

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 6 No. 2d

We are Westmount

February 21-22, 2012

For story, please see
paper archive.

INSIDE

Social Notes by V. REDGRAVE p. 21

Underdog Club by C. LEE p. 11

Comin' Up p. 16

Worker rescued from crane



Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

Montreal fire fighters and the elite fire rescue team rescued an injured construction worker from a crane at the development at the corners of Greene Ave. and de Maisonneuve on February 20. Story, p. 14.

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First Don Wedge awards this spring

An award in memory of civic activist and *Indie* columnist Don Wedge will be awarded this spring by a jury composed of former city of Westmount sustainable development coordinator Joshua Wolfe and two journalists. The award is for \$300, although as many as four additional prizes may be awarded for \$50 each.

The contest is open to full-time Concordia journalism students. The deadline for
continued on p. 6

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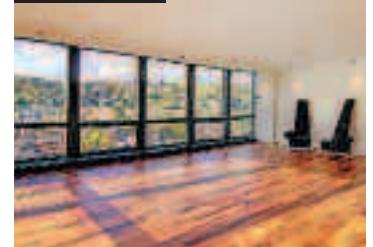


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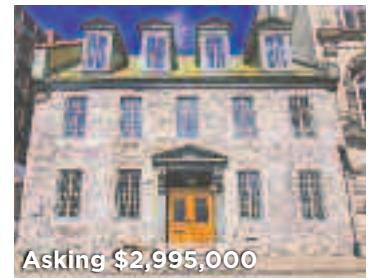
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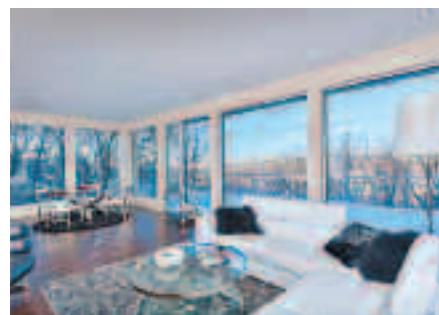
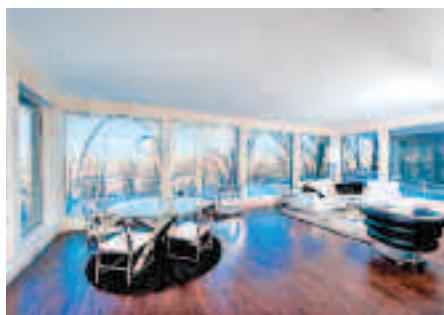
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NDG, 4321 Madison Ave., **\$519,000**

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The Study winners of physics contest will to go Israel



A team of physics students from The Study were overcome with joy on the evening of February 15 when they learned they will be travelling to Israel after winning the regional championship in Weizmann Canada's annual Shalhevet Freier Physics Tournament held at St. George's School. The international competition takes place in Israel during the week of March 18. From left: Janet Masella, mother of tournament winner Francesca Masella, Elyse Battat hugging her daughter Sarah (another winner), Weizmann Canada's Michele Bloomfield, and Jessica Lu, who is also one of the champs. Sabrina Nolan was also a winner.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



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NDG SOCCER ASSOCIATION 2012 REGISTRATION

Saturday February 25, 2012 – 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Saturday March 17, 2012 – 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sunday March 25, 2012 – 2-7 p.m.

WHERE: Le Manoir Gym, 5319 Notre-Dame-de-Grace Ave (corner of NDG Avenue & Decarie Blvd).

PLAYER PHOTOS

- **NEW PLAYERS** – you must come to registration to have your photo taken.
- **RETURNING 2011 PLAYERS** – NDG Soccer will send you an email in January 2012 IF YOU NEED a new photo.
- **RETURNING PLAYERS FROM OTHER YEARS** – If you last played with NDG Soccer in 2010, 2009 or earlier, you **MUST** come to registration to have your photo taken.

NDG Soccer Association cannot process the registration of any player who needs a player photo taken and is not at the registration in-person.

NDG Soccer Association also requires copies of every player's medicare card and a 2012 proof of residence (Bell, Videotron or Hydro bill) with the player's family name on it.

NDG Soccer Association welcomes players from outside of the CDN/NDG Borough. Ours is a full summer league from June to September and we have children from Westmount, Cote St. Luc, Hampstead, Montreal West, Lasalle and Verdun playing on our recreational and competitive teams. SOCCER IS FUN IN NDG.

Come and join our expanding leagues!

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DATES D'INSCRIPTION DE L'ASSOCIATION DE SOCCER DE NDG POUR LA SAISON D'ÉTÉ 2012

Samedi le 25 février 2012 – 10h-15h

Samedi le 17 mars 2012 – 10h-15h

Dimanche le 25 mars 2012 – 14h-19h

OÙ: le gymnase du Manoir, 5319, avenue Notre-Dame-de-Grace Ave (intersection du boul. Décarie).

PHOTOS DES JOUEURS

- **NOUVEAUX JOUEURS** – Vous devez venir à l'inscription d'avoir votre photo prise.
- **JOUEURS DE 2011** – L'ASNDG vous enverra un courriel en janvier 2012 pour vous aviser si vous devez vous présenter à l'inscription pour qu'on prenne une nouvelle photo.
- **JOUEURS INSCRITS AVANT 2011** – Si vous avez joué au soccer à NDG avant 2011, vous **DEVEZ** vous présenter à l'inscription pour qu'on prenne votre photo.

L'ASNDG ne pourra pas finaliser l'inscription de joueurs qui doivent avoir une photo mais qui ne se présentent pas lors de l'inscription.

L'ASNSG aura aussi besoin d'une copie de la carte d'assurance maladie du joueur et d'une preuve de résidence de 2012 (facture de Bell, Vidéotron, Hydro-Québec, etc.) portant le nom de famille du joueur.

L'Association de soccer de NDG est ouverte aux joueurs qui ne résident pas dans l'arrondissement de CDN/NDG. Notre saison d'été a lieu du mois de juin au mois de septembre et nous avons des joueurs provenant de Westmount, Côte St. Luc, Hampstead, Montréal Ouest, Lasalle et Verdun qui évoluent au sein de nos équipes récréatives et compétitives. ON A BEAUCOUP DE PLAISIR AU SOCCER À NDG.

Joignez-vous à nos ligues en pleine expansion!

VEZ JOUER AU SPORT LE PLUS POPULAIRE AU MODE
AVEC L'ASSOCIATION DE SOCCER DE NDG!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COMPENSATE BUSINESSES FOR POWER SHUT-DOWNS

Over the past year, I have witnessed construction crews on no less than three occasions rupture a gas line while executing road repairs. Each time the fire department and Gaz Met repeat the same procedure to repair the rupture, and each time those close to the site are evacuated – with the exception being that during this last incident, power to 6,000 subscribers was cut for safety.

