

## Tax auctions fail to materialize

For story, please consult paper archive.

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**\$11.2 million in real estate transfers – see Bought & Sold p. 14.**

## Peewee A Predators, champs



Photo: Simon Faucher

The Westmount Peewee A Predators hockey team won every game in the first half of their season, including taking home the championship banner in the Tournoi Provincial Peewee Desjardins, which took place in Valleyfield between December 17 and 23. The Predators beat the the Titans of Vaudreuil-Dorion 2-1 in the finals. Among the winning team members after the final victory, from left, top row: Stephanie Gliksman (team manager), Warren Garfield (head coach), Guillaume Falardeau, Sam Lee-Howes, Lucas Clarke, Michael Robb, Bruce Garfield (assistant coach); middle row: Felix Simard (assistant captain), Gregory Walfish, Max Shafter (captain), Judd Garfield (assistant captain), Eric Namst, Nicolas Romary (assistant captain), Jordan Sager; bottom row: goalie Ryan Santini.

## 2012 to unfold as the 'Year of Traffic' – Trent

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While 2012 may well be the Chinese Year of the Dragon – a year in which people excel – in Westmount, it is expected to evolve into the “Year of Traffic,” and also one of excellence, according to Mayor Peter Trent.

Trent predicted last week that once the contract to build the recreation centre is

signed with Pomerleau Inc. in the coming weeks, city council will shift its focus to the master traffic plan.

“Traffic will be a big issue this year,” he said. “I think most citizens will be happy with this move” after last year having been dominated by the arena/pool project.

While the construction phase would require many decisions and careful monitoring along

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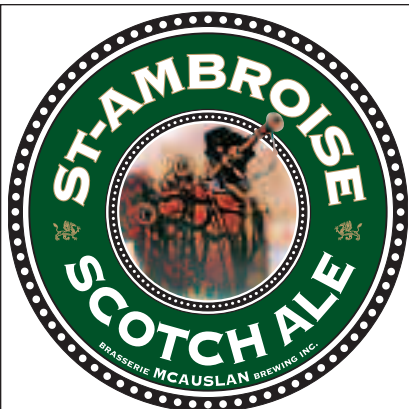
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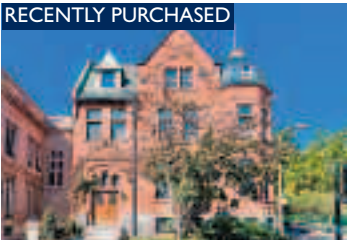
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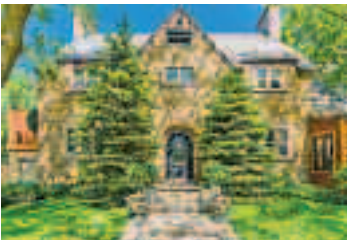
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*Officer close by when car alarm went off at 3:18 am*

## Public Security pursues getaway car on Victoria

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The licence plate of a getaway car was recorded by a public safety officer January 5 shortly after three young men set off the alarm of a parked car at 3:18 am on Victoria just north of Westmount Ave., Public Security officials said.

The trio had already been under surveillance by Public Security for a few minutes as the three checked out parked cars. The public safety officer in an unmarked vehicle managed to follow the getaway car as it sped south ignoring stops and headed east on Sherbrooke.

The officer abandoned the pursuit in the name of safety, however, and provided the plate number and a description of the suspects to police, who arrived on the scene at 3:30 am, said assistant Public Security Greg McBain.

Using this information, the car and its owner have been identified, and the incident is now under investigation, said police community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel.

### *Followed from Edgehill*

The trio had initially aroused the suspicions of Public Security Sergeant Jennifer Chabot at 3:08 am as they jogged south on Edgehill to The Boulevard, headed west and began descending Victoria.

At that point, PSO Paris Papadatos began watching them from the unmarked patrol car as the group checked out cars on Victoria walking onto private property.

As he circled the block, a car alarm began sounding with lights flashing near 616 Victoria. He and Chabot headed to the scene in time to see the trio run across Westmount Ave. and get into a dark

Honda Civic and speed south, followed by Papadatos.

Police, who reported being called at 3:24 am, said nothing was stolen from the car, which had been searched.

It had, however, been left unlocked prompting Pimentel to repeat his ongoing message about the need to lock cars. In fact, Public Security has also been carrying out a “Lock it or lose it” campaign over the holidays.

Chabot later followed the trio’s footsteps in the fresh snow back up to Upper Roslyn in an effort to determine if any other cars might have been broken into. None were found.

### *Another car seized*

Shortly after this incident, police seized a Mazda 3 nearby on Victoria when the driver was found not to have valid driver’s licence, Pimentel said. He also lived in the same area of Montreal as the owner of the getaway car but it was not immediately known whether or not the two incidents were related.

## Injured falcon found in park

An injured falcon was found in Westmount Park on December 31 and was taken home by a resident of Metcalfe, who called Public Security. Officers had initially answered one call for the bird at 5:34 pm and had been unable to locate it until receiving a second call at 8:33 pm. It was subsequently picked up by the SPCA.

*Public Security: Holidays ‘very quiet’*

## Wounded falcon, exploding stove, car into Jean Coutu

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The holiday period in Westmount was “very quiet” this season, according to city officials. The city was even spared the expense of a major snow storm.

Small amounts of snow and icy conditions required the cleaning of sidewalks as well as sanding, said Public Works director Marianne Zalzal. At no time, however, was the bike path officially closed.

The number of incidents reported by Public Security dropped sharply from December 22 through January 4 when many people were on holiday. “We had only one report – an open garage door on Lansdowne – on December 24 and none on Christmas day,” said assistant director Greg McBain.

Among the few that were detailed were a car backing into the Jean Coutu store on Greene Ave. December 29, and an “exploding” stove, without fire, on St. Antoine St. on New Year’s Day (see separate stories, p. 10 and p. 18).

An injured falcon was found in Westmount Park on New Year’s Eve (see story below left) and a couple of water leaks were reported.

This year’s Public Security food drive resulted in the delivery of food baskets to 16 Westmount families in need on December 19 and 20, he said. Both monetary and food donations were up this year.

