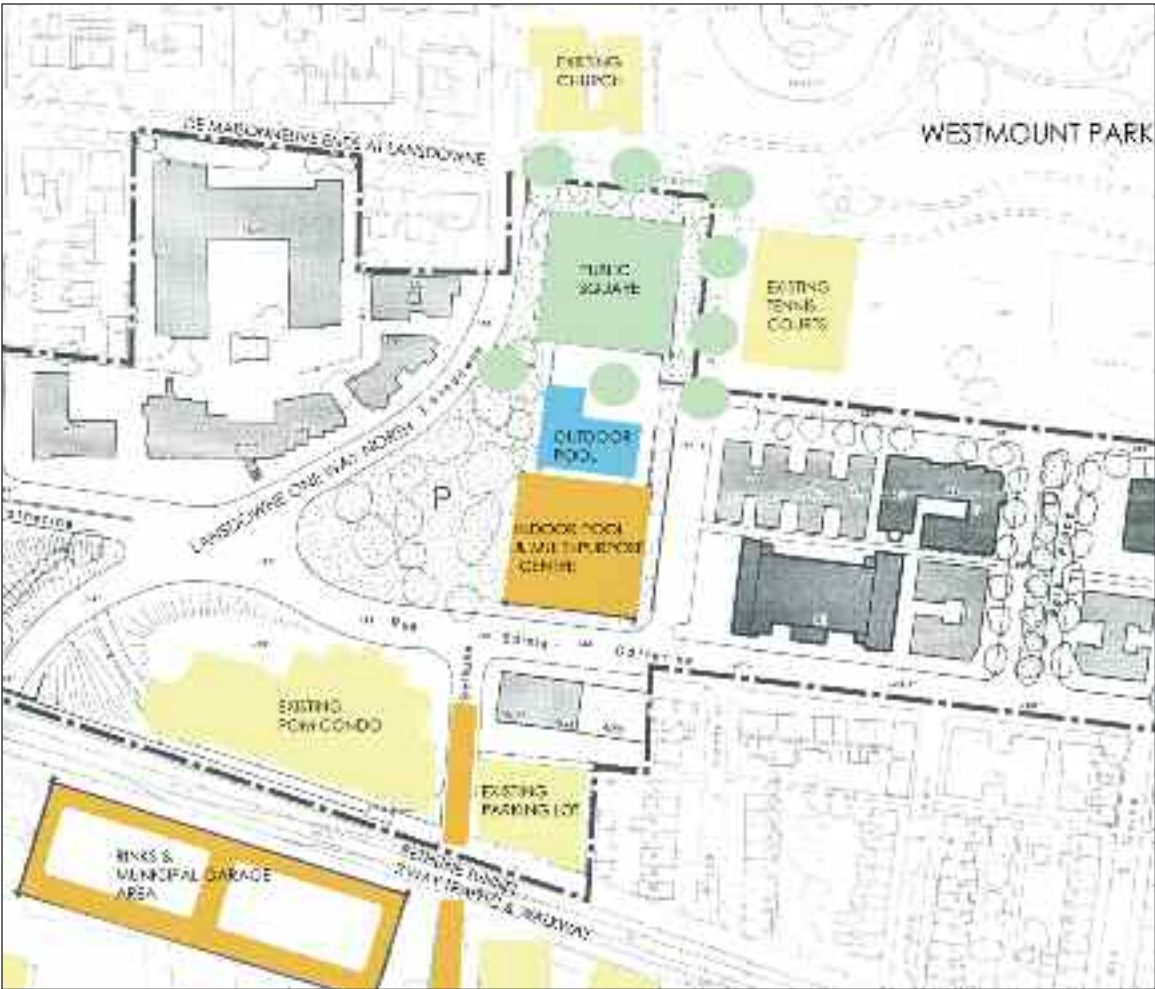
In the city’s emergency preparedness plan for the site, the only way the city could provide a secondary exit was by arranging with CP to provide a flagman to help with the evacuation of city vehicles over the tracks to the east in the area of Blenheim Place in case of disaster.

While the new arena plan might look good on paper, the source said, “you could say it’s tunnel vision.”

Even though the city has now launched the first stage of tenders to find a building consortium, Ludmer said he believed there was a window of opportunity to explore an alternative now. “That’s the point of it.”

He also believed more services could be provided within the same budget through economies realized by the use of “standard tried-and-true building techniques” and above-ground construction at the Yard.

Ludmer had asked at a recent council meeting for a list of sites that had been considered for the new recreation centre,



Proposal submitted by David Ludmer and group after city council approved launch of qualifying tenders September 19.

but said he not yet received one.

Unused syringes found in parking lot

About 40 unused syringes along with empty wine bottles were found in the Metro store parking lot on Victoria by store personnel September 21 at 8:45 am, Public Security officials said. The syringes were turned over to the unit for appropriate hazardous waste disposal.

New workshop truck for Hydro

City council agreed September 6 to replace a Hydro Westmount “workshop” truck in service more than 20 years. The new Ford XL chassis dual cab truck will be bought for \$55,990 and a custom-made utility truck body for \$22,492 installed.