It seems this situation is recurring at such a frequency that the controls put in place to prevent such incidents are clearly not working. Likewise, the cost of lost revenue to businesses, and in this case Hydro Westmount, as well as the inconvenience seem to not be an issue to the contractors executing the work.

What is being done to assure that the frequency of these occurrences is reduced to close to zero? And, I certainly hope that fines are levied against these contractors for amounts representative of the loss of revenue to Hydro Westmount, as well as a penalty for the inconvenience to local businesses and the public.

This has to stop, before someone gets seriously injured.

RYK EDELSTEIN, UPPER LANSDOWNE

POWER GRID ANTIQUATED

Just as the ice storm revealed enormous deficiencies in the design and construction of the Hydro Quebec power transmission system, so has the February 8 blackout shown the appalling design deficiencies of the Westmount power grid.

The blackout extended over a very wide area, indeed in a crazy-quilt pattern, far beyond any locality where there was risk of any explosion from leaking gas.

Where there is a localized emergency, it should be possible to close localized circuits, if need be feeding the rest of the grid from locations away from the locale of the emergency.

Of course, however antiquated the present system may be, we are certain to be told that no major reconstruction is possible owing to cost.

STEPHEN SCOTT, SHERBROOKE ST.

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We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. If you do make amendments, please "redline" them instead of resending the whole letter. Email any letter or comments to indie@westmountindependent.com.

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Park Restaurant opens in former Vic Market



Park Restaurant's executive chef Antonio Park prepares dinner for evening guests on February 16.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Celebrities and friends are among the select few who are invited, during the month of February, to take advantage of pre-opening evening service at the most recent culinary addition to Victoria Ave.

Although it's located in the Victoria Park block at 378 Victoria, Park Restaurant is named, aptly enough, after its executive chef, Antonio Park, the former co-owner of Kaizen Sushi Bar on St. Catherine St., who is regarded as one of Canada's leading chefs.

According to Jeff Hart, a minor partner in the venture, among those who dropped by to try out the menu on the evening of February 14 were Montreal Canadiens defencemen P. K. Subban and Yannick

Weber, who are "big fans of Chef Park," Hart said in an email.

"We are not doing any launch advertising and are just inviting friends and family for the month of February," added Hart.

The former Vic Market outlet has been transformed into a full-service restaurant and bar with lots of seating, longer hours (morning, noon and evening), and an expanded menu featuring organic, seasonal and sustainable Asian fare.

In a press release the restaurant says that reservations for evening service in February "will only be open for members, friends, VIPs and journalists." However, brunch or lunch is open to the general public. Call Park Restaurant at 514.750.7534.

Wedge award

continued from p. 1

submissions is Thursday, March 8. Articles should be 800 words long and deal with an environmental issue in one of Montreal's demerged suburbs. The winning one will be published in the *Inde-*

pendent sometime after March 19.

Applications can be submitted by email to donwedgeawards@westmountindependent.com or mailed to the Don Wedge Memorial Journalism Award c/o the *Independent*.

Stuart Webster Design wins national landscape competition



Stuart Webster (second from left), landscape architect and owner of Stuart Webster Design, and Annie Robinson (right), design manager and landscape architect, were presented on February 8 with the first place Caterpillar Award of Excellence for Residential Landscape Construction/Installation representing a property in Boucherville. It is the first time the prize was given to a Quebec company. On either side are Véronique Pepin, president of the Association des Paysagistes Professionnels du Québec and Andrea Marcotte of Caterpillar.

Photo courtesy of Stuart Webster Design

How many aggressive dogs?

A resident of Bellevue Ave. complained to Public Security February 7 that whenever she walks her dog past a house on Sunnyside, as she did the night before, a Doberman runs to the fence growling and sticks its head through bars in the fence, barking aggressively, accompanied by two smaller dogs.

The latest incident occurred only two hours after a woman living on Bellevue told city council at its meeting February 6 about another Doberman living on Summit Circle that allegedly attacked her dog in Summit Woods (see February 14, p. 6).

In the latest incident, Public Security officials said that officers who visited the Sunnyside home found that the Doberman seemed friendly and that the fence was high enough to contain it in the yard.

The complaint was relayed to owners, and officers would be monitoring the situation, assistant director Greg McBain said. – LS

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Author recounts history of CPR's Glen Yards

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

On March 16 during the first lecture of the Westmount Historical Association's (WHA) spring 2012 series, Michael Leduc, the author of seven books on the history of railways in Montreal, talked about Canadian Pacific's (CP) involvement in the development of the former Glen Yards.

Although Leduc never worked for a railway, the Dollard des Ormeaux resident has had a lifelong interest in trains, especially in the Montreal region.

With a hobbyist's curiosity, he was able to trace the construction of the historic stone arch that spans the Glen back to 1892, when CP had no track leading from western Montreal, and the Glen had to be crossed in order to build a service yard in Westmount.

According to Leduc, the opening of the yard became a necessity when CP no longer had enough room at Windsor Station for its locomotive and rolling stock maintenance operations.

So in 1903, CP president Sir Thomas Shaughnessy decided that a new facility would be built somewhere between Windsor Station and Montreal West. The following year, he announced it would be

located in what was then the town of Westmount.

While it's hard to imagine the Glen without the great arch that appears in photographs taken more than a century ago, WHA president Doreen Lindsay said she has seen pictures taken of women in the Glen before the arrival of the railway, when the area was regarded as an idyllic retreat.

When Glen Rd. was built around the same time as the archway, the stream that ran downhill towards St. Henri was buried under the street and incorporated into the municipal sewer network.

Leduc said the Glen Yards itself was built on top of an artificial plateau, which was created with any kind of landfill CP was able to obtain. "It



According to railway historian Michael Leduc, the Glen Yards became a necessity when CP no longer had enough room to service its trains at Windsor Station.

wasn't always there as a plateau – it's landfill basically – and they did all of that in two years," he said, adding that by May 1906 the new railway yard was ready.