Between December 10 and January 1, foot patrollers issued a total of 125 warning tickets for cars parked in the commercial districts with items of value in plain view: purses on car seats, shopping bags, electronic devices and other items. These were given out as part of the “Lock it or lose campaign.”

Public safety officers on evening and overnight crime prevention patrols also left night check warnings at 34 houses, where certain telltale signs of absence were noticed. These included the accumulation of newspapers, open garage doors, unshovelled walkways and homes without lights on.

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Taxes paid under sale threat

For story, please consult paper archive.



## Manoir liable for not checking on resident

The Manoir Westmount seniors' residence has been successfully sued for \$15,000.

A former resident's son was suing in provincial court for \$69,000 regarding an incident that took place October 30, 2008.

According to a judgment dated December 12, 2011, the 85-year-old resident had suffered a stroke and did not appear for dinner. When her son was unable to reach her by telephone, he called the Manoir's front desk, which did not pass his concern on to the nurse. Only after a second call was the nurse contacted, and his mother discovered and taken to the hospital, where she recovered.

The court looked unfavourably on the Manoir for not following its own procedure of counting residents at mealtimes (due to a Halloween party that was taking place) and not following up on the first call to the front desk.

Tom Thompson, manager of the Manoir, told the *Independent* that its insurance company litigated the case and he doubts it will appeal the decision.

He also said that procedures were changed following the incident, so that one-seating meals like the Halloween party now have head counts, whereas before they did not. There are seven to eight

such special dinners each year, as opposed to a usual two-seating routine.

"It is very unfortunate and we're sorry it happened. We are an autonomous seniors' residence and no one is checking on residents. An incident could happen to a resident after dinner and no one would know. We encourage some residents to have Lifelines and many do. It was a series of unfortunate coincidences and timing."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LOOK TO FINLAND FOR ROAD UPKEEP

The letter about the use of salt in Finland (December 21, p. 6) brought back memories of an extensive holiday there. We drove from the south, to the east (for the Savonlinna Opera Festival) and then to the furthest north of Finland, many hundreds of kilometers. The roads everywhere were first-class with no potholes or cracks, even above the Arctic Circle. They were impeccably maintained. It is a beautiful country with wonderful people and is my favourite of the countries I have visited.

JANE ATKINSON, KENSINGTON AVE.

WHY ADD SALT/SAND BEFORE MOISTURE HITS GROUND?

On the morning of December 21, while walking towards downtown, I noticed that our city workers had spread sand on sidewalks all over, right on dry cement. Beyond Atwater, Montreal city workers were doing the same thing but with crushed rock. The weather forecast announced freezing rain for that day, but it didn't start snowing until 9:30 am, and the flurries stopped shortly after. Besides, the temperature remained pretty mild all day. Years ago, I learned on a TV program

that one should not put sand before the water is frozen on sidewalk, because from beneath the ice sand is completely useless against slippage and may even become dangerous, as people can still see it through the ice and may think they are protected. The lack of vigilance may then cause more accidents. That sounds logical, but I could not imagine all those workers ignoring something basic like that if that information is valid. So, I want to understand why city workers should put sand or crushed rock before there is any water or ice on sidewalks. Maybe the ways to prevent slippage caused by freezing rain or by frozen snow are different?

Also, I wonder why Montreal and Westmount use different material against ice slippage. JIAN YANG, PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

Marianne Zalzal, director of Public Works and city engineer, responds: The city of Westmount uses a mixture of sand, salt and fine gravel on the sidewalks during the winter months in an approximate ratio of 3:1:0.5 respectively. The quantity of each material may be changed by the roads superintendents based on the weather conditions. By spreading this abrasive mix prior to freezing rain a barrier is created that prevents the ice from adhering to the sidewalk thus making it easier to

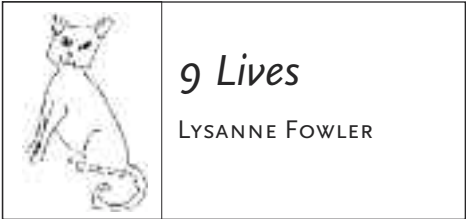
remove by the plows. The salt will also start the melting process. Once the freezing precipitation begins, the plows will carry out another run to spread additional materials if necessary. Detailed weather reports are used to determine at which time the plows must start their routes and our operations are planned in accordance. As we all know, weather reports are not always accurate but we plan for the worst case scenario. We have seven sidewalk plows that follow predetermined routes in order to cover all the 103.9 kilometers of sidewalks throughout the city. It takes approximately four hours to complete the route and therefore timing is important to ensure the safety of the sidewalks for pedestrians. Westmount uses a higher quantity of sand in the mixture because it makes spring cleaning of sidewalks, roads and catch basins easier and it better integrates into the environment compared to gravel.

Santa welcomed Batshaw

Some of the children of the Westmount-headquartered Batshaw Youth and Family Centres received an early Christmas present on December 11. The Village du Père Noël, located in Val David in the Laurentians, gave the organization free access and transportation to its site. Facilities include a snow slide and a rope ladder leading to a tree house. Twenty-three children and 13 adults made the trip – and a wonderful time was had by all accounts. The village is open in the summer and was open during the holiday season until January 8. Other benefitting groups included La Fondation du Dr Julien, La Petite Maison de la Miséricorde, CCS Community Services, la Fondation autisme Montréal, La Dauphinelle and Le Portage.

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How to make a winter shelter for stray cats



that can't be brought in from the cold yet. Additional information for a number of structures of this type is available on the web. The polystyrene box was made to be slipped into a vinyl carry-all box sold for household storage use. The polystyrene frame was insulated with a radiant barrier (aluminium stuff that radiates back the cat's body heat). Bedding was cedar chips (for flea and bug control) and hay, with extra hay be- continued on p. 7



The inside box is made of polystyrene that has good insulating properties.

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# Cat shelters from scratch

.....  
continued from p. 6

tween the polystyrene box and the vinyl carry-all box to keep cold air out. The inside and the outside of the box have a side opening for access.

Once the cover of the vinyl carry-all box is added over the polystyrene cover, the shelter is sealed and lightweight, which makes it easy to move under the house or in any other area that is protected from the wind (especially the opening) and the

snow, so that the cats do not get buried.