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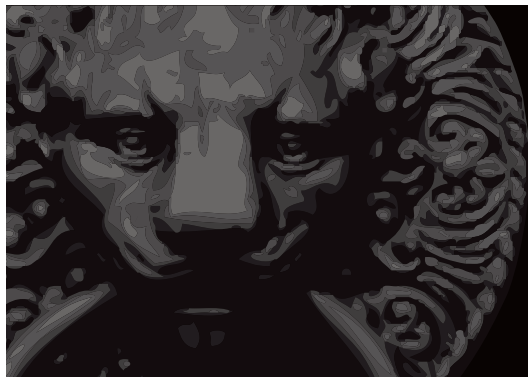




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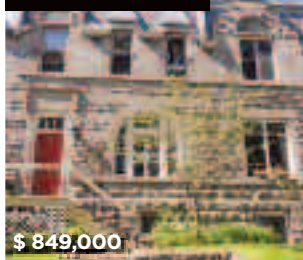
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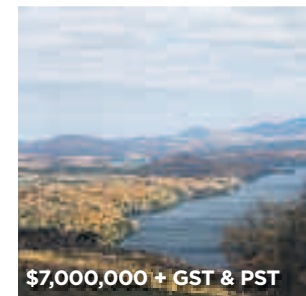
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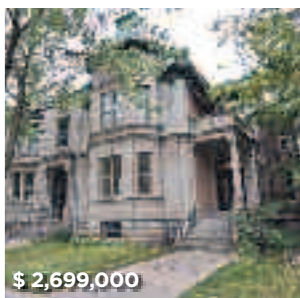
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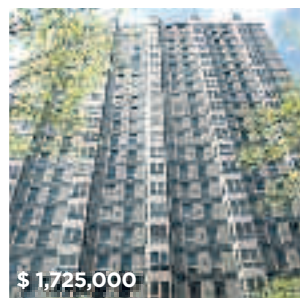
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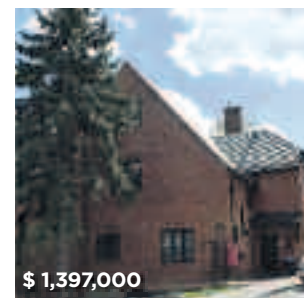
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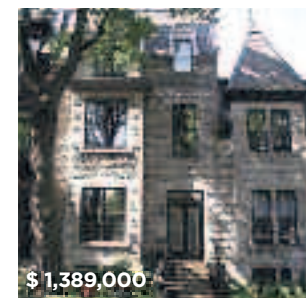
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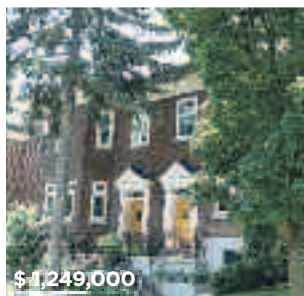
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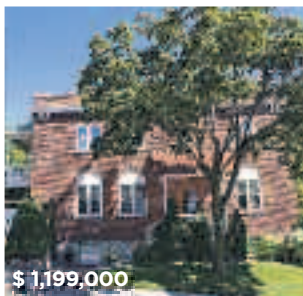
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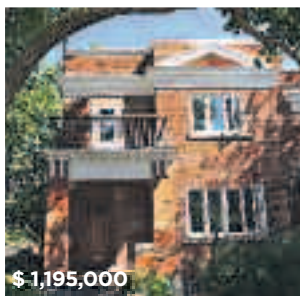
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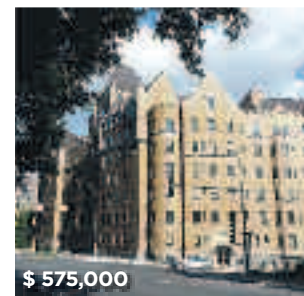
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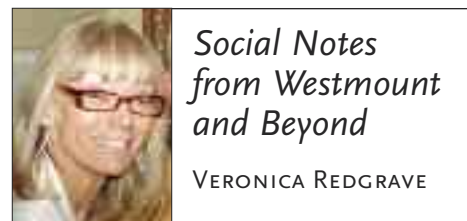
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WHO'S WHO IN
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Evening for Montreal Chamber Music at Nihon's



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The eagerly-awaited annual Montreal Chamber Music Festival event took place on September 15 at **Cornelia Nihon's** elegant Westmount home.

Once again, Nihon's culinary skills impressed guests, hungry on the first nippy



Michael Farmer and Sylvie Demers.



Westmounter Cornelia Nihon, Julie Brott, Westmount MNA Jacques Chagnon and Michael Boer.

Photo: Elise Boer

night of the season. Stylish supporters of the chamber music festival gathered around the antique dining room table laden with delicious delights, including clever cupcakes with musical notes made with icing by baker **Alexandra Lerch**, whose parents are former Westmounters.

Guests were greeted by the festival's founder and director **Denis Brott** and president **Michael Boer**.

Although the outdoor chill called for cashmere, people ventured onto the outdoor *italianate* terrace in order to admire the lovely garden.

Music lovers included sponsor TD Bank's **Sylvie Demers** and **Michael Farmer**, as well as Westmounters **Karen Beaulieu** and **Clarence Epstein**, **Mary-Lou** and **Antonio Sacconaghi** (with his impeccable Italian style!), MNA **Jacques**



Denis Brott and Phyllis Lambert.

Chagnon, as well as **Phyllis Lambert**, founder and chair of the board of trustees of the Canadian Centre for Architecture, **Florence Richler**, musician and festival administrator, **Davis Joachim**, and Brott's unflappable and charming wife **Julie**.

Guests gathered to listen to the Afiara String Quartet, composed of **Valerie Li** and **Yuri Cho** (on violins), David Samuel (on the viola) and Adrian Fung (on the cello).

Brott, who is a cellist, joined the quartet in a Franz Schubert piece.

Proceeds of the salon-style soirée went to the Montreal Chamber Music Festival.

