

CDN-NDG mayor: Two cities not good for hospital Montreal wants whole MUHC territory, but no talks to date

By ISAAC OLSON

While Montreal's second-in-command has again been quoted in the media as wanting his city to absorb Westmount's portion of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC)'s Glen site, he has not officially approached Mayor Peter Trent on the issue, according to Trent.

CDN-NDG borough mayor Michael Applebaum, who chairs the centre city's executive committee, said the entire prop-

erty, including the controversial emergency access from Glen Rd., should be under one jurisdiction – Montreal's (see *Free Press*, February 28, p. 3).

In that interview, Applebaum told the *Free Press* that the provincial government, with which he has been in discussion, should force the acquisition as it is not likely Montreal will go to court over the matter. This would ease the permitting process and potentially allow the MUHC to develop the eastern portion of the site rather than face Westmount's strict residential zoning restrictions, he said.

However, Quebec Health minister Yves Bolduc said these matters need to be sorted out between the municipalities and the MUHC.

"I don't plan to intervene at this point," said Bolduc. "It is something that needs to be done at the local level. They need to discuss this together."

Bolduc's comments came during a brief interview with the *Independent* on March 2 after he participated in a CLSC groundbreaking ceremony in NDG. The minister's statement confirms similar assertions made by his department's spokespeople in the past.

Either way, Applebaum's stance is clear. "The part of the hospital located in Westmount will have to be part of NDG," said Applebaum. "It makes no sense that the continued on p. 5

**Remembering former city
councillor Phillip Aspinall,
p. 3**

INSIDE

Bought & Sold p. 15

Social Notes by V. REDGRAVE p. 22

Underdog Club by C. LEE p. 18

Letters p. 6

Comin' Up p. 17

Westmount High goes retro



Smiling models in retro styles met with cheers from the audience at Westmount High's 7th annual fashion show on February 24. Aaliyah Corbin-Craigwell, pictured here, and her grade 11 classmates raised more than \$1,000 for their upcoming graduation ceremony and prom. The theme of the show was "Back to the Future," and it was overseen by Westmount High art teacher Silvana Anania.

Photo: Joanne Penhale

Arena demo hearing set for March 14

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Demolition notices were posted by the city March 1 to level the Westmount arena for construction of the new recreation facility.

As a result, anyone planning to file objections to the demolition has 10 days to do so by sending them in writing to the city clerk's office. These will be accepted until 4:30 pm Monday, March 12, said city clerk Mario Gerbeau.

A demolition hearing into the granting of a permit has been set for Wednesday, March 14 at 5:30 pm at city hall.

As with all demolition requests, the city must follow a prescribed process, even though, in this case, it will be issuing a permit to itself. A demolition file is available for consultation at city hall. continued on p. 4

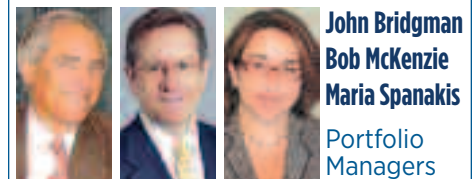
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see our commentary, p.11

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City breaks 21,000-mark by Quebec decree

Westmount population: shrinking or growing?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Is Westmount's population shrinking or growing? It seems to be anybody's guess.

According to Quebec, which establishes the population of municipalities by decree every year, the number of Westmount residents is on an upswing, climbing from 20,827 last year to 21,019 this year.

On the other hand, the number of inhabitants is declining as far as Statistics Canada numbers reveal. In its latest posting February 2, the federal figures show a population of 19,931 Westmount inhabitants last year compared with 20,494 in the 2006 census.

"I find it appalling that the two levels of government can't even get together to decide how many people live in a place," said Mayor Peter Trent pointing out that the Quebec figures are also inflated for the island of Montreal relative to those from StatsCan.

Whatever the differences in federal and provincial figures, however, both are far below Westmount's own population count of 33,000 in 1965 – or even the 20,000 figure for 1922, given the reduced housing stock.

Quebec's figures now apply

And it's Quebec's official figures that now apply, governing the division and number of municipal electoral districts, as well as provincial programs based on population.

City clerk Mario Gerbeau said last week that the city is preparing to table legislation March 5 to realign the boundaries of five of the city's eight districts (see story p. 8).

Using Quebec's figures, Westmount's population is now at the highest point since at least 1999, breaking the 21,000-mark, with at least three large condominium developments yet to be completed or inhabited.

Westmount used to carry out own census

While past figures issued by Westmount do not attribute their sources, it is known from council minutes that historically the municipality carried out its own census.

Population samplings

Year	Number	Source
1922	20,000	City of Westmount*
1942	25,276	City of Westmount
1952	27,605	City of Westmount
1954	28,050	City of Westmount
1959	30,555	City of Westmount
1965	33,000	City of Westmount
1966	24,107	Statistics Canada
1971	23,610	Statistics Canada
1976	23,605	Lovell's directory
1992	20,000	Lovell's directory
1999	20,420	Quebec**
2006	20,494	Statistics Canada
2006	20,003	Quebec
2007	19,701	Quebec
2011	20,827	Quebec
2011	19,931	Statistics Canada
2012	21,019	Quebec

* City information comes directly from annual reports, press releases.

** Quebec figures come from official Orders in Council.

Respected community leader, 1929-2012

Aspinall ran city's finances like a 'tight ship'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Funeral services are to be held Wednesday, March 7 at 2:30 pm at St. George's Anglican Church for former Westmount city councillor and Finance commissioner Phillip Aspinall, who died March 3 at the Royal Victoria Hospital. He was 82.



The late Phillip Aspinall
Photo courtesy of David Aspinall

One of the community's most respected elder statesmen, Aspinall served as finance commissioner for six years on the councils of Mayor Brian Gallery (1983-1987) and the late Mayor May Cutler until October 10, 1989.

He is survived by Eve (Marler), his wife of many years, their three sons – Michael, of Calgary, Peter and David – and six grandchildren: Kaitlyn, Yasmina, Emily,

Serena, Matthew and Richard.

A chartered accountant by profession, Aspinall resigned during Cutler's term, nine months after his appointment as president and CEO of the Royal Victoria Hospital which placed "heavy demands" on his time, he had stated. This left a void on council *continued on p. 4*

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Arena demo hearing

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continued from p. 1

The existing building is expected to remain open until after the rinks close for the season April 15.

The facility was originally opened in 1958 as a partially enclosed ice rink that was fully enclosed in 1963. The pool was opened in 1962 and the changing rooms a year later.