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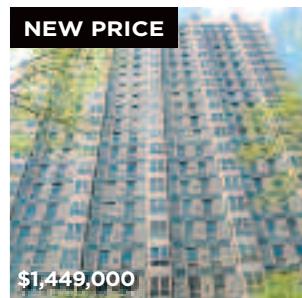
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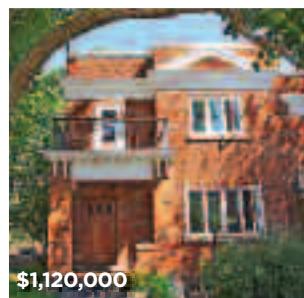
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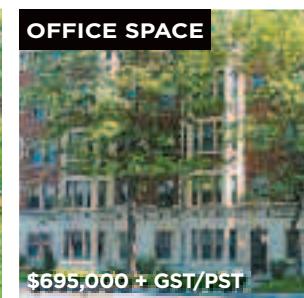
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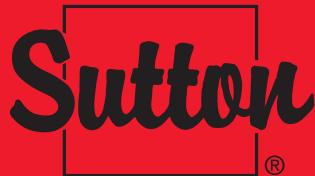
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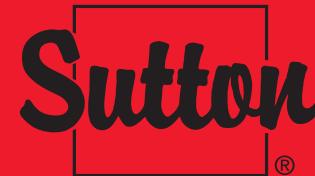
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UPPER WESTMOUNT. Great 4 bedroom, 3½ baths, stone residence with fabulous southern views! Not to be missed! **\$2,275,000**

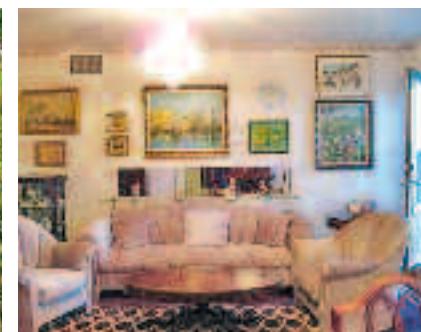
OPEN HOUSE SUN. 2-4 PM – 16 RENFREW



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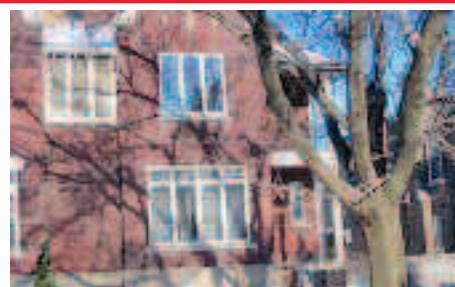
fireplace, new kitchen, new bathroom on Cazalais **\$315,000.** MLS 8697064



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3555 Grey MLS8690910 Beautiful 5 bedroom centenary with double garage and incredible potential! Mouldings, woodwork & hardwood floors are in excellent condition... all this home needs is a fresh new look. **\$955,000.** MLS 8690910

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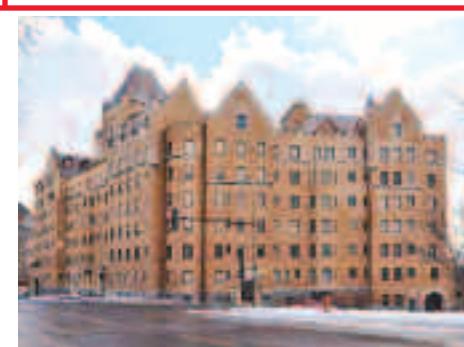
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NDG – WST. ADJ., VENDÔME AVE.: Classic NDG duplex. 7½ & 6½, upper rented, lower avail. – driveway & garden. MLS 8624919 **\$840,000**



DOWNTOWN – THE ELEGANT LINTON APTS: 2 bedrooms – 2 bathrooms – facing West. MLS 8540748. **\$849,000**



THE TRAFALGAR – DOWNTOWN – WSTMT ADJ.: 1 unit for sale: a 4 bedroom penthouse on 2 floors! 2 terraces MLS 8641815 **\$1,975,000**

WMA endorses city's recreation centre plan

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) has decided to support the city of Westmount's plan for the new recreation centre, despite lingering concerns among association members about the project's \$38.3 million budget.

Following the WMA's monthly board meeting on February 13, the board issued this statement:

"The WMA Board endorses the Westmount Recreation Centre (WRC) project as adopted by the city council on February 6, 2012, and it continues to stress the importance of delivering the WRC as pre-

Board member John Fretz maintained that costs not taken into account by the city include lawyers' fees and other administration costs he said are not being calculated at the moment. Picard disagreed, saying those items have been accounted for by the city under professional fees.

Also, during the meeting, Picard announced that he won't be seeking another term as WMA president. He has served for two-and-a-half years.

The next meeting is on Monday, March 12, and the annual general meeting, at which time a new president will be elected, will be on Wednesday, May 9.



Westmount city councillor Patrick Martin made a presentation on the new recreation centre project to the Westmount Municipal Association on February 13.

sented, on schedule and within budget."

Before the public meeting, the members listened to a presentation on the project by Councillor Patrick Martin.

Afterwards they debated the project's budget.

"I think what we can say is that what we have seen so far is satisfactory as far as we're concerned, but an emphasis on building within the budget remains a priority that needs to be looked at continuously," WMA president Jean-Pierre Picard said.

Speaking for himself, Picard added later that the updated plan the city made public February 6 "was an improvement over the original concept."

Hey, Henry

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Breaking up is hard to do



When you're in a jam, it's nice to know someone has your back. You know the one who's always there for you when the chips are down, when the going gets too tough or basically when you've lost the bet you made on your bottom dollar?



Toyo and Mindy have each other's backs and have for some time now. Not that going down memory lane is a preferred trek for these two down-on-their-luck dogs.

Quite simply, the duo is homeless since the backyard breeder, who had been using them for far too long, shut down her operation, locked the doors and set everyone packing, so to speak.

Mindy is a 4-year-old grey and white shih tzu poodle mix and her pal Toyo, a shih tzu Pekinese cross, is 6 years old. Both are good dogs, who even though

they were used as breeding machines, are happy and curious.

Well-socialized, they like to canoodle with people, other dogs and kids too. At least they are doing well emotionally, but when it comes to their health, this pair has a few things to contend with.

Toyo's eyes have suffered injury, and he needs a tear gel on a daily basis. Mindy has some woes on the other end of things – she has some bladder issues and has had to endure kidney stones.

They both will need some visits to the vet and medication.

They are inseparable and should be



adopted together. They have even gone on hunger strikes when they were separated for even the shortest of times.

Are you and your BFF really tight? So are Toyo and Mindy. Give them a double shot at happiness. Please contact the fine folks at the SPCA e-shelter today at 514.915.7311 or adoptions.spca@gmail.com.

The Underdog Club supports any dogs of the hard knocks variety. Visit them at www.underdogclub.org or email us at contact@underdogclub.org.



