

*Tell-all aims to dispel merger 'myths' with new charges*

## Megacity a breeding ground for corruption: Trent book

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The way the Montreal megacity was created through "annexation" has allowed corruption to grow out of a well-trenched foundation fed by the awarding of "juicier and plumper" contracts, Mayor Peter Trent contends in a book to be released next week.

"Had the megacity been created by a true merger – the joining of equals – Montreal's penchant for corruption might have been dissipated or at least diluted," he states.

In *The Merger Delusion: How Swallowing Its Suburbs Made an Even Bigger Mess of Montreal*, Trent says that in his view "it is unfair to place blame for the spate of scandals squarely" at the feet of Mayor Gérald Tremblay.

"The megacity is ungovernable, its ad-

ministrative and political structure is a Petri dish in which corruption can breed," he maintains.

### *Cooked up behind closed doors*

As new revelations emerge almost daily from the Charbonneau commission, Trent chronicles "price fixing, bid rigging and a little highway robbery" during the post-merger period, which started January 1, 2002. The water-meter fiasco, he alleges, was "handled in classic Montreal style ... cooked up behind closed doors, and it smelled of

*continued on p. 11*



Photo courtesy of Kathryn Stephenson

Trick-or-treater Angus Aitken, 12, came up with this Halloween costume on his own.

### *Belt-wielding man told to buckle up*

## Two men ticketed after library altercation spills outside

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A man and a youth were issued tickets October 29 for fighting after an altercation that began in the Westmount Public Library spilled out into the parking lot, where they were found pushing and shoving each other, according to Public Security officials. They were identified as NDG residents aged 16 and 49.

The dispute, which apparently began at about 8:36 pm when one man told the other he was making too much noise, caused the librarian to push a panic button bringing public safety officers to the scene.

It took two officers to separate the fighters, after which one was ordered to put a belt he was swinging back around his waist. The other was reported to have remained calm.

Because both had assaulted each other, police helped identify the two but left further action in the hands of public safety officers.

Both assailants were ticketed for fighting in a public place under By-law 1417 in the amount of \$647 for the older man and \$118 for the teen – the maximum allowed for a juvenile. The youth also received a \$37 ticket for uttering profanities in a park under By-law 69.

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### Don't Miss It

Westmount Artisans' Festival,  
Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 10 and 11.  
See p. 24.

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*Won't participate in review process*

# Suburban mayors protest Montreal/agglo budget

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For the second time in two years, the Association of Montreal Suburban Municipalities (ASM) has announced it would not take part in the review process of the Montreal budget that includes agglomeration expenses shared by all island of Montreal municipalities.

"The ASM no longer wishes to participate in this charade, nor lend credence to a process that inevitably rubber-stamps a budget controlled from beginning to end by the executive committee of the city of Montreal," reads a statement issued by the demerged municipalities' group November 1.

Issued at the start of hearings into the \$4.9-billion budget by a joint Montreal/agglo committee, which Westmount mayor Peter Trent co-chairs, the statement explains that before financing charges, the proposed spending of the city of Montreal for 2013 will have increased well over the rate of inflation, by 10.7 percent since 2011, while the amounts charged to the ASM cities by the aggro will have risen 25.5 percent since 2009.

Opposition leader Louise Harel has since announced that Vision Montreal rep-

resentatives would also boycott the budget review process.

Only hours after the ASM statement was made public, Montreal executive committee chair Michael Applebaum announced the city would re-think the budget before its scheduled adoption before the end of November.

"There are a lot of angry taxpayers," Trent told the *Independent*, "and I think our declaration did have an effect – especially given the current revelations of corruption and lack of leadership in Montreal." (Montreal taxpayers face an overall increase of 3.3 percent.)

Trent said it was unlikely the ASM – which he heads – would reconsider its position in light of Applebaum's announcement. Any changes would be only a temporary Band-Aid solution that would be sloughed off to next year. "It takes a year to prepare a budget," he said. "You can't radically change it in two weeks."

Two years ago, when the ASM's budget recommendations had not been reflected in the budget for 2011, Trent refused to attend further meetings of the committee for that year, in protest. Since then he has been pressing for urgent action on reducing pension costs in particular, with little

action taken too late, he noted. It was only recently that Montreal negotiated \$50 million in cost-cutting over three years with its blue collar workers starting with \$17-million in 2013, though the entire amount had been promised a year ago, he pointed out.

In the proposed 2013 aggro expenses of the Montreal budget, the overall share allocated to the suburbs will rise by 2.58 percent. Within this amount, Westmount's

apportionment will increase 2.56 percent. For the first time, however, Montreal's overall aggro portion will rise 2.94 percent, exceeding that of the suburbs due to its escalating property valuation.

It is not yet known what effect it will have on Westmount's budget for the coming year in which more than half pays for agglomeration costs such as police, fire-fighting and transit services.

## Laval mayor leaves UMQ, Trent returns

Westmount mayor Peter Trent confirmed last week he would be returning to the executive of the Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ) at its next meeting November 23. His decision comes now that Laval mayor Gilles Vaillancourt has been asked to relinquish his own positions with the organization.

As reported October 30, Trent was awaiting confirmation that Vaillancourt had been asked to step down before Trent returned to the seat he vacated, in protest, two years ago. It represents island of Mon-

treau municipalities.

Since then, Trent has been calling for Vaillancourt's removal in the wake of various allegations of impropriety against the latter and recent police raids at his home, offices and banks.

Trent said he has still not received a reply from the UMQ to his own letter of October 5 asking the UMQ to request that Vaillancourt step aside. He learned October 25 through news reports that the UMQ had acted.

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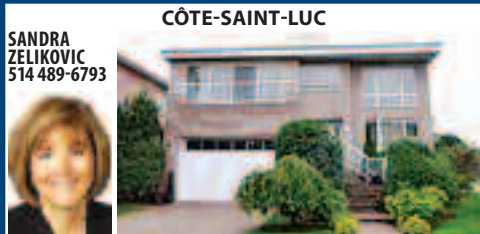
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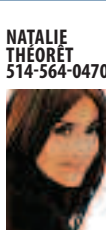


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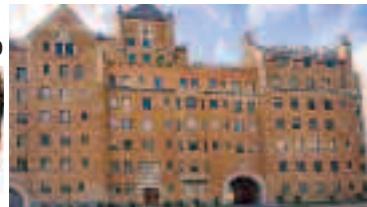


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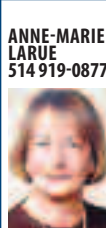


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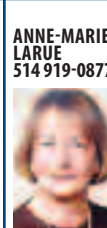
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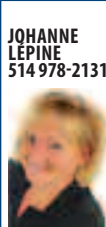


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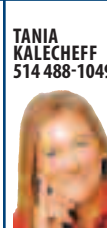


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# Arena-less Westmount hockey grows

By MICHAEL MOORE

The National Hockey League's labour dispute may have put a damper this season on hockey-crazed Montreal, but Westmount's elite youth players still turned out in record numbers for the double-letter teams.

"I see this as tremendous growth in the

double-letter program, and I hope to keep the momentum going as we move to our new recreation centre," said Westmount sports coordinator Andrew Maislin.

This season, Maislin's goal was to have 150 Westmounters try out at the double-letter level for the Cobras, a hockey amalgamation composed of Westmount LaSalle, Verdun and Côte St. Luc.



The blue-clad Pee wee CC Cobras and the other double-letter teams play their home games at LaSalle's Jacques Lemaire Arena.

He came up just shy of his target with 147 players trying out, but Westmount is still being represented on the Cobras in record numbers.

In all, 76 Westmounters made AA, BB and CC Cobras teams at the Atom, Pee-wee, Bantam and Midget levels, an increase of over 30 percent from the 58 players last year and more than double the 31 who played for the Cobras in 2010-11.

"The Cobras organization has worked tirelessly to integrate the Westmount players into the system and the results are showing," said Maislin. "The Cobras are having a fantastic start across the board."

The Cobras play their home games at Jacques Lemaire Arena in LaSalle, allowing them to largely avoid the scheduling pitfalls issues caused by the lack of an arena in Westmount this season.

Finding enough ice time for the city's eight inter-city teams, however, presents a more difficult challenge for the sports department.

"This year, the schedule is on a weekly basis as I have to move teams and games around to maximize ice," said Maislin. "Parents and players have been very accommodat-

continued on p. 22

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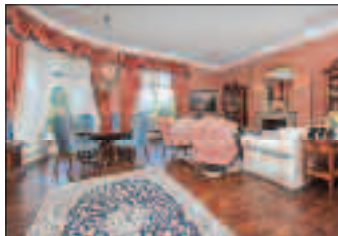
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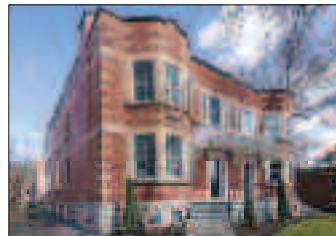


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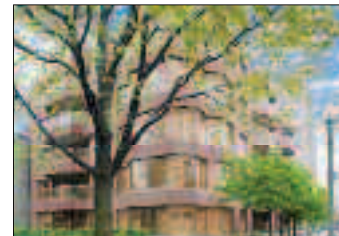
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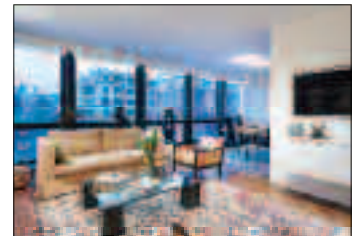
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## Opinion

## Let's train ourselves to avoid boondoggles

By DAVID PRICE

At an October 4 public meeting, the city's Urban Planning consultants, Atelier B.R.I.C., presented some preliminary findings about what could be done, urban planning-wise, in the Victoria village. One of the principal sites identified for potential re-development was the former train station located at the southern end of Victoria Ave., south of St. Catherine St.