Plans for the \$38-million replacement facility with underground rinks and outdoor pools are to be described at the hear-

ing (see February 7, p. 1).

Demolition documents state these plans received Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) recommendation February 28 conditional to certain design features of the pavilion and landscaping. These include treating protruding portions of the underground structure as part of the landscaping; and that landscaping should harmonize with the design of Westmount Park.



A demolition notice was posted prominently at the entrance to the arena March 1.

Phillip Aspinall

.....
continued from p. 3

that was filled in a by-election acclamation by now mayor Peter Trent. Both had served together on the previous council.

“Phil was a gentleman of the first water,” Trent told the *Independent*. “Understated, yet determined to get a job done. His professionalism as a CA imbued all he did and gave him an incisiveness and clarity. He loved to laugh, but never at the expense of someone else. A very sociable man, he was more interested in talking about you than about himself.”

A moment of silence was expected to be held at the council meeting March 5, taking place after press time.

Aspinall had a reputation for being firm, maintaining a hard line and likened his approach to “running a tight ship.”

Widely recognized for his acumen and vision, Aspinall headed the Nielsen Task Force, an advisory committee created by the federal government in 1984 that pro-

duced 21 volumes of cost-cutting recommendations to shrink the size of programs.

He brought the same cost-cutting approach to his years on council, which he described as “tight times.” They included the city’s battle with the Montreal Urban Community over withholding a portion of its payments and a possible strike of white collar workers. He was also instrumental in contracting out the garbage removal.

“His enormous financial expertise gave us all great confidence,” Cutler stated on his departure.

A resident of Grosvenor Ave. for 52 years until his move in November to 4300 de Maisonneuve, Aspinall served in numerous volunteer positions. He was chairman of the Quebec Elizabeth Hospital for many years, president of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, a member of the executive committee of the Mackay Centre and rec-

tor’s warden at St. *continued on p. 8*

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MUHC site

continued from p. 1

MUHC has to deal with two municipalities.”

When asked if Montreal would consider a land swap that could, for example, give northeastern Westmount a more defined municipal division that doesn't split gardens and homes, Applebaum said, as discussions continue, nothing is off the table. Trent, in a newspaper article, once addressed the potential land swap many years ago but, Trent noted, that was long before the hospital was even on the radar.

When told of Applebaum's claims, Trent replied: “Well, maybe Westmount should take over the Montreal side ... You don't just do something like that based on a developer straddling two cities. [Having two jurisdictions] happens all the time in North America.”

Aside from an early morning, unplanned, live-radio discussion with Applebaum last year, Trent said Montreal officials have failed to bring the subject up in any official capacity. Without discussion on the topic, the mayor hesitated to speculate on or exclude possible responses to such discussions.

In related news, Trent took a tour of the MUHC site on February 29 and discussed the project's progress with hospital officials.

‘What is honour?’ discussions take place at St. Matthias in March

Part of St. Matthias' Church's Lenten program for 2012 are free public discussions on notions of honour, led by scholars and community leaders.

The one-hour talks, which welcome questions throughout, take place at the church on Sunday mornings during the month of March. Upcoming discussions

Ding, dong ... pay up!

Police cited a suspect, who was allegedly drunk and spending the early hours of February 28 ringing doorbells.

Two suspects were caught on a security camera after ringing several doorbells at 2:45 am on Victoria near Sunnyside. Police spotted the suspects sitting in a car a short while later.

“They matched the description perfectly,” said Cst. Adalbert Pimentel. “The suspects were arrogant, verbally abusive and uncooperative.”

One of them, a 19-year-old South Shore man, was cited with disturbing the peace, a municipal offence that carries a \$75 fine.

Trent visits MUHC's Glen site



Photo: Ralph Thompson

At a private meeting at the MUHC Glen site, February 29 at 11:15 am, from left: Westmount's mayor Peter Trent; director of Urban Planning Joanne Poirier; and city director general Duncan Campbell; Robert Hamilton, senior director of the McGill University Health Centre's (MUHC) Glen site development; Pierre Major, interim director, redevelopment, planning and real estate management, MUHC; and Norman Rinfret, interim director general and CEO, MUHC.

“We did take the opportunity, though, to underline our very deep concerns about adequate staff access to the site by foot, bike and mass transit, and they'll get back to us,” stated Trent in a follow-up interview. “Our visit was strictly informational,

not decisional. We did not talk about the Westmount land and what was going eventually to be there. That's for future meetings.”



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SAD TIMES WHEN FAMILY TREASURES ARE STOLEN

The Kaulbach household's identifying mark – our antique, bright red, French Canadian baby sleigh (just like the ones you see in the paintings of old Quebec winter scenes) – was stolen recently, sometime during a snowstorm, from our front balcony.

It had been there for 40 years. The entire family is in mourning and disbelief. It truly no longer had any monetary value. The only original parts being the wrought-iron runners and the handle. We had to replace the wooden box twice over the years. But it held so many memories.

I remember pushing my babies through the snowy streets when I could not use a carriage. It was always filled with flowers in the summer, and festive decorations in the fall and winter. It was the perfect place for friends to drop off returned items, parcels and surprises.

Its supreme glory days, however, were when it became the receptacle for our annual shoe-box campaign for Pop's Dans La Rue. It would be overflowing four or five times a day for two weeks, as people dropped off their donations.

We were "the house with the bright red sleigh," three quarters of the way up Strathcona Ave. All our friends knew that.

They had no idea of our house number. We have now become the "house in front of the speed bump."

It is a sad commentary on society when one cannot trust that someone will not come along and steal anything that has not been secured by Krazy glue. It is such a shame that it has come to this.

SHELLY KAULBACH, STRATHCONA AVE.

ARTERIAL STREETS FOR CARS AND BIKES

The recent letter from the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA) confuses politically-based decision-making with the principles underlying Westmount Citizens for Safe Cycling (WCSC)'s active transportation recommendations to council.

First, Mayor Peter Trent's expressed reluctance to promote additional cycling routes, especially on his own street [Côte St. Antoine], coupled with council's flip-flop on closing the de Maisonneuve bike path this winter, indicate how little evidence-based research matters when faced with political expediency and profitability, that indeed, as the mayor stated, "...everything is political."

But maybe facts mean little to the WWCA, which argued that the bike path should be kept open during the winter because "...our research indicates that none

of the construction projects will require closure of the bike path..." (November 1, 2011, p. 10).