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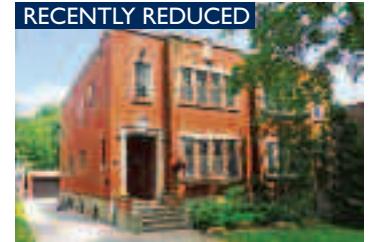
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WESTMOUNT | 10 GROVE PARK | EXCLUSIVE \$2,695,000
Grand three storey 6+1 bedroom detached residence on the flat in Westmount featuring beautiful original details, very high ceilings, spacious rooms, recently renovated kitchen and an attached garage. A true gem.

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WATERFRONT ESTATE | DORVAL \$5,300,000
With over 119,000 sq.ft. and 185 ft. of waterfront, this magnificent estate has been enjoyed by 3 generations of a renowned family since 1932. Extensively renovated in '04 it features 16 rooms, 6+1 bedrooms, 2-storey office suite, sensational gym, tennis court, swimming pool & more. An exceptional opportunity!

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2555 SANDMERE | STANT-LAZARE \$2,300,000
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Exceptional architecture on a lot of 100,000 sq. ft. from city center

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Magnificent 7000 sq.ft. waterfront estate of 18 acres. Panoramic lake views, 6 bdrms, landscaped grounds, boathouse, pool & spa, outbuildings and a truly magical ride-on railroad track which tours around the property grounds.

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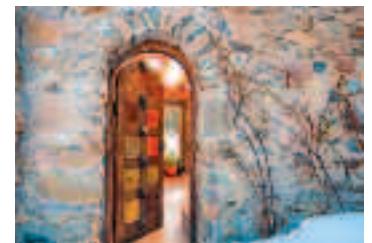
BROMONT | ARTFUL ARCHITECTURE \$1,895,000
Cape Cod style with modern lines on 5,400 sq. ft. of living space. Southern orientation. 5.93 acre property with a private pond. Imposing windows, cathedral ceilings. Unique! MLS 8677875

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2 bathrooms
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WESTMOUNT | AV VICTORIA \$595,000
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4080 HIGHLAND | WESTMOUNT ADJ. \$1,195,000
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GOLDEN SQUARE MILE | CARRÉ DU MUSÉE \$940,000
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DOWNTOWN | 1210 DE MAISONNEUVE \$849,000
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LE REDPATH | GOLDEN SQUARE MILE \$699,000
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PLATEAU MONT-ROYAL \$1,379,000
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HUDSON | FALCON GOLF COURSE \$995,000
Exquisite estate on Falcon golf going for a great deal. Construction cost is over \$1,450,000 and city evaluation is \$1,214,800. Don't miss out on this chance of a lifetime! MLS 8524316



WATERFRONT LASALLE | 7981 LASALLE BLVD. \$819,000
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\$895,000
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MOUNTAIN SIDE CHALET | MT-TREMBLANT \$499,000
Spacious 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, home on 1 acre lot. Open concept, cathedral ceiling and wood burning fireplaces, breathtaking views on Mont-Tremblant ski slopes. MLS 8564442



MONT-TREMBLANT AREA \$475,000
Impeccable, 4 bedrooms property, 2 minutes from the slopes (North Side), private and quiet area, access to Devil River. Possibility of rental income. Property sold all furnished and equipped. MLS 8620788



MONT-TREMBLANT | CAP TREMBLANT \$305,000
Spacious furnished & equipped 5 bedroom condo with panoramic views of Mont-Tremblant and Lac Mercier. Cap Tremblant is situated close to golf courses, skiing and biking trails. The facilities on site include swimming pools, hot tubs, tennis courts, spa, fitness center and restaurant. MLS 8592882



TOUR-DES-VOYAGEURS | MT-TREMBLANT \$150,000
Large bachelor at terrace level, perfect location, steps away from the "Cabriolet" which takes you directly to the ski lifts. Recently redecorated, this condo-hotel unit has a family oriented vocation. MLS 8594982



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Montreal fire fighters and the elite fire rescue team pull on climbing ropes to lower the stretcher holding an injured construction worker to the ground. An ambulance waits at the corners of Greene and de Maisonneuve. The worker had stumbled while trying to climb into his 100-foot high crane control booth and fell about 25 feet to an iron support platform below, striking his head. Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

Crane operator falls 25 feet; suffers minor injuries

According to police, shortly before 7 am February 20, the operator of a standing crane slipped when almost at the top of the crane's ladder, hitting his head and one arm on one of the safety rings. He landed on a platform about 25 feet below and was

brought down by firefighters specializing in high-angle rescue.

The 44-year-old man was taken to the Montreal General Hospital by Urgences Santé suffering minor injuries. – LS

For another photo, see p. 1.

Loose dogs didn't hang together

Two dogs that escaped from a house on Rosemount Crescent during the power outage February 8 were subsequently found in different locations, Public Security officials said. One had wandered to Westmount Ave. near Argyle; the other to Cedar between Clarke and Mountain.

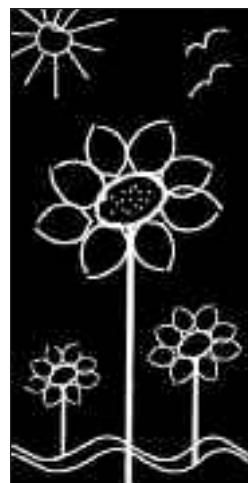
Two calls for found dogs came in to the Public Security Unit at 6:23 pm within seconds of each other. One turned out to

be a brown Labrador and the other, a black and white spaniel.

Licensed, both were returned home with a warning against letting dogs run loose. No tickets were issued, however, given their escape could have been related to the blackout that left much of Westmount without power for more than 10 hours (see February 14, p. 3).



Photo: Eric Bindman



THANK YOU WESTMOUNTERS!

Contactivity Seniors Centre celebrates its 40th Anniversary this year, thanks to your participation, your volunteering and your support.

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When the lights went out in Westmount

Living in Westmount

JO SIMONETTI



I pulled hard on the door handle, but there was no give. I have trouble with doors, always pushing when I should be pulling and vice versa. I end up in a Chaplin-esque struggle with the thing until someone with healthier door instincts comes along to open it with seemingly no effort whatsoever.

This was the second time in a week that I was denied entry to Sunsource. The first time was due to a “back in 5 minutes” sign. (I only had about 90 seconds.) So intensified by repeated frustration was my craving for sea salt and lemon almonds that I felt sure I could not go on living unless I procured a bag of the stuff immediately. I tried again.