Another hint: on really cold days, putting one of those magic heating bags that heat up in the microwave and stay hot for hours, would be wonderful to put in with dry food and warm water as well.

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# Quick-thinking Whitzman foils ‘grandson’ phone scam

By David Goldberg

When Westmount resident Sheila Whitzman called the *Independent* to report how she thwarted a phone scam artist last month, she made it clear she wasn’t looking for publicity.

“What happened to me isn’t unique,” she said. “I called because I wanted to reinforce what people already know and need to be reminded of.”

The 83-year-old received a phone call on December 29 from someone claiming to be her grandson. The scam isn’t a new one. Twice in 2011, the *Independent* featured articles about similar frauds (June 1, p. 9 and June 14, p. 8).

“When the phone rang, it didn’t have the specific long-distance ring, and when I looked at the call display, the number didn’t show up,” said Whitzman. “When I picked up the phone, a young male voice said, ‘Hello Grandma.’”

Whitzman said she has two grandsons: Jonathan, who lives in Toronto; and Simon, who was on vacation with his family in Tasmania.

“I asked, ‘Is that you Jonathan?’, and the voice said ‘no,’ which surprised me,”

said Whitzman. “I was wondering how the caller would know that I had two grandsons.”

When she asked if it was Simon, the caller said it was.

“I asked if he was in Tasmania, and he said yes, but when I said it didn’t sound like him, he told me he had a bad chest cold.”

### ‘Grave doubts’ it was grandson

At this point, Whitzman said she began having “grave doubts” that she was actually speaking with her grandson Simon.

“He said he was really embarrassed but he had to ask me something and that he didn’t want me to tell his parents,” she said. “I remembered reading in the newspaper about these scams with grandparents, so I asked him right away if he needed money.”

The caller said he did, and again stressed the need for secrecy.

“I then said, ‘Simon, what’s your birthday?’, and in the flash of an eye he hung up.”

Whitzman used star-69 to retrieve the phone number, which turned out to be a local 514-area code number. She tried the

number but an operator told her that an authorization code was needed to complete the call. Whitzman then phoned the police.

Asked about her experience and her wherewithal to ask for personal information, Whitzman said she understood why some seniors become victims.

“A grandmother is a vulnerable target because she’s so glad to hear from her grandchild, and she wants to be helpful. It makes her feel special,” said Whitzman. “But when he kept talking about secrecy, that made me even more suspicious because I wouldn’t hide anything from my children.”

While Constable Adalbert Pimentel of

station 12 was on vacation when the incident occurred, he told the *Independent* he would be in touch with Whitzman in the near future. He praised her for her actions, but added seniors must be vigilant, even when the answers seem to make sense.

“What this lady did was very smart, but what if the suspect had her grandson’s birth date? Even if the caller can correctly answer questions, if you feel uncertain, never send money. Call your children to find out if there are any issues with your grandchild,” he said.

For more information about phone fraud or to report a scam, visit the website at: [www.antifraudcentre.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre.ca).

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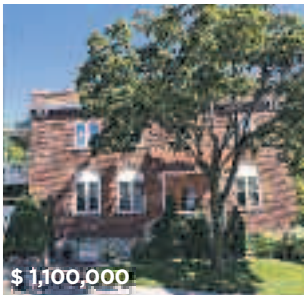
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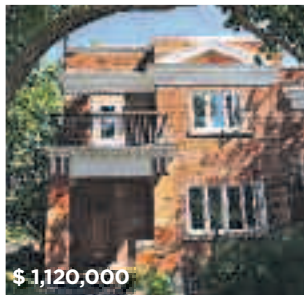
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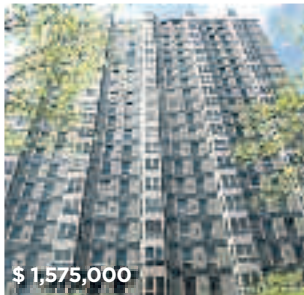
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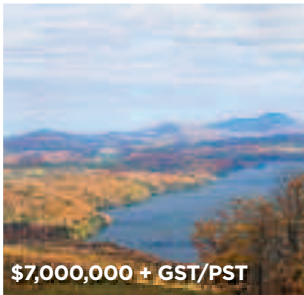
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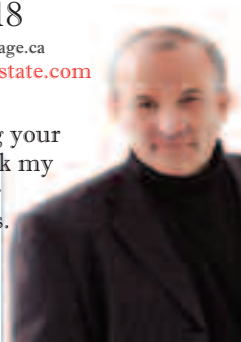
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# Food banks in Canada busier than ever



## Our Man in Ottawa

MARC GARNEAU, MP  
FOR WESTMOUNT-VILLE MARIE

In December, I spent a little time with staff and volunteers of the NDG Food Depot at the corner of Victoria and Sherbrooke, as well as inside the Metro supermarket (which very kindly allowed us to set up a table). The purpose was to draw attention to the existence of the Food Depot and to solicit donations, either non-perishable food or cash.

It was my impression as I spoke to people, that some were not aware that we had a food bank in our community. Some were genuinely surprised to learn that the NDG Food Depot had regular “customers” in Westmount, notably some 150 seniors on fixed incomes who can’t afford groceries after paying the rent.

The truth of the matter is that Canadian food banks are busier than ever in this period of fragile recovery. Unemployment is up across Canada and people come to food banks because they’re hungry, something

most of us luckily never experience. Many of those who visit the NDG Food Depot are new Canadians and their first experience of Canada as a caring country occurs at a food bank.

Nobody wants to go to a food bank. For many, it’s a painful personal experience to have to say: I need your help. We all understand this. We also know that losing your job, having many mouths to feed are things that happen, and we all realize that “but for the grace of God go we.”

In some cases, people using food banks actually have jobs but don’t make enough to cover all their basic needs; the so-called “working poor.” Every month 150,000 Montrealers turn to food banks and a third of them are children.

The holiday season is a time of year when we look forward to being with family. It is also a time when we give. We are generous to those less fortunate when we’re made aware of their plight.

The new year is now upon us, and the generosity needs to continue. We know, for example, that there are homeless people because we see them in the streets. But perhaps less visible, because they don’t want to be visible, are those who must make use of food banks.

