

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 6 No. 8d

We are Westmount

August 28, 2012

## How much construction noise is too much?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

How much construction noise is simply too much? And just how can the city go about reducing the annoyance it has been generating?

This is one of the more challenging issues now on the docket of the city's Urban Planning department and Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) following a number of complaints from residents, Councillor Cynthia Lulham revealed at the council meeting August 6.

Timothy Slonosky, of 216 Redfern, told the meeting that the city had a noise by-law "that doesn't cover the major source of noise in my life" – namely the work ongoing at the condo development across the street.

He asked for a by-law amendment that would set a maximum limit on construction noise and "a very open discussion" on what goes into a building permit. He suggested that a builder's respect for the neighbours should be laid out as part of a permit.

Lulham replied that the hours of construction were to be discussed at a Planning meeting the next week and that his complaints, and those of others, "haven't fallen on deaf ears." She also said that public consultation would precede any by-law changes.

Westmount's noise by- continued on p. 9

## Dolphins win last meet of season



Some Westmount Dolphins swimmers who participated in the finals at Lakeside Pool in Pointe Claire pose with the Montreal West Trophy, the consolations prize. In pale blue t-shirts are their coaches. See p. 15.

Photo courtesy of Helen Campbell

## Riverview could become Westmount's first green lane

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Little-known Riverview Drive – along the railway tracks at the foot of Lewis, Irvine and Abbott – could end up being Westmount's first "green" lane. That is, if its water main is replaced as part of next year's capital works budget.

According to Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Urban Planning and Parks, the city is exploring the possible creation of green lanes such as some existing elsewhere in Montreal on which permeable surfacing absorbs run-off from

heavy rains.

This is a big need in Riverview's neighbourhood, Lulham said, where some houses have sustained significant and repeated drainage problems and the lane's proposed reconstruction provides an opportune time for considering a sustainable option.

Permeable materials continued on p. 21

**Social Notes** BY V. REDGRAVE p. 22

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**Underdog** BY C. LEE p. 8

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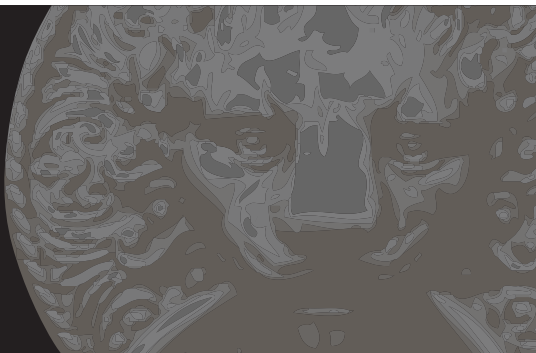




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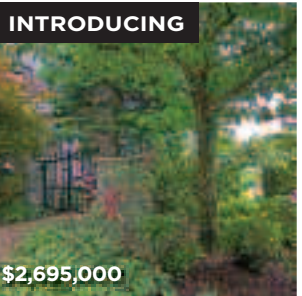
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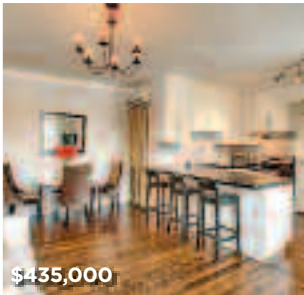
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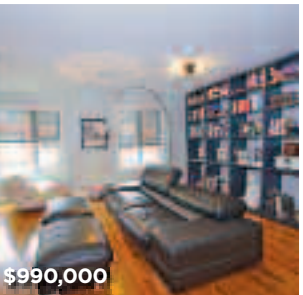
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# Separation talk dominates candidate Q&A

By MICHAEL MOORE

With the provincial election less than a fortnight away, residents in the Westmount-St. Louis riding were able to make their voices heard and have their questions answered on August 22 at Victoria Hall.

While the televised leadership debates grew increasingly heated, candidates, questioners and onlookers in the riding remained mostly civilized as will-be voters quizzed six provincial hopefuls on a wide array of issues as they thought about whom to cast their votes for on September 4.

Though there will be seven names on the official ballot come election day, the Parti Québécois went unrepresented at the meeting after candidate Marc-André Bahl cancelled hours before the debate due to a scheduling conflict, according to Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) president Peter Starr. The WMA and the *Westmount Independent* hosted the event.

The familiar face of Jacques Chagnon was also missing from the debate. The long-time Liberal incumbent is barred from taking part in partisan electioneering because of his role as speaker of the

provincial legislature and instead turned to Jacques Cartier provincial legislator Geoffrey Kelley to represent him.

The veteran Kelley was joined by a quintet of political fresh faces marking their first provincial election campaigns: the Green Party's Lisa Julie Cahn, Coalition avenir Québec's Johnny Kairouz, Quebec Solidaire's Mélissa Desjardins, Option Nationale's Benoît Guérin and the unaffiliated Pierre Allard.

With a potential referendum again being discussed in leadership debates, separation took centre stage for much of the hour-long question-and-answer period in front of an estimated crowd of 250.

"Those of us who aren't part of the *pure laine* Quebecers are very concerned about separatism," said Gary Ikeman, a Westmount resident and city councillor. "That is the looming question behind all of the issues we face."

The issue drew a split reaction from the candidates. Of the six candidates, only Desjardins and Guérin spoke out as proponents of Quebec separation, though both acknowledge their opinion was in the minority in a riding that voted almost 85 percent "No" in the 1995 referendum.

With the PQ not in attendance, Kelley instead took aim at the CAQ with frequent stabs at party leader François Legault and his reluctance to discuss separation on a party-wide level, declaring the Liberals to be "the only federalist party" in the running, drawing a rebuke from Cahn and denial from Kairouz.

"Personally I'm a federalist," responded Kairouz. "[Legault] even said he would vote 'No' if there was a referendum."

Concern over controversial Bill 101 was also a recurring theme throughout the evening, and though evenly split into three francophones and three anglophones, all six candidates presented a common front against added restrictions to the bill.

"With regards to French students not being able to go to English schools, I don't think that is the right

fight," added Desjardins, a francophone who attended Dawson College. "The French language is not tarnished by going to an English school."

Perhaps hinting at the *continued on p. 23*



*With the election less than two weeks away, some of the assembled audience members expressed skepticism about the platforms of the six parties in attendance, including physician David Morris, who bluntly told Coalition Avenir Québec candidate Johnny Kairouz that "I'm puzzled by the somewhat magical thinking of the CAQ about funding, organization and other areas of the health system. I don't believe a word of it."*

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# Paramedic parking inspector helps 2 in street falls

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A newly hired Westmount city parking inspector used her paramedic training twice recently when coming across two people who fell in the street, Public Security officials said.

Amélie Lalonde, who had just graduated from the paramedic program at John Abbott College, went to the assistance of a

woman who had fallen on the steps at the entrance to Château Westmount Square, the condo tower on St. Catherine at Greene at about 6:30 pm on August 16. She was reported to have cleaned and bandaged the woman's scraped shins and advised her to attend a medical clinic.

The victim, a Westmount resident, later called Public Security to express her appreciation, said assistant director Greg McBain. Lalonde had also provided medical assistance to an injured cyclist August 7, he pointed out.

"It shows the importance of having our personnel on the streets." While her role is to issue tickets, "she was able to intervene in two medical cases."