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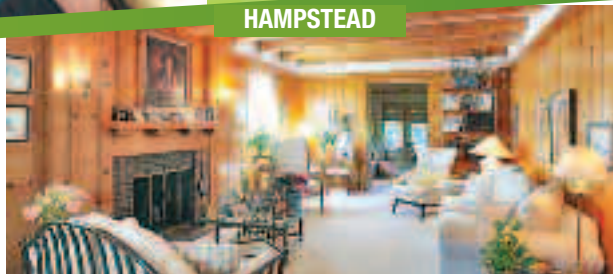


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On the Market

Eva Prager’s blue house to be sold

PHOTOS AND STORY BY
RALPH THOMPSON

Claim to fame: The late Eva Prager was a well-known Westmount artist. Her house is now up for sale.

The family home of Eva Prager is up for sale. The blue house at 333 Lansdowne has two storeys and a basement and is an end-of-terrace brick construction with a mansard roof.

From the back, a small garden looks directly out across a lane onto the Westmount Park clay tennis courts and the pond. There is rear parking off the lane that is accessible from Lansdowne.

The property is unusual in that it was divided into a duplex in 1961, but can be transformed back into a single-family house.

The lower level has two bedrooms, the upper three. Both have kitchens and bathrooms (the lower also has a powder room), and a large rear living room looking out towards the park.

Prager passed away in June 2010 at the age of “97 and two thirds,” according to her *continued on p. 24*



The living room was used by Eva Prager as a studio and looks out over a garden and Westmount Park.



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A photograph of two young women smiling and wearing school uniforms.

Take a tour, and see classes in action: 9:00 – 11:30 AM
Take a tour, and meet faculty: 4:30 – 7:00 PM

Do you have a daughter entering Kindergarten or Grades 1–11 in the next few years? Now’s the time to visit ECS. Our girls will show & tell you everything they love about their school! Some comments from past Open House visitors:

“We had time to ask multiple questions, and were given lots of info.”

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School open houses start soon

The Study: Thursday, October 6, from 8:30 to 11:30 am, and 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Kindergarten open house: Tuesday, November 15. Tours at 9 am. Presentation and activities at 10 am.

ECS: Thursday, October 6, tour and classroom visits from 9 to 11:30 am. Tour and meet faculty from 4:30 to 7 pm.

Trafalgar: Saturday, September 24, from 10 am to 1 pm.

Selwyn House: Thursday, October 6, from 5 to 8 pm, school tours; 6 pm, grade 7 presentation. Kindergarten open house: Thursday, November 10, from 8:30 to 10 am school tours; 10 am Kindergarten presentation.

Villa Maria: English sector open house Saturday, October 1, from 1 to 5 pm.

LCC: Saturday, October 1, from 9 am to 12 pm; Wednesday, October 5, from 10 am to 2 pm and 4 to 7 pm. Kindergarten open house Wednesday, November 2, from 9:30 to 11:30 am; presentation at 10:15 am; Fall pre-university open house Thursday, December 1, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm; tours at 5:30 pm.

The Priory: Sunday, October 23, from 2 to 4 pm and Tuesday, October 25, from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

St. George's: High school open houses

Saturday, October 1, from 12 to 3 pm and Monday, October 3, from 8:30 to 11 am. Elementary school open houses Wednesday, October 12, from 8:30 to 11 am and Thursday, October 13, from 8:30 to 11 am.

Villa St. Marcelline: Thursday, September 29, from 4 to 8 pm. For Kindergarten and elementary school, by appointment.

Sacred Heart: Saturday, September 24, from 1 to 4 pm.

Académie Michèle-Provost: Every Thursday, from 10 am to 12 pm.

Collège international Marie de France: Saturday, October 1, 10 am to 3 pm for kindergarten, elementary, secondary and collegial.

Park searched for 'overdue' boys

Westmount Park was searched September 20 for two 10-year-old boys who were 30 minutes late returning to an arranged destination at 6 pm, Public Security officials said.

They eventually showed up at 7 pm saying they had gone to a friend's house.



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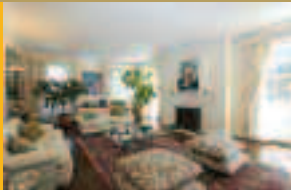
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Carmel catches on at the Senior World Series



Catcher Alex Carmel at work for Team Canada at the worlds in mid August in Bangor, Maine. Inset photo: Carmel, with his new haircut, celebrates the Canadian championship at the nationals in Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec earlier in August with head coach Bobby Titleman.

Photos: Mary Catherine Carmel

By JARED BOOK

Westmounter Alex Carmel has been to the Canadian national baseball championships for the last four years, but there was one thing missing. This year, in Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec, he achieved it.

What had been missing over the three previous seasons was a national championship. Against Team Ontario, catcher Carmel caught pitcher Liam Wyatt's third strike for the final out to clinch the title for the NDG Senior Lynx.

"Since I came to NDG, the goal was to make it to the World Series," Carmel said. "It was a dream come true. When I caught that pitch, I ran over to Liam, and I couldn't have been in a better spot. It was one of the best moments of my life and a dream come true to officially be Team Canada."

Carmel, who turned 16 in July, started playing baseball in Westmount before going to NDG's program four years ago. Now, despite the Lynx's success, big things weren't expected this year.

"This year was supposed to be our weaker year," he said. Age groups in baseball are usually in two-year intervals. Most of the team's 11 players were in their first year. "We were hoping to make it to the

semi-finals, maybe squeak out a few games but never expected to go 7-0."

Carmel was also known for a special haircut he had throughout the tournament.

"Usually I have lines going down the side of my head," Carmel said. "One of our coaches [general manager Ray Callari] kept saying he didn't like it. At the hotel he said he'd fix up the side of my head. He took the razor and shaved the complete side of my head."

Carmel, then went into a frenzy trying to fix it.