In case no one has noticed, the path has been shut tight between Greene and Olivier for over three months and, with that, another winter of lost parking meter revenue.

As regards to the de Maisonneuve bike path and active transportation principles, Dan Lambert states that "locating a bike path on a low-traffic street is far more important than the actual path design" (February 28, p. 4).

A bike path is for commuter cycling, commuter cycling is active transportation, and commuter transportation takes place on arterial streets designed to handle flow and volume safely. In effect, "low-traffic" and "active transportation" are oxymorons.

The thousands of cyclists in Montreal who use streets such as St. Urbain, Rachel, St. Hubert, Berri and St. Zotique are proof that well-adapted arterial streets can accommodate active transportation safely.

As for the safety of our path in Westmount, WCSC requested and received last month a report from Urgences Santé illustrating that in the last five years, ambulances have been called 20 times to our bike path to transport the injured to hospital, with 11 of these calls coming in the last two years alone. A compelling and disturbing piece of evidence for this two-kilometre stretch.

Regardless, there is the implacable belief in certain quarters that there cannot and never will be acceptable additional alternatives to the de Maisonneuve bike path. And seemingly, our politicians agree.

DON TADDEO, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.
AND MEMBER OF THE WESTMOUNT
CITIZENS FOR SAFE CYCLING

DE MAISONNEUVE IS DANGEROUS FOR STUDENTS

I wish to point out an extremely dangerous situation generated by the Public Works department of the city of Westmount.

There is a very large number of young children attending St. Léon elementary school on Clarke immediately north of de

Maisonneuve. In a time slot of maybe 15 to 20 minutes before school starts, de Maisonneuve is a continuous flow of kids, some not accompanied by an adult, who are making their way to school on foot.

The snow clearing along de Maisonneuve, involving huge and potentially lethal equipment, is always done exactly at the same time. This has happened after every snow storm this year.

Concerned parents, school councillors and officials have repeatedly raised this issue with the city of Westmount. And how does the city respond? The school is not on de Maisonneuve proper, so therefore, that is not an issue!

The city prides itself on listening to the concerns of its citizenry, and at the same time, this is the response to this valid concern. It is particularly infuriating, because the solution to this is so elementary: re-plan the route in order to clear the snow



Looking east on de Maisonneuve.

Photo: Yves L'Espérance

somewhere else for these crucial 15 to 20 minutes.

The fact that the machinery is always accompanied by city workers on foot is not a sufficient reason to downplay the danger. Accidents can happen in a second, as we all know.

The city of Westmount is not taking this issue seriously, and if it does nothing to remedy this situation, after all of these voiced concerns, it should bear full responsibility if any tragedy occurs due to this lack of elementary coordination.

YVES L'ESPÉRANCE, ABBOTT AVE.

Correction

The cost for a regular ticket for the Batshaw Centres Foundation Cocktail Challenge on April 3 was incorrectly listed in last week's issue. The correct cost is \$125. 35-year-olds and under pay \$80. Info: see www.batshawfoundation.ca.

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Klepper seeks \$65K from city over feeding of wildlife

Date pending in second injunction case, countersuit

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A date has not yet been set for a Superior Court hearing of the city of Westmount's second request for an injunction to stop a local resident from feeding wildlife, city officials said last week.

A countersuit against the city by the same resident, Larry Klepper, is expected to be heard at the same time, according to city clerk Mario Gerbeau.

Klepper is seeking \$65,000 in moral and exemplary damages claiming the city is discriminating against him.

The city's latest injunction attempt was launched in March 2011 after Klepper was ticketed for allegedly feeding wildlife after signing a commitment not to in October 2010 to settle the city's first injunction request in June 2010.

The pending Superior Court action is separate from a widely reported case heard February 28 in Montreal municipal court over unpaid tickets issued to Klepper in the feeding of wildlife in March 2011.

These were issued, as were a number of previous ones going back several years, under By-law 257, which prohibits the feeding of birds, rodents and other wildlife.

The city's Public Security Unit has been

strictly enforcing the by-law in efforts to curb a proliferation of rats – especially in Westmount Park – and to prevent peanut shells, in particular, from being picked up by children with allergies (see December 2, 2008, p. 1).

Klepper is claiming in court documents that the city is discriminating against him and that he was not in a mental or physical condition to sign the October 2010 agreement, Gerbeau said.

Should the city obtain an injunction this time, subsequent feeding of wildlife could lead to charges of contempt of court which, in a case of this type, would likely be punishable monetarily or by community service rather than jail time, Gerbeau said.

The city's two injunction requests stem from an initial resolution of city council adopted at the meeting of June 7, 2010. This gave lawyer Armand Poupart a mandate to take legal action to order "an individual" to stop feeding wild animals.

The practice was described, during this meeting, as having mushroomed into a public health danger over some five years that had led to an infestation of rats in the St. Catherine St. area and costly repairs to the gazebo in Westmount Park (see June 15, 2010, p. 3).

National issue?

The Klepper story received national attention in a *National Post* page 1 article on February 29, under the headline "Westmount's most wanted: man feeding squirrels."

News of the municipal court case was also aired the same day on CJAD.

Raccoon removed by SPCA

The SPCA removed a raccoon from the balcony of a house on Prospect St. February 23, according to Public Security officials.

The animal, described as disoriented, was discovered by the resident.

Post box graffiti suspect ends up on ice

BY DAVID GOLDBERG

Two Good Samaritans and a patch of ice led to the arrest of a graffiti suspect on February 28.

Constable Stéphan Laperriere was on patrol at 4:30 pm on St. Catherine St. near Blenheim Place when he saw a man holding on to the suspect.

"The witness, a 51-year-old Pierrefonds man, was making a gesture with his right hand, like he was using a can of spray paint," said Constable Adalbert Pimentel.

First witness a Westmounter

The first witness, a 42-year-old Westmounter, told police he saw the suspect spray-painting a gray Canada Post box, and he called 911. The suspect then took off running, and the witness began chasing him.

"The suspect fell on a patch of ice, and the first witness grabbed ahold of him," said Pimentel. "The second witness came along, and he helped out, also grabbing on to the suspect."

Arrested was a 21-year-old NDG man.

He has been charged with mischief for graffiti.

Backpack searched

"The suspect's backpack was searched, and the officer found a permanent marker and several cans of spray paint," said Pimentel. "The tag on the mail box was the letters 'PRC' in yellow and green."