The cyclist in the accident had fallen on the de Maisonneuve bike path just west of Clarke, when Lalonde noticed a group of people around the woman at 4:23 pm and went to help out a PSO with administering first aid to the woman. The 34-year-old resident of NDG had sustained a bruised and bleeding elbow and complained of pain in the head. She was reported to have been wearing a helmet.

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# Accident at Strathcona puts a halt to traffic Aug. 10



An accident on Sherbrooke near the corner of Strathcona closed the street to traffic for a period of time on August 10 at around 3.30 pm. It involved a black sedan with a Vermont licence plate.

Photo: Westmount Independent



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## Station 12 news: back-to-school, cyclists, pedestrians, loiterers

# Has arrest reduced summer break-ins?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A sudden rise and fall in break-ins over June and July in Westmount may well be attributed to the arrest of a man in Montreal, police said last week.

In releasing crime indicators for the two months, Station 12 commander Stéphane Plourde said the arrest of the suspect by local officers could explain several burglaries where no signs of forced entry could be found.

“We caught one person in Montreal in July using a lock pick and think he did others – probably in Westmount,” Plourde explained. The precinct’s territory extends east to Guy St. “We now have control of the situation.”

While the number of Westmount breaking-and-entering incidents spiked to 13 in June compared with only 6 the year before, the number returned to a more

typical 5 in July after the arrest. This was one less than the same month last year and two fewer than the monthly average of 7 during 2011.

Otherwise, with the exception of graffiti, Plourde noted little variation in monthly statistics. Some variation can be expected with graffiti depending on the timing of reports, which could include old vandalism only now reported.

Interestingly, Plourde said, Station 12 receives “roughly the same number of calls every week,” though from a strategic point of view he did not want to divulge the number.

### Pedestrian priority pays off

A major police priority in April to sensitize pedestrians about safety regulations has paid off in reducing the number of pedestrian accidents and injuries, he said – all in direct relationship to the number of operations held by officers and tickets issued.

In the police department’s south region where Westmount is located, such accidents have dropped dramatically, he said, though statistics for Westmount were not kept separately. “Usually when we have operations like this, numbers drop by 50 per cent. We always see good results.”

### Westmount stats

On the matter of this year’s statistics, he noted, for a four-month period – February to May – figures issued for Westmount did not include overnight incidents owing to a change in operating procedures resulting from a pilot project of overlapping shifts. As a result, because these statistics were incomplete, they were not published by the *Independent*. Since June, however, the situation has been normalized.

In the past, Station 12 had been sepa-

rating out crime statistics for Westmount from its overall precinct totals and now, Plourde explained, a way has been found to continue the longstanding practice.

### Schedules normalized as protests dwindle

Also back to normal had been the station’s operating routine given a decline in tuition hike-related protests, which had required the participation of some Station 12 officers, he said.

“We had a little rest in July. Even though there was a demonstration every night at 8:30 pm, there were only 20 or 30 people walking around downtown. It’s quiet now with back-to-school, and our personnel are back to their schedules.”

### Back-to-school safety

This includes a patrol focus on back-to-school safety around elementary school zones in Westmount, he said. Starting this week, officers will be checking them out to ensure drivers – often the parents themselves – are not speeding or stopping where they shouldn’t be to drop off and pick up their children. They will also be enforcing school bus regulations.

As far as issuing tickets for traffic infractions around these zones, he said, “police will exercise their discretionary powers depending on the attitude of parents and the gravity of the offence.”

Following up on complaints at the August 6 city council meeting over cyclists endangering pedestrians on the sidewalk along Sherbrooke near Prince Albert, Plourde said police had gone to meet with one complainant, Shelley Kerman, at LMNOP, “but there were no bikes on the sidewalk at that time – maybe 10 or 11 in the morning was not the right time.”

Nevertheless, patrollers have been asked to pay special attention to the situation.

A police officer also was on hand during a bicycle safety awareness campaign August 22 held by the Public Security Unit and the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA) on the bike path through Westmount Park. Police will later follow up with enforcement, Plourde said. (See story, p. 8.)

In September, the station plans to target an issue of loitering ..... and anti-social behaviour *continued on p. 17*

## Westmount crime samplings

Type of crime reported	2011		2012	
	June	July	June	July
Break and enter *	8	6	13	5
- residential:				3
- commercial:				2
Robbery	1	0	0	3
Theft from vehicles	11	7	8	13
Theft of vehicles	2	1	2	1
Graffiti	8	13	5	20
Hit-and-run	23	14	21	16

\* Starting this month, police will be breaking down B&E incidents into two categories.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## ALL VEHICLE VICTIMS OF SPRAY PAINT, PLEASE REPORT

My car was the target of senseless vandalism last week on Sherbrooke at the corner of Mount Stephen.

The “child” who did this, spray-painted a non-removable dark blue thick line on two panels of my grey car, which will surely cost me plenty to repair.

I urge my fellow Westmounters to report similar incidents to better protect our neighbourhood from this type of ridiculous action.

Many of us have no garage and are subject to this type of capricious garbage at times.

Also, I was approached by a neighbour whose car was also vandalized by the same spray-painter on August 20.

DAVID GARFINKLE, SHERBROOKE ST.

## U-TURN ADDICTS ABOUND ON METCALFE AVE.

I have a wonderful thought as to how we might increase the revenues of the city of Westmount.

I live on Metcalfe Ave., across the street from the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, which hosts not only weddings, bar mitzvahs, etc. but also houses a school. Traffic patterns being what they are, my short block has to be host to the largest number of U-turns in the city.

I witness these infractions when parents drop off or pick up their children, when parties are happening – or just randomly.

There must be something about wanting to park in front of the Shaar that just triggers the response, “Oh, I’ll just make a U-turn right here close to Sherbrooke” (of course anyone turning north onto Metcalfe from Sherbrooke must beware of this strange phenomenon).

Either the police could make a bundle just sitting on my front steps quietly waiting for the next illegal U-turn or they could hire me for just that purpose. As I come and go from my house each day, I witness such a huge number of money-making opportunities with this traffic nuisance.

Of course, my most pressing concern is that some child from the school will be injured. The powers-that-be at the school are well aware of this situation. I know they send letters to parents and try to regulate it, but, as I see it, they are up against a big instinct that seems, as I mentioned, somehow stimulated at this particular spot.

Aside from raising funds by heavily patrolling and issuing tickets, writing letters like this, stopping U-turn addicts mid-turn (as I have been known to do...not a good plan!), squirting them with a hose (as a neighbour once did – also not a great idea), has anyone else a suggestion that might help all these U-turn addicts mend

their ways?

ARLENE MCGIBBON, METCALFE AVE.

## HIT UP MP NOT PM TO RETAIN RIDING NAME

The article “Council: Don’t wipe Westmount’s name off map” (August 14, p. 1) reported on city council’s objection to the proposed name change in our federal electoral riding, Westmount-Ville Marie. The article indicated that Westmount city council intends on writing a letter, which addresses their concerns, to the office of the prime minister.

As members of the Westmount-Ville Marie Conservative Association, we wish to remind Westmount city council that Elections Canada and the Electoral Boundaries Commission for Quebec are independent and non-partisan. As such, the prime minister is not involved in the redistribution process of federal electoral districts, including the decision to change riding names. Instead, a more appropriate and effective initiative for council is to send letters to the local member of parliament.