The NDG Food Depot celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2011. We all know what that means. It means that they are providing a needed service. We hope their reason for being will disappear one day, but in the meantime, let’s thank the staff and volunteers at the depot and let them know that we appreciate their work helping the less fortunate in our community. I hope you all enjoyed happy holidays, and please remember ’tis still the season to give.

## Chrétien Desmarais named to Order of Canada

Westmounter France Chrétien Desmarais was named a member of the Order of Canada December 30 for “her tremendous support for her community through her involvement and philanthropic action.”

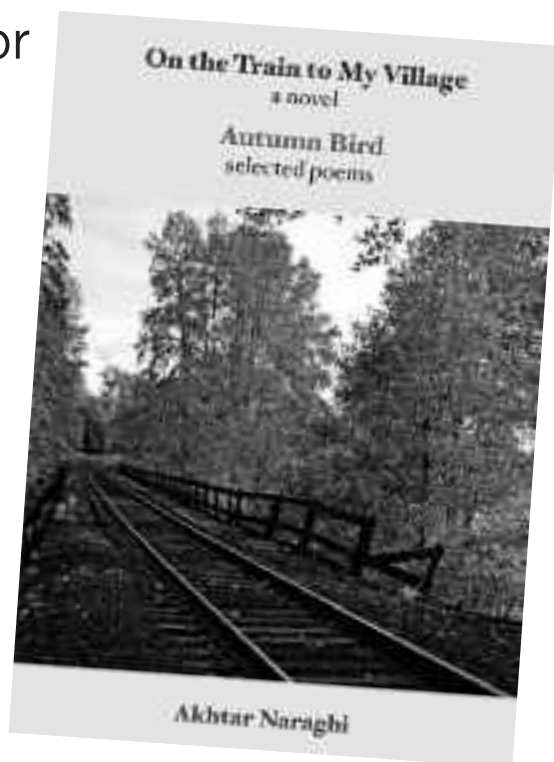
The “member” level “recognizes a lifetime of distinguished service in or to a particular community, group or field of activity.”

She is among 15 Quebecers named to the order this year.

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## Window taped up

A public safety officer spotted a window open at a house on Metcalfe January 2 and called police to check it out in the absence of residents.

She then returned to the station shortly before 5 pm to get a chair and tape enabling her to reach up to it and fasten it in place.

A message was left for residents.

## Stalin's Westmount connection

Westmounter David Levy has recently published *Stalin's Man in Canada: Fred Rose and Soviet Espionage* (Enigma Books). The book recounts how Rose was elected to the Canadian parliament in 1943 and re-elected in 1945, but was outed as a spy in the same year when a Soviet encryption specialist defected with documents revealing his role as a spy. In 1946, Rose was arrested, put on trial and convicted of conspiracy to violate the Official Secrets Act. Soon after his release in 1951, he went to live in his native Poland, where he died in 1983. The book has been reviewed by the *National Post's* Robert Fulford and is available at Amazon.com and Indigo.ca.

## Car rams pharmacy on snowy day

A 92-year-old man was taken to hospital in nervous shock December 29 when the car he was attempting to park backed over the sidewalk and hit the Jean Coutu pharmacy at 1222 Greene Ave., Public Security officials said.

The accident was reported to have occurred on a snowy day when the driver hit the gas pedal instead of the brake. The fire department and Urgences Santé were already assisting him when a public safety officer came across the mishap at 5:34 pm and secured the area. Police also arrived soon after.

The car completely blocked the sidewalk and took out a railing and some bricks on the handicap ramp.

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## Fleiszer wins big at Cedars event



From left: Cedars raffle co-MC Andrew Carter, auctioneer Ross Paperman, co-MC Ann Shatilla, Dr. Henry Shibata and Dr. David Fleiszer.

Photo courtesy of MUHC

Westmounter Dr. David Fleiszer, surgeon and director of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) education portfolio, was all smiles as the winner of a \$20,000 raffle prize at the 11th annual Cedars Raffle & Abracadabra Auction held on November 30 at Le Windsor.

More than \$400,000 was raised at the event, which will be used to purchase state-of-the-art digital mammography units for the Cedars Breast Clinic of the MUHC.

According to the hospital, it couldn't have gone to more deserving recipient. Fleiszer is "a real ambassador for Cedars, having raised in excess of \$275,000, mainly from his dedicated Cedars Breast Clinic patients. Their continued support has helped Dr. Fleiszer earn the top fundraising honours, the yellow jersey, at all three Cedars Tour de Lance events, and his patients also donated to him at this past year's inaugural Cedars Tour de Tremblant."

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\$1 million	to	\$2 million	29 transactions
\$900,000	to	\$1 million	5 transactions
\$700,000	to	\$900,000	5 transactions
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For real estate transfers, please consult paper archive.



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# Hockey more than border-line game



## Hockey Beginnings

INGRID KOVITCH-DANNENBAUM

Right before the holidays, it was time to take stock of the first half of our season. In total, the program had seen 47 different women take to the ice, only a handful of whom had fled the country in an effort to avert further humiliation.

The remainder of the gang had become unapologetic hockey zealots, scouring the arena website for extra ice times, and donning pilfered house league sweaters in an effort to furtively slip onto the ice and join the Termite games.

One player, devastated at the prospect of wintering in Miami while the remainder of the team played on, packed up her hockey gear and tossed it into the car alongside her flip flops and golf clubs.

Upon arriving at the border, her lumpy stash was discovered, and she was pulled aside for interrogation and admonished for transporting goods not belonging to the occupant of the car. Despite her claims of ownership, the agents remained skeptical. She was preparing – à la Cinderella – to don the actual gear in question, when a flash of inspiration struck.

Digging through her less suspicious belongings, she found copies of the previous hockey columns, and triumphantly proffered the evidence. Placated, if not amused outright, the agents released her to continue her drive, though not before an additional half hour of questions and conversation about her hockey career!

Meanwhile, back at the arena, we noted – with substantial horror – that our locker room was beginning to smell like,

well, a locker room. Abandoning our usual pre-game discussion of recipes and cooking tips, we launched into a review of various equipment decontamination techniques.