"I had the whole team in the bathroom with the razor trying to figure out what to do. We ended up shaving the other side and making it into a Mohawk haircut."

But Carmel was not pleased with his new 'do.' "It looked pretty bad," he said. "My mum said it looked like I had a rat on my head."

After winning at nationals, there was disappointment for Carmel and the team representing Canada at the Senior World Series in Bangor, Maine. The team lost its four games, but still had strong showings, including losing only 5-4 to the team from Tyler, Texas, who ended up making it all the way to the championship game.



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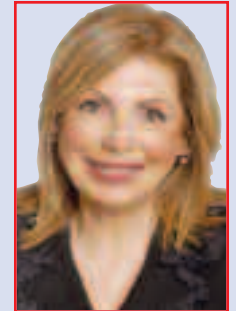
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Prager

continued from p. 20



Leafy walkway up to the late Eva Prager's home at 333 Lansdowne Ave.

own very precise chronology. She had just returned from a holiday in Barbados. She purchased the house with her husband Richard in 1978. Since her husband's death in 1998, she lived alone and continued her work as an artist.

Her son Vincent, who will sell his mother's house himself, continues to sort through her papers, paintings, sketches and knickknacks. "It took me weeks to find the deeds of the house," he said, but explained that the house is now ready for the market.

Vincent Prager has his own real estate project: to convert his historic house in St. Andrews-by-the-Sea in New Brunswick into a museum to showcase some of his family's art work.

The house is listed at \$875,000, with annual property taxes of \$5,800 and school taxes of \$1,260.

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BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

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

631 Victoria: to replace various front windows;

3249 Cedar: to build a two-storey sunroom and demolish the garage, both at the rear; add a garage at the front and do some landscaping;

60 Oakland: to demolish a one-storey section at the south end of the house and replace it by a two-storey addition extending along the rear elevation; alterations to include the addition of a dormer window at the front;

55 Belvedere Place: at a Category I house, alterations to include new window openings, an extended window and new patio door, as well as new masonry on the front porch and around the new window openings;

3262 Cedar: at a Category I house, to add a swimming pool and landscape at the back;

439 Mount Pleasant: at a Category I house, to build a fence and replace railings on rear balcony;

157 Edgehill: at a Category I house, alterations to include some new windows and doors;

690 Victoria: to build a two-storey rear extension;

344 Metcalfe: at a Category I house, to build a two-storey rear extension and carry out some alterations;

698 Grosvenor: to replace windows and doors;

461 Mount Pleasant: to build a new fence and terrace;

4298 Montrose: at a Category I house, exterior modifications and dormer windows;

536 Price Albert: to replace doors and windows;

467 Mount Stephen: roof work;

777 Upper Lansdowne: landscaping;

158-160 Côte St. Antoine: to demolish garage and build a new one;

24 Summit Crescent: at a Category I house, to extend the terrace, carry out alterations and landscaping, including a new pool and pergola at the rear;

682 Roslyn: landscaping;

466 Grosvenor: at a Category I house, to replace the windows;

4145 Sherbrooke: to install a sign.

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at the September 19 meeting of city council.

4292 Dorchester: at a Category I house, to build a two-storey addition over a new garage plus terraces at each of the two upper levels at the rear;

3262 Cedar: at a Category I house, landscaping at front to include new walkway, steps and planters;

453 Elm: at a Category I house, to build a rear balcony and replace some windows and doors;

561 Roslyn: to demolish an enclosed porch and create new window openings at the rear;

4706 Westmount: to replace the basement windows;

389 Claremont: to replace the windows;

554 Victoria: to do some rear landscaping, to include a new fence, soft ground cover and retaining walls; to re-do the front walkway, stairs and parking apron;

593 Argyle: to landscape the backyard and introduce a pool;

64 Aberdeen: landscaping at rear to include a new deck and planters;

556 Victoria: landscaping at front and rear to include a new fence and gate, new walkway pavers and planters.

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Your First Impression May Be Your Last

In this strong real estate market it is all about first impressions. The fall season is a short one and buyers have a critical eye. Little changes can make a huge impact. Vendors often forget that a home's health is just as important as inviting interiors. Keeping it seasonally prepared will help sell.

A Healthy Home – We understand it is hard to part with summer but soon it will be time to take down screens. It is important to remove all screens so that hot air can circulate over the glass panes, reducing frost formation and condensation allowing light and solar heat to enter. Most screens are not made to bear the weight of snow. Store them for next year.

Inspect your roof and sky lights. Good maintenance is the best prevention. Make sure your skylights are periodically cleaned. Verify that the weather stripping is in good repair and hermetically sealed to avoid infiltration. Your roof should be inspected at regular intervals by a professional.

If you do not have frost-proof outdoor faucets make sure to turn off the stop valve on the inside of the house and leave the outside valve open to drain out the water



Edythe Berman & Carly Wener Real Estate Brokers with Royal LePage Heritage Westmount. To contact us: Carly@royalpage.ca or by Phone: 514-934-1818

that is left in the pipes. Don't forget the gutters. Make sure they are cleared of leaves and debris to ensure easy drainage. If you can fix the small things now there will be less for the buyer's inspector to find later.

Start Packing – You want buyers to see your home as updated and comfortable. As they walk around they will be focusing on where to put their furniture, and should not be impeded by imperfections or clutter. Remove exclusions such as chandeliers and replace them. Pack up personal collections, family photos, mementos and other treasures. Make sure all cupboards and closets are neat and organized best to show off their storage

capacities. This holds true for garages, workshops, mudrooms and basements.

Freshen Up – Potential buyers will be on the lookout for obvious signs of neglect, such as leaks, water damage or chipped paint. Achieving a fresh look can be simply obtained by applying a coat of paint. Don't forget to touch up baseboards, trim, doors and ceilings as well to make your home look its best. Where possible remove rugs to expose wood floors.