As always, we encourage all constituents to exercise their democratic right by contacting the Electoral Boundaries Commission. Public hearing notices are available on their website ([www.redecoupage-federal-redistribution.ca](http://www.redecoupage-federal-redistribution.ca)). The public hearing for Montreal is scheduled for October 19 at the Montreal courthouse, room 14.09.

ANDREA BOBKOWICZ, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE WESTMOUNT-VILLE MARIE CONSERVATIVE RIDING ASSOCIATION

## LET’S GET KIDS EDUCATED ON FIRE SAFETY

Recently, I learned a hard lesson. Never assume the curriculum of your child’s education includes fire safety. As parents, we

do our best to educate our children how to conduct themselves, yet, recently, it became evident that we had overlooked teaching our daughter fire safety and how to handle household fires.

Thankfully the incident involved a small self-contained fire in the microwave, which consequently became a smoky and terrifying experience for our daughter, who had no notion of how to handle the situation. Aside from frazzled nerves and very concerned parents, we realized our schools offer no education on how to handle kitchen fires.

Realizing the importance of fire safety training, I had approached the Westmount fire department to learn more about fire safety programs. I was directed to Brian Michaud of the Montreal fire department, who was kind enough to mention that the city of Montreal has a mobile fire safety training classroom, which is available to schools and municipalities interested in offering this instructional seminar.

Being one who is involved in the security industry, I appreciate the importance of safety education, and believe that every school or community which offers fire safety education is providing a valuable education. Kitchen and home fires occur when least expected. Being educated and prepared is the key to safely protecting your family and your home.

As parents, we should ask our schools to include fire safety education in our children’s education. Likewise, perhaps we can organize a fire safety training session for those of us who want to be prepared.

RYK EDELSTEIN, UPPER LANSDOWNE AVE.

*Editor’s note: A little Westmount history: The Junior Firefighters program initiated by the Westmount Fire Brigade about 50 years ago was discontinued a few years after Westmount’s merger with Montreal. It taught fire safety to local kids and served as a model for similar courses in other cities.*

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

**We are Westmount.**

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

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# Off-duty cop helps catch drunk driver

BY ISAAC OLSON

Even when off-duty, a cop is always a cop and, at 5 am on August 22, Constable Steven Goldberg, Station 12's long-time traffic officer, proved just that.

## On his way to work

Goldberg was on his way into work, exiting the Decarie expressway at Sherbrooke, when he spotted a car full of passengers and what appeared to be an intoxicated female at the wheel, said Constable Julie Côté. He followed the vehicle east on Sherbrooke to confirm his suspicions. As the vehicle entered Westmount, blasting loud music but otherwise driving within the limit, Goldberg called 911.

"He told the 911 operator that he was an off-duty police officer from Station 12 and that he suspected the vehicle he was following was being driven by somebody under the influence of alcohol," said Côté. "Constable Goldberg continued to follow the vehicle until Guy St., where officers stopped it and made an arrest."

## Motorist over drinking limit

The motorist, who was found to be over the legal limit, never realized that Goldberg was following her, noted Côté, as he was in his personal vehicle.

"When you are a police officer, you may not want to always be on duty, but you see more than you mean to," said Côté. "Who knows what could have happened if the police didn't stop her? There could have been an accident or somebody could have been killed. Our commander is very proud of him."

## Music speaker hidden in rocks

The sound of loud music from somewhere behind houses on Grosvenor Ave. August 16, was eventually traced to an exterior speaker system embedded in decorative artificial rocks, Public Security officials said. The resident of the home, just south of Côte St. Antoine, was contacted to turn it off.

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# Westmounters voice discontent about hospital construction noise

BY ISAAC OLSON

Several Westmounters living near the super-hospital construction site have had enough of the all-night noise and, during the Good Neighbourly Relations Committee meeting on August 21, they gave those in charge of the project an earful.

"The time for starting work is supposed to be 7 am," said Sara Meland, noting she has been complaining for over a year. "But they start as early as 5:45, and between 6 and 6:10 is the starting time most days."

Marilyn and Robert Moskovic live on the 16th floor of a high-rise apartment building overlooking the McGill University Health Centre's (MUHC) construction project in the former Glen Yards. All night long, they say, full-size delivery trucks are pouring into the site and, without fail, reversing as early as 2 am. That reversing means the trucks emit a high-pitched beep.

"You expect us to be respecting the construction, the mess and the dirt, but there's a quality of living as well," said Marilyn. Sweeper trucks, she added, have been rolling in clearing the gravel lot in the middle of the night and work has been going on from 5:30 am until midnight. "They never once started at 7 o'clock in the morning."

Maureen Kiely told officials that it is time to shut the gates outside of normal working hours.

Noting all the structures will soon be fully enclosed and the construction noise will be largely reduced, SNC-Lavalin's Riccardo Arena said work is not supposed to start before 7 am, but workers do come on site before that. There are deliveries at all hours, he said, and officials are telling truckers, they are not allowed to back up before 7 am.

Riccardo went on to say the MUHC is not alone as Montreal is still working around the Decarie/de Maisonneuve intersection, the train bridge is being reconstructed, the Ville Marie Expressway's St. Jacques exit is being built "and you are in front of the biggest construction site in Canada. We are doing our best to minimize the ..."

Riccardo, however, was cut off as Westmounters raised their voices telling him enough is enough. But, officials insisted they are doing what they can to address the problem in a dispute that has been snowballing since the project got under way more than a year ago.



SNC-Lavalin's Riccardo Arena discusses the status of the McGill University Health Centre hospital construction project at the August 21 meeting of the Good Neighbourly Relations Committee.



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## Safe cycling campaign targets the ‘cowboys’

# 4% of bike path users went through Lansdowne light

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

An educational campaign on bike path safety August 22 found that 4 percent of the 367 eastbound cyclists counted in the morning commute failed to stop at the red light at Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve as they approached Westmount Park.

In announcing their findings the next day, organizers said those 17 “cowboy” cyclists encountered between 7:30 and 9 am were cautioned at the Melville end of the park route by Public Security, police and members of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA), who planned the awareness event.

“It’s not a lot of people,” said assistant Public Security director Greg McBain. “But those we stopped were the blatant offenders who put their own lives at risk. I would expect the majority of people would stop at that Lansdowne intersection because it’s a pretty dangerous one.

“Unfortunately, it’s the cowboys that affect the reputation of other cyclists.”

And that’s the message the WWCA was trying to relay to cyclists – not to jeopardize improvements to the cycling network by acting irresponsibly, explained WWCA president Dan Lambert.

“While many of the commuting cyclists were riding relatively safely,” he added, “a few were definitely not, and they need safety events and ticketing to remind them to ride safely.”

Police are planning to follow up with enforcement in September. Last week’s event was aimed at educating cyclists to the importance of obeying Highway Safety Code regulations and to understand they were going through residential and park environments.

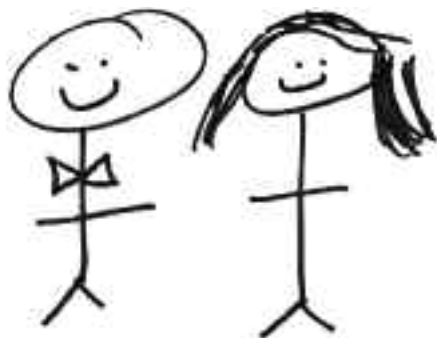
“Some felt sheepish,” said Lambert of those who were stopped. “Others tried to defend themselves saying the light had just turned red, or they usually stopped but were really late for work. Others just listened to us but a few had some good ideas.”