With six hockey players in the family, and all our gear residing in the basement (alongside one of our kids, no less), I considered myself the preeminent expert on the subject. During breaks in the hockey schedule, or at any point when I feared the vile rankness might compromise the wearer's ability to suit up and remain conscious, I practiced my fail-safe cleansing method.

I shared the simple process with my teammates. In short, it consisted of: laundering, fumigating, expunging, Febreezing, vacuum-sealing, dousing, steaming, Febreezing, steeping, scouring, burying-then-unearthing, and finally, Febreezing.

With the system duly recorded, conversation returned to plans for our post-game festivities. Like all self-respecting garage/beer leagues, we had organized an elaborate pot luck luncheon, complete with coaches' gifts and Secret Santa exchange.

But of course before the gluttony and imbibing could begin, there was hockey to be played. In honour of the holidays – or perhaps in a last-ditch effort to curry favour in Santa's eyes – our merciful coaches had conceded to shorten the boot camp drills and permit a longer scrimmage.

In selfless deference to the occasion, and in an effort to boost morale, I agreed to take a turn in goal. Somewhat more porous than the plywood boards we had previously used to barricade the nets, I felt that my presence would do wonders to inflate our scoring stats. Moreover, it was a fine chance for the ladies to enact the wholesome suggestion to "expect to score every time you shoot the puck."

(Prophetic, as it turned out).

With little else to do besides fiddling with my stick in such a way as to permit a series of short naps while being propped upright, I attempted to follow another recommended strategy and "watch the game."

To my amazement, I noted that in a mere three months, the calibre of play had rocketed to Arguably Passable, with periods of So-So, and the occasional burst of Middling. More shockingly, I was fairly certain that all the flitting about could actually be mistaken – at least to the uninitiated – for hockey.

When the buzzer sounded, we stumbled into the locker room, sweaty and exhilarated, and with the imminent promise of some tasty treats looming before us. And beyond that, the more sweeping and enduring hope for another year filled with health and good fortune, friendship and camaraderie, and the joy and thrill of new adventure.

All that, and more sweet-smelling hockey gear.

*Westmounter and (less now) beginner hockey player Ingrid Kovitch-Dannenbaum helped start "Beginner hockey for women," a new program being offered by the Sports and Recreation department.*

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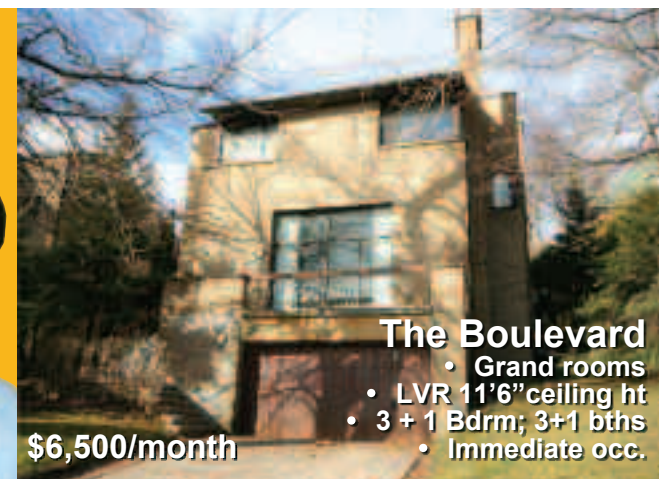
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Aerobox, theatre, football and “creative art mix” – a program designed to explore issues pre teens face through a combina-

tion of art, drama and creative writing – are being offered for the first time.

Both the aerobox and football drills and skills are open to the those aged 10 to 14, while theatre is for kids in the 12 to 15 age category and creative arts for 11 to 14 year-olds.

For more information, contact Megan Ropeleski, youth programs coordinator, at 514.931.8046, ext. 224 or [megan.ropeleski@ymcaquebec.org](mailto:megan.ropeleski@ymcaquebec.org).

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## Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

**Seniors' luncheon** at Centre Greene, 12:15 pm. A three-course, home-cooked meal. Cost: \$5. Reserve: 514.931.6202.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

• **Donato Damiano** and **Margaret White** exhibit their art at The Gallery at Victoria Hall until February 4. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday, 10 am to 9 pm; and Saturday and Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm. Info: 514.989.5521.

• **Robert Hamilton**, senior director of the Glen Campus development of new MUHC hospital and **Jonathan Goldbloom**, executive director of The Best Care for Life Campaign, give an illustrated presentation and answer questions on the **new mega-hospital**, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. Free, donations invited.

• **Tumbling Tots** at Centre Greene at 1090 Greene Ave. An indoor playground for parents and children under 5. Cost: \$3.50 drop-in. Coffee and snack provided. Info: 514.931.6202.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

• **Two-hour workshop on the KOBO TOUCH eReader**, 2 to 4 pm at the Atwater Library. Also Wednesday, January 18 and Friday, January 20, 2 to 4 pm. Register: Dan Volpo at 514.935.7344, ext. 207.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

• **Parents and children's yoga** at Centre Greene, 9 to 10 am. Yoga instruction for parents and children aged 18 months to 4 years. Cost: \$10 drop-in or \$80 for 10 weeks. Info: 514.931.6202.

• **Music mornings** at Centre Greene, 10 to 11 am. Animated musical entertainment for kids of all ages. Cost: \$5 drop-in. Visit [www.centregreene.org](http://www.centregreene.org).

• **Arts and crafts program** at Centre Greene, 10:30 am to 12 pm. Art and crafts projects for kids aged 5 and over. Cost: \$5

drop-in. Info: [www.centregreene.org](http://www.centregreene.org).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

**Lego club** at Centre Greene, 10:30 am to 1 pm. For kids aged three and over. Cost: \$3.50 drop-in. Info: 514.931.6202.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

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

• **David Ragsdale**, associate professor in the department of Neurology and Neurosurgery at the Montreal Neurological Institute on “(How) Does a Brain Make a Mind?” 12:30 pm at the Unitarian Church, 5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd., near Claremont. Sandwich lunch, tea/coffee from 11:45 am. Free for members of Women's Canadian Club of Montreal; \$10 for non-members. Info: 514.932.4005 or [capers@total.net](mailto:capers@total.net).