Veneer of civility

My slapstick routine was in full swing when someone stopped to tell me that Westmount Hydro had cut the power be-

cause of a gas leak and that many shops had battened down the hatches, presumably to preserve the thin veneer of civility that kept locals from devolving into rabid looters and loading up getaway Range Rovers with kale salad, non-fat lattes and Uggs.

But hang on a minute: Gas leak? Where?

The answer was delivered soon enough via iPhone. The city of Westmount emailed residents with regular updates on the situation. I was impressed at the level of communication and efforts to keep us in the loop.

Later, driving east along Sherbrooke to pick up my son from school, I was struck by how quickly things degenerate when there is a breakdown in infrastructure. With the traffic lights out between Lansdowne and Atwater, motorists suddenly found themselves in an awkward dance with nobody leading. I spotted a few cars stranded along the road, airbags detonated and fenders bended, and could only hope that nobody was injured.

Sherbrooke St. looked like a scene from one of those apocalypse movies, where the first signs of The End begin to manifest and things start to go terribly wrong. I

drove at 20 kilometres per hour the whole way and kept my fingers crossed that the lights would be burning again on the way home. Only some were, but the intersections that remained dark were now under the direction of police.

Vehicles fell back into the familiar steps of their start-stop road tango, not unlike my push-pull door merengue, except they were actually getting somewhere.

By the time power was restored later that evening, my yearning for sea salt and lemon almonds had subsided somewhat, but I decided that I would try the door at Sunsource again the next day anyway. Third time's the charm.

Send comments and questions to simonettijo@gmail.com.

Electrical fire on pole

A small electrical fire was reported to have broken out at the top of a hydro pole behind 80 Columbia February 8, Public Security officials said. It erupted during the restoration of power after the blackout but did not result in loss of power to the area. Firefighters were on the scene at 10:37 pm.

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Stir it up!



Elliott Cohen

I was hoping it would be spring by now, but it's not. This is what people in the fashion industry call the transition season. It's spring but really not. The temperature tells the truth.

So I would want to share spring recipes with you, hype lighter fare, give you some Passover recipes and push comfort food to the side for another year, but I couldn't live with that lie. So I want to share two simple, yummy cold weather appetizers with you until the next time we meet. Both involve cheese, one with ricotta the other, feta.

Feta Stuffed Peppers

Serves 4 to 6

- Six 4- to 5-inch Anaheim chilies – red or green
- 9 oz. feta, crumbled
- 2 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tbsp. Greek yogurt
- 1 tbsp. minced fresh parsley
- 1/2 tsp. lemon zest
- 1 tbsp. fresh oregano, chopped



- 2 egg yolks
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese

1. Arrange a rack 6 inches from the broiler element and set oven to broil. Put peppers on a baking sheet and broil – turning once – until just soft, about 5 minutes. Transfer to a rack; let cool.

2. In a large bowl, use a hand mixer to whip feta, oil, yogurt, parsley, zest,

oregano and egg yolks; season with salt and pepper. Make a lengthwise cut from the stem to the tip of each pepper; scoop out seeds and ribs. Stuff each pepper with some of the feta filling; transfer to an aluminum foil-lined baking sheet; chill for 30 minutes. Sprinkle peppers with grated cheese; broil peppers until cheese is golden brown and bubbly, about 6 minutes. Transfer peppers to a platter and serve hot.

Grilled Eggplant Stuffed with Ricotta and Basil

Serves 4 to 6

- 1 large eggplant
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 4 oz cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1/2 cup parmigiano reggiano, grated
- 1/4 tsp red pepper flakes
- 1/4 cup chopped basil
- salt and pepper

Thinly slice the eggplant (down the length of the eggplant, so you get the longest pieces possible), and sprinkle the pieces lightly with salt. Place the eggplant in a colander and let it drain for one hour. This process is called purging and what

we're doing is letting the salt draw out any juices carrying super bitter flavour.

While the eggplant drains, mix together the ricotta cheese, cream cheese, olive oil, parmigiano, red pepper flakes and chopped basil. Season with salt and pepper, and taste. Make desired seasoning adjustments.

After the eggplant has been purged, rinse the slices well, then dry with paper towels.

Preheat a grill (or a big cast iron pan) and grill the eggplant about 3 minutes on each side (depending on thickness). Taste a little piece before you remove it to make sure it's cooked through.

Place a small spoonful of the cheese mixture at the base of the eggplant, then roll it up.



Comin' Up

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

• Concordia University music professor and jazz trumpet player **Charles Ellison** gives a presentation on history of jazz, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. Free. Info: www.atwaterlibrary.ca.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Atwater Library Books Roadshow, 1 to 4

pm in the reading room. Antiquarian booksellers Wilfrid de Freitas and Susan Ravdin will give opinion on the value of special books. Fee is \$2 per book for Atwater Library members and \$3 per book for others.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Screening of an **Oscar-nominated film** at the Westmount Public Library, 11 am to 1

pm. Tickets are available at the main circulation desk. Info: 514.989.5299.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

• Westmount Public Library's French Book Club on **Anne Hébert**, 1 pm in the Board Room. The meeting is led by Marie-Anne Poggi. Discussion and coffee.

• **Storytime at Centre Greene**, 10 to 11 am. For kids aged 2-5 years, every Monday. Cost: \$3.50 drop-in. 1090 Greene Ave. Info: 514.931.6202.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Poetry workshop with **Ann Lloyd**, 2 pm in the Westmount Library. A workshop to help express yourself in verse. Come with thoughts to create a poem. Free. Info: Donna Lach at 514.989.5386.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

Dawson theatre students (second year) perform *Almost, Maine*, written by John Cariani and directed by Jude Beny. Also Friday March 2 at 8 pm and Saturday, March 3, at 2 pm and 8 pm. Seats available on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost: do-

nations. Info: 514.931.5000.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

Concert *A voce sola* – Italian baroque music with **Anne L'Espérance**, soprano and Jonathan Addleman, harpsichord. 7:30 pm at the Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve. Cost: \$15; students \$10. Info: 514.432.2867 or <http://sites.google.com/site/annelesperancesoprano>.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

A **film for children** will be screened in the Storytime Room of the Westmount Public Library, 10:30 am. Other kids' films will be screened Monday, March 5 and Tuesday, March 6 at 2 pm in the Westmount Room. Free. Register at the circulation desk or call 514.989.5357.

MONDAY, MARCH 5

• **City council meeting** at city hall, 8 pm.
• Centre Greene's **March break camp**, 8 am to 6 pm. Runs until Friday, March 9. Cost: \$25 per day; \$100 per week. Register: www.centregreene.org.