One said the light – timed to flash red overnight – should be set back to its daytime mode earlier than 8 am to better coincide with the morning commute. The flashing light created confusion.

Lambert said other recommendations resulting from the event were that tree branches should be pruned in places where they obscured signage and that some signs should be lowered to eye level.

The event was set up so that a spotter was positioned out of view behind a building on the northwest corner of the intersection to relay by radio a description of cyclists who “bombed through” the light to a team of officers and volunteers at Melville. They in turn stopped the cyclist and relayed the safety message.

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### Once had four, now has three

Not that it’s been easy, though. Pax once enjoyed four legs, but he had an accident while in the yard with his previous humans, and he broke his leg in a few places. Surgery was costly and not a guaranteed solution so someone decided that amputation was best.

His mobility hasn’t been compromised, however he sometimes has issues getting up and down stairs. Despite the tragedy and their supposed fondness for Pax, his people decided they were “too busy” to care for him, or so the story goes. Imagine how Pax felt first losing his leg then his home and family.

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Pax

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# Call to limit work noise

continued from p. 1

law currently allows construction activity from 7 am to 9 pm on weekdays and Saturday from 8 am to 8 pm, but it prohibits use of heavy machinery, such as cranes, bulldozers, generators and compressors, on Saturday and Sunday as well as after 6 pm on weekdays.

Slonosky said last week he believed eight hours a day was long enough for prolonged construction projects to be allowed to work. He also was disappointed that work schedules and other information from the contractor at 215 Redfern was not posted at the site as promised at a public meeting April 24 (see May 1, p. 5). Such updates, he noted, were posted regularly for residents living near the Westmount recreation centre.

The demolition period at the Redfern site had already gone on longer than announced without any notification to neighbours.

Lulham told the *Independent* last week that the search for solutions to construction noise was in the preliminary stage but that the problem was throughout Westmount.

“It’s not just on Redfern. I’m hearing it

from people living on top of the mountain who have construction sites all around them and can’t enjoy a peaceful dinner in their garden.

“It’s happening around me, too,” said Lulham, who is commissioner of Urban Planning and Parks and lives at St. Catherine and Irvine. “Everyone has been doing masonry work with the grinding of grout, and grit flying on everyone’s gardens. Then as soon as the work is finished at one building, it starts again at another.”

But just how do you reduce construction noise? “I don’t know,” she said. “I have no idea. We’re just starting off and we’ll see first what rules other municipalities might have. We’ll also have to look at equipment.” In her view, the issue has two parts: noise levels and hours of work. It is also a two-sided coin. “If we lessen the hours of work, the longer the work drags on.”

In a city crackdown on “everlasting worksites,” one of the city council’s first orders of business this year was to institute a hefty monetary deposit for people renewing an initial work permit if the project has not been completed during the 18-month duration of the first permit (see January 24, p. 1).



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The Welcome Hall Mission, two blocks south of Westmount on de Courcelle, was hopping on August 21. The organization's two-day event, Back to School with Heads Held High, was in full swing and a block of people was waiting for the free back-to-school gear on tap inside.

This 11th edition had approximately \$175,000 of donated goods and 182 volunteers. Most of the 2,600 children forecast to receive items are from St. Henri, but some come from as far away as Montreal North. On closed-to-traffic Acorn St., the mission was also hosting a mini fair for families as Johnny Cash played over the speakers.

## Welcome Hall Mission welcomes students getting ready for school



Roly (foreground), Marie (right) and Stanya (centre) were among the beneficiaries of the Welcome Hall's "Heads Held High" school gear give-away on August 21.

Photo: Westmount Independent

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## Student drop-off to be closely monitored by PSOs, police

With the start of classes at elementary schools in Westmount, Public Security officials said last week that officers would be paying particular attention to ensuring that children were dropped off safely.

Particular attention will be paid to cars that double park, are left longer than the 10 minutes allowed in drop-off zones, and those parked illegally near school doors or too close to intersections. "We're going to be tough right from the start," said assis-

tant director Greg McBain.

Meanwhile, police patrols will be checking school zones for moving violations.

Most of Westmount's elementary schools are beginning the fall term this week, Public Security officials noted. They are ECS, St. George's, Villa St. Marcelline, St. Léon, Roslyn, The Study and Westmount Park. Akiva started up August 23 while Selwyn House has a later date of September 5.

— LS



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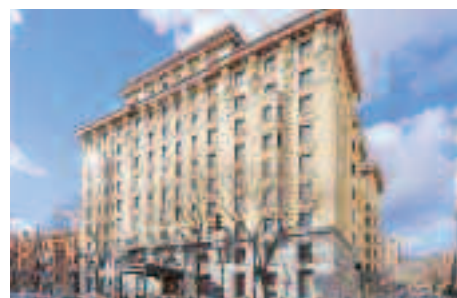


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# BACK TO SCHOOL 2012

## Learning can be a life-long experience

BY MARLENE EISNER

Good-bye to the lazy, hazy days of summer and hello to a structured routine and a formal classroom. Most kids have already started classes, but a whole other segment of the population is gearing up for back to school in September: adults.

Montreal is a haven for anyone wanting to upgrade a skill, learn a new trade or acquire a university degree. From vocational training, night school and MBA programs, opportunities abound at every level.

Ivy Tolchinsky, a life coach and owner of an organizational consulting business called Buzz Bounce Boom, and Miriam Freitag, an artist who teaches English as a second language, have made formal education and learning an integral part of their lives. Although the two women have different backgrounds and reasons for going to school, the results have enabled them to choose satisfying careers and



*Ivy Tolchinsky, a life coach and owner of an organizational consulting business called Buzz Bounce Boom, returned to school at the age of 47 for her master's degree.*

Photo: Marlene Eisner

lifestyles.

In her role as a life coach, Tolchinsky often helps people identify their personal goals, which sometimes include taking courses or going back to school full time,

something she has experienced on a personal level.

Graduating in the late 1970s with a degree in communications and psychology from McGill University, Tolchinsky

spent the next 20 years in various careers; as a comic scout for Ernie Butler, an assistant film producer, a writer, journalist and addiction counsellor. Along the way she upgraded her skills by taking writing and marketing courses at Concordia's continuing education but 10 years ago, at the age of 47, she made a major change.

"I decided something was missing," explained Tolchinsky.

"I wanted to put all my skills together and go to school. I originally wanted to become a psychologist but changed my career path and went into communications. Then someone told me about this program about groups and teams. I spoke to a lot of different people and it seemed like a fantastic program, and it was given on the weekends."

The program was called human systems intervention.

"It was very, very intense, with a very

*continued on p. 12*



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## BACK TO SCHOOL 2012

*Life-long learning continued from p. 11*

heavy work load,” said the Hampstead resident.

Although her mind was made up to go, she was beset with fears.

“I thought, ‘I’m older than everyone. How will I remember everything? How am I going to keep up with the workload?’”

But she wanted to become more of a professional in the workplace and going back to school was the vehicle to get there. The fact that the courses were held on the weekend once a month for the first year, and only a couple of sessions the second year, plus a thesis, helped her take the plunge.

“Once you get into the swing of it, you realize that everyone has fears of going back to school. And once you do it, the confidence builds.”