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

**The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo** by Steig Larsson is discussed at the Westmount Public Library's English book club, 7 pm in the Westmount Room. Info: Donna Lach at 514.989.5386.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

• **Westmount Municipal Association (WMA)** monthly general meeting takes place in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library. Special guest Councillor Tim Price will answer questions about Westmount's finances.

• **“Cooking up a Culture of Influence”** with Nathalie Cooke. Lunch at 12 pm at the Atwater Club, 3505 Atwater Ave. Cost \$30.76. Reserve: The University Women's Club of Montreal, 514.932.3922.

• **“Colour to the Rescue”** with Aurélien Guillory, 2 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Register at the circulation desk or call 514.989.5299.

## GoWestmount.ca

*Our on line calendar has it all!*

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



## BUILDING PERMITS 🏠 What's permitted

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at the December 5 meeting of city council.

**64 Belvedere Rd.:** At a Category I house, to build a rear two-storey extension including a habitable attic within a sloped roof, modify various openings and do some landscaping;

**3219 The Boulevard:** two permits for major work at Braemar, a Category 1\* house, to insulate exterior walls from the building face at basement and ground floor levels, repair balconies on all facades, re-establish openings formerly blocked, repair the greenhouse, redo the roof and replace windows and doors; also, to erect a new one-storey accessory building to be used as a garage at the west property line, to re-landscape, relocate driveway and build retaining walls (see story December 13, p. 12);

**18 Surrey Gardens:** at a Category I house, to build a second-storey addition to a one-storey house;

**65 Prospect:** at a Category I house, to do some rear landscaping to include a terrace, new fence and accessory building;

**3200 Trafalgar:** to build a rear two-storey extension with gable roof;

**252 Kensington:** to build a rear balcony and erect a new fence;

**62 Somerville:** to renovate a second-storey rear sunroom;

**8 Chesterfield:** to replace garage and rear doors.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**123 Arlington:** to build a new roof deck;

**641 Argyle:** landscaping to include a swimming pool at rear;

**315 Elm:** at a Category I house, two permits to build a basement access in rear yard; to build a rear ground floor balcony and convert a window into a door;

**28 Windsor:** to replace a side door.

**551 Prince Albert:** to replace a front door and one at the back.

## Station 12 pays visit to Montreal Children's at height of holiday season



Police from local station 12 and their colleagues kicked off the holiday season December 18 by visiting patients at the Montreal Children's Hospital and distributing gifts, an annual tradition. Among them are Commander Stéphane Plourde (foreground), Constable Carl Éthier (behind him) and Constable Émilie Dalpé (right). With them is "Flick", the bear mascot of the Montreal Police Department.

Photo: courtesy of station 12

## Still beautiful (and useful) after all these years



Graphic designer and former Westmounter Ian Black was seen November 15 ardently taking a picture of vehicle traffic on the Westmount/NDG border. Why? It turns out he had designed the logo of Guaranteed Industries in the late 1960s – and that same logo was on its truck stuck at the Sherbrooke and Grey traffic light. Black, who has lived in Victoria, BC since 1991, was in town to visit his eldest son, whose business is located at Decarie and Sherbrooke.

Photo: Ian Black

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## Stove explodes on New Year's

The new year was ushered in with a big bang January when an electrical short caused a stove to “explode” at 3239 St. Antoine St. near Greene, according to Public Security officials.

Officers had been dispatched to the address at 5:42 pm for an explosion and met up with firefighters at the scene who explained the circumstances. No fire resulted, and no adjacent homes were found to be in any imminent danger.

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## Pawtisserie closes



One of Westmount's most known pet supplies store, the Naturalanimal & Pawtisserie Holistic Pet Center on Sherbrooke St. a few doors east of Claremont, has quietly gone out of business. Started around a decade ago by Diana Saakian, the store specialized in naturally-based products for dogs and cats, with a special section of baked treats for pets. Over the years, many pet adoption days were held at the store in conjunction with non-profit animal welfare groups. No response was obtained by the owner despite several attempts by the Independent.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

## Graffiti splurge on Sherbrooke

Graffiti was discovered at four locations January 3 on both sides of Sherbrooke between Prince Albert and Claremont avenues. Public Security officials said the vandalism was noticed between 9 and 9:37 am outside 4932, 4945, 4928 and 4909.



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## Hello, Westmount DOMINION LENDING CENTRES



Left, Elie Melki and Daniel Lavoie operate the Dominion Lending Centres Centre-West franchise.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

With interest rates hovering near historic 40-year lows, there has seemingly never been a better time to improve cash flow by getting a mortgage or by refinancing an existing one.

Dominion Lending Centres, which claims to be Canada's largest national mortgage brokerage and leasing company, opened its first office this past fall in Westmount.

Mortgage brokers Elie Melki and Daniel Lavoie, who are running the fran-

chise, offer a range of services for the most common mortgaging needs, including purchase of vacation and investment properties, renewals and refinancing.

With offices located at Alexis Nihon Plaza, Dominion Lending Centres Centre-West has access to banks, credit unions and trust companies to help borrowers obtain mortgages for new homes, to renew an existing mortgage or to consolidate debt through mortgage refinancing.

Hello, Westmount's content is provided by the Independent. Businesses that appear do not pay for or approve what is written.

## Staviss helps out



Westmount lawyer Harold Staviss was helping out his wife Aviva Reinitz at her “Camp and Teen” expos held at Bialik High School on November 8 and at the new Côte St. Luc Aquatic Centre on November 9. Reinitz's business, The Camp Experts and Teen Summers, helps parents find the right camp or teen tour, including academic programs and internships, for their children and earns a fee from the organizations it represents for placements.

Photo: Westmount Independent



## In Other Words

### Joan Vogelesang featured in the Gazette and Canadian Business

An article on Lansdowne Ave. resident Joan Vogelesang and Montreal company Toon Boom Animation appeared on page 1 of the business section of the *Gazette* on November 14. The article by Al Katrina was entitled “A is for Animation – Schools are snapping up software that turns kids into moviemakers while improving marks.”

Vogelesang is president and chief executive officer, and joined the company as chief operating officer in 1998.