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Business Watch

Vic village law practice focusses on small businesses

Kelly Francis wants to help young entrepreneurs and small business owners



Kelly Francis

avoid costly errors when they're starting off.

A lawyer with her own Westmount-based practice since last September, Francis specializes in business law.

"I help young entrepreneurs and small business owners conform to the law," said Francis, a 2010 McGill law graduate.

"I point out any weaknesses they might have in their business and what the consequences could be if they don't fix them."

Francis maintains that one of the most common errors made by new business owners is in not establishing a legal identity for their business that is separate from their person.

"Hindsight is 20-20," she said. "When you're already in trouble or being sued by someone who's trying to seize your personal property it's easy to look back and say, 'I should have incorporated.'"

Francis's website is www.kellyfrancisavocate.com.

– MCB

Who owns this bike?



The photograph of this bicycle was taken on February 12 on Sherbrooke St. opposite the Y. It seems to have been there for several months.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



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Predators win at provincials



From left, back row: Bruce Garfield (assistant coach), Michael Lashchuk, Gregory Walfish, Felix Simard (assistant captain), Lucas Clarke, Max Shafter (captain), Tyler Arsenaault, Sam Lee-Howes, Michael Robb, Warren Garfield (head coach), Stephanie Gliksmann (team manager); front row: Eric Namts, Jordan Sager, Judd Garfield (assistant captain), Nicolas Romary (assistant Captain), Guillaume Falardeau; ice level: goalie Wesley Osterland.

Photo: Bob Garfield

The Predators Peewee A hockey team won its second tournament of the season by capturing the provincial Peewee tournament in Rigaud February 12.

The team beat the hometown HRS Hawks in the finals by a score of 5-0. The MVP of the final game was Predators goalie Wesley Osterland.

In the semi-finals, the Predators came

back from a two-goal deficit to win 3-2 against Les Chevaliers de Gatineau. The winning goal was scored by Lucas Clarke, MVP of the game, with less than one second left in the game.

The Predators beat out 11 teams from all over Quebec.

Teenager walks into control box

A teenager was reported to have walked into a control box for traffic lights mounted on a post at the north-west corner of Sherbrooke and Victoria January 11. Public safety officers were called to the scene at 12:30 pm by a witness, who said the height of the control box posed a hazardous risk. It is five feet from the ground, a standard height, officials said. No victim could be found.

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Program targets light pollution, energy saving

Mars, Venus to star at Earth Hour, March 31

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Last year's move and expansion of Earth Hour activities from the Summit lookout to Westmount Park and Victoria Hall proved so successful, organizers say, that this year's event on March 31 will unfold at the same venue from 6 to 10 pm.

Mars and Venus

While Saturn was prominent in the heavens for viewing through telescopes in previous years, this time Mars and Venus will be key attractions, according to astrophysicist Tony Moffat, chair of the organizing committee for the Healthy City Project.

The 2012 theme of "energy" will be reflected in a presentation by MP Marc Garneau, Canada's first person in space, as

well as Johanne Roby.

A professor of chemistry at Sherbrooke CEGEP, Roby will explain how "excessive light of the wrong kind can adversely affect our health," Moffat said.

In his ongoing dark sky pursuits, Moffat asked Mayor Peter Trent at the January 16 city council meeting to meet with him at the site of a prototype LED light head on a city lamp post at Argyle and Côte St. Antoine to determine its effectiveness. A date has yet to be arranged.

News of the LED head that would fit Westmount's Washingtonian light standards came from one of last year's Earth Hour displays. A dozen trade and organization exhibits are on tap for this year.

Trent is slated to open the Earth Hour event, for which the city typically donates \$1,500.

Planet Earth film, music, food

This year's line-up is also expected to feature the continuous showing of the film *Planet Earth* as well as musical entertainment, finger food and hot soup at cost.

At 8:15 pm, astronomers of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada will help residents view the brightest planets and stars through their telescopes, weather permitting. To celebrate the actual Earth Hour at 8:30 pm, citizens are asked to bring bells and noise makers to "raise a ruckus for Earth Hour 2012," he said.

The name of your



Ruminations

GEORGE BOWSER

"I'll call you at home," said I to my friend. "What's the number again?"

"Oxford five-four-three-two-one," said he, and we had an enjoyable chat about the old telephone exchanges in the Montreal area, and what they meant.

I had thought that numbers beginning with 93 stood for WEStmount – a reasonable assumption – but in fact the 93 represents WELLington, which was the name of the exchange formerly located on Atwater.

Old exchange names

When I arrived in Canada in 1970, the Montreal area used seven-digit numbers, and many people still referred to the old exchange names. CRescent 54321, for example, or HUNter (respectively 27, the St. Dominique exchange, and 48 for Monkland).

That was then. Telephone calls were routed through exchanges that had names to houses, and some of those had names, too. The English excel at giving odd names to their houses, ranging from "Wits End" to "Far Corfe," and this inventiveness is not limited to the British. While enjoying a weekend getaway in the country here in Quebec, I often walk past a home that bears the name of its owner, apparently a man named G. Finnie. It was years before

I realized that it should be read in French, and is a joke: "*j'ai fini.*" There must be many in Westmount who could name their house "Costaplenty."

The telephone exchanges were located in real places, so the numbers related to actual words. With the proliferation of new three-digit prefixes that do not relate to real places, the romance of names has virtually disappeared.

My own cellular phone prefix is 241, which is a new prefix that has nothing to do with a physical exchange. Sadly, some of the newer prefixes use the numbers 1 and zero, which don't have letters assigned to them, and those people are locked into a nameless cell.

For myself, I shall make believe that 24 stands for BHarat, as I often have conversations with well-meaning individuals at call centres in India. Those with 98 prefixes can pretend it stands for ZUppa Inglese (yum yum). 59 could be LYric.

There are still desirable, memorable numbers doled out only to a favoured few. Any number ending in 100, for example, is much sought after. When my wife first acquired a cellular telephone, the salesman offered her such a number. He did so in a conspiratorial way, indicating that he was giving her something very special, as indeed he was. Businesses need to have numbers that people can remember easily, such as those that contain repeated digits like 8585 or the magical seven-eleven-eleven.

There are also numbers you don't want. For example, you would not want to own 867.5309, since that number was used in a "pop" song (do I still have to put the word "pop" in quotes? Has the word itself become obsolete? Do I know what "rhetorical" means?)

You also wouldn't want a number that was very close to that of a popular hair-salon, plumber or worse. Or perhaps, if you live alone, you would.

George Bowser is a former Westmount city councillor and a musician.