There are so many ways such a project could be done badly.

Furthermore, given that the city owns the train station (a unique situation among the sites targeted for redevelopment), it is possible that public money and residents' time could be wasted here.

**The location**

Firstly, the myth of the site's proximity to the retail area of Victoria village should be fully exploded.

The train station is located well south of the far side of St. Catherine, which itself is a wide street by Westmount standards and one of the few in the city to have a median. These aspects cut the station off from the retail area.

Also, none of its neighbours are retailers. The two rows of townhouses south of St. Catherine are residential, as are the two



*The Westmount train station is barely visible from the edge of Victoria village's retail area, never mind its heart.*

Photo: David Price

condo buildings on the northeast and northwest corners of St. Catherine and Victoria. North of them, on the west side, are two residential buildings: a triplex with addresses on York and the Château Westmount seniors' residence. On the east side is a garage (not a walk-to, window-shopping or impulse-purchase kind of place) and an office building housing Spa Aliyah, which is the only true retailer on that block. Further north is another condominium building. One must go even further north, cross de Maisonneuve and skip an office building (on the west side) and a

condo building (on the east) before reaching Brickpoint on the west side and Martin Swiss on the east – the true beginning of the retail zone of the Victoria village.

People have said that the parking lot at Prince Albert and St. Catherine is far from the retail area of Vic village. If so, the train station is only more so. And most people certainly don't want

users driving to whatever could exist at the train station.

Make no mistake about it: the station is isolated. If an entrepreneur wants to try to make something work there, let's listen; but the city's dollars and residents' unpaid efforts should be applied elsewhere.

Also, there is always the danger that if something does succeed there, it might annoy the residents living close to it.

**Proposed uses**

There are also some very questionable specific uses that have been proposed for the station, and many involve public funds.

First, consider a public museum or archive centre. These uses would require extensive renovation at public expense. Councillor Cynthia Lulham explained at the meeting that electricity and plumbing would all have to be re-done from scratch. I've heard estimates at anywhere from \$500,000 to \$1 million. And don't forget the running costs: (unionized) personnel, cleaning, electricity, heat, insurance – the list goes on.

It is certainly understandable that the Westmount Historical Association wants to get its *paper* archives out of its flood-prone basement office at the Westmount Public Library, but there must be cheaper solutions: an office elsewhere within an existing municipal building or even renting a space from a third party somewhere in Westmount – maybe in Vic village.

What about one of those empty shops? A Westmount landlord would get a tenant, the city would save renovation (and other) costs and acquire a flexible and time-limited space, and the location could be mutually beneficial for the Historical

Association and its new, walking-distance neighbours. If it turns out the city is unwilling to spend thousands or tens of thousands of dollars on such a lease, people should definitely not be talking about spending hundreds of thousands of city dollars on the train station.

Regarding flower or farmers' markets, they have many of the same drawbacks – and some other ones, too.

Firstly, it is likely that some public money would be needed to get things ready for such an endeavour, even if some major costs (e.g. heating, personnel) could be avoided. But then there would be all sorts of supervisory and regulatory needs. Who would sell what? On what days of the week? At what time of day would selling start? And, more importantly for nearby residents, at what time would deliveries and set-up begin? (Haven't these residents suffered enough from the MUHC super-hospital?) Would special clean-up be necessary?

And, as one prominent local merchant pointed out to me, would a market compete with existing sellers of flowers, fruits and vegetables? It is one thing for businesses to compete due to individuals' decisions, and another for the city to invite competitors to operate on its property.

The city, its council and administration is already beset with issues: pension costs, aggro costs (and aggro pension costs) and the municipal perennials: bikes, floods, parking, traffic, train noise, construction site problems, taxes. Do we really want to give them another thing to worry about, be questioned about, be criticized about?

**What should go on at the train station?**

I propose one of two things for the station. Firstly, the status quo is not bad. An attractive building has been preserved and is there as a testament to the city's history. The city can use it for low-maintenance, low-impact "tenants," like snowploughs.

On the other hand, if some brave entrepreneur wants to propose a use for it, the city should listen. It is an opportunity for the city to make money, as opposed to spend it. If the private party executes leasehold improvements at its own expense and comes up with a schedule for use that does not bother local residents, the city could greenlight the project – and be a winner no matter how it turns out.

*David Price is the publisher of the Independent. He lives and works two blocks from the station, likely out of earshot of any train station uses.*

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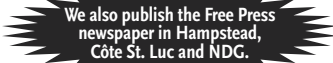
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## Opinion

# Make Vic village more appealing by reducing cars

BY DANIEL LAMBERT

The segments of Sherbrooke St. and Victoria Ave. within Vic village represent the heart of Westmount – that is, where most residents and visitors go year-round to stroll, shop, eat, meet friends or to just enjoy city life. Tax-paying Westmount residents and village merchants expect and deserve a public and commercial space that reflects the quality of the shops, parks, the library and the rest of Westmount.

But those two streets have one very serious problem: they are dominated by six and four lanes respectively of motor vehicles, which blight the view, are noisy and are a danger to pedestrians and cyclists.

So despite the valiant efforts by shop owners to beautify their store fronts in an attempt to make Sherbrooke appear more attractive, it is not surprising that merchants complain about low pedestrian traffic and low sales. Their beautifying efforts are largely undermined by the overwhelming presence of motor vehicles.

In short, Vic village has nice shops and restaurants in an unattractive environ-

ment. Furthermore, more than half of the motor vehicles driving along Sherbrooke are just passing through, thereby compromising the quality of the area without any offsetting benefit. The village falls far short of current best practice for high-quality public spaces in progressive cities.

The current street design also excludes safe access to Vic village by bike, thereby providing an incentive to residents to drive rather than cycle. A recent survey indicated that nearly 20 percent of Westmount residents cycle regularly and 28 percent of households do not own a car, so no doubt many more residents would choose to cycle if the city provided safe access.

Safe bike paths would also eliminate cycling on the sidewalks and would be consistent with the city's objectives of reducing traffic, promoting active transportation and attracting younger families.

Our association therefore asks the city to consider the following suggestions for the Vic village area:

- On Sherbrooke St. between Claremont and Lansdowne, the current one lane of parking and two lanes of traffic in each

direction be replaced, also in each direction, by a bike lane next to the sidewalk, one lane of parking and one lane of traffic – thereby removing one lane of traffic in each direction.

- Extending this street design west to Lansdowne is important, since cyclists from Côte St. Antoine or above use Lansdowne to access lower Westmount and the de Maisonneuve bike path.
- Narrow dividers, possibly with vegetation in summer, be built between the bike lanes and the parking lane to separate pedestrians and cyclists from motor vehicles. These dividers would help calm traffic, secure the bike paths and enhance street life.
- Deliveries to shops and restaurants could be scheduled outside of rush-hours or during the day as they are on other two-lane commercial streets in Montreal.
- The city would have to consider how best to link the Sherbrooke bike lanes with the de Maisonneuve bike path, although north-south car traffic is generally less intense than along Sherbrooke.
- If Montreal was to implement priority

bus lanes, Westmount could close street parking on one side of Sherbrooke during rush hour to accommodate those buses.

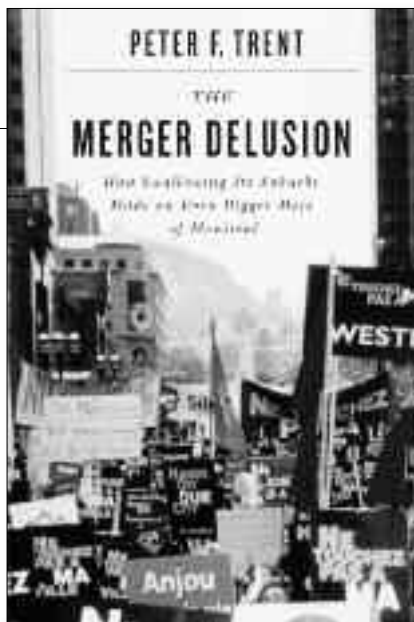
Westmount residents and Vic village merchants have an important stake in the village, and we all suffer from the current street design. The above changes would help beautify and transform this district and make Westmount more appealing to residents, merchants and visitors.

We realize that the Master Traffic Plan is meant to address traffic issues throughout the city in a holistic manner, but excess traffic in the commercial sector of Vic village is so degrading that we feel it should be a priority issue in both the Vic village development plan and the Master Traffic Plan.

We hope the city will choose this opportunity to significantly reduce the presence of motor vehicles along the commercial sections of Vic village to establish a much more attractive and liveable heart of Westmount.

*Daniel Lambert is president of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association.*

## Book Signing with the Mayor of Westmount



PETER F. TRENT

**The Merger Delusion**  
*How Swallowing Its Suburbs Made an Even Bigger Mess of Montreal*

November 13, 2012

4:00-6:00 pm

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Westmount Room

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Residents show support

# Wallace charged with assault, claims self-defence

By ISAAC OLSON

According to police, Civis “Tony” Wallace, who is regularly stationed outside the Metro grocery store asking people for pocket change, allegedly assaulted someone on October 2 and was ordered to appear in court on October 16.

By the time that day rolled around, the prosecutor added assault with a weapon to the charges, but a municipal court clerk told the *Independent* that Wallace did not appear and has subsequently been charged with failure to obey a court order. His preliminary hearing, the clerk said, is now set for January 10 for all three charges. For just the assault-with-a-weapon charge, Wallace, 57, faces up to 18 months in prison.

“I don’t want to go to jail, buddy,” said Wallace in a street-side interview on Victoria Ave. as pedestrians occasionally dropped money in his outstretched cup. He greeted nearly every pedestrian with a smile mid-interview, calling them “friend” or “buddy” as they walked by his white lawn chair and plastic-bag suitcases. His broad smile and closely shaved head is a

familiar sight to anybody who regularly strolls the area.

“I couldn’t believe it when I looked at the court papers and found out they charged me with assault with a weapon,” he said.