Vogelesang was also featured in a *Canadian Business* special.



Joan Vogelesang in a Canadian Business special in a You Tube video.

### Early New Year's party?

A used condom was discovered by an office worker in the alley between 310 Victoria and 4875 de Maisonneuve the morning of December 31. No facts about its user, or occasion for, or original location of, use were ascertainable.

### Westmount hockey ladies hit the airwaves

CBC sports journalist Andie Bennett interviewed several Westmount women for stories that aired on CBC radio's Montreal morning show *Daybreak* and CBC TV.

Bennett interviewed Ingrid Kovitch-Dannenbaum, Sandrine Ferst and Jasmin Uthoff on November 28 during their mid-day practice at the Westmount arena. The title for the TV story was “Hockey moms jump on ice.”

Kovitch-Dannenbaum writes a column for the *Independent* called Hockey Beginnings (see p. 15). It speaks candidly about her experience learning to play hockey.



Ingrid Kovitch-Dannenbaum “live” on an archived video of CBC TV's end of November broadcast.

### Electronic *Independents* available

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

## Vic Village restaurant expands into fashion

Club du Village has put a twist on its business model.

After patrons of the restaurant, which is located near the corner of Somerville



Club du Village owner Nina Comodini with coats and jewellery that she now offers at the restaurant.

and Victoria, order off the evening's menu, they can do a little shopping with just a glance across the room.

For nearly a month, Club du Village has been featuring an array of fashion items,

including jewellery, pashmina shawls and women's down coats.

“I had a lot of pashmina wool scarves, and there's nothing left,” said Nina Comodini, Club du Village's owner, adding that the jewellery has also sold well.

Among the labels to be found hanging on the rack is Jones New York. Prices are nearly half of what similar apparel would cost at a regular fashion outlet, Comodini said.

“I don't have the overhead like downtown,” she said about the discounts.

Comodini, who has run a coat boutique in Knowlton in the Eastern Townships for the past two years, decided it might be interesting to bring some of the merchandise here, especially since many of her clients from the boutique are Westmounters who have summer homes in Knowlton.

— M.C.B.

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## Westmount classified

### Name change

Please note that Cassi-Anne Brunner in the capacity of Cassi-Anne Brunner whose home address is 5352 Bessborough Ave, Montreal, QC H4V 2S6 will be submitting to the Registrar of Civil Status an application to change the name of Xander Cohen Brunner to Xander David Cohen Covone.

## Gleen away



*A Westmount Independent worker attempts to remove fuzz from a sweater, December 16.*

Gleener, the “Ultimate Fuzz Remover,” is a creation of soon-to-be Westmouter Kim Cole.

The plastic hand-held unpowered tool is like an oversized razor. On one side is a lint brush and on the other a receptacle for one of three blades that are designed to remove pills and fuzz from “almost any kind of garment.”

The Gleener is available at several stores in Montreal, including Lola & Emily in Westmount, which is owned by Cole's sister-in-law Marnie Blanshay. Blanshay's sister Stephanie, writing from Gleener Marketing Inc., said “I guess you could say the whole thing is a bit of a family affair!”

For more information, visit [www.gleener.com](http://www.gleener.com).

## Quebec classifieds

### Antiques

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quired qualifications, please refer to the City of Yellowknife's web page at: [www.yellowknife.ca](http://www.yellowknife.ca) or contact Human Resources at (867) 920-5603. 15424.1.2

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May I introduce to you Athena, a long-time member of the lonely hearts club. For Athena, who at the still youthful age of five, has been all but forgotten, as she is overlooked time and time again by those in the market for four-legged canine companions.

Even so, Athena is a proper English bulldog with proper manners to boot. Wait...not too fast. Her manners extend only to those with two legs and not four.

We don't know why Athena has this

predilection for people – after all she was cruelly treated by them, one can surmise from the following information on her background.

When she was brought to her rescuers years ago, she was pregnant and in very poor health. In the end, none of her puppies survived, leaving Athena alone and lonely. Because of her inability to get along with others of the same species, Athena is a true lonely heart, since her personality requires her to be separated from other dogs housed at the shelter.

She is often by herself or spending time with volunteers who look in on her. But despite this quasi-solitary confinement, the talk about Athena is all positive. She is a very good and sociable dog with humans and would flourish as the only dog in a home. A household with a slower pace would suit her well, as bulldogs generally

don't need as much physical activity.

However, one exception to this would be swimming, of all things! Turns out, Athena is the Michael Phelps of the canine world! In this highly unusual feat (for a bulldog), it is highly humorous to see her short stubby legs paddling furiously in the water.

Not that Athena gets this kind of aquatic chance often.

Hers is the life of small simple pleasures: a few cuddles, clean quarters and

maybe, just maybe, the chance to renounce once and for all her lifetime membership to the lonely hearts club.

Think you have nice legs in a swimsuit? So does Athena. Why not show them off together at a pool near you in the near future? Please contact The Frontier Animal Society at [frontieranimalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:frontieranimalsociety@gmail.com) or call 819.876.7785.

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# Debs dance 'til dawn at Viennese Ball



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this kind of party was part of every young woman's dream. Today, the Austrian Society of Montreal offers lasses (and lads!) this Cinderella moment at the annual Viennese Ball of Montreal.

Held this year on November 19 at the Château Champlain, the ball was, as always, simply beautiful. Young ladies, each wearing the same lovely white gown (created by Westmount designer **Astri Prugger**), twinkling tiaras and long white gloves, gracefully danced the waltz, paired with a young gentleman clad in white tie and tails. Sigh...

Debs and their dates were formally presented to **Ulrike Butschek** (there with husband **Wolfgang Lassl**) and **Ulrike Billard**, Austrian consul general in Montreal (attending with husband **Bernard Billard**).

The gala was held under the distinguished patronage of the Austrian ambassador to Canada, **Werner Brandstetter** and **Ulrike Billard**.

Noted guests included ball president **Harold Scheer** and his wife **Ewa Dorynek-Scheer**, Austrian Society president **Peter Hill** and **Evelyn Schindler-Hill**; **Christian Schleifer**, alternate council representative to ICAO, and **Verena Heingaertner**; Austrian trade commissioner **Thomas Glueck** with **Sandra Glueck-Taglieber**; Swiss consul general **Claude Duvoisin** with his wife **Josiane**; **Jean-Jacques Beldié**, president of the Société des Transports de Laval and his wife **Margot**; Westmounters **Elizabeth Wirth** (past ball president) and husband **Lou Fauteux**.