Inebriated woman topples onto street

A public safety officer on patrol February 12 spotted a man and woman walking west down the middle of Dorchester at 8:53 pm when the woman suddenly fell to the ground. The officer went to her assistance and called Urgences Santé. The woman was taken to the Montreal General Hospital in a reported state of inebriation.



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Just enjoying sunny day

Convertibles aren't simply for warm weather, as far as one driver is concerned. But it fooled public safety officers February 11 when they spotted a Cabriolet with the top down outside 434 Prince Albert in wind-chill temperatures of minus 22° C.

Suspecting the car may have been broken into, and seeing books from the Westmount Public Library in plain view, they managed to track down a family member of the owner who said she wasn't surprised the roof was down on a sunny day.

The driver of the car, shopping nearby, subsequently reported all was in order but stated he would not leave city property (i.e. the books) unsecured in the future, Public Security officials said.

Woman found safe and sound

Urgences Santé called public safety officers to help them gain entry to a Westmount house February 12 when out-of-town relatives of an elderly disabled woman feared for her safety. Public Security officials said that a hidden key was used and the resident was found in good condition. It was not known why she had not answered calls.

Real estate, on average

Number of transactions in parentheses. All dollar amounts are averages.

	February 7	January 10	December 13	November 8	October 11	September 16	August 9	July 5
Semidetached on the flat	none	\$535,000 (2)	none	\$1,750,000 (1)	none	\$972,000 (5)	\$1,011,300 (5)	none
Semidetached, Mid-Westmount	\$1,234,333 (3)	\$1,030,000 (3)	\$1,163,333 (3)	none	\$1,323,000 (3)	\$1,203,050 (10)	\$1,357,143 (7)	\$1,143,800 (10)
By type								
Detached	\$1,444,438 (4)	\$2,375,000 (1)	\$1,455,000 (3)	\$1,695,000 (2)	\$2,783,333 (3)	\$1,823,000 (7)	\$2,087,500 (6)	\$1,610,000 (3)
Semidetached	\$1,169,500 (4)	\$832,000 (5)	\$1,307,660 (5)	\$1,750,000 (1)	\$1,502,750 (4)	\$1,122,088 (17)	\$1,146,267 (15)	\$1,238,583 (12)
Townhouse	\$850,167 (3)	\$420,000 (1)	\$989,000 (5)	\$1,247,500 (2)	\$827,000 (5)	\$994,909 (11)	\$843,750 (4)	\$872,000 (1)
Duplex/triplex (1 unit)	none	\$576,667 (6)	\$450,000 (2)	\$183,571 (7)	\$425,000 (8)	\$643,250 (3)	\$521,500 (2)	\$561,500 (2)
Condo	\$847,500 (2)	\$815,000 (1)	\$1,197,500 (2)	none	\$738,500 (2)	\$630,600 (5)	\$617,500 (6)	\$930,571 (7)
Commercial	none	none	none	\$920,000 (1)	none	none	none	\$1,650,000 (1)
Land	none	none	none	none	none	none	\$920,000 (2)	none
By area (excl. commercial and land)								
Upper Westmount	\$1,408,750 (4)	none	\$1,614,575 (4)	\$1,700,000 (1)	\$2,042,000 (1)	\$1,384,000 (5)	\$1,787,500 (5)	\$1,712,500 (2)
Mid-Westmount	\$1,087,875 (6)	\$1,243,000 (5)	\$995,833 (6)	\$1,087,500 (2)	\$1,512,636 (11)	\$1,253,063 (20)	\$1,165,444 (18)	\$1,078,867 (15)
On the flat	\$846,333 (3)	\$835,833 (6)	\$958,571 (7)	\$994,167 (6)	\$782,000 (6)	\$882,333 (18)	\$813,875 (12)	\$1,074,250 (8)
All transactions	\$1,130,865 (13)	\$1,020,909 (11)	\$1,126,076 (17)	\$1,093,333 (9)	\$1,298,500 (18)	\$1,113,098 (43)	\$1,133,771 (35)	\$1,148,154 (26)
Percentage paid over valuation (arithmetic avg.)	20%	17%	24%	27%	20%	20%	17%	21%
Percentage paid over valuation (\$-weighted avg.)	18%	15%	20%	31%	16%	18%	21%	23%

Data is by newspaper reporting date, not notarial registration or sale agreement date. The dividing lines between the three geographic areas are the middles of The Boulevard and Sherbrooke St. All data excludes parking lot, storage space and nominal-value transactions. All evaluation data is from the 2011 roll.

Looking to find a home out of e-shelter



Sushi and Tiger are playful and sweet young cats that are presently at the Montreal SPCA emergency shelter, hoping for



Sushi



Tiger

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Sushi is the epitome of a fun cat. She is a very healthy 2-year-old tabby, who came to the shelter from an inspection case. She is playful, affectionate and great with cats and some dogs.

Tiger is a special little girlie of about one-and-a-half years of age. A short-haired, sleek black tiger-ette, she has soulful eyes that gaze into yours. She is truly a loving darling, who will be a loyal companion. Tiger is good with calm cats but a little nervous around small children and dogs.

For more information on these wonderful cats, please call 514.915.7311 or email adoptions.spc@gmail.com. You might also drop by for a visit of this emergency adoption facilities.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Top scorers, Westmount bridge club

Westmount tally bridge winners with top accumulative bridge scores for the three best sessions in January were:

1. Eithne Taylor – 10,000 points
2. Margaret Glassford – 9,800 points
3. Florence Belfer – 9,500 points
4. John Bower – 9,500 points
5. Humphrey Kassie – 9,000 points.

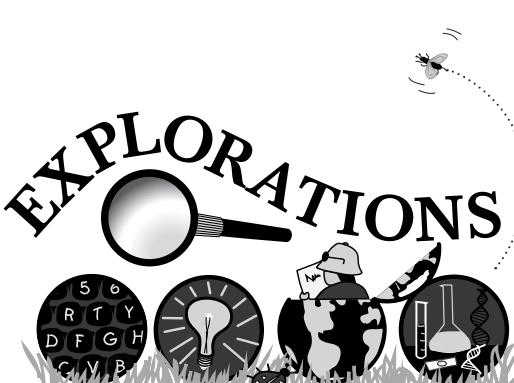
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Steinhouse's retrospective displayed at Stewart Hall



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounter **Tobie Steinhouse**, who is a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, was honoured at a retrospective of her work on January 29 at the Stewart Hall Art Gallery in Pointe Claire, whose director Joyce Millar curated the show.