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Electors may oppose changes in affected wards

Five districts to be realigned to ‘level the playing field’

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Residents in five of Westmount’s municipal electoral districts may find themselves “relocated” under a draft by-law expected to be tabled at the city council meeting March 5, after press time.

The realignment of districts is the first to take place in eight years in Westmount and is required to balance the number of electors in all districts within 15 percent, more or less, of each other, according to city clerk Mario Gerbeau.

“We’re doing this to level the playing field,” said Councillor Victor Drury, who has been undertaking the changes with Councillor Nicole Forbes. “It’s crucial that all voters be equally represented on council.”

Under information sent to Westmount from Quebec effective January 12, District 4 has become too large and District 8 too small to conform to the criteria.

But to readjust the two, five districts are involved in somewhat of a juggling act that will affect 652 electors, Gerbeau said.

As a result, District 4 (represented by Kathleen Duncan) will lose electors between Metcalfe and Mount Stephen to District 3 (Victor Drury).

District 8 (Theodora Samiotis) will take the voters from 4000 de Maisonneuve (Plaza Tower), now in District 6 (Nicole Forbes).

And District 7 (Cynthia Lulham) – a borderline ward number-wise that is expected to increase with the new condo development at 11 Hillside – will lose the

apartment building at 250 Clarke to District 6, as well as 4333 St. Catherine and 215 Redfern.

After publication of the draft by-law in mid-March, electors will have 15 days to submit objections in writing. If at least 105 are received, a public meeting will be held before the by-law can be adopted. Otherwise, this is scheduled for the council meeting April 2.

Once adopted, the by-law is then forwarded to Quebec’s Commission de la représentation électorale. Interestingly, noted Gerbeau, while the number of electoral districts is determined by a municipality’s population (see story p. 3), the size of districts is based on numbers from Quebec’s permanent electoral list.

Aspinall

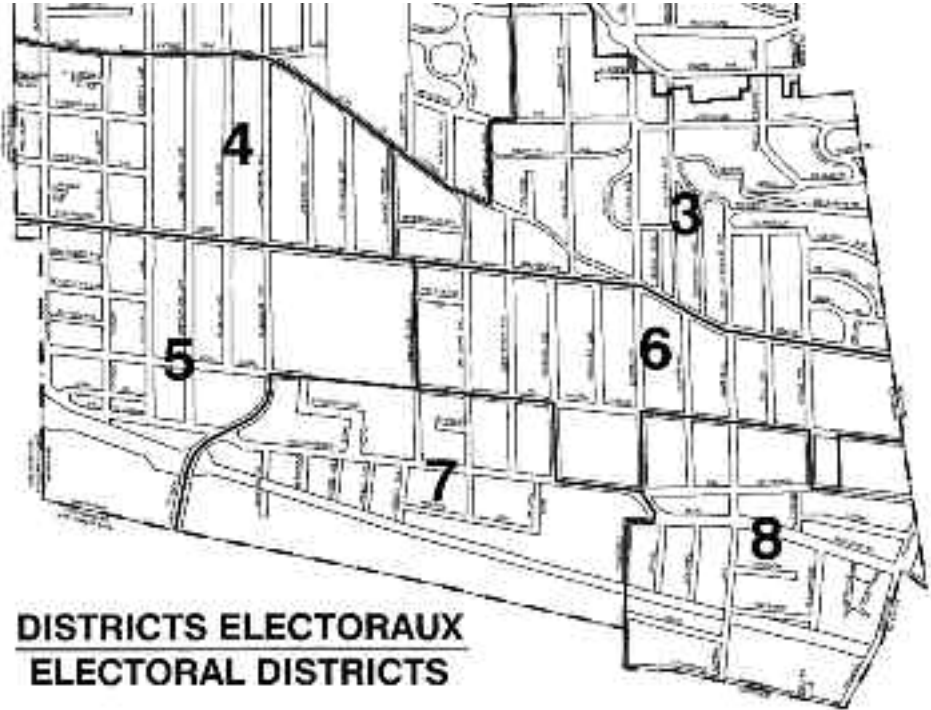
continued from p. 4

George’s Church.

He and his wife also worked actively on the city’s demerger effort.

Born November 27, 1929, Aspinall graduated from McGill in commerce in 1950. He was a senior partner with Coopers & Lybrand before changing careers to head the Royal Vic. He was an avid tennis player and enjoyed music, skiing and volleyball as well as holidays in Bermuda.

Ill only briefly, he had continued to be a strong supporter of the city and its events and when he missed one not long ago, it was assumed that he “must be in Bermuda.” He was.



A detail of the previous electoral district map.

Image courtesy of the city of Westmount

Dolphins swim team to practise in Hampstead this summer

By MARTIN C. BARRY

The town of Hampstead will be welcoming the Westmount Dolphins swim team this summer, in what some believe could be the start of a mutually-beneficial relationship.

For as long as most can remember, the Dolphins have held their practices at Westmount’s municipal pool. But with the closing of the old pool last September in preparation for construction of Westmount’s new sports and recreation complex, the Dolphins were forced to seek out a new venue.

Helen Campbell, a member of the Dolphins’ organizing committee, said the team shopped around and received offers from a few other communities. However, it was decided to go with Hampstead, since it meant an opportunity to help launch a new swim team at a facility not unlike the one the Dolphins are used to.

“We have invited Hampstead residents to join the Dolphins this season so that they can experience competitive swimming first hand,” Campbell told the *Independent*. “Our coaching staff will work with their pool staff to develop a taste for competitive swimming in their community.

“We will only train at their pool weekday mornings and several evenings, while all our competitions will be at other pools in the league,” she said. “We are fortunate that the pools in our league have agreed that we won’t be obligated to host any meets this summer, although we may guest host at some of the pools.”

According to Andrew Ross, chief of communications for Hampstead, the Dolphins won’t be paying any fees for using the Hampstead pool. “We try to maintain good relationships with all demerged cities that are our neighbours,” he said. “If we can help out, we are happy to do so.”



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It's in the bag

A 68-year-old Westmount woman had her laptop computer stolen from her parked Mazda 3 on February 29.

The police were called to Grosvenor near Sherbrooke at 5:35 pm, when the woman discovered that someone had smashed her back passenger-side window.

"The woman's computer was in a bag on the floor in the back of the car, and it was missing," said Cst. Adalbert Pimentel, who said the victim had been shopping in a nearby store.

Stolen was a Toshiba laptop computer, some computer accessories and the computer bag.