Wallace claims the weapon in question was a bag he was holding.

Claims couple had been harassing others

He said that he has had ongoing problems with a couple that, claiming to be homeless, have been harassing other people who ask for money on Westmount’s streets and that these issues have been ongoing for a number of years. The couple, he said, has been stealing money and valuables while running cons throughout the area. On October 2, he said he decided to confront them about their recent activities and, after they walked by, he followed them north from his spot on Victoria to Sherbrooke St., where an altercation ensued.

Wallace said that he came to blows with the man, and that his face was scratched in the brawl. The woman backed off, called the police with her cell phone and her

boyfriend ran away, Wallace explained, making it seem as though the man was never there.

Wallace was put in cuffs when police arrived, he said. With his hands fastened behind his back, he looked over at the woman and, he said, she was giving him a smile as she made up a story – telling police she was alone and assaulted by Wallace as she walked down the street.

Wallace insists that he did not assault the woman but, instead, got into a brawl with her boyfriend. Wallace defended himself against a physical attack, he said, not the other way around.

However, Station 12’s Constable Julie Côté said the police report indicates a different story. Details about the victim and the victim’s testimony are confidential, the constable explained, but she verified the suspect and victim knew each other for quite some time and they have had many verbal altercations in the past. This time, she said, the victim opted to press charges against Wallace but, before arresting the suspect, police interviewed several witnesses of the altercation, who verified the victim’s story.

Police charged Wallace with assault but Côté said it is not uncommon that the prosecutor changes or increases the charges after his or her own investigation. Sometimes, she said, prosecutors will interview victims, witnesses and more before deciding on what charges best suit the alleged crime.

Resident writes character reference

In the meantime, Westmounter Loy Denis had written a letter of character reference for Wallace. Denis did not witness the incident, but she and her family have made an effort to help Wallace whenever they can. Describing Wallace as “Mr. Popularity,” she said the hope is that the court will accept the character reference. Wallace has also been collecting signatures of support backing Denis’ claims, and another resident is also reported to have written a letter of reference.

Denis told the *Independent* that, in the letter, she stated, “I was surprised and dismayed to hear Tony was accused of assault, and this was not something I would ever expect of him as he is a very friendly and pleasant person.”

Glen site development

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

The McGill University Health Centre, the *Groupe immobilier santé McGill*, the Shriners Hospitals for Children – Canada, the Ministère des Transports du Québec and the City of Montreal are inviting you to a public meeting to inform you of the upcoming work for next year and the mitigation measures that will be taken to limit the impact on your neighbourhood.

WHAT?Public information meeting

WHEN?November 13, 2012, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

WHERE?5100 De Maisonneuve Boulevard West, Glen Hall (métro Vendôme)

Additional information available online at [muhc.ca/construction](http://muhc.ca/construction)

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# Nightmare on Sherbrooke St. and Arlington 'St.'



The expressions on the faces of members of the Vogelsang and Dancik families said it all concerning how scary the goings-on were at the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club on the evening of October 31, when the building was transformed into a haunted house for Halloween. From left: looking somewhat like Freddy from Nightmare on Elm Street is Jillian Barnes of the city's Community Events division, which helped coordinate the setting-up of the haunted house, and Westmounters Lilly Vogelsang, Markus Vogelsang-Dancik, Carolyn Vogelsang, Lukas Vogelsang-Dancik and Charles Dancik.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



A house on Arlington was decorated to the hilt for Halloween, as evidenced the next day, November 1. The coffins appeared to be made of wood and life-sized, and the fence made of iron. Presumably the skulls were not real.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



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# Many fights end in one city

## Excerpts from The Merger Delusion

These excerpts from *The Merger Delusion* by Westmount mayor Peter Trent about the final days of 1999 and through 2000 reveal for the first time how the anti-merger fight was lost as well as the discord that had developed among suburban mayors grouped around either Trent as their former leader or Verdun mayor Georges Bossé, their new president in 1998.

The anti-merger forces were pitted against merger architect Municipal Affairs minister Louise Harel, Montreal mayor Pierre Bourque, Premier Lucien Bouchard and Quebec's designated point-person Louis Bernard. Bill 170 was adopted in December 2000 creating the megacity..

\*\*\*\*\*

### Ch. 10: "Quebec's Remedy: A Huge New Government or a Huge New City?"

Harel, a short, handsome woman with a quick toothy smile, would speak with her trademarked hushed voice, a habit that caused people to pay more attention to her. Her tone could subtly slide into menacing, all without raising her voice. She was always icily polite to me but never friendly, as if to send the message that a representative of working class *indépendantiste* Hochelaga-Maison-neuve riding could never be chummy with the mayor of Westmount. "You don't win against the government," she told me....

Premier Bouchard, a principled man at bottom, worried about process as well as product. Intellectually, he had trouble sharing Harel's doctrinism, missionary zeal, and moral imperturbability with which she faced the prospect of imposing mergers. In November 1999 he let his guard down with a local newspaper in the Saguenay when he blurted, "I don't think the lawmaker should in-



Westmount goes to the anti-merger rally downtown December 10, 2000.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

tervene to force municipalities to merge. You know, a forced marriage is never a good thing.".... – p. 263

### Ch. 11: "Walking into a Trap"

Midnight of 31 December 1999 found me at Westmount City Hall with my faithful director-general, Bruce St. Louis. We were watching in vain for a sighting of the Y2K bug. As I walked home that night, I took stock. Bourque in his seemingly bumbling way, had managed to get some heavy-hitters in his One Island One City camp...

Whom did we have in our corner? No one, no one at all. – p. 264-5

Our side was pathetically weak. And we were playing a game of chess with someone who had all the powerful pieces, who could take as long as she wanted before making a move, and, in fact, who owned the chessboard. There was really no single directing mind on our side, as each piece more or less did what it wanted. On top of it, some chess pieces were removed from the game and others even fought among themselves. – p. 265

### Ch. 12: "Hope and Betrayal: Bernard Proposes, Bouchard Disposes" (2000)

Politically, we were outwitted, outgunned, outflanked and outclassed. As we had felt our fate closing in on us while "negotiating" with Bernard, most mayors had been grasping at straws. Some were almost pleading for their lives. It was not an edifying performance. When we first sat down with Bernard, Bossé was belligerent, demanding that Bernard work from first principles. By the end he was almost meek. As Montreal North Mayor Yves Ryan said about Bossé, "He flies off the handle easily, but he 'de-angers' as quickly as he angers."

The only good thing to happen on 15 November was that, because of what we saw as the government's duplicity, all the Island's suburban mayors were now reunited, saying that they would fight the megacity to their last breath. Said Bossé, "We've been laughed at enough. People won't accept the bloody mess that the government wants to put us in. Bouchardville will not be built peacefully, that's for sure." – p. 305

And even when we finally got around to girding our loins, we sent mixed messages to Bouchard and Harel....

The people had no idea what was going on until the smoke cleared and they discovered that Bouchard, Bourque, and Harel had won the Island, the south shore and Quebec. It was a rout. – p. 321

From *The Merger Delusion* by Peter F. Trent (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2012). Excerpts from the book have been reprinted by permission of the publisher.

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# Trent book

cont'd. from p. 1

corruption.”

In a candid tell-all exposé of how the anti-merger fight played out behind closed doors, he reveals the disarray of suburban mayors and how events in his personal life shaped his decision not to seek another term as their leader at a critical point in the fight.

He also tells how he fell out with Vera Danyluk, chair of the Montreal Urban Community, and admits he even once, a long time ago, voted for the PQ.

“I wanted to put it all on the record and to be completely forthright,” he told the *In-dependent* last week. The book took five years to complete.

## Public ‘lied to’

“In essence, the public was lied to,” he explains. “They were told that mergers would save money and would redirect suburban tax revenue to Montreal. They were told that mergers were a world-wide trend and had always been imposed in Quebec. None of these things was true.”

After creation of the megacity, Trent became, in his own words, “the self-imposed, full-time, *pro bono* leader of the demerger movement.” He had started alone but by 2004, there were “dozens of elected officials and thousands of citizens keen to fight the good demerger fight.”

The book is slated to be released by McGill-Queen’s University Press November 12 coinciding with a press conference at Westmount city hall. A book signing of English and French editions at Westmount Public Library takes place November 13 from 4 to 6 pm and the next day at the Salon du Livre at Place Bonaventure.

Its 672 pages include numerous supporting notes and documentation.

## On Westmount, its people, its mayors

In tracing the failed fight against the forced mergers and the successful bid by Westmount and some other suburbs to demerge in 2006, Mayor Peter Trent attributes the achievements of Westmount to “the virtue of smallness” and debunks the so-called “economies of scale” argument used to create the Montreal megacity.

Even though he introduces his book *The Merger Delusion* stating “This book is not about Westmount, my Camelot lost and mostly regained...” the example of Westmount appears time and again including his personal opinions of past mayors with whom he had worked.

While Mayor Donald MacCallum “rather liked his tippie,” and represented establishment, he suggests, his successor, Brian Gallery, preferred milk, brought out the best in his council team and “became establishment.”

By comparison, May Cutler, the city’s first woman mayor, was anti-establishment, “judgmental but not grudgeful,” brutally honest, “and most of her councillors couldn’t stand her.”

## Westmounters take to streets

Describing the way hundreds of Westmount volunteers took to the streets and worked behind the scenes to preserve – and then regain – the city’s autonomy, he quashes three “myths” about today’s Westmounters: “that all live in mansions, are Anglo-Saxon and are rich.”

Instead, today’s population is middle class and heterogeneous with 50 percent living in “lower” Westmount, south of Sherbrooke.

## ‘Blue wave’ hits Westmount High



Hip hop dancer Lukas Lock teaches a group of Westmount High students the choreography to Blue Wave’s signature “dance of love, acceptance and compassion” on October 22.