In her coaching practice, Tolchinsky said her clients often “have a nagging feeling that something needs to change.”

Sometimes it has to do with a job shift, or a person wants to advance in their career, or doesn’t feel challenged enough. Sometimes, going back to school is the answer.

“When you have a busy life, it’s important to find a school that is good with allowing people who are working to get an education. Find something that fits into your timetable, speak with people, speak with an advisor. Distance learning is perfect for people who can’t leave the home, and there are online courses, too.”

Freitag moved from Montreal to Mexico City when she was 19 years old. Eleven years later, married and with one child, she returned to Montreal. She continued to paint and in 1988, applied to Concordia University in the bachelor of fine arts department and was accepted. She took a few courses at a time, with many interruptions along the way, including the birth of her second child. By the year 2000, she had completed all her art-



*Artist Miriam Freitag studied Teaching English as a Second Language as an option to earn money while keeping a flexible schedule to paint and travel.*

Photo: Marlene Eisner

related courses, but it wasn’t until 2006 that she took her electives and graduated.

“At first I didn’t really care about the degree, I was busy painting,” said Freitag, 55.

“I didn’t have a focus. I didn’t go back to school with the notion of having a job; I went to improve my artistic skill and ability and I was busy producing paintings and drawings.”

Then a few years ago, with her adult children out of the house, she began to think about training for something that could bring in some money, but still give her the freedom to travel and do her own thing.

She had taught English as a second language during the time she lived in Mexico, and enjoyed it, so in 2008, she enrolled in the one-year teaching English as a second language (TESL) certificate program at Concordia University.

“I would describe it as a very good fit in terms of teaching. It is flexible, you can fit it into your day and it provides a giving experience, helping people to learn.”

She said the pay isn’t great, but it allows her to paint and manage all her other activities.

She said going back to school is something people should do if they are interested in something they wish to pursue.

“It’s a lot of work to do the TESL program. You have to study, you have exams, and if you work and have a family, you have to fit it in.”

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# BACK TO SCHOOL 2012

## Number of children with nut allergies increasing

BY MARLENE EISNER

Cindy Shtevi never gave one thought to the possibility that any of her three children would be allergic to nuts. From the time they were infants, she fed them Bumba, a peanut snack popular in Israel, a country where nut allergies are very rare.

But when her daughter Ellia was two years old, things suddenly changed.

"One day, my husband gave her a cashew and she started to throw up," said the Côte St. Luc resident who also has a nine-year-old son and a 10-month-old daughter, who do not have food allergies.

When Ellia continued to vomit and then wheeze, Shtevi started to panic.

"I took her to the Côte St. Luc EMS and they drove her to the Children's Hospital emergency where they gave her a shot immediately."

Testing showed that Ellia was allergic to cashews, pistachios and peanuts.

Repeated tests two years later indicated the peanut allergy had disappeared, but



*Ellia always carries an EpiPen in a pouch around her waist.*

Photo: Cindy Shtevi

not the other two. Ellia, now six, starts grade 1 at Jewish People's and Peretz School and will carry an epinephrine pen (EpiPen) in a pouch around her waist. The

school has a nut-free policy, but Shtevi is not taking any chances, even though Ellia always asks if there are cashews or pistachios in a food.

According to the Health Canada website, as many as 1.2 million Canadians may have a life-threatening food allergy, and studies show the numbers are on the rise, especially among children. Nationally, it is estimated that 6 percent of children are affected by food allergies.

Dr. Moshe Ben-Soshan, a pediatrician and assistant professor in the department of allergy and immunology at the Montreal Children's Hospital, has been involved in a study on the prevalence of peanut allergies among children five to nine years old in public and private schools in Montreal. Approximately 8,000 students were involved. The first part of the study was done in 2000-2002, with a follow-up in 2005-2007.

"The prevalence of peanut allergies remained constant, at approximately 1.5 to 1.6 percent, which is higher than previously reported and compared to the US and to other countries," said Ben-Soshan. Peanut allergies are rare in Europe, high in the United Kingdom, and almost non-existent in Israel, he said.

"It's something in the lifestyle. That's why we are doing all these studies and exploring all the factors in the environment to see if there is a connection.

"... It is likely that the rate of true food allergies is 6 percent in children, and 3 percent in adults."

The most common foods that people are allergic to are: milk, eggs, peanuts, treat nuts (hazelnuts, walnuts, pecans), fish, shellfish, wheat, soy and sesame.

If your child is diagnosed with a food

allergy, Ben-Soshan recommends sending them to school with an action plan.

"This would include an EpiPen, and someone near your child who knows how them to school with an action plan.

"This would include an EpiPen, and

*continued on p. 18*

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1-7 season, but victor at consolation final

# Dolphins swim team keeps 'A' grade – without home pool

Dolphins can't survive long out of water, but pool-less ones can still win.

That's what Westmount Dolphins proved this 2012 season, when their Westmount home pool became a worksite as the city began construction on the new recreation centre.

On August 11 at the section A finals in Beaconsfield, the team finished a tough season with a second-to-last place finish – good enough to stay "A-grade."

Their berth was at stake because last-place teams are demoted to allow top lower-division teams to move up, explained Helen Campbell, co-chair of the Westmount Dolphins parents' committee.

There are 22 pools in the league and three divisions.

The team had to practise this year at the Hampstead municipal and the YM-YWHA pools, and the travelling times and lack of a local pool for supplemental swim time seem to have taken their toll. The swimmers lost all but one of their eight regular-season meets, and so were in last place prior to the Beaconsfield event.

They added a cherry to the sundae of staying in the A division the next week by winning the league's consolation finals, held in Pointe Claire on August 18. Con-

solation swimmers are selected from the second tier of section finalists. At least one Westmount swimmer ended up swimming faster at the Pointe Claire meet than a finals medalist, but at that stage the two meets are separate and swimmers can't jump between them.

Even fundraising was hard this year, because revenue is usually generated during meets by selling food to visiting swimmers. A barbecue and bake sale held in Westmount Park on June 30 as part of Westmount's Canada Day celebrations helped compensate.

Campbell praised the town of Hampstead, the YM-YWHA and the city of Westmount for their support during the trying year, as well as sponsors, which included the Barracudas swim team, the *Independent*, Metro Fletcher, Cathy Moore of Sutton Group, Fraser Furniture, Ernest Menswear, the Johnson Family and the Taverne on the Square, "We are indebted to them for their assistance and unfailing support."

Team morale seems to have improved in tough times, "families ... have come together car-pooling and assisting each other as never before. This has helped to solidify our Dolphins' community."

## The adventures of Mr. Mounty Hat



The Adventures of Mr. Mounty Hat is a comic strip created by Westmounter Ewan MacIver, 9, who submitted the story above with a note saying "I noticed you don't have a comic strip in your newspaper."



Drawing: Ewan MacIver

Mr. Mounty hat takes a walk  
When a boy in the bushes  
hides with a mask



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# ON THE SHELVES

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

## Adult fiction

*The Sandcastle Girls* by Chris Bohjalian – Parallel stories of a woman who falls in love with an Armenian soldier during the Armenian genocide and a modern-day New Yorker prompted to rediscover her Armenian past.

*A Hologram for the King* by Dave Eggers – A struggling American businessman travels to a rising Saudi Arabian city with the hopes of securing a contract that will earn him a commission large enough to stave off his economic woes and hold his family together.