Renowned as a consummate printmaker, Steinhouse is one of Canada's most accomplished artists. The vernissage featured her oil paintings, water colours, etchings and calligraphy scrolls, for which she has won annual awards at the International Japanese Calligraphy Exhibition in Tokyo since 2001.

She studied in Paris from 1948 to 1959, where she had her first solo exhibition in 1957 at Galerie Lara Vincy. Steinhouse has participated in print biennials in England, Chile, Scotland, Venezuela, France, Italy and the US.

In honour of her retrospective, Steinhouse was joined by her sons, **Stephan** – with his son **Alexander** and daughter **Lara** – and **Adam**, who flew over from across the pond, where he teaches at the National School of Government in the UK.

Westmounters and artists **Jane Desjardins**, **Lynn Watson** and **Hannah**

Franklin, and arts journalist **Dorota Kozinska** were noted in the crowd of admirers, as were **Ingeborg Hiscox** (formerly director of Stewart Hall), as well as award-winning designer **Michel Dallaire**, *vie des arts* editor **Bernard Levy**, and **Christiane Simoneau**, director of the Galerie d'art du Parc in Trois Rivières.

The Steinhouse show, "Reveries and Light / Songes et Lumière," was aptly named: It captured the incredible lightness of being in the artist's luminous oeuvres. Her art is represented in private and



Tobie Steinhouse in front of the painting that won her first vernissage in Paris.

public collections around the world, including The National Gallery in Ottawa, the Montreal Museum of Fine Art, the Montreal Contemporary Art Museum and Le Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec.

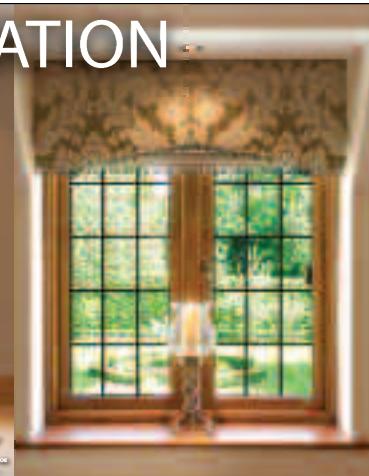


Lara Steinhouse and her uncle Adam Steinhouse.



Michel Dallaire, Dorota Kozinska and Bernard Levy.

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Demolition without permit?

Public safety officers were called to the office building at 345 Victoria Saturday morning February 11 for demolition work being carried out without a permit on the sixth floor. Public Security officials said the workers stated they had been hired to clean up debris from demolition. They were told they could use a broom but no tools, and a report was forwarded to the city's Urban Planning department.

For owners' plans for this building, see story in February 7, p. 4.

Yaldei says no waiting list for developmentally challenged kids

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Ben Baer says that many parents who send their developmentally challenged children to Yaldei tell him it's "the best kept secret in town."

"We're working with developmental delays, genetically-based development issues, and we're working with children who are profoundly challenged, all the way to the gifted," Baer, the director of clinical services at Yaldei, said in an interview with the *Independent*.

Located on the fifth floor of the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex on Marlowe Ave. in NDG, Yaldei is a private, not-for-profit intervention centre, that offers a for-payment service to parents who need help getting their kids to blossom to their full potential.

Yaldei claims to have the most intensive early intervention program in Quebec in terms of the number of hours per week of one-to-one services for zero- to 6-year-olds.

Based on the belief that children with different developmental delays need different therapies, the centre offers more than a dozen different interventions. The problems faced by children who go to Yaldei include autism, Down syndrome, ADHD, Rett syndrome, cerebral palsy, global development delay and others.

"It doesn't matter what the diagnosis is – early intervention is the key for children

with any developmental issues," said Westmount resident Eliza Parkinson, whose 10-year-old daughter, Norah, began attending Yaldei at 18 months after being assessed as having a global developmental delay.

Parkinson agreed that beginning treatment from a very early age "makes such a huge difference."

At a time when many parents of children with developmental problems face lengthy waits for service at provincially-mandated rehabilitation centres, Yaldei prides itself on having no waiting list.

"We can give a parent an appointment for a consultation almost right away within a few weeks," said Lillian Vennor, Yaldei's director of development. "From that first meeting they can start treatment within a month. It's very rare you'll find that in Montreal."

"We have a pretty large staff," said Baer, explaining one of the reasons Yaldei's waiting list is short. "It's a costly operation because of the number of staff, but it allows us to provide a comprehensive and intensive program."

Founded in 1997 by the parents of two developmentally delayed children, Yaldei was created partly because of frustration with the lack of services in Montreal for kids with developmental problems. From that beginning, the founders were also determined to help others.

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From left, Eliza Parkinson, her daughter Norah, son Jonah, and their dad Jack Buksbaum.

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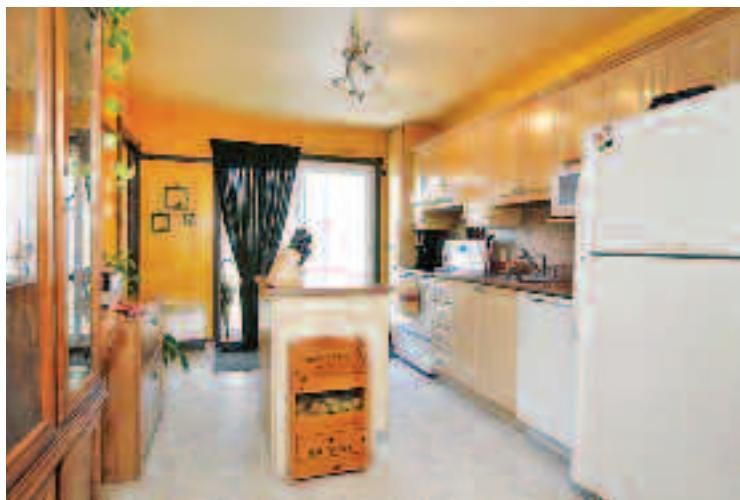
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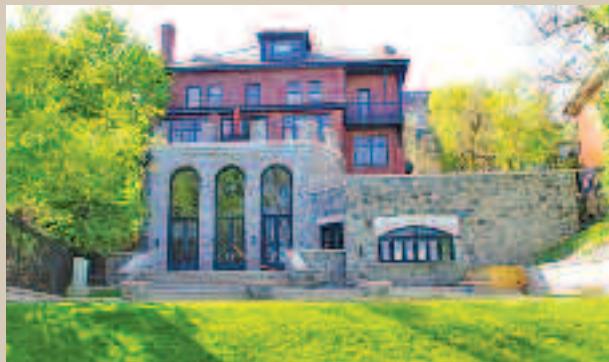


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