"Again, we advise residents never to leave anything in their car, even if they're only away from their vehicle for a short period of time," said Pimentel. "Don't try hiding items in the car ... instead put them in your trunk when no one is watching you." — DG

Pigeon driven to SPCA

An injured pigeon found at 11 Douglas was transported to the SPCA February 16, Public Security officials report. The bird was described as in relatively good condition but appeared unable to fly.

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"Posture!" Louis Grondin calls out to his students as they use the Macs in St. Léon's computer lab.

By JOANNE PENHALE

Classes at St. Léon elementary school are showing a new face to the world – using the web.

"It's a way to show the community what's being done at St. Léon," said grade 6 teacher and Westmounter Louis Grondin.

In January, he and two other teachers launched web pages through the school's main website that feature students' work.

Art work numbering in the hundreds is posted on art teacher Danielle Hébert's pages. Students from Céline Latendresse's grade 3 class have their own section on the site, and most recently, the school's physical education teachers have begun adding sporty photos.

Students in Grondin's 6B class have posted videos of themselves reciting

poems they've learned, photos from a recent class trip to Mount Mégantic, and written reports on current events.

"It's a way also to share French culture," added Grondin. The mostly anglophone students regularly post French-language music videos to the site.

Grondin's class also communicates online with a grade 6 French immersion class in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Recently, they used Skype to tell those students about Westmount.

Grondin noted his 30 students have learned a number of computer skills like creating videos and posting them to YouTube. The website project, he notes, has also encouraged boys to write, and has allowed parents to see what their kids are doing.

The pages can be viewed at www2.csdm.qc.ca/st-leon/Classes.html.




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St. George's first curling bonspiel



Alexandra Wells, left, a student teacher at St. George's School, provides a few pointers on the proper way to deliver a curling rock down the ice to Lily Macdonald, a grade 5 St. George's student, during the school's first annual curling bonspiel on February 29 at the Town of Mount Royal Curling Club. It was one of the several events held during the school's 2012 winter carnival. Trophies were awarded to the best teams.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



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2011 was a volatile year for the markets and we believe the volatility will continue in 2012 as numerous global concerns remain at the forefront.

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We expect continued growth in emerging markets – a positive for the commodities sector in Canada – as China's central bank recently took steps to demonstrate their priority is on economic growth.

In the United States, there has been some

positive news in the stabilizing economic data, notably in the area of employment. We are concerned however about their inability to reconcile differing political ideologies that are interfering with the consensus building required to address all the U.S. domestic issues.

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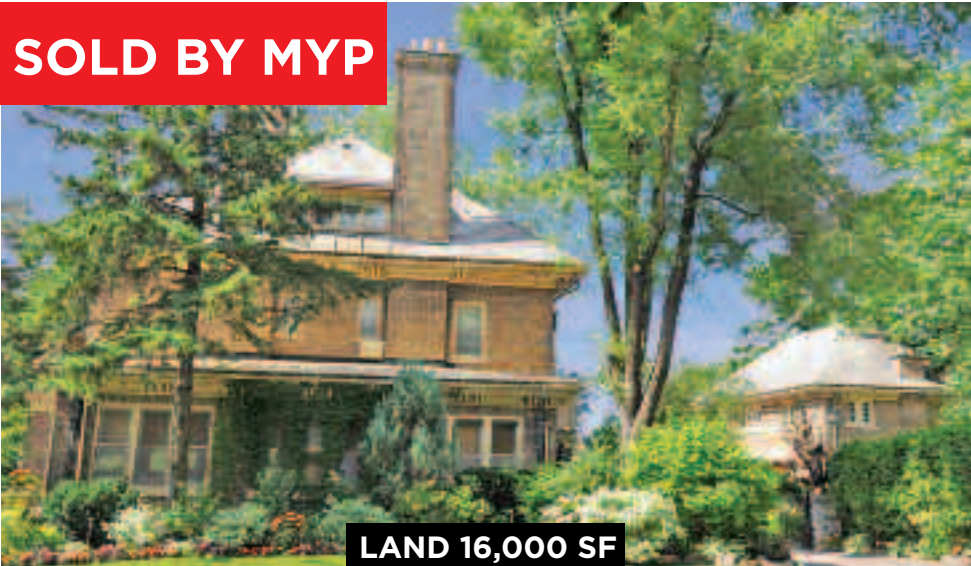
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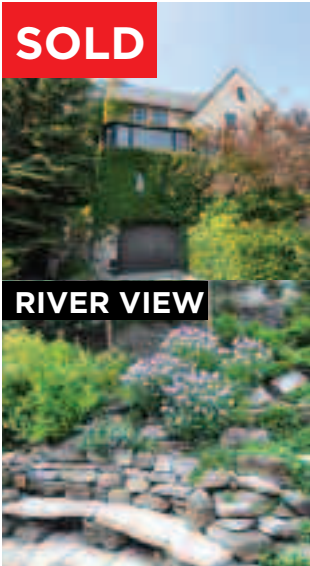
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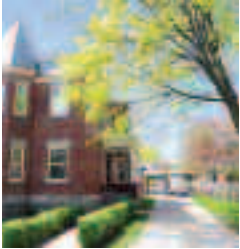
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ON THE SHELVES

Among recent reading and audio-visual material at the Westmount Public Library singled out by staff are:

Magazines

“Solar power in peril” by Nicole Dyer in *Discover*, January/February 2012, p. 57.

“Tilting at windmills? The Netherlands tries to pass the buck on wind power generation” by Jaqueline Nelson in *Canadian Business*, winter 2011/2012, p. 76.

“Exploiter une nouvelle énergie” by Vincent Nouyrigat in *Science & Vie*, January 2012, p. 82.

Adult English – Mind over matter

Connectome: How the Brain's Wiring Makes Us Who We Are by Sebastian Seung – A neuroscientist builds on theories that human identity is defined not by genes but by the unique connections between brain cells, describing his work with other researchers and what they are learning about personality, intelligence and mental disorders.

Incomplete Nature: How Mind Emerged from Matter by Terrence Deacon – Deacon (biological anthropology and neuroscience, University of California, Berkeley) walks readers through a stimulating range of ideas pertaining to ideas, the

mind and the brain, offering this survey as backdrop to some innovative – and startling – thinking on consciousness.

Adult French – Chronicles

C'était au temps des mammoths laineux by Serge Bouchard – The popular anthropologist and radio animator casts a nostalgic and sensitive look at the road travelled, through 25 chronicles that were published between 2004 and 2011.