Kitchen and bathrooms should be kept immaculate. All faucets should be in working order and clean. If need be replace them. Thoroughly clean or replace the grout on all tile areas. Buyers will check bathroom fans and kitchen hoods so

make sure they are cleaned and in good working order.

Pets are a part of your family but remember to try and confine them or take them on a walk during visits. Keep your pet's food out of sight, their area clean and odor free. Your home's scent is very important. Pets or not, try putting small bowls of white vinegar in every room. In fridges and freezers make sure to have an open box of baking soda. Avoid over powering sprays.

Bright Ideas – Open all draperies and window coverings during daylight hours. A bright sunny house is always inviting. Wash all windows to allow natural light to filter in. Change all bulbs to higher wattage ones. Make sure that all lamps and ceiling fixtures are functional and turned on during dark days or night time.

Your home is prepped and on the market; it's time to get your home sold. In our next article: "Why Hasn't My Home Sold? What sellers should guard against during the selling process" We will address the emotional side of selling. When you sell your castle it becomes a commodity, and should be treated like one.

ADVERTORIAL

At the end, but still enjoying life



The Underdog Club

KRISTIN McNEILL

It's one thing when you have years of life ahead of you to figure out where lie life's joys – it's another when you might only have a few months to live.

'Tit Gars is in need of a loving and quiet home to live out the last months of his life. This old guy, about 10 years old but in rough shape, recently survived the drop-on-the-side-of-road gig in July. He was never properly cared for up until now. He was never fixed, and he is too old to undergo the operation now. But because of his ripe old age, there is likely no need to worry about any romping around. This poor guy cannot even lift his leg on a tree anymore.

The shepherd/rottweiler mix, about 50 pounds, is currently being cared for by the kindly folk at Chez Alex Auberge Canine in St. Calixte, Quebec. They board dogs but also take part in the dog rescue effort so badly needed in this province.

On a recent walk in the countryside, Francine Roch, owner of the auberge, said 'Tit Gars, by far the oldest dog in the group on the walk that day, was the most enthusiastic and bouncy. He was "psychologically thrilled," as Roch put it – as if this walk was the best thing that ever happened to him – probably, she felt, because he was savouring what is remaining of his life.

He is mostly black with tan paws. His eyesight is poor and as result he cannot be handled abruptly or roughly. In this particular situation, he might use what remains of his teeth! That being his only behavioural drawback, the challenge is to find someone who will take him in a palliative care kind of way, and let him live out his days in peace and love.

Yes, the person will have to let go when it's time. Bills won't be an issue as the auberge will pay for his food and euthanasia bill.

Though he is fine with cats, a quieter




'Tit Gars

home is really what this old fella needs.

What better way to contribute to the problem of homeless dogs than to give a dying dog his due. Could it be you?

For more information on 'Tit Gars, please contact Chez Alex Auberge Canine at 450.222.3455 or chezalexaubergecanine@yahoo.com.

9 Lives: What a beauty



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Beauty is one of four kittens born to a mother cat who was taken in by Debbie's parents at their summer cottage. It was the story of the summer!

Three of the kittens were placed quite young and the mother cat was also adopted. Time went by, and Beauty has grown into her five months of kittenhood, now at the city house, where she has been an indoor-only cat (going out only on a harness), now waiting for a family of her



Beauty

own. She is an adorable black and white domestic shorthair, with huge green eyes that catch every movement around her. Beauty is playful and affectionate, very keen on being petted and cuddled. She is very healthy, and has had all her shots as well. If you are interested in finding out

more about Beauty, please contact Debbie at 514.297.6190. *Your neighbour, Lysanne*



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Stir it up!



Elliott Cohen

Fall is here. But that won't stop me from using my gas barbecue all winter. The memory of the fragrant apple wood smoke bellowing out of my smoker adding flavour to my pork shoulder for 10 hours will stay with me while I hibernate.

As I get ready to offer my fall cooking classes, I'm thinking of heavier fare, comfort food, ingredients that massage the soul and prevent me from shoveling my driveway. Soups from roasting tomatoes, squash, apples and carrots. Remember, when we roast stuff in the oven the natural sugars in all foods caramelize, creating that beautiful golden yumminess, crispiness and incredible depth of flavour.

So a tomato soup made from roasted tomatoes will have a flavour much more interesting than canned or raw tomatoes. It's an amplification of what's already there. We can make a butternut squash soup with apples and drop them into water simmering them, then purée them. But if we toss the squash and apple pieces in a little olive oil and place them on a sheet pan in a 350F-degree oven for 45 minutes then simmer them in a liquid medium we are really bringing out the flavours.

I use this roasting and grilling method for fruit, which has tons of natural sugars to caramelize. I frequently get looks of surprise when I discuss roasted or grilled fruit desserts with students and clients, but when they taste a marinated grilled apple slice with a drizzle of *crème anglaise* or a grilled banana with a honey rum glaze they experience something special.

Back to fall and fruit – apples. Crêpes

with caramelized apples, endive salad with blue cheese, green apples and smoked bacon. Pasta, perhaps the ultimate comfort food. I love a simple penne in a vodka cream sauce, and I'm a sucker for a great *risotto*, which is difficult to find in restaurants.

I'll leave you with a roasted soup recipe. Tell me how it turned out, and I'd love to see a photo. Email me at elliott@ecca.ca.