## Adult French – Love actually

*La vie romantique d'Alice B.* by Melanie Gideon – Alice participates in a survey

about marriage in the 21st century. She talks candidly about her stale union to the researcher interviewing her. The more she confides in him, the closer they become, and she falls under his charm.

*Volte-faces et malaises* by Rafaële Germain – Geneviève is a thirty-something writer of reality TV shows. She is devastated when her lover leaves her for a younger woman but manages to get over him with the help of friends, a ridiculous therapy and her sense of humour. Then, charming Maxime comes along.

## Magazines

"Attack of the Killer Carp" by Andrew Reeves in *This Magazine* July/August, p. 20. After a thousand-plus kilometre invasion and destruction of US ecosystems, Asian carp are now poised to enter Canada's Great Lakes – where they could unleash incalculable and irreversible damage. This article takes us inside the desperate fight to stop the swarm.

"Milles bélugas pour la suite du monde?" par Jessica Nadeau dans *Québec Science*, August/September, p. 38.

"Mission to the Lost Planet" by Tim Folger in *Discover*, September, p. 28. A dare-devil spacecraft is giving us our first look at the asteroid Vesta – a unique survivor from the demolition derby that created Earth.

## Books on nature for children

*Le Ginkgo: le plus vieux arbre du monde* by Alain Serres – If you have walked through Westmount Park, you may have come across the beautiful ginkgo tree. Using watercolour illustrations and photographs,

this book presents the amazing history of this tree for children.

*Crinkleroot's Guide to Giving Back to Nature* by Jim Arnosky – Crinkleroot is back, encouraging children to go outside and discover the world of nature all around them.

## E-books

*Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn – When a woman goes missing on her fifth wedding anniversary, her diary reveals hidden turmoil in her marriage, while her husband, desperate to clear himself of suspicion, realizes that something more disturbing than murder may have occurred.

*Nights of Awe* by Harri Nykanen – Eccentric Jewish policeman Ariel Kafka investigates four Arabs' murders in Helsinki in this fresh take on the Nordic crime novel.

## DVDs

*A Touch of Spice* – Fanis, a 40-year-old astrophysics professor, journeys back to his childhood home. In affectionate, uplifting scenes, this film portrays Fanis' relationship with his beloved grandfather, who teaches him about cooking with spices; the pain he suffered from being thrown out of Turkey at an early age, and the difficulties his family faced as they adjusted to life in Greece.

*Toast* – A delicious love letter to the tastes and smells that a young boy associates with his journey into adulthood. Nigel's mother was always a poor cook, and her addiction to all things canned isn't helping. Nigel, on the other hand, adores cookbooks and spends all his free time gazing longingly at the delights offered at Percy Salt's grocery shop.

## Reference

*Dictionnaire des mouvements artistiques et littéraires, 1870-2010.*

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# Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29

**“Poetry in the Park,”** 6 pm to 8 pm at the Westmount Park lagoon. Bring a chair. Rain location: Victoria Hall.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- Exhibition **“Art Souterrain Déclit 70”** with photographers Claire Beaugrand-Champagne, Marik Boudreau, Michel Campeau, Alain Chagnon, Roger Charbonneau, Pierre Gaudard, Clara Gutsche, Jean Lauzon, David Miller, Normand Rajotte and Gabor Szilasi at The Gallery at Victoria Hall (4626 Sherbrooke St., 514.989.5521) until Sunday, September 23.
- Filmmaker Maryam Henein leads a discussion on bees following the screening of the 30-minute version of her film *Vanishing of the Bees*, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library (1200 Atwater Ave.). Writer Kathleen Winter introduces the program and Montreal beekeeper and microbiologist Branislav Babic takes part in the discussion. Free admission; donations invited.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

**Thomas More Institute** holds an open house and café with live music, refresh-

ments, art exhibit and presentations about upcoming courses, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Also Saturday, September 8 from 10 am to 4 pm. 3405 Atwater. Info: 514.935.9585.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

**City council meeting**, 8 pm at city hall. A paper copy of the agenda is available at the Westmount Public Library and an electronic version at [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org), according to the city website, one working day before the council meeting.

## Oct. 3 set for meeting on SW sector

October 3 has been scheduled for a public consultation meeting on updating an urban plan for Victoria village and the southwest sector of the city (see August 7, p. 5).

The date was announced by Councillor Cynthia Lulham at the August 6 meeting of city council. The session is planned for 7 pm at a yet-to-be determined location.

## Crime stats

*continued from p. 5*

in the south-east of Westmount as far west as Stayner Park, as previously reported (see August 14, p. 3).

“In Westmount, we have a big problem from Cabot Square,” he explained. While the park lies in Montreal immediately to the east, “people there are yelling, drinking beer and sometimes going into Westmount. It’s a big problem.”

## Barking at 1 am on York

The owner of a dog on York St. was to receive a \$75 ticket after public safety officers responding to a complaint could hear barking from inside a house several houses away at 1 am, August 18. Public Security officials said that when residents did not respond to the doorbell, banging on the door or the phone, a message was left informing them of the ticket. A similar incident was recorded on August 7.

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Ville de Westmount  
City of Westmount

## Heures d'ouverture et services municipaux Fête du travail

Les bureaux administratifs de la Ville de Westmount (hôtel de ville, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, sports et loisirs, sécurité publique et travaux publics) seront fermés **le lundi 3 septembre 2012** en raison de la Fête du travail. De plus, la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée **les dimanche et lundi 2 et 3 septembre**.

La collecte des résidus alimentaires s'effectuera selon l'horaire régulier.

Veuillez noter que l'horaire administratif régulier sera en vigueur à compter du lundi 10 septembre, c'est-à-dire de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30 du lundi au vendredi.

## Business Hours and Municipal Services Labour Day

Please note that the City of Westmount's administrative offices (City Hall, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Sports & Recreation, Public Security and Public Works) will be closed **Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012** for the Labour Day holiday. Westmount Public Library will be closed **Sunday and Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

The kitchen waste collection will take place according to the regular schedule.

Please note that the regular administrative schedule of Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., will resume Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

## CONTACTIVITY SENIORS CENTRE FALL LINE-UP

**COURSES WITH LOW TUITION:** • Tai Chi (Friday AM) • Three Levels of Bridge instruction (Wednesdays) • Stretch to Music on Monday and/or Thursday • “Great Cities of Spain & Portugal” with Harvey Levinson (Friday AM) • Line Dancing (Friday PM) • Thomas More Discussion group (this year: People and Places”) Friday PM • InterLink Intergenerational Choir Thursday PM • Fall Prevention classes twice weekly.

**INTEREST GROUPS (ON-GOING):** Arts & Crafts group twice weekly, watercolourist group, bridge group, chess group, in-town restaurant sampler group, out-of-town group day trips

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**TUESDAY SEPT. 11 – MORNING:** “How to Deal with Bureaucrats, Make Waves and Advocate for Positive Change about Things that Matter” animated by legal experts Joyce Blond Frank and Marjorie Sharp

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT 12 – MORNING:** “Alzheimer’s – A Guide for us all” with Harneet Kaur-Singh of Alzheimer’s Society of Montreal

**THURSDAY, SEPT 13 – AFTERNOON** “How to be a Good Listener to Help Yourself and Others” with J-M Pollock, a trained professional with Tel-Aide

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# BACK TO SCHOOL

# 2012

## Royal Vale principal heads to Westmount

By ISAAC OLSON

Chantal Martin, the principal of Royal Vale School (RVS) has stepped over to the private sector in Westmount and has been replaced by Nathalie Lacroix-Maillette who hails from a Westmount-based public school.