Le romancier portatif: 52 chroniques à emporter by Nicolas Dickner – The author of the best-selling novel *Nikolski* has a humorous and often biting column about authors and literature in the newspaper *Voir* titled “Hors champ.” Fifty two of these have been selected for his latest book.

DVDs

A Better Life Directed – Carlos Galindo always dreamed of a better life for his wife and newborn son when he crossed the border into the US. But when his wife left him, his only goal became to make sure his son Luis was given the opportunities he never had. A story that follows father and son as they embark on a physical and spiritual journey, where they discover that family is the most important part of the American continued on p. 21

St. Andrew's first talent night



From left: Westmounters Maxime-Jean Gérin and Sada Reddy, Kim Darlington, Jenny Dho, Westmounter Ingrid Liebich, Francesca LoBianco and Elizabeth Cundill. In the background are The Big City Outlaws, with musicians Ernie Ficko, Carl Brabander, Pat Houston, and Chris Larkman.

Photo: Ken Darlington

A talent night raised almost \$5,000 for St. Andrew's school, held on February 16 at its gym.

The funds will help pay for special programming, such as French instruction for all levels, movement and dance, music, screening of children's hearing and an occupational therapist.

Elizabeth Cundill, an organizer of the event, a graduate of St. Andrew's herself along with her four brothers, and parent of a 3-year-old attending St. Andrew's, said performers were all volunteers, mostly parents. One parent, David Pryde, a comedian who has performed on CBC Radio's *The Debaters*, CTV's *Comedy Now*, and at just for Laughs, was host and emcee. He introduced Scott Feltham, also a parent, and bass cellist with the MSO, who was later joined onstage by parent Eric Abitbol on guitar.

The celtic band Agincourt followed with a duet of Alan Jones, a piper, whistle

player and vocalist, and Westmounter and *Westmount Independent* photographer Ralph Thompson, a fiddler.

The country band the Big City Outlaws, featuring Carl Brabander, parent Pat Houston, Ernie Ficko and Chris Larkman, performed the last part of the show. One mum, Kim Darlington, jumped up on stage to join Brabander in singing the Daniel Lanois tune “Jolie Louise,” said Cundill. “To say the talent in the room was incredible was a huge understatement,” said Cundill.

She said they hope to put on another show next year.

St. Andrew's is a provincially mandated early childhood centre (Centre de la petite enfance) for children aged 2 to 5. It is located at 151 Hillside Ave.

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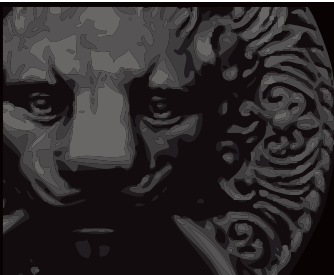
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Cited as visionary

Marjorie Bronfman decorated philanthropist, community worker

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

Marjorie Bronfman, renowned for her compassion and generosity, passed away on February 24.

Recipient of many awards, including the Order of Canada and an honorary doctorate from McGill University, she had a BA from Wellesley College and a masters degree in Social Work from Columbia University.



Photo: Howard Kay
The late Marjorie Bronfman

Bronfman lived in Toronto until 1943, when her husband, the late Gerald Bronfman, who was in the RCAF, was transferred to Washington, DC. After the war they settled in Westmount.

Bronfman was on the board of trustees of the McCord Museum, Temple Grove

and Mount Sinai Hospital Corporation, and the board of governors of The Arthritis Society, l'Université de Montréal and the Women's Federation CJA.

She also served on many committees, including the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Canadian Centre for Architecture (Founder's Circle) and on the board of Hope & Cope.

Westmounter Richard Gervais, who worked closely with her for the Ballets Jazz de Montréal (BJM), remembers Bronfman as "always charming and an amazing supporter of BJM as honorary chair for many years."

"Marjorie was a visionary, a generous philanthropist and a good friend, helping to sustain projects that continue to make a difference here and abroad," noted Sheila Kussner, founder of Hope & Cope. Kussner offered a final tribute: "There is a saying, 'Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.' Marjorie lit many candles in her lifetime, and they continue to burn brightly after the great void she has left in us all."

Goodfriend documents local religious order



Westmount-based photographer Mika Goodfriend received a visit during a vernissage on February 16 at the Gallery at Victoria Hall from some of the subjects whose lives and surroundings he documented. Four priests belonging to the Fraternité Sacerdotale were among the guests. Goodfriend's exhibition, which runs until Saturday, March 10, consists of 16 large-format photographs taken inside the Claremont Ave. religious institution. He used a Chamonix portrait camera, which records images on 4" x 5" film negatives with long exposures. From left: Father Michel Lagrois, Goodfriend, Father Jean-Baptiste Saint-Amand and Father Gérard Monfette.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

- **Play Me a Story** introductory workshop on musical storytelling for 3- to 6-year-olds, and 7- to 12-year-olds, 9 am at Victoria Hall. Workshop is bilingual. Cost: \$5. Register at Victoria Hall. Info: 514.989.5226.
- “Annabelle suit sa voix” **youth concert**, 10 am at Victoria Hall. Passes available at Victoria Hall. Info: 514.989.5226.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

- Author **Merrily Weisbord** reads from and discusses *The Love Queen of Malabar: Memoir of a Friendship with Kamala Das*, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Free.
- **Dawson theatre students** perform *Seven Stories*, 8 pm at Dawson Theatre, 2000 Atwater. Info: 514.931.5000. Also, Friday, March 9 at 8 pm and Saturday, 10 at 2 pm and 8 pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

- **Westmount Book Fair** with Westmount antiquarian bookseller Wilfrid de Freitas, from 10 am to 5 pm at Selwyn House, 95 Côte St. Antoine. Used and antiquarian books, maps and prints for sale. Admission: \$3. Info: 514.935.9381 or www.defreitasbooks.com/-/wbf.html.
- “Honour: And the Building of a Just Society,” with speaker **Justin Trudeau**, from 9:10 to 10:20 am at St. Matthias’ Church (10 Church Hill) in the lower hall. Q&As. Info: 514.933.4295 or st.matthias@qc-aiara.com. Part of a lecture series on Sundays in March.