Roasted carrot soup

Serves four, about one litre

- 1 lb. carrots, peeled and cut into three-inch lengths
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1/2 medium onion, cut into medium dice (to yield about 3/4 cup)
- 1 large rib celery, cut into medium dice (to yield about 1/2 cup)
- 1 tbsp. minced fresh ginger (from about 1/2-inch piece, peeled)
- 2 cups homemade or low-salt chicken broth
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/8 tsp. ground white pepper
- Chopped fresh chives or chervil for garnish (optional)

Heat the oven to 375°F.

Put the carrots in a medium baking dish (11 x 7-inch is a good size or any dish that will hold the carrots in a single layer without touching) and drizzle them with the olive oil. Toss them to coat well and roast, stirring once halfway through roasting, until they're tender, blistered, and lightly browned in a few places, about one hour.

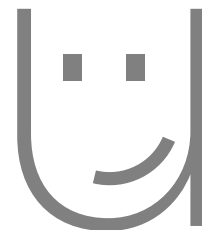
Melt the butter in a medium (at least three-quart) heavy saucepan, set over medium heat. Add the onion and cook until it's translucent and fragrant, two to three minutes. Stir in the celery and ginger and



cook until the celery softens a bit and the onions start to brown, four to five minutes.

Add the roasted carrots, chicken broth, salt, pepper, and two cups of water. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat to medium low and cover. Cook at a lively simmer until the carrots are very tender, about 45 minutes. Turn off the heat and let the liquid cool.

Purée the soup in a blender in batches, never filling the blender more than a third full, and bearing down firmly on the towel-covered lid so the soup doesn't come flying out. If serving immediately, return the soup to the pot and reheat; garnish with the chives or chervil. Otherwise, refrigerate for up to five days.



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Nacos sits on cancer summit panel with Lance Armstrong



Westmounter Gwen Nacos (left) sat on a panel with former Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong (right) during a summit on cancer survivorship at the Centre Mont Royal in Montreal September 9. Both Nacos and Armstrong spoke about their experiences with cancer and surviving it, and answered questions from the audience. Also on the panel was Dr. Craig Nichols (middle), Armstrong's personal oncologist. Armstrong's foundation, Livestrong, will be collaborating with Cedars Cancer Institute of the McGill University Health Centre to "support best practices and exceptional cancer programs." Nacos founded Cedars CanSupport, which provides cancer patients and their families with support.

Photo: Asbed Palakian

Which is worse?

Emergency sewer work at Victoria and Windsor at 11:30 pm September 14 prompted a noise complaint to Public Security. The resident was informed that the work had to be completed or there would be a back-up situation, officials said. The work was completed at 1:15 am.

Annual food drive starts up again at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom

Volunteers will be calling on temple members between October 5 and 14 to arrange for pick-up of non-perishable food donations. Kosher items are preferred.

Donations may also be brought to the high holy day services at the temple or drop-off can be made at the temple, located at 4100 Sherbrooke St., from September 28 to October 14, between 9 am and 4 pm Monday through Thursday and between 9 and 2:30 pm on Fridays.

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom is also looking for volunteers. For more information, contact Liliane Kohl at 514.483.6479.

Calling all peace-makers – the Y is looking for you

The YMCAs of Quebec are inviting the public to nominate Quebec-based individuals or groups, working in the community or at the international level, who "by their concrete actions or daily activities ... have contributed to making the world a more peaceful place." For criteria and for the nomination form, visit www.ymcaquebec.org/en/ys_quebec/medal/. Nominations must be in by 4 pm on Monday, October 3. For more information, contact Vanessa Valente at 514.931.6770, ext. 230

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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Seniors' luncheon at Centre Greene served at 12:15 pm. Cost: \$5. RSVP: 514.931.6202.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

"The new librarian and the social media" by journalist and radio host **Anne Lagacé Dowson**, 12:30 pm at Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater. Free; donations invited.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

- **Free compost** for Westmount residents, from 9 am at Public Works yard on Bethune St. Bring a plastic bag or a bin, a shovel and proof of residence. Trucks and trailers are prohibited. Info: Marina Peter 514.989.5390.
- **Centre Greene's Café Saturdays:** home-made soups, snacks, coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Info: www.centre-greene.org.
- **Children's yoga** at Centre Greene: Parents and tots yoga (18 months to 4 years) from 9 to 10 am; Kids' yoga (5 to 8 years) from 10 to 11 am. Cost: \$10/drop-in class or sign up for \$80 for 10 weeks. Info: 514.931.6202 or www.centregreene.org.
- Westmount-based **VivaVoce** presents "Dinner with the Dukes of Bavaria with La Rose des Vents," 7:30 pm at Redpath Hall, McGill University (3461 McTavish St.). For costs, call 514.790.1245 or visit www.admission.com.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

- **City council meeting**, 8 pm at city hall.
- **Caregivers tea and support group** for individuals who provide ongoing care to family and friends in need of support due to chronic health conditions, 2 to 4 pm at Centre Greene. By donation. Info: www.centre-greene.org or 514.931.6202.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

McGill School of Continuing Studies presents a series of lectures by McGill faculty

members that examines a collection of **history-making trials** across time. Starts with "The Trials of Medieval Heretics" with professor Michael van Dussen in the Atwater Library auditorium at 5:30 pm. Cost: \$60 for the series of five lectures or \$15 per lecture. Register: www.mcgill.ca/iplai/.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

Gabrielle Soskin, artistic director of Persephone Productions and the cast of the stage play **Far from the Madding Crowd**, provide an overview and present scenes from Thomas Hardy's classic novel of 19th century rural England, 7 pm at Westmount Public Library. Register at the circulation desk or call 514.989.5299. The play will be performed October 28, 29 and 30 at Victoria Hall.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