By MICHAEL MOORE

With the issue of cyber-bullying prominently featured in the news, students at Westmount High School were invited on October 22 “to ride the blue wave” to increase dialogue about bullying and adolescent mental health issues.

The entire school was in attendance for an interactive presentation by the Blue Wave Foundation, a non-profit organization that sports the slogan “It’s Ok 2B Blue” as part of its goal to eliminate stigmas surrounding mental health issues.

“Everyone goes through hard times. Sometimes we don’t feel comfortable talking to friends and think our family won’t understand,” said Lukas Lock, a Montreal native and one half of the hip-hop dance duo Shadow Twins, the day’s main act.

The Blue Wave presentation interspersed a trio of hip-hop and b-boying performances with personal stories about

bullying and reaching out to those suffering from depression.

“The option is not to give up. It is *never* the option,” said Lock.

Doubling as performer and speaker, he related his story of having being bullied as a teenager and having his baseball dreams dashed by a freak injury.

Rather than wallowing in self-pity, he said, he joined a hip-hop dance class and channelled “being blue” into his new passion.

“I said to myself, ‘Whatever it is, I will try something new and commit to it my fullest,’” he said, who has since travelled around the world as a dancer.

The presentation, Blue Wave’s first in Quebec, came less than two weeks after the highly publicized suicide of 15-year-old Amanda Todd. The teenager was found dead at her Port Coquitlam, BC, home on October 10, five weeks after posting a YouTube video about her struggles with bullying. *continued on p. 23*

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# CHW art auction event sold out, Heenan guest of honour



## Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

A rainy windy eve did not hinder guests arriving for the Canadian Hadasah-WIZO (CHW) art auction on October 10. Held at Espace Reunion, the sold-out event raised a record \$200,000 for children, healthcare and women in Israel and Canada. Tickets were \$100.

Guest of honour was Westmounter **Roy Heenan**, founding partner of law firm Heenan Blaikie, who attended with his wife **Rae**, wearing a beautiful Chinese satin jacket in pale lavender.

Heenan was introduced by Westmount residents **Helen and Jacques Bellefeuille**, past honorees and collaborators of the event. Other former honorees at-

tending were **Yehouda Chaki**, **Norman Laliberté** and **Joan Marshall**, wife of the late Tom Hopkins.

The event featured works by over 40 artists, including such international luminaries as **Jim Dine** and **Dale Chihuly**. Artists present were **Jean François Provost**, **Jennifer Hornyak**, **Peter Krausz**, **Alexandre Masino**, **Jordana Fleischer** and **John Barkley**.



Yehouda Chaki, left, and Normand Laliberté.



From left: Helen and Jacques Bellefeuille, and Rae and Roy Heenan.

The event was co-chaired by **Sarah Hutman**, attending with her husband **Gary**, and **Lianne Routtenberg**, with husband **Michael**.

Guests included Westmounters **Rubin Goldbaum**, **Francine** and **Robert Wiseman**, **Reg Weiser**, and former Westmounters **Lynn** and **Andy Nulman**, as well as

**Maureen** and **Jack Dym**, **Joanne** and **Harley Eisman**, **Helen** and **Stanley Cons**, and **Wendy** and **Rob Gold**.

Hard-working committee members included **Jamie Lands**, **Yaelle Benhamou**, **Meg Benaroch**, **Gilda Benhamou**, **Lauren Small**, **Susan Abramowitz**, **Alice Anid-**

continued on p. 13



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From left: Cara Itzkovitz, Jaqui Young, Alana Shiveck, Lianne Routtenberg, Sarah Hutman, Marcy Segall, Maxine Sanders, Lana Socaransky and Samara Kornitzer.

### **Social Notes, cont'd. from p. 12**

jar, Alicia Epstein, Roslyn Joseph, Anna Kaufer, Marcy Segall, Maxine Sanders, Alison Miller, Jaqui Young, Lana Socaransky, Cara Itzkovitz, Samara Kornitzer, Sigal Weizmann, Thelma Shapiro and Alana Shiveck, CHW Montreal president.

The auction was led by professional auctioneer Neil Horowitz of Récupération

NH Inc. Art work sold that evening included a lovely John Little painting, donated from the personal collection of Roy Heenan, which sold for \$8,000; a fabulous Tom Wesselman work for \$15,000 and Russell Young's pink painting covered with diamond dust, "Marilyn Crying," for \$8,000.

CHW's art auction celebrates 56 years with the dual goals of promoting Canadian artists while raising funds for children.

## **Debut at Westmount Park United**



"Suite for a Small Frightened Child," an original composition by NDG resident Franco Proietti (at music stand), had its Westmount debut with a 15-piece orchestra on October 28 at Westmount Park United Church after two inaugural performances at a St. Denis St. night club the evening before. The show, which also included a performance of the music from Tim Burton's *Nightmare Before Christmas*, was part of a Halloween fundraiser for the St. Columba House after-school and community lunch program in Point St. Charles.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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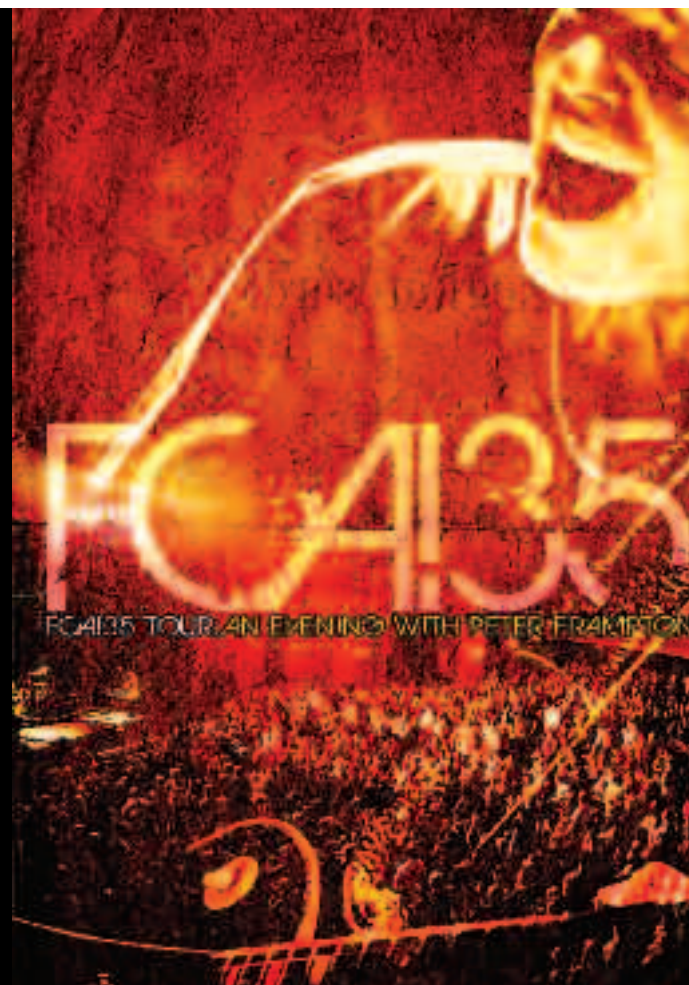
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# Two serious vehicle collisions in two days, no serious injuries

By ISAAC OLSON

There were two serious collisions in as many days on Westmount’s slopes and, while nobody was severely injured, Station 12’s Constable Adalbert Pimentel is reminding motorists that driving on wet, fallen leaves is like driving on ice. “And, when driving on hills, you have gravity working against you,” he said.

On October 30 in the early afternoon, a 79-year-old motorist was driving down Argyle Ave. near the Montrose intersection when, trying to avoid an oncoming car, he managed to lose control of his vehicle, said Pimentel. The car veered off the road, hopped onto the sidewalk and collided with a tree. A witness told the *Independent* that it took firefighters nearly 30 minutes to extricate the passenger from the sedan. See photo, same page.

According to the police report, the driver’s injuries were minor.

On November 1 just before 9 pm, a motorist driving on Summit Circle lost control, careened through a group of cedar hedges and launched off a 10-metre cliff, said Pimentel. The car landed on its roof in a resident’s yard.

Somehow, said Pimentel, all three oc-

cupants of the car, two men and one woman all in their early 20s, were not injured.

“They were very lucky,” said Pimentel, noting they refused to go to the hospital and were rather uncooperative with police.

The driver, explained Pimentel, smelled of alcohol and was given a breathalyzer test. The test showed evidence of some alcohol consumption, but the driver was found to be under the legal limit of .08 percent. Therefore, there was not enough evidence to charge the motorist with impaired driving.

However, back in April, a zero alcohol policy was issued for Quebec drivers under 21 and, in this case, the driver was issued a ticket for having consumed some alcohol. Drivers under 21 found with alcohol in their system face an immediate 90-day license suspension. If convicted, drivers can receive four demerit points and fines ranging from \$300 to \$600.

### Update: CIBC bank robber caught

In the October 30 edition of the *Independent*, Station 12’s Constable Julie Côté said a man walked into the CIBC bank at 4854 Sherbrooke and demanded money on October 23. The suspect kept his hand



A car landed on its roof in a resident’s yard on November 1.

Photo courtesy of Station 12 police

in his jacket pocket, indicating he had a gun, she said, and the bank’s surveillance cameras gave police a clear image of the suspect.

Côté said the suspect committed a similar bank robbery on October 28 just east of Westmount on de ..... Maisonneuve, but this continued on p. 15

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As reported by an onlooker, this accident took place at about 12:40 pm on October 30 at the corner of Montrose and Argyle. It took firefighters some 30 minutes to get the driver out of the car. Public Security officials said that the driver was conscious and suffered slight shock.