MONDAY, MARCH 12

- St. Patrick’s Day **craft activity** for children 4 years and over at the Westmount Public Library, 4 to 4:45 pm.
- **Centre Greene Monday Story Time**, 10 to 11 am. Story program for kids aged 2 to 5. Every Monday. Cost: \$3.50 drop-in. 1090 Greene Ave. Info: www.centregreene.org.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

- **My Tool Box** program is offering a free six-session workshop to teach skills needed to better manage chronic health conditions. Held on Tuesdays, 12:30 to 3 pm, at the Westmount Public Library until April 17. Register: 514.934.1934, ext. 71585. Info: www.mytoolbox.mcgill.ca.
- **Westmount Horticultural Society**, 7 pm, at Westmount Public Library, with speaker Allan Becker on “Flower Garden Design.” Cost: \$5 for guests.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

- **Arena demolition meeting**, 5:30 pm, city hall.
- The University Women’s Club of Montreal invites *Gazette* journalist **Henry Aubin** to speak on “Cityscapes & Politics at the Atwater Club, 3505 Atwater Ave. Dinner at 6 pm. Cost: \$30.76. Reserve: 514.932.3922 by Monday, March 12.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

“East – Atwater Library.” Westmount Historical Society lecture by **Susan McGuire**, historian and past executive director of the Atwater Library of the Mechanics Institute of Montreal, 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Admission free for members; non-members \$5 at door. Info: 514.989.5510.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

Centre Greene **Parents and Tots Playtime**, 1 to 3 pm. An indoor playgroup for parents and children aged 5 and under. Cost: \$3.50 drop-in. Info: 514.931.6202.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

Westmount’s contingent in **St. Patrick’s Parade**, 12 pm, downtown Montreal. To sign-up or for information on where and when to meet, contact Community Events Division at Victoria Hall, 514.989.5226.

MONDAY, MARCH 19

Women’s Canadian Club of Montreal present “**Music at McGill**,” with speaker Professor Sean Ferguson, dean of McGill’s Schulich School of Music, 12:30 pm at the Unitarian Church, 5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Free for members; visitors’ fee (men and women) \$10. Lunch is available for \$5, 11:30 am. Info: capers@total.net.

MONDAY, MARCH 20

“**Poetry and Prose Reading**” evening at McClure Gallery (350 Victoria Ave.), 7 pm, with host Ilona Martonfi and featuring recently published Montreal poets, prose writers, spoken word artists and solo musical performers. Cost: \$5 at door. Info: 514.488.9558.

Home evacuated

Falling brick from a house on St. Antoine at Brooke caused firefighters to evacuate the building around 4 pm February 18, Public Security officials said. Officers and Public Works personnel were called out to set up danger tape and barriers. Frequent patrols were carried out, and residents were allowed to return the same day after an inspection was completed.

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Business Watch

McGill brings practises to Westmount

Dr. Sandra McGill, 39, relocated her private plastic surgery clinic to 4459 Sherbrooke St. in January.

McGill has been a lifelong Westmount resident. She grew up on Carleton Ave. and attended ECS. McGill began to practise plastic surgery in 2006 and was based in Laval until this move.

When asked how she felt about her recent move, McGill answered; "I love it. I



Dr. Sandra McGill

walk to work, I can pick my kids up from school." She also shared that though she is now receiving more patients from Westmount, her patients from Laval have followed her too, as she says she is one of the few female plastic surgeons in Montreal.

McGill specializes in breast reconstruction among other emergency reconstructive surgeries. One of the most popular requests from private patients is what she calls "the mommy make-over," which comprises tummy tucks and breast lifts.

– L. O'L

Owner of barking dog warned

The owner of a barking dog on Springfield was asked by Public Security to keep her dog away from the door or window when going out to prevent it barking at passers-by. She also agreed to keep windows shut following a second complaint from neighbours on February 26. The dog was reported to have been barking on and off, similar to a previous complaint recorded in November.

People are strange



"People are strange when you're a stranger," sang The Doors, "faces look ugly when you're alone."

If Sabrina could talk, maybe she would say these words. She'd be telling it like it is since her life, so far, has been a journey from a deep dark abyss.

When she was surrendered by her pit bull-breeding-backyard-excuse-for-a-human, she came along with her pack: seven other dogs – and her own eight puppies. Back then, she was a new mom to those new pups and despite being 20 pounds lighter – therefore on the verge of starvation – she nursed her brood as best she could.

Time has passed, and she's had to bid her babies farewell (they were all adopted.) If we were to clearly know what dogs are feeling, we would know she is thrilled that her young ones have a shot at happier times. But now and then, we're sure Sabrina gets to missing them.

Slowly, as the layers of her memory of the cruel years fade behind her, her true self has begun to emerge. It is certain that Sabrina is a dog with a lot of idiosyncrosies, but none of them come from a vicious place.

She's scared of people, especially men. She was once jumpy but now is learning to trust. She is still wary of strangers, but once she gets to know you she comes out of her shell.

Because of the abhorrent conditions she once endured, Sabrina is fearful of the outdoors. Her fosters think this could be due to being kept in a tiny enclosed space her entire life.

And so this life is all new to her: people who are kind, new places to play, run and roll in the snow. Sometimes people still are strange to Sabrina, and faces do look ugly, but maybe not so much when she isn't alone.

Can you relate? Do you ever look around a crowded room and think: "people are strange"?

If you find yourself day dreaming about how you can make someone's day, why not call about Sabrina? Please call the SPCA e-shelter at 514.915.7311 or email adoption.sPCA@gmail.com.



Sabrina

Photo: Marilyn Gelfand

The Underdog Club helps rescues in the Montreal area find homes for their hardest-to-place dogs. Not everyone is looking for the kinds of dog we publicize. Why not think bigger and visit the beauties at www.underdogclub.org?

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On the Market

Mid-level Westmount house has cozy cottage feel

PHOTOS AND STORY BY
ROBERT J. GALBRAITH

Claim to fame: This attached house was the least expensive above Sherbrooke at press time.

The newly-renovated red brick cottage at 536 Lansdowne feels like a very cozy property. Even before you walk through the front door, you get a “welcome home” cottagey type of feel. Perhaps it is the small cedar hedges that line its base or the graceful window shutters or the touch of brass on the large wooden door that make it so inviting. That same thought is carried through the two-storey, attached residence, which is listed for \$650,000.

The first impression is that of a clean, well-maintained property. The home was recently renovated from top to bottom, and it shows. A beautiful hardwood staircase winds upwards to the second level, while the ground floor hallway leads into the living room and the dining room, kitchen and mud/laundry room.

From the west-facing side of the home, a door opens onto a private, wooden ter-

race and a tree-filled backyard.