- A **gambling awareness workshop** will be held at the Westmount Y (4585 Sherbrooke St.) from 7 pm to 8:30 pm by La Maison Jean Lapointe. Free. RSVP: Vanessa Valente 514.931.6770, ext. 230 or vanessa.valente@ymcaquebec.org.
- Montreal author **Lisa Bolontzakis** and illustrator **Daniela Zekina** present their latest book *Autumn: The In-Between Season* at 10:30 am at the Westmount Public Library.
- Cinémagique guru **Peter Pearson** talks about the movies' golden age, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Free; donations invited. Info: tmayhew@atwaterlibrary.ca or 514.935.7344.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

Sundays at the Shaar presents **Ira Robinson**, Concordia professor of Judaic studies, on "Peace in the Middle East – Dream or Possibility?" Lunch at 12 pm; lecture at 1 pm at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 425 Metcalfe Ave. Cost: \$5 for lunch and lecture. Reserve: 514.937.9471, ext. 139.

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Word Nerd's Nielsen visits ECS



The author of Word Nerd, Dear George Clooney, Please Marry My Mom and numerous episodes of the Degrassi TV series spoke to grade 6, 7 and 8 students at ECS on September 14 and 15. Susin Nielsen's two-day visit to the school included her discussion of her career as a writer and reflections on her own days as a teen. Through her workshops, she also encouraged students to express themselves through writing, whether or not they aspired to be writers. Teachers, staff and middle school students read Word Nerd over the summer and generally gave positive reviews.

Photo courtesy of ECS

Selwyn gears up for Glee-style show choir showdown



Selwyn House School has entered this year's Glee high school show choir showdown. The competition, which takes place on Sunday, November 13, is a charity fundraiser organized by the Just for Kids Foundation. Schools must donate \$1,000 to compete. The boys pictured above at their first voice rehearsal, led by Alex Becket, music teacher and head of the arts department at Selwyn House, and by Sabina Schirmer, voice coach and owner of Le Petit Pianiste. From left: Elliot Corning, Samir Gouin, Dylan Lazarus, Matt Feldman, Joseph Karam, Petro Analytis, Farid Djamalov, Becker and Schirmer.

Photo: Lauren O'Loughlen

Keys retrieved

A resident of Somerville discovered someone had left keys in the trunk of a car parked on the street at 6:15 pm September

14. Public safety officers left a note on the car and the owner was reported to have picked them up at 6:50 pm.

Study annual golf tourney raises \$43K



The Study held its third annual golf tournament and soirée on September 19. Chaired by Westmounters and Study parents, Scott and Sophie Jones, the Study School Foundation reported net proceeds of over \$43,000. Some 58 golfers and about 50 guests participated, including special guest and Study alumna Andréanne Morin, a member of Canada's women's eight rowing team, who just qualified for the 2012 Olympics. From left: Morin; Nancy Sweer, The Study's head of school; and Scott and Sophie Jones.

Photo courtesy of The Study

Le Petit Pianiste brings back Broadway

BY LAUREN O'LOUGHLIN

Le Petit Pianiste, founded and owned by Westmounter Sabina Schirmer, has started a musical theatre class.

The school, which offers piano lessons and voice training to children from the age of 5, is located at 331 Clarke Ave. It opened in September 2010 and has now expanded to include musical theatre instruction.

"I have experienced a high demand for quality music instruction and registrations have been on the rise [...] giving me the idea to start a high-quality musical theatre section," said Schirmer.

Piano and voice classes started in early September, but registration for the musical theatre classes is still under way.

Schirmer's hope is to "put the spice back into classics" by teaching kids "well-crafted songs and well-crafted lyrics." She mentioned Broadway legends such as Rodgers and Hammerstein, Gershwin and Cole Porter as a means of teaching children "good music [...] with the dynamic quality which youth needs. The basics start in the classics, then you can improve – start with good ingredients," she said.

An opera singer, Schirmer also sings

with the Chorale de la Basilique de Notre Dame and is currently volunteering at Selwyn House School as a voice coach for their first-ever glee club (see story at left). "Whether you are singing classical or coaching a glee club, connecting with people through singing is so wonderful," Schirmer said.

For more information on Le Petit Pianiste, visit <http://petitpianiste11-sur.votresite.ca/home> or call 514.561.9321.

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Overnight problems averted

Recent overnight patrols averted potential problems for several residents, according to Public Security reports. At 1:19 am on September 9, a parked car was spotted at 23 Somerville with the headlights left on. The owner was tracked down at home on Sherbrooke and informed.

Two days later at 12:10 am, a car trunk was found open on Lansdowne, exposing items of value that included a laptop computer. And again the owner was informed.

Shortly after at 1:38 am, a garage door was spotted open on Summit Circle giving access to the home's interior. The door was closed and a night-check notice left at the house.

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Rotary to start collecting reusable household items again

The Rotary Club of Westmount is starting up its collection of reusable household items and furniture again – this time with a new process.

Having put the collection on hold for the last three years due to the uncertainty of space availability at the Westmount arena, the club is now using a warehouse to store the goods until homes are found for them. “We decided that if we had a space to store stuff, and to be able to prop-

erly sort it, instead of putting everything in storage cubes, we could more easily access it and get it to the people who need it,” explained chair of Rotary’s recycling committee, Ted Sancton. If there are enough used goods and a suitable location to hold an auction and subsequent garage sale, as was the tradition in the past, they would do so, he said. To arrange a pick-up, contact the Rotary office at 514.935.3344 or info@rotarywestmount.org.

See photo, p. 1

– KM

Couple arrested on Roslyn

An intoxicated woman and her companion were reported to have been arrested September 21 for causing a disturbance outside 412 Roslyn at 3:34 am. Public safety officers found the woman lying in the street yelling at a man after receiving a call from a resident.