"I'm always looking for my next challenge," said Martin, who started her new position on July 1 as the assistant head of St. George's Elementary School.

"I've been very happy at Royal Vale and I was not expecting this to come about, to be honest, but the opportunity was there and I just thought it would be an exciting adventure — an opportunity to try something new."

She described her time at RVS as a "wonderful three years." The parents are involved, she said, the kids are great and the staff has played a key role in many of the school's recent changes. It's been a rewarding experience, she said, but now she is looking forward to professional and personal growth in the private sector.

The sudden departure of Martin has



Chantal Martin

come as a surprise to many within the RVS community who have come to appreciate her leadership in bringing the school together and improving the institution through initiatives such as the Academic Success Program at the secondary level.

"Ms. Martin was instrumental in bringing about changes to our school that have set it up for continued future successes, bringing about a true cohesiveness to the school by, among other things, starting a 'buddy system' between the elementary and secondary levels," recounted Débora Mas, an active RVS parent. "This, in turn, has made the anti-bullying program at Royal Vale School quite a success."

It is hoped, said Mas, the new principal "will continue to build on the foundation

that has been laid by her. Ms. Martin is very respected by us, and will be missed."

Lacroix-Maillette, who leaves a post as principal of Westmount Park Elementary School to take over at RVS, was once the vice principal of Lauren Hill Academy in St Laurent. She said she has a teaching background in French immersion programs similar to the one at Royal Vale and said she is very interested in getting back into immersion programming.

"I am sad to leave Westmount Park School," said Lacroix-Maillette. "However, I'm pretty excited to go back to the high school level again, but it's nice that there is an elementary school there as well because I love working with little kids."



Nathalie Lacroix-Maillette

Food allergies continued from p. 13

someone near your child who knows how to use it," he said, although studies show children between the ages of five and seven should be able to use it on themselves.

The English Montreal School Board has a nut-free policy, although each school implements it in its own way.

Raizel Candib, principal at Merton School in Côte St. Luc, said parents are sent reminders at the beginning of the school year, and throughout the year, since most of the children bring their lunches and eat in the classroom.

"There are children that have all kinds of other allergies that you don't often think about. It's everything from eggs to kiwi to milk, but they're not necessarily life threatening the way nut allergies are," said Candib.

"What we do for the kids who are highly allergic is we often have them eat lunch at a separate table and have a buddy to keep them company. Some parents are upset about that, but we have to take every precaution."

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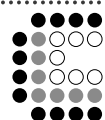
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# BACK TO SCHOOL 2012

## Steve Erdelyi is the new principal at Hampstead School

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

For Steve Erdelyi, Tuesday last week was day one in his new job as the principal of Hampstead School.

Erdelyi, who was the vice-principal at Westmount High School for the past four years, may be familiar to those who follow local news: he's also a member of Côte St. Luc city council.

Erdelyi actually filled in briefly at Hampstead School last fall when former principal Marcia Kennedy-Gaul went on sick leave. From mid-October to mid-December he was the acting principal. Having enjoyed that experience, persuasion wasn't needed for him to accept the job full-time.

"The truth is that I had a great time here," he said. "I really enjoyed getting to know the staff. The kids are amazing. I guess you could say I fell in love with the school. When Mrs. Kennedy-Gaul decided to retire, I applied for the position and luckily I got it."



Hampstead School's new principal Steve Erdelyi holds up a scrapbook documenting the school's history since 1930.

Seeing as he's a resident of nearby Côte St. Luc, Hampstead School seems like the perfect fit for Erdelyi. About half the student population comes from the surrounding area, which includes parts of

NDG, Côte St. Luc and, of course, Hampstead. The other half is bused in from more distant areas of Montreal.

"I think I have a good sense of the students and hopefully I can relate to them,"

Photo Martin C. Barry

said Erdelyi. "I hope to continue the traditions of the school and I hope that Hampstead School is successful for many years to come."

While familiarizing himself with some of the books and documentation in his new office, Erdelyi happened upon a hard-bound scrapbook of Hampstead School mementos dating back to 1930 – five years after the school opened.

In it he found news clippings about a visit to the school by former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, and a 1951 visit to Hampstead School by Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth, who would become Queen in 1952.

In a subsequent letter addressed to then-principal O.L. Brewer, W.E. Dunton, chairman of the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal, wrote: "His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, noticed the splendid deportment of the pupils and remarked that they seemed so mature and well-grown."

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## BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the August 20 meeting of city council.

**563 Côte St. Antoine:** at a Category I\* house, to install a shed for the air conditioner;

**641 Argyle:** to build a pool pavilion;

**42 Belvedere Rd.:** to build a new house;

**373 Olivier:** at a Category I\* house, to replace some windows and doors at the rear;

**28 Shorncliffe:** to raise the glass roof on the rear balcony, add a skylight on the Shorncliffe side and modify the one on Summit Crescent;

**3 Hudson:** to landscape the front yard;

**24 Summit Cresc.:** to add a den at the west end of the house;

**4316 Montrose:** to build a deck;

**448 Argyle:** at a Category I house, to build a new fire escape at the rear and change some doors;

**434 Wood:** at a Category I house, to erect a fence;

**3241 Cedar:** to change a door;

**359 Metcalfe:** to extend a garage and change some windows and doors;

**58 Somerville:** to change back doors;

**348 Kensington:** to build a basement access and add a door;

**3705 The Boulevard:** at a Category I house, to add handrails on the staircases;

**606 Victoria:** to modify a rear deck;

**312 Kensington:** at a Category I house, to restore the balcony;

**432 Wood:** at a Category I house, to landscape and erect a fence;

**509B Claremont:** to replace the garage door;

**507 Claremont:** to replace the garage door;

**509C Claremont:** to change the garage door;

**4670 St. Catherine:** at the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf, to erect a Videotron cabinet on the private property in the rear yard along the fence parallel to the lane;

**615 Roslyn:** to replace windows;

**42 Burton:** to replace some windows and doors;

**20 Anwoth:** to install an A/C unit.

## Green lanes absorb water

.....  
*continued from p. 1*

include fine gravel and even a new type of asphalt. Paving stones, on the other hand, are fitted too closely together to let much water through.

Driveways of fine crushed rock or small river stones are permitted in Westmount, she said, and are not only sustainable but are also *de rigueur*. The stones freeze together in the winter and allow for snow plowing, requiring only to be smoothed over with a rake in the spring.

Lulham explained the concept of green

lanes to the *Independent* last week after Nigel Goddard, a resident of Irvine Ave., had told the city council meeting August 6 that “the state of the lane...is so bad” that concrete under the asphalt was heaving.

At the time, Lulham replied that “I was told it would be fixed this year.”

A first green lane could “pave the way” for a lane beautification project that the city’s Horticultural Advisory Committee (HAC) had hoped to launch this summer until it was put on hold for a lack of resources, Lulham said.