Photo courtesy of Derek Drummond

**Accident, cont'd. from p. 14**  
time security personnel apprehended the man and held him until police arrived. It

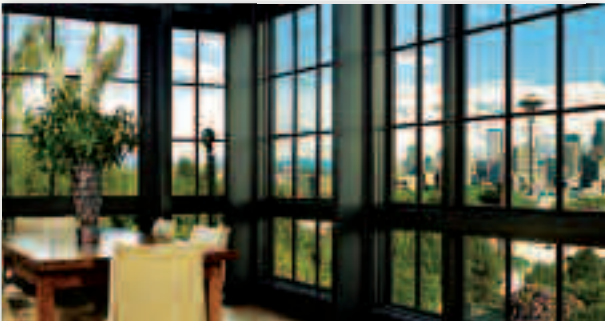
turns out, she said, that the suspect was wanted in connection with an estimated six other bank robberies.



A cyclist and pedestrian collided on October 29 at the corner of Victoria and de Maisonneuve at around 12:30 pm. Urgences Santé and Montreal firefighters each responded with a vehicle, and the pedestrian was transported to the hospital.

Photo: Independent

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# Cyclist and pedestrian collide

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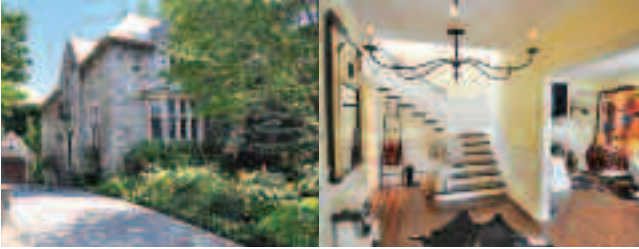
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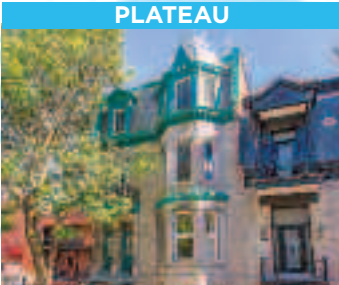
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# September registrations almost all over \$1M



*Real estate*

ANDY DODGE

The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in September 2012, provided by city officials. A list of sales can be found on p. 19.

Westmount real estate sales registered in September this year showed little of the worry about a new political direction in Quebec, as 13 single-family dwellings and one duplex sold for prices almost all over \$1 million, in fact three over \$2 million, though the average mark-up in the month dropped from about 25 percent to only 15 percent, the lowest monthly average since December.

The low average mark-up was strongly influenced by the big mark-down in the price of 32 Shorncliffe Ave., which brought a price of \$1,900,000 even though it had an assessment of \$2,280,000. Just the removal of that one sale from the September list moves up the average by almost five percent.

Highest price in September involved a

nearby home, 756 Lexington Ave., which sold for \$2,837,000, only slightly higher than its tax value of \$2,793,000.

While the two sales might indicate that higher-priced houses might be selling for reduced values, in fact the other two \$2 million-plus sales were in the normal mark-up range. In fact, the highest mark-up of the month, 49 percent, involved 3269 Cedar Ave., which sold for \$1,715,250. Lowest price was for 1094 Greene Ave., \$770,000, one of only two houses sold for less than \$1 million.

Only two condominiums changed hands in September, bringing to 10 the number sold in the third quarter of 2012, down from 17 in the second quarter of the year. Again, the average mark-up in the third quarter is down from the average for the April-June period, and the total average mark-up for 2012 is now almost exactly the same as it was for the year 2011. (For one- and two-family dwellings, prices are up eight percent over last year on a year-to-year basis.)

The only other sale in September involved a usufruct (similar to condominium ownership but without full title) at 435-37-39 Grosvenor Ave., where Apartment 6 and a parking space sold for \$625,000. This is more than double the corresponding proportion of the three-



756 Lexington Ave.

storey apartment building's municipal evaluation, and in fact it is the highest price paid for a unit since the usufruct arrangement was established in 2004, though three other units sold in the past two years, all over \$500,000.

The sales registered in September represent deals negotiated mostly in July and

August, though at least one was established as early as March, and one other was set up on September 6 and closed less than two weeks later.

Andy Dodge is a residential real estate appraiser. His email address is [andy@andydodgeassociates.com](mailto:andy@andydodgeassociates.com).



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## Over 100 attend ceremony



Corporal de Young of The Royal Montreal Regiment stands next to the cenotaph at the Remembrance Day service, November 4. Members of city council stand in the background as Lieutenant Colonel Sylvain Maurais led the service, which was attended by other regiments, The Rotary Club of Westmount and the Westmount Historical Association to total over 100.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

## New network co-sponsored by Boeckh foundation geared toward youth mental care

By MICHAEL MOORE

A new \$25-million network co-sponsored by the federal government and the Graham Boeckh Foundation is focusing on helping Canadian youth suffering from mental illness. It was announced October 1.

"It is unfortunately the rule in Canada, not the exception, that teenagers and other young people suffering from mental illness still get either inadequate care or no care at all," said foundation chair Anthony Boeckh, a long-time Westmount resident.

The first initiative under the federal government's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research, the pan-Canadian network is designed to help fund researchers and unite them with patients and health care providers to ensure new discoveries are taken from the laboratory and implemented in the country's health system.

The investment will be shared between the foundation and the federal government's Canadian Institutes of Health Research, with each contributing \$12.5

million over a five-year period.

"This project is deliberately ambitious because we, and many others, want to change how mental health care is delivered," said Boeckh. "And we are going to do it."

The issue of youth health is one that literally hits home for Boeckh. Started in the late 1990s, the foundation is named in honour of Boeckh's son Graham, who suffered from schizophrenia and ultimately passed away due to complications from his medication.

## Work trucks ticketed

When public safety officers answered a call for construction work starting early at 6:38 am on October 27, they found the workers on the scene but not yet working, according to Public Security reports. They were informed of the 8 am start time on Saturday. But later, when five of their pickups and other work vehicles were found at expired meters, \$52 tickets were issued to each truck because the workers had not reserved the spaces.

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# Knife handed over to Public Security

A 22-year-old NDG man was to receive a \$75 ticket under By-law 1026 for carrying a knife in a public place after he reached into his pocket and produced one with a five-inch blade when confronted by a parking inspector October 27, Public Security officials said.

Feeling threatened, the inspector called for back-up. Public safety officers and police arrived on the scene.

The incident occurred at 7:34 pm in front of 415 Mount Pleasant when the parking inspector came across a car whose right front wheel had allegedly been damaged in hitting the sidewalk. Walking to-

ward the inspector holding the knife, the man stated he was using it to repair the wheel and asked if it was legal. He was reported to be slurring his words.

Police identified the man, seized the knife and handed it over to public safety officers, who were processing the ticket. The car was subsequently towed though the reason was not reported.

By-law 1026, adopted in 1989, prohibits the carrying of knives and similar weapons including swords and machetes in public places “without a reasonable excuse” (such as soldiers on parade).

for the assistance,” said Maislin. “Verdun is running their own program at full capacity and still helping Westmount out.”

As the weather cools, Maislin is hoping to return to the sport’s outdoor roots by scheduling practices on the city’s cooled outside rink.

The sports department has yet to make a final decision on where to construct the rink and may change its previously announced home in Murray Park.

When it does find a home, Maislin is hoping to schedule two practices a week on the rink for the city’s single-letter teams.

## Hockey, cont’d. from p. 5

ing as Westmount hockey adapts to the current [arena] situation.”

Westmount hockey has turned to its neighbouring associations for a helping hand as it copes with the construction on the new recreation centre. Cities and boroughs around the island of Montreal have offered any free ice time they can spare for Westmount’s 120 single-letter players, while Verdun has agreed to take all of Westmount’s home games at the Verdun Auditorium.

“[Westmount hockey] is very thankful



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# Hearing-impaired child wanders off from school

By MARTIN BARRY AND STAFF

A 5-year-old hearing-impaired girl who was found wandering in Westmount Park on November 1 was returned to school by a good Samaritan. She turned out to be a student at St. Catherine St.’s Montreal Oral School for the Deaf (MOSD), which runs an integration program at Westmount Park School for 21 pupils, including the girl in question.

“I was walking across the park to come home around 2:15 in the afternoon and saw a little girl standing in the gazebo near Melville Ave.,” a woman, who lives on St. Catherine St., told the *Independent*. She did not want to be identified.

“I said to her, ‘Where’s your mommy?’ I think she was hearing-impaired because she had a device in her ear. She asked me at one point, ‘Where’s my jacket?’

“She was feeling very cold. But when I asked again where her mum or her teacher were, she was not able to answer.” When the girl was asked where she came from, she pointed towards Westmount Park School.

Taking the girl by the hand, the woman led her to the school’s main entrance facing the park. According to her account, a man who answered the door seemed very surprised upon seeing the girl.

“He said [her name] and he seemed upset upon realizing that she was outside. I said I found her in the park, and he said ‘Thank you very much.’”

She described her emotion afterwards as “shock to be honest ... If this happened to my child, I’d be very upset ... What scared me the most was that she was so trusting.”

Martha Perusse, director of MOSD, acknowledged that one of the school’s teach-

ers lost sight of the child during a distracted moment.

“[The student had been] having an individual session with our teacher,” Perusse said in an interview November 2. According to Perusse, the teacher then told the child to go across the hall to the integrated kindergarten class.

While she watched her proceed most of the way, the teacher turned her gaze momentarily to write down a note. When she looked up, the child was no longer in sight, but the teacher figured she had entered the other classroom.

According to an email from Perusse received November 5 by the *Independent*, the teacher realized a few minutes later that something was amiss when the next child did not appear for an individual session. An inside search was begun and then an outside one, which resulted in a MOSD assistant meeting the good Samaritan – outside the building, according to the email.

“I spoke to the teacher at length, and we have also spoken with the parents,” said Perusse November 2. She said it is something that happens occasionally in an educational setting, but rarely at her school.