Most of the interior is made up of the original hardwood flooring and trim. The kitchen and bathroom (as well as a downstairs vanity) have ceramic floors and are bright and inviting.

You can often tell how well maintained a home is from its smell. This one smells new, with no hint of mildew or dampness.

This home, built in the early 20th century, is situated just below Côte St. Antoine.

“There’s nothing to do but simply move in,” said Suzanne Chernin, who along with her sister, Louise Jackson, is the broker for the property. “It’s a beautiful property with well-proportioned rooms, a fabulous wooden terrace and private backyard.”

Asking price: \$650,000.

School and municipal taxes: \$1,110 and \$5,049.

Brokers: Suzanne Chernin and Louise Jackson of Profusion Immobilier Inc.

On the Market is content written entirely by the *Independent* and is not paid for by real estate sellers or their agents.



Looking from the dining room to the kitchen and mud room/laundry room of the cottage located at 536 Lansdowne.

Sidewalk plow helps out shoveller

A man shovelling snow onto Melville Ave. February 25 after it had already been cleaned was informed of city by-laws and ordered to shovel it back again. Public Security officials said the driver of a passing sidewalk plow helped the discouraged

shoveller clean up the street. City regulations require that snow be placed on existing snow banks or piles on private property. A neighbour had lodged the complaint at 10:26 am.



Two-storey, red brick cottage at 536 Lansdowne has 3 bedrooms, one bathroom and a backyard terrace.

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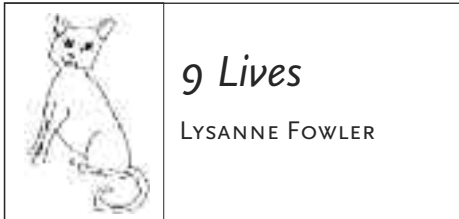
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Thunder: Posing for the camera



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Well, young Thunder looks so serious and mature in this photograph, you would never think that he is only about 7 months old!

He is a wonderful kitten: playful, active, full of energy and cuddles. Thunder is a handsome fellow with his gold-coloured eyes that contrast with his sleek jet-black fur. Did you notice the little white patch on his belly?

Thunder is quite sociable, getting along with other cats and enjoying the company of older children.

He is currently living in a foster home for the Montreal SPCA (file #171619). He is very healthy, has had both sets of vaccines, has been neutered and is also microchipped.



Thunder

For more information on Thunder or to meet him, please contact his foster family at 514.273.5340 or sandraroussy@videotron.ca.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

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Car falls into manhole in lane

A resident of Stayner St. reported February 25 that his car struck a manhole whose cover had become dislodged, perhaps during snow removal operations, Public Security officials said. The car's front bumper and spoiler were seen to have been damaged on the driver's side. The mishap occurred in the lane south of Dorchester off the east side of Greene. The cover was quickly replaced.

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On the shelves

continued from p. 14

dream.

Snow flower and the secret fan – Centuries ago, two "sworn sisters" are isolated by their families, but stay connected through a secret language written in the folds of a white silk fan. Now, in modern-day Shanghai, their descendents must draw inspiration from the past as they struggle to maintain their own eternal bond in the face of life's complications. What unfolds are two stories, generations apart, but everlasting in their universal notion of love, hope and friendship.

Non-fiction for children

Ces petits mots qui font les grands by Vincent Gaudin – This illustrated book makes learning about prefixes and suffixes fun!

Fiction (The Craft of Writing) by Dan Elish – This useful guide not only provides the young reader with a background on the novel, but also features a number of helpful tips and exercises to overcome writer's block.

Reference

2012 Antiques Handbook and Price Guide

2012 Photographer's Market

Palmarès des carrières 2012.



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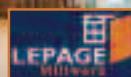
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*Social Notes
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VERONICA REDGRAVE

Marché Bonsecours had a Venetian *carnevale* moment with many masked revelers on February 16 when Maskarade 2012 held its annual HIV/AIDS awareness fundraiser.

The gala is held in memory of Ron Farha, who died in 1993. Again this year, tickets (\$300) quickly sold out. Most guests wore elaborate and bejeweled black masks;

other gorgeous ones were offered at the door.

Farha Foundation honorary president **Evelyn Farha**, Ron's mother, was Audrey-Hepburn-elegant in a LBD (Little Black Dress) and pearls. Her daughters, executive director of the foundation, **Nancy Farha**, wearing black, **Linda Farha** in an AIDS-ribbon-red sheath, and **Carolyn Farha** in black, discussed the Farah Foundation onstage with emcee **Sonia Benezra** of Sonia Réçoit and the Quebec Jenny Craig Weight loss rep. And, yes, she looked gorgeous!

Superstar **Roch Voisine** made a guest appearance, thanks to agent **Barry Garber**. *continued on p. 22*



Mario Lefebvre, Barry Garber, Linda Smith and Roch Voisine.



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masked partiers

continued from p. 22

Also performing were **Randi Katz**, **Sandy Duperval** and **DJ Eddie**, who kept the jammed dance floor hopping.

Ever-so-chic guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres by Bice, which also catered the delish dinner that ended in *dolce* and tea from Westmount's David's Tea, a sponsor of the event.

Other sponsors were Une Vie, TD, Power Corporation of Canada, Computer-share Georgeson, CTV, SAQ and Zenergy.

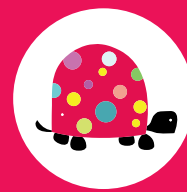
There was a fun photo-op moment, after which the glamorati could pick up their photos printed on an ELLE Québec cover.

Westmounters **Simon Tooley**, **Chantal** and **Greg Chamandy**, **Linda Smith**, **Jordan Shachter**, **Kenneth Salomon** and **Rodney Landi** were noted, as well as Ali and design guru **Harold Ménard**; **Elizabeth Frank**, president of Nestlé Canada/Jenny Craig; **Ogilvy VP Steeve Lapierre**; **Couleurs pres André Gratton**; **Liberal candidate/art collector Mark Bruneau**; **Debra Margles**, **Michael Kors Canada** (and Bice owner Pino's other half); **Cheryl Besner-Cohen**; **Keith Wilson**, **Heenan Blaikie**; and **TVA**

VP **Bianca Barbucci**.

The dancing-til-dawn event raised \$275,000 to go to Farha Foundation's partner groups throughout the province.

The Farha Foundation is a Quebec-based AIDS fundraising organization, committed to helping people living with HIV/AIDS. The events organized by the foundation also serve to sensitize the population to the AIDS epidemic.



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