## Spa Aliyah moves to Westmount



Formerly located on de Maisonneuve Blvd. in NDG, Spa Aliyah recently moved to a new and larger location on the ground floor of 245 Victoria Ave. in Westmount. In Hebrew, Aliyah means elevation of the soul. The spa’s director and a registered massage therapist, Daniel Gavsie, above, works with a client. The service offers a variety of massage therapies, including sports, deep tissue and pregnancy massage.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

## Dog licence pays off

A dog found loose on Sunnyside Ave. by a resident of the street around 7:18 pm August 15 was returned to a home nearby thanks to the licence tag it wore, Public Se-

curity officials said. The owner had no record of prior dog by-law infractions and was not fined.

## Freshen Up Your Flowerbeds



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# Tea party not just for Downton Abbey-ists



## Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

An invitation for tea? *Downton Abbey* perhaps? But lest we forget, tea is not just served on the cricket fields of England, with the requisite scones and cucumber sandwiches. Tea in Asia – China and India – is equally as fabulous. This was the premise behind the unique event jointly held between Florida's Unicorn Children's Foundation (UCF) and the Miriam Foundation (MF) in Montreal.

The event raised \$30,000 for a collaborative project. The link that unites the two: Westmounter **Valeria Rosenbloom** (treasurer of UCF) was a co-chair with **Diane Guerrera** (MF board president) of "An International Tea."

The May 6 event (tickets were \$100)

was sponsored by Westmount's David's Tea. The elegant sit-down affair had three different rooms: India (decor by Shaadi Styles) was brightly illustrated with amazing slides from that country (food sponsored by Restaurant Sahib); England, with tea sandwiches by Nococho, and slides courtesy interior designer /committee member **Aurélien Guillory** from his last trip to the flowering Lake District; and China (food by Piment Rouge), with Asian antiques lent by Westmount's Tango Martini.

Sweets were offered by Le Maître Chocolatier and Itsi Bitsi. Teas served in each room matched the country. However, possibly the most delicious was the "Children's Tea": It tasted like bubble gum!

Arriving guests included **Warren Greenstone**, executive director, Miriam Foundation; Westmounters **Odette Basmaji**, **Dianne Bibeau Bensadoun** and daughter **Daniela**; **Rosemary Niro** and daughter **Nadia Niro**; **Yasmine Cosmert** and committee members Westmounters **Linda Smith** (in a marvellous Missoni wrap); **Nancy Bloomfield** (town-and-country stylish in denim); **Meredith Webster** (belle in blue) and former city councillor **Rhoda Vineberg** (Parisian-chic in a taupe trouser suit),

along with **Sharon Alexander**, executive director UCF; event planner **Geeta Suchak**, **Maria Birks**, **Joanna Archambault**, **Eve Beauchamp**, **Rona Davis**, **Nathalie Garcin**, **Eliane Gerstein**, **Randy Greenstone**, **Stephanie Hoolahan**, **Rhona Kramer**, **Loretta Marcon**, **Alexandra Rothstein**, **Susan Stivaletti** and **Linda Zunenshine**.

Main sponsors were The Mike Rosenbloom Foundation, Reitmans and Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt.



Linda Smith and Sonia Benezra.



Yasmine Cosmert, Rosemary and Nadia Niro.



Vanessa Salvo, Dianne Bibeau Bensadoun and daughter Daniela Bensadoun.



Valeria Rosenbloom, Sharon Alexander and Diane Guerrera.

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**FEATURE PROPERTY**

**Westmount adjacent: 4694 av. Roslyn:** Large Tudor-style home. Recently renovated, 4 bedroom, 2+1 bathroom house, perfect for a large family or entertaining guests. Sunny garden with 2-car garage. **\$1,025,000**

**COUNTRY RETREAT**

**WENTWORTH: 20 ch Laurier S.:** Prestigious property, 400+ft. frontage on Lac Laurier. Gated community. 2+1 bedrooms, 2+1 bathrooms, All appliances. Located in lower Laurentians, one-hour drive from Montreal and less than an hour from Mont Tremblant. **\$575,000**



## Riders stop by Martin Swiss after 580-km ride



Thirty-eight Montreal cyclists rode some 580 kilometre from Toronto to Montreal in three days as part of the 8th annual CIBC 401 Bike Challenge, which raised \$275,000 for Sarah's Fund of the Cedars Cancer Institute of the McGill University Health Centre. Seen above, the group made a brief stop-over at the Martin Swiss bike shop on August 10 before ending their ride at The Montreal Children's Hospital. Martin Swiss provided a SAG wagon to offer technical support for the riders. A total of \$200,000 was raised last year with 26 cyclists participating.

Photo: Lloyd Gross

## Candidates

continued from p. 3

dilemma crossing the minds of many voters, many of the audience questions were directed solely at Kairouz and Kelley, often relegating the other candidates to answering questions addressed to all speakers.

Sitting side-by-side, the two candidates were drawn into increasingly frequent barbs on issues including a proposed sound barrier in lower Westmount, improved access to the MUHC superhospital and the CAQ's proposed abolition of school boards.

While generally even-keeled, the question period was also punctured by rare bouts of vitriol, including anger at the perceived inaction of the Liberal government in the Quebec construction scandal.

"Six to eight million dollars from all the tax payers in this room is going to nothing. Why do you do nothing?" demanded John Fretz of Kelley. Unsatisfied by Kelley's response, Fretz roared, "You do not get my vote!" before storming away from the microphone to a smattering of applause.

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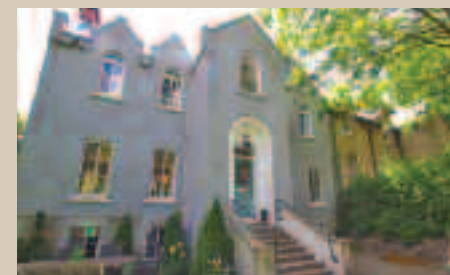
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**WESTMOUNT 530 Argyle \$3,195,000**  
Exquisite residence of superior quality, 4+ BDR.  
MLS 8757203



**WESTMOUNT 616 Sydenham \$3,100,000**  
Impressive family home with views, 7 BDR.  
MLS 8699766



**WESTMOUNT 52 Rosemount \$1,795,000**  
Rare opportunity on a prestigious street, 4+1 BDR.  
MLS 9422346



**WESTMOUNT 555 Argyle \$1,585,000**  
Beautiful home with large family kitchen, 4 BDR.  
MLS 9547585



**NUN'S ISLAND 300 des Sommets, #101 \$575,000**  
Condo in *Sommets III* with water views, 2 BDR.  
MLS 10222795



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**WESTMOUNT 21 Thornhill \$1,695,000**  
A jewel of a property, peaceful garden, 3 BDR.  
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**WESTMOUNT 782 Upper-Belmont \$1,385,000**  
Large semi-detached on a quiet street, 4 BDR.  
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**WESTMOUNT 4450 Sherbrooke W, #2 \$1,275,000**  
Stunning contemporary open concept condo, 3 BDR.  
MLS 9005258



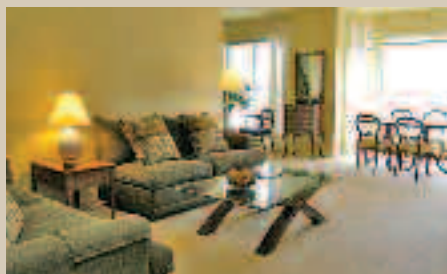
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**WESTMOUNT 1 Wood, #604 \$885,000**  
Prestigious building with view of mountain, 2 BDR.  
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**NUN'S ISLAND 100 Hall, PH 1402 \$645,000**  
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