The November 5 email added, “The MOSD has taken this very seriously. The parents were called and a plan put in place to discuss the situation with the child both at home and at school. The school has examined the situation and will continue to do so. ... Staff will certainly continue to ensure that each child is accompanied to their destinations within the building (bathroom, individual sessions room, etc.) and will increase vigilance so that such a situation will be avoided. ... Our heartfelt thanks to the lady who assisted in this situation.”

## Bolla just shy of 10 votes needed to win \$10K

Westmounter Geneviève Bolla was nine votes away from winning a \$10,000 dance scholarship. She was one of three finalists chosen by dance company Incognito, Elle Québec and website Nous Sommes Les Filles. She received 5,870 votes that were

placed online.

Bolla was planning to be in New York City dancing for Gabrielle Martin in “Infraction” and from there travel to Calgary to work on another project, according to her advocate Marika Farkas.

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# The not-so-great outdoors



## The Underdog Club

CYNTHIA LEE

Nusumareta isn't a fan of the outdoors. It's not that fresh air and leafy trees don't have some appeal, but after nearly six years spent exclusively outside, this husky 6-year-old is ready for a change. And who can blame him with another long Canadian winter right around the corner?

Survival is taxing enough with the never-ending fight to keep the bitter chill at bay, and on the other extreme, struggling to stay hydrated and out of the burning hot sun during the summer months.

But this was life as Nusu knew it from the start before the day he was rescued and freed from his sorry-excuse-for-a-human, who couldn't be bothered to provide the most basic lean-to for him and the other living creatures.

Now that Nusu is under a foster's care through Sophie's Dog Adoptions, he has proven he is a survivor with good looks and a fabulous personality to go with it. Don't let his dog-years' teenage-hood intimidate you. He sometimes likes to challenge authority like the most raucous teen, but then he comes begging for your approval when you ground him for stepping out of bounds.

He also likes to get into some fairly routine annoying behaviour, like taking undies out of the hamper and hiding those

tightie-whities in a secret spot!

Nusu needs a constant and firm human to help him rise above his teenage angst and see him through to the other side with grace and confidence. This is the kind of dog who will jump into bed with you if you let him and possibly steal your pillow in the process. But, if you've recently come in from a life lived out in the cold, you might do the same.

Nusu is looking for a new kind of human companion who leads a more active-than-not lifestyle.

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Nusu

## Husky corralled, taken to SPCA

With the help of a resident on Sunny-side October 28, public safety officers were finally able to catch a husky that had been running around loose for four days. Public Security officials said the dog was dehydrated. After unsuccessful efforts to trace its owner through a tag it wore from Brossard, the dog was taken to the SPCA.

## Dog bite checked out

A man who was bitten outside Westmount Public Library October 29 by a Labrador mix declined to press charges after the dog was checked out and found to be in good health, Public Security officials said. A little blood was found coming from a puncture. The dog had a licence through the SPCA but its owner, a nearby resident who had remained on the scene with the victim, was told to obtain a Westmount licence. The victim also lived in the area.

## Two cars broken into on Summit Circle

A car was broken into on Summit Circle October 27 and a blue backpack stolen, according to Public Security patrollers, who were flagged down by the victim. The knapsack contained "nothing of value" but two windows on the passenger side were broken.

The next day, another car had a window broken while the driver walked her dog. Two pairs of sunglasses were stolen but, luckily, the woman had her wallet with her, officers said. Both victims were advised to report the thefts to police.

## Blue wave, cont'd. from p. 11

video detailing how she had been harassed online and bullied.

"Our biggest challenge is the cyber-bully. That is something that kids have very easy access to and even the most timid of kids can participate in it," said Westmount High principal Michael Cristofaro.

In June, the provincial government passed Bill 56, which requires Quebec schools to implement and enforce anti-bullying and anti-violence policies and improve awareness of the issue in its student body.

"Part of the process is to teach the kids that it is neither right nor fair to bully, which is the message we are trying to give the kids," said Cristofaro.

In addition to events like the Blue Wave, Westmount High has a social services team that meets on a weekly basis to look into reports of bullying and mental health issues reported by both faculty and fellow students.

"Our school community, even though we're talking about 850 students, is quite a tight-knit community," said Cristofaro. "When someone is hurting, it's felt and it's reported, and we do something about it."

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## Keys retrieved from manhole

A Westmount woman who accidentally dropped a set of keys into a manhole outside 1245 Greene on October 29 turned to public safety officers for help. Public Works personnel were subsequently called to remove the cover and retrieve the keys. The incident occurred at about 4 pm.

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# Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

- “The Art of the Narrative” with **Helaine Kliger** in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library, 2 pm. Part of the 2 O’Clock Series. Register at the circulation desk or call 514.989.5299.
- “**Interfaith Grandparenting**,” 7:30 to 9 pm at Temple Emanu-El-Beth-Sholom (395 Elm Ave.) with Rabbi Lisa Grushcow and Jewish General Hospital’s Barbara Lis. Free. RSVP by November 2: 514.937.3575, ext. 212 or [valerie@templemontreal.ca](mailto:valerie@templemontreal.ca).

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

- City of Westmount’s **fall flower show** until December 1 at the conservatory.
- **Alan Clack**, who recently swam across the English Channel (see story September 25, p. 1), is the first speaker of the Westmount Y’s fall member profile series, 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Duckling/Beluga room at the Westmount Y. Cost: \$10 to benefit the Y’s Strong Kids Campaign.
- **Contactivity Centre craft sale and bazaar**, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm at Westmount Park Church (4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd.). Christmas gifts, hand-knit toys and children’s clothes, home-baked goods, sec-

ondhand fashions, jewelry and books. Raffle and light lunch. Info: 514.932.2326.

- **Montreal Storytellers’ Guild** to hold its monthly event, 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Free. Info: 514.593.9947 or [mtlstorytellersguild@gmail.com](mailto:mtlstorytellersguild@gmail.com).

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

**Westmount Artisans’ Festival**, 10 am to 6 pm at Victoria Hall. Also, Sunday, November 11. Handcrafted items made by local artisans. Admission: non-perishable food items or \$2.

- The University Women’s Club of Montreal’s “**Discovering Hidden Treasures**” antiques roadshow, 10 am to 4 pm at The Atwater Club, 3505 Atwater Ave. Admission: \$5.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Centre Greene’s **arts and crafts** program, 10 am to 12 pm. For kids aged 5 and over. Cost: \$3.50 drop-in. 1090 Greene Ave. Info: [www.centregreene.org](http://www.centregreene.org).

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12

“New understanding of ovarian cancer and its implications for the present and

the future; Robotics: The new frontier for gynecologic cancer surgery,” presented by Westmounter Dr. **Walter Gotlieb** as part of a Goodman Cancer Research Centre public forum, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the McIntyre Medical Building (Martin Theatre, 6th floor), 1200 Pine Ave. Free. Register: 514.398.4970 or [annette.novak@mcgill.ca](mailto:annette.novak@mcgill.ca).

- Education night and mini workshops at meeting of the **Montreal Camera Club**, 7:30 pm at Westmount Park Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Members to help newcomers and veterans with camera functions and digital skills using short tutorials. Info: [johnzimmerman@videotron.ca](mailto:johnzimmerman@videotron.ca).

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

- Signing of Mayor Peter Trent’s book *The Merger Delusion*, 4 to 6 pm at the Westmount Public Library.
- **Westmount Horticultural Society** to hold its AGM followed by Therese Romer, who will explain how to bring in flowering plants and bushes for the winter, 7 pm at the Westmount Lawn Bowling Clubhouse. Free for members, guests \$5. Info: 514.932.9349.
- The **Westmount Healthy City Project**

presents “Your 72-hour Emergency Preparedness Kit,” with David Sedgwick, director of Westmount Public Security Unit, 8:15 to 9:15 am at Victoria Hall. Free. Info: Tom Thompson at 514.486.7723.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

- Dawson’s professional theatre school’s opening night of *Julius Caesar*, directed by Jude Beny featuring third-year graduating students, 8 pm. Runs until November 24. Tickets are first come, first served. Cost: Adults: \$12; seniors/students \$8; Dawson students: \$5. Info: [www.dawsoncollege.qc.ca](http://www.dawsoncollege.qc.ca).
- Author Mary Soderstrom leads the Atwater Library book club in a discussion of *The Sisters Brothers* by Patrick deWitt, winner of the 2011 Governor General’s Literary Award for Fiction, 7:30 pm. 1200 Atwater. Free.
- **Seniors’ luncheon** at Centre Greene (1090 Greene Ave.), 12:15 pm. Three-course, home-cooked meal. Cost: \$5. RSVP: 514.931.6202.
- Rabbi Leigh Lerner of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom reviews *Suddenly, a Knock on*

continued on p. 25

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## Calendar, cont'd. from p. 24

*the Door* by Etgar Keret, 9:30 am coffee, 10 am review. 4100 Sherbrooke St. Info: 514.937.3575, ext. 217.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

- The works of **Colin Thomson** will be exhibited at The Gallery at Victoria Hall until December 8. 4626 Sherbrooke St. Info: 514.989.5521.
- “**St. Matthias’ Church** – 100 year anniversary” with speaker Reverend Kenneth Near, rector of St. Matthias’ Church, 7 to 9 pm in the Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. Admission free for members; non-members \$5 at door. Info: 514.989.5510.
- Retired child psychologist **Margie Golick** to read from her new book *The Life and Rhymes of a Jewish Mother*, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library, as part of the lunchtime series. 1200 Atwater. Free.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

- Centre Greene’s **Treats & Treasures craft sale** and bazaar, 10 am to 3 pm. 1090 Greene Ave. Over 30 crafters tables, Empty Bowls Program, bake sale, raffle, children’s activities and luncheon. Free. Proceeds to go the centre’s community programs. Info: Erica Bloom at 514.931.6202.

• **St. Matthias’ Church’s Christmas fair**, 10 am to 2 pm in the upper hall (entrance at 12 Church Hill). Crafts, books, baked goods, jams and jellies, jewellery. Lunch served from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Info: 514.933.4295.