The driver of a parked taxi explained he had asked the couple to get out when they began shouting while he was driving them to an address on Prud’homme St. Urgences Santé and police subsequently arrived. PSOs recognized the pair from an incident about a week earlier.

School bus drivers warned not to use lane

Complaints about school bus drivers using the east-west lane from Abbott to Irvine appeared to be resolved September 15, Public Security officials said. The drivers had been trying to avoid the traffic light at Abbott and St. Catherine.

Officers brought the matter to the attention of Vanguard school staff and also verbally cautioned the drivers, suggesting they use Metcalfe rather than Abbott. Follow-up surveillance showed they seemed to be heeding the advice.

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Shaw and Papich win tourneys at Monkland tennis club



Westmounters Keifer Shaw, 18, left, and Mikaele Papich, 16, won the Monkland Tennis Club ladies' doubles championship September 11. Papich also won the club's ladies' singles championship on September 4. Both were the youngest winners of their respective championships in the history of the club.

Photo: Paul Eiffert

'Foodles' contest prompts winning plate designs for Mazon



Several gallery directors judged plates created by grade 4 and 5 students from Akiva and ECS schools to benefit Mazon Canada. Choosing the winning designs, from left: Dimitrios Koussioulas of Galerie Bellefeuille, Lauren Shayne of Shayne Gallery and Michael Millman of West End Gallery. Another judge was Dodo Heppner, founder of the Montreal branch of Mazon Canada. These will be reproduced as gift cards and sold by students to raise money for the grassroots organization that funds food programs in Montreal and across Quebec. A Mazon event is to be held November 22.

Photo: Sara Heppner Waldston

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Sortie 13 launches online discussions



SORTIE 13 was launched on September 13 and is a movement against inertia and cynicism Quebec. It groups together 13 members of the X and Y generations from different profiles and regions, who will work on individual themes to identify challenges, solutions and to launch discussions via social media sites. Westmounter Yanouk Poirier, left, is spokesperson for the organization. Other Westmounters include Dominique Anglade (middle), who will speak about culture the week of December 7 and Michael Vineberg (right), who will discuss immigration the week of October 3. Denis Soulières, also a Westmounter, will discuss health the week of November 21. Visit www.sortie13.com and www.facebook.com/lasortie13 to take part in the on-line discussions .

Photo: Westmount Independent

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From left, Independent advertising consultant Arleen Candiotti, Westmounter Tina Baer Leibner and Candiotti's sister Rhona Elias, ad rep for The Beat radio station.
Photo: Westmount Independent

92.5 FM has rechristened itself The Beat, and at a party celebrating the new name and approach on September 7 in the Plateau, Westmounter Tina Baer Leibner won \$4,000 in travel with Sunwing Vacations as a door prize. She was attending with her husband, Stan Leibner, a customer of The Beat through his Linen Chest business.

tions as a door prize. She was attending with her husband, Stan Leibner, a customer of The Beat through his Linen Chest business.

Beginner hockey for women

continued from p. 13

marched back to the Sports and Rec office, waving the grubby paper triumphantly above my head. For added leverage, I also waved my ice-pick girded crutches, though it was May, and well into soccer season.

The coordinators gathered round to survey the roll, smirking, eyebrows raised, but with only a single, scornful guffaw. (Not ironically, this snort of derision was inspired by the name of the sole woman, who, when replying had added "Of course, B. will laugh out loud when he sees my name." I had reassured her vehemently – if, in hindsight, erroneously – that this was absolutely ridiculous.)

The staff did require that I strike "Wutme Sucker" from the register, who in my zeal I must have let slide, so taken was I by her exuberant email. (If I remember correctly, she was a Category 3).

A brief period of thorny negotiations followed (aided by aforementioned ice picks), and a fledgling program was born. Including, to my astonishment and delight, actual ice time.

Riding my wave of success, I then stooped to several minutes of pitiful weeping, along with the promise of some home-baked goods, and presto! I had secured an instructor and even a new set of unsullied goalie equipment.

I departed in jubilation, carefully wiping all forensic evidence off my ice picks onto the grass and began scheming about how best to spread the wondrous news.

Game on, ladies!

Beginner hockey for women is a new program being offered by the Sports and Recreation department. Ice times are currently Mondays from 12 to 1:30 pm. For more information, call 514-989-5353.

Joseph Marovitch

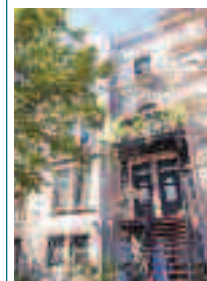
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Independent-minded Dolphins



From left, Independent publisher David Price and Dolphins' swim team representative Diane Charlton. The newspaper is one of the team's sponsors for 2011. Price is holding up the team's 2011 t-shirt, while Charlton holds up this year's group photo. "We are very pleased to support this remarkable Westmount success story," said Price. "The Dolphins should be extra glad I'm a financial supporter, and not a coach or swimmer."

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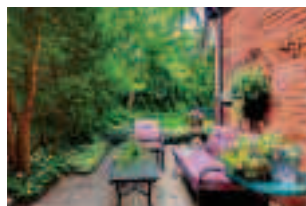


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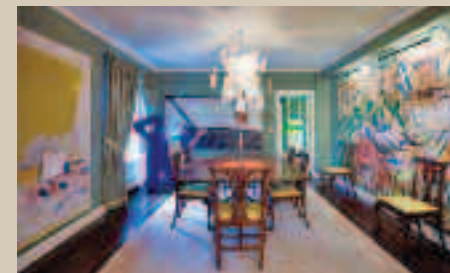


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