From McGill's Schulich School of Music were Dean **Sean Ferguson** and **Sherry Martha DiFrancisco**, and **Stefano Algeri**, who wowed guests with several arias.

Debutantes were **Antonina Scheer** (with **Basil Vandervort-Charbonneau**), **Eva Vandervort-Charbonneau** (**Mario Clement David**), **Sarah Bonin** (**Anthony Chow**), **Katherine Martineau** (**Alain Ryser**), **Linda**



Westmounters *Astri Prugger, Anthony Chow, Joshua Lutz Dannenbaum, Jessica Johnston and Jean Christophe Michel Azzopardi.*

Photo: Lucinda Cao

**Maura Soares** (**Carlos Eduardo Morelos Mondragon**), **Alexandra Millard-Barberan** (**Alexander Vogel**), **Iliana Kalecheff** (**Till Schmid**), **Claire-Lys Bastien Wald** (**Brooke Kenny**), **Maryana Kostenko** (**Olivier Simard-Hanley**), **Melanie Vogel** (**Erick Alexander Salchert**), **Lorraine-Noelle Pellicone** (**Sebastian Fricke**), **Danvy Ho** (**Hakeem Samu**), **Emily Urbanski** (**Nicolas Kalecheff**), **Justine Hanley-Simard** (**Joshua Lutz Dannenbaum**), **Julia Schreiber** (**Joseph De Cubellis**), and **Georgette**

**Harun** (**Jean Christophe Michel Azzopardi**).

After champagne and a divine five-course gourmet dinner, guests enjoyed the casino room, and then the Cinderella debs danced till dawn – happily no one lost a glass slipper.

Monies raised benefit **SOS Children's Villages**, **McGill University's Schulich School of Music**, the **General Roméo Dallaire Foundation**, **Leave Out Violence**, and the **German Language Schools of Quebec**.



Debs and their escorts in an elegant dance.

Photo: Le Studio Photo Photolux

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# Traffic gets green light

continued from p. 1

the way, Trent explained, “it will be less political and more mechanical.”

Although work on the traffic master plan was launched last year and was originally reported to be completed by year end, assessment of a massive amount of data already collected has been on hold pending resolution of the final plans for the arena/pool project.

## One at a time

A small city with a small management team “can’t take on a number of major

projects at the same time,” Trent explained. “It’s a strain on resources.”

As a result, the next step in the traffic project will be the data assessment and directives to consultants for finalizing outcomes.

“We hope by the end of this year to have a plan and strategy in place as a guidepost for our investment in road infrastructure for the next 10 years and beyond.”

While changes in traffic lights, calming devices and street re-design require capital expenditure and planning, others such as those dealing with speed and signage may not. “There are many serious prob-

lems to deal with rapidly,” he said.

A long-term blueprint for upgrading the city’s infrastructure – buildings, streets and utilities – will be undertaken in 2013, he said, along with streamlining Urban Planning processes for the granting of permits.

These will attempt to complete the council’s goals in the last year of its mandate along with its ongoing effort to control taxes, he explained.

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## Fraser Furniture for the future



Westmounter Ross Fraser kicks back in one of his store’s new Resource Furniture pieces at a re-branding and post-renovation party on November 16. Approximately 500 people attended the event. Fraser is the fourth generation in the 131-year-old business, which is located in TMR’s Quartier du design Royalmount. The rejuvenated store has a café. Fraser Furniture has also implemented a joint project with Westmount’s Galerie d’Este to exhibit original artwork on the store’s walls. Fraser was profiled in the October 3, 2007 Independent, p. 7.

Photo courtesy of Fraser Furniture

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# Words of wisdom

“Denny Matte has been our financial consultant for the last 20 years. He is **conservative and well prepared**. He has a conservation game plan and sticks to it through thick and thin. **During the numerous economic downturns, we were safe and did well.** His cautious and conservative approach allowed us to sleep well at night. His honesty, sincerity and knowledge in many financial areas are well appreciated.” — Dr. Jerold Brittan



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# Properties to love ... and live



Groupe Sutton  
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www.suttonquebec.com



## **Westmount, 70 Forden Crescent**

This classic Westmount semi-detached is located within walking distance to the park, 4+1 bedrooms, large eat-in kitchen, and finished basement. **\$1,825,000**



## **Westmount, 84 Belvedere**

Situated in a country setting, this contemporary and open concept detached home has 3+1 bedrooms, double garage, and a zen garden. **\$1,695,000**



## **Old Montreal, 650 Notre-Dame West, #1703**

With floor to ceiling windows, this 2 level condo offers exceptional views and lots of light, 3 bedrooms, 2½ baths, 2 garages, and much more. **\$1,495,000**



## **Westmount, 4549 Sherbrooke West**

This stately and elegant home with 4 bedrooms, beautiful wood floors, and large entertaining rooms is located across from Westmount Park. **\$1,275,000**



## **Westmount, 57 Windsor**

This lovely semi-detached home has the feel of a country house in the city, large kitchen with exposed beams, many amenities. **\$1,175,000**



## **Montreal, 2935 Hill Park Circle**

Townhouse style condo with 3 bedrooms, 2½ baths, open concept design, roof-top terrace, and walking distance to Beaver Lake. **\$895,000**



## **Tremblant, Ch. des Erables**

This is a chance to own prime real estate just minutes to Tremblant, 152 acres of land in 4 parcel lots on the Riviere Rouge. **\$169,000 – \$695,000**



## **NDG, 2237 Madison, #401**

Bright and sunny, this two level condo has 2 bedrooms plus office, 2 bathrooms, 2 garage spaces, and an amazing roof top terrace. **\$475,000**



## **Westmount, 300 Lansdowne, #53**

Best location and best view in Westmount, this large 1 bedroom condo has 2 balconies, garage, and tons of light. Don't miss it! **\$415,000**

## Marie Sicotte

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## Deeply Rooted Value

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