• *Hamlet* by **Persephone Productions** at Victoria Hall, 8 pm at Victoria Hall. Also, Sunday, November 18 at 2 pm. Directed by Westmounter Gabrielle Soskin. Tickets: Adults \$25 or \$20 for groups of 10 or more; students and QDF members \$15 or \$12 for student groups of 10 or more. Available at 1.866.967.8167 or ShowTix4U.

## Volunteering in and around Westmount

Batshaw Youth and Family Centre is looking for volunteer tutors in math and French, according to the Volunteer Bureau of Montreal. They would tutor students from grades 3 to 11. They should have good teaching skills, “the ability to offer positive reinforcement and to help build self-esteem.” For more information, please contact David Hurley at 514.932.7161 or [www.batshaw.ca](http://www.batshaw.ca).

## Cyclelogically speaking

# A place for all to ride

BY ROB CALLARD

As a bike commuter who rides into Westmount from Beaconsfield nine months of the year, I can attest that some of the best riding is right now when the roads are quieter, the bike path less congested and the serious cyclists who tackle early-morning climbs up to the Summit have traded in their road bikes for indoor trainers.

Westmount is a Mecca for all types of riders, and one only has to look at the variety of machines that dot the roads. Some of the most advanced bike technology can be seen rolling down the Glen in the early morning hours, headed west along the Lachine canal path for training runs with bike clubs or friends.

In Westmount Park, leisure riders enjoy their hybrids, kids their mountain bikes. Commuters have discovered “fixies,” the newest craze of single-speed bikes seen racing down the de Maisonneuve bike path to and from work downtown.

So what better time than the autumn to take up the sport of cycling? The fall colours have begun to subside, but the cool weather makes for pleasant rides all within minutes of our little city within a city.

One of the gems we have at our doorstep is the corridor between Westmount and the tip of the West Island in St. Anne de Bellevue. A gem because it allows cyclists of all levels to ride safely on bike paths or less traveled roads, with the option of turning back at anytime once a rider feels he or she has had enough. The serious riders will make the 70-km round trip to St. Anne’s in under three hours, and will often be seen sipping espresso at some great cafés along the way in Old Lachine, Dorval, Pointe Claire village or at the locks in St. Anne’s.

The less experienced cyclist is able to ride along this same route, knowing that there are plenty of places to eat, rest and get bike repairs if needed. One thing is certain – the more cyclists attack this route, the longer their rides become...

Riding in the fall also requires a small investment in some warm clothes and gear, but rest assured this is one of the most pleasant times of year to ride.

I have been able to extend my riding season by more than three months by riding a cyclo-cross bike, essentially a road bike with relaxed geometry and cantilever brakes that allow for wider tire clearance.

The history that dots Lakeshore Rd. is another interesting facet to riding this cor-

ridor. In Old Lachine, one can marvel at the architecture of old stone cottages, and further west into Dorval and Pointe Claire, one can take detours up side roads to peek at the century-old homes once used by wealthy Americans who came up to this area to vacation.

For me, my 30-km commute to work simply sets me up perfectly for the day, and my return home lets me decompress. Whatever the reason, the road awaits for all to enjoy.

*Rob Callard is an avid cyclist and owner of Chez Nick on Greene Ave.*

## 10 cars get \$115 tickets for blocking driveways

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

At least 10 tickets for \$115 were issued between October 23 and October 28 when cars were found to have parked directly across driveways to private homes blocking access, according to Public Security reports. All stemmed from complaints from residents unable to get in or out.

One resident of Sherbrooke St., west of Metcalfe, had to call twice on October 23, first at 11:55 am when a blue Lexus blocked the entrance and again at 9:22 pm for another Lexus bearing a different licence plate.

The next day at 9:47 am, a tow truck had to be called to move a Toyota Echo parked across a driveway on Kitchener when the resident had to leave. Added to this ticket was the towing fee, which brought the ticket to a total of \$190.

Even though leaves tend to pile up the curb at this time of year, said assistant director Greg McBain, the tickets issued were at driveways that were clearly visible. “We try to track down the owner of a car obstructing a driveway if possible, often through a parking permit.”

While almost all of the reported violation occurred in areas of high-parking volume, one of the tickets went to a car blocking passage for residents of a house on Grosvenor north of Sunnyside October 25. McBain questioned how people could block driveways. “They just don’t seem to care.”

## Craft Sale & Bazaar

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# Woolhouse retires from dentistry in Westmount after 35 years

By MARTIN C. BARRY

After 35 years, Dr. Peter Woolhouse retired from practising dentistry in Westmount on October 24.

His very last appointment was with someone close to his heart: his daughter Kate, who lives a few blocks from his dental clinic. She had chipped a tooth a few days before.

“It just happened that way,” Woolhouse told the *Independent*.

He has served as president of the Montreal Dental Club, which is touted as Canada’s oldest dental society.

Having taught at the McGill Faculty of Dentistry for 22 years, several generations of dentists in Montreal have received a significant amount of their training from him. Woolhouse also has a masters degree in education.

“Probably most of the English dentists in Montreal who are currently practising have been taught by him,” said Dr. Dou-

glas Hamilton, a dentist and the team leader at Westmount Dental Care, where Woolhouse last practised in Westmount. Hamilton praised Woolhouse for his “personal and personable approach to the practice of dentistry.”

Over the years, Woolhouse has practiced from several locations. His first office was on St. Catherine St. for more than 15 years. He later had an office on Sherbrooke across from Victoria Hall.

In addition to spending his career in Westmount, Woolhouse also grew up here. His father, Dr. Frederick Woolhouse, was chief of plastic surgery at the Montreal General Hospital.

A resident of Victoria Ave. until just a few years ago, Woolhouse now divides his time between his home in Hudson and a country house in Vermont.

“I practice two days a week in Vermont and I’m going to continue,” he said, adding that he also hopes to continue practising on a part-time basis in Hudson.



Dr. Peter Woolhouse’s last patient before retiring on October 24 was his daughter Kate.

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## Westmount Profile: Donat Taddeo

# Assuming new challenges in education

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

His already deep roots in the community have just spread a little wider.

With his appointment as chair of Marianopolis College on October 4, Westmount resident and former Montreal Catholic school commissioner Don Taddeo has assumed yet another role in a long career in education and development.

He's been Quebec's delegate to Italy, a senior administrator at Concordia, founding president of the MUHC Foundation and, latterly, vice rector for development at the University of Montreal from where he retired less than a year ago.

But retirement was short-lived. Within a few months, he was back in high gear as assistant to the president, planning and development, at Loyola High School, his *alma mater*.

And now comes Taddeo's opportunity to steer the future of Marianopolis at a critical point in the CEGEP's evolution.

"As the founders – the Congregation of Notre Dame (CND) – hand over more and more responsibility to the board, he explains, "the challenge is to effect a transition that protects the college and ensures that the vision of Marguerite Bourgeois and the CND continues to be strong as we move forward."

When it comes to building, networking and bringing people together – well, that seems to be Taddeo's calling.

He was an organizer of former premier Robert Bourassa's successful comeback campaign in 1983 for the Quebec Liberal Party and five years later was appointed to head the province's delegation in Rome and Milan, expanding its economic and other interests there.

### Rebuilt engineering

On his return, it was to Taddeo – already tenured as associate professor of communications – that Concordia turned when it needed a dean of engineering and computer science to rebuild morale following the Fabrikant shootings in 1992.

"The stakes were huge," he recalls. "I believe in the need to communicate as a means to calming waters," he adds.

"I like to have stronger people around me because good decisions come from heated discussions where you can take the best ideas that people can then buy into. We all have to put some water in our wine."

Concordia then called on him to lead its \$55-million "Campaign for a New Mille-

nium," which raised \$77 million.

He was then appointed to develop the newly created MUHC Foundation and implement its \$300-million Best Care for Life Campaign. "It was important to keep the vision alive, trying to raise money for something that was undergoing so many delays."

Taddeo has served on numerous community-based boards including Villa Maria High School Foundation, Loyola High, Ville Marie Social Services and MAB-Mackay Centre. He also sits on the boards of the Montreal Metropolitan Orchestra, the Palais des Congrès, the Quebec Special Olympics and the Sauvé Scholars Foundation.

### Family priorities

Throughout his various callings, education and communication have been family priorities. His wife, Brigitte St-Laurent, is director of Advocacy and Support Services at Concordia.

Together, they've raised twin daughters – Francesca and Julia – born not long before they left for the posting in Rome, far from family, friends and other support services.

Born of Italian parents, Taddeo grew up with four siblings in Ville Émard, part of the St. Henri provincial riding where, in 1976, he ran as a Liberal but lost to the Parti Québécois. His brother, Dominic, was the long-time president of the Port of Montreal.

"I used to live and die for hockey," he recalls. "I wasn't a good skater though I played a lot of ball hockey on the street." As a young teen in the 1960s, he managed to obtain a seat at the old Forum "high up in the grays." He took the 78 bus up the Glen to POM Bakery and walked the rest of the way.

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As the newly appointed chair of the board, Don Taddeo makes his way to a meeting at Marianopolis College October 26.

While studying in California at Stanford University for his doctorate in classics (he also holds a master's in communication management), he attended a hockey game. "I'm all excited because I'm going to the Oakland arena – but there are only about 4,000 at the game and no atmosphere. That's when the air starts to go out of the balloon."

Taddeo has been an avid cyclist, now jogs and sings tenor in the choir at the Church of the Ascension of Our Lord. It's the cycling that brought him into the municipal political arena a couple of years ago.

Since then, Taddeo has become a familiar face in the council chamber as spokesperson for Westmount Citizens for Safe Cycling (WCSC). This is the group of fellow de Maisonneuve and area residents numbering in the 20s that he put together to advocate for a safer bike path built to what he describes as current standards.

While he's been silent on the issue for a few months now, Taddeo's political involvement raises the question: Would he ever consider running for city council? "Being with people and being engaged – it's tempting," he smiles.

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# TRENDSETTERS

## HANNAH ROSE DALTON

*Hannah Rose Dalton, 17, graduated this year from ECS. At the school’s closing ceremonies, she was awarded the Joan Stobo Prichard Award “for the student who in a leadership role has brought out the best in others,” which is paired with the Kindness Award, sponsored by a photography company which provided a photo session with Dalton to “celebrate her inner beauty by capturing her outer beauty.” She was also awarded a current events and a lieutenant governor’s youth award for her “humanitarian acts in Cambodia and in the Montreal community.” The Independent conducted an email interview with Dalton, a current student at Lasalle College, on what inspires her clothing design.*

*Tell us what is behind this dress you designed? (See photo to the right.)*

When you hear that 218 million children are part of the child labour market, forced to work every day to support our needs, I don’t understand how society can walk away and think nothing of it. But we do every single day. We see facts and figures constantly, but flipping the page is a much easier task than doing something

about it. And that is what this dress is about: society turning a blind eye every day to other people’s lives and thinking we cannot do anything about it.

I collected newspaper articles every morning for a few months. I have captured everything I love and hate in this one garment – from articles about raising rates of anorexia due to media, [and ones about] exploitation and disease to ones about



*Hannah Dalton, 17, in a dress made of newspaper.*

Photo courtesy of Christy Guntner

Cambodian festivals, Aung San Suu Kyi, recycling, and even a picture of myself and my best friend in the *Independent* talking about the Splash and Dash volunteer event a few years back!

Each was hand-sewn onto the skin of the bodice. The skirt part of the dress has two layers of full newspaper sheets with one dart on either side of the front and back seam with a thin layer of black tulle over top. To match, I have my “famous” headbands covered in leftover newspaper articles and a hand-embroidered belt. Under the dress I have a hand-sewn long sleeve top made out of recycled nylon tights that I found in my drawer!

In the past year, newspaper dresses

have become more and more popular as art pieces. I’m sure for many, this isn’t the first newspaper dress they have heard of. In my opinion, this is not my best work. Yet, this was probably my first *real* garment that meant something to me, something that wasn’t just a mirror image of an Alexander McQueen dress I saw online.

This creation gave me all the tools I needed to produce even wilder garments with much deeper meanings. Most recently I created a dress completely made out of Band-Aids. In my world, if you want to reveal something to society, you can use any material possible.

*continued on p. 29*

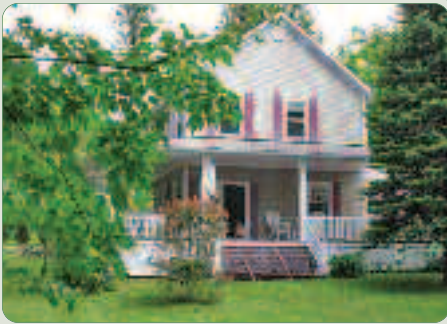


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## Trendsetter, cont'd. from p. 28

*When did your interest in fashion design begin?*

All girls seem to dream of being a fashion designer or some form of artist when they are young. Our innocent minds have the ability to jump over all the hard stuff, the monetary factors and the risk of failure, leaving a raw aspiration that we usually shed once we turn 10 years old. But for some reason, mine stuck with me. Later, I found a passion for helping people without [getting] something in return, doing community service and giving a voice to the voiceless. By grade 9, I realized I could use my passion for creating to share my views about world politics, media, globalization and other issues such as child labour. In essence, I manufactured a new dream: to become a humanitarian designer by making "couture for change."

*How have you come to learn about child labour and products that are made by children?*

When I was in ninth grade, I saw a news report about working conditions at a The Gap factory in India. My dad never let me buy from The Gap, Old Navy or Banana Republic when I was growing up because of their business policies and

practices. All my friends thought I was a loser, and I, too, was always disappointed that I couldn't have trendy clothes. But after seeing this television report, my perception drastically changed. I decided to never buy *any* clothes from a company that exploits children and workers.

How do I do it? Easy! First I did research online. Just look up your favourite store and plug in child labour next to it, and see for yourself. This is how I discovered the reality that lurked behind the labels. I found that it is not just The Gap that uses child labour, but also many other brands.

Second, I started to shop at Dix Milles Villages and on-line fair trade stores, looking for made-in-Canada labels and thrift stores. This way, the money was not going to the large corporations and rather the ones who deserved the remittance. There are some great thrift stores along St. Laurent and my favourite one is across the street from Holt Renfrew (Boutique Encore). And of course, I started to sew my own clothes!

Third, I wanted to see child labour up close and personal and understand why it happens. I decided to visit Cambodia through Rustic Pathways and volunteer in an orphanage for a couple of weeks with the help of a Maysie S. MacSporran Scholarship Award from ECS. I ..... got to see and understand *continued on p. 30*

# We'd like to get to know your daughter.

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## Trendsetter, cont'd. from p. 29

why child labour exists and how important an education is for youth in order to eradicate this problem.

It boggles my mind the amount of people I tell these same facts – these same stories – yet are able to continue to shop at these stores, still able to spend their own money on their garments and not care that someone who made them weren’t paid much (if at all), or that they may have been abused or even been as young as 8 years old. Many come back and tell me that they want to buy from corporations that use child labour because otherwise those children may not be able to eat. For those of you with similar opinions, all I want to say is I have seen kids in Cambodia who have never stepped foot in an education institution in their life. I have walked near houses that we couldn’t even consider structures and comprehended the fact that without those 30 cents a day, death would be knocking on their doorstep. Doesn’t that make you get a knot in your stomach?

If we all pitched in, companies ... would be forced to change their values if the majority of the demand decided to alter their shopping and look for ethical brands. Every purchase counts, and in the end we could create ways of giving back with our profits to ensure that all children under the age of 18 have a safe place to go to every day to learn and have a chance to follow their dreams. With an education, anything is possible. So why doesn’t most of the world have one?

## Bike path straightened

The de Maisonneuve bike path east of Lansdowne was straightened out after two cyclists collided head on October 25, Public Security officials said. A deviation in the bike route had been aligned with the arena construction fence at the entrance to Westmount Park, which turned out to have created a blind spot, said assistant Public Security director Greg McBain.

Now the path has been redesigned on a diagonal starting at the southeast corner of the intersection. The mishap occurred at 5:12 pm resulting in one cyclist suffering from a bruised left arm from falling off the bike. It was the only injury reported.

### Electronic *Independents* available

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

## Aislin speaks at his childhood library



Montreal Gazette political cartoonist Terry Mosher, better known under his nom de plume, “Aislin,” spoke about his experiences in the world of satirical drawings at Atwater Library on October 25. The cartoonist, who is promoting his 45th book, *Was It Good For You?*, patronized the library as a child and has since become one of its benefactors, auctioning off prints of his famous cartoons to help fundraise.

Photo: Michael Moore

## Thúy returns



Author Kim Thúy, right, spoke to a group of over 80 people October 25 at the Westmount Public Library. Her book, *Ru*, was short-listed for this year’s Giller Prize. Thúy used to live in Westmount above Clifford’s Market on St. Catherine and Abbott, and the first book she ever checked out at a library was from the Westmount library, according to Donna Lach, programming and outreach Librarian. Thúy is pictured above with the library’s director Julie-Anne Cardella.

Photo courtesy of the Westmount Public Library



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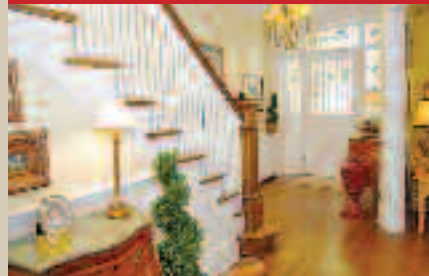


### **WESTMOUNT \$909,000** **74 Bruce**

Charming attached home located on a quiet street with park. This 3 bedroom residence offers hardwood floors, lots of sunlight, high ceilings, beautiful fireplace, bi-energy furnace and finished basement. A direct entrance to the basement offers the opportunity for a home based business.

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### **WESTMOUNT** **21 Thornhill**

Beautiful, elegant semi-detached on a quiet street, walking distance to Sherbrooke Street and Greene Avenue. This 4 bedroom residence with 2 family rooms, 3 fireplaces, wine cellar and an amazing finished basement is a rare opportunity. Lovely private garden; an oasis of tranquility!

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### **WESTMOUNT \$1,198,000** **4549 Sherbrooke W.**

This 4 bedroom century old detached home has been lovingly restored. Beautiful wood floors throughout, high ceilings, fireplace and large rooms for family living and entertaining. Located across from Westmount Park, walk to Victoria Village, YMCA.

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Westmount Adj, 4710 Circle Road  
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Remarkably well planned, **detached** home offering 4+1 spacious bedrooms, a ground floor den, & over 9,000 sq. ft of land! You'll not get this kind of space & value in Westmount!



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Westmount, 624 Murray Hill Ave.  
**\$1,250,000**

Exceptionally desirable location! 2 car garage, central a/c. Renovate/update to your taste. Attractively priced at \$1,250,000.



**ANOTHER JUST LISTED & SOLD!**

Westmount, 379 Grosvenor Ave.  
**\$899,000**

Ideally situated, this charming 1905 home offers loads of space and VALUE. 4 + 1 bdrs, MANY recent improvements! Move quick because this will sell FAST!



Outremont, 753 Querbes Ave.  
**\$479,000**

Spacious 2 + den top floor condo/triplex. Fabulous open plan, private roof top terrace!



Westmount, 3238 The Boulevard  
**\$1,670,000**

Spectacular! Fully renovated 5 bedrooms + den home designed in 1913 by the highly respected architect Percy Nobbs. Central A/C. Marvin windows and doors.



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Westmount, 4771 Sherbrooke W.  
**\$799,000**

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Hudson, 911 Main Rd.  
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