

Information blog being planned

Neighbourhood alert leads to suspect in car break-in

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

An unofficial version of Neighbourhood Watch paid off September 7 when a vigilant resident of Lewis Ave. spotted a car being broken into on the street at 4:30 am leading to the interrogation of a suspect in possession of a GPS, according to Public Security officials.

The incident occurred less than two days after District 7 Councillor Cynthia Lulham and her son had delivered advisories to 175 homes in the immediate neighbourhood south of St. Catherine alerting them to two recent residential

break-ins on Abbott.

The notice included the description of a suspect who made good his escape after being found inside one of the houses September 5 when the resident arrived home, Lulham explained.

As a result, when the resident of Lewis was awakened around 4:30 am by a noise, Lulham said, she noticed someone trying door handles of parked cars who matched the description in Lulham's notice, and called police and Public Security.

A man was stopped soon after by police on Academy Rd. and questioned and released, Public Security officials said. It was not immediately known whether the incident was related to the other break-ins. The investigation is ongoing. *continued on p. 23*

House history BY A. DODGE p. 10

Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 26

Letters p. 6

Underdog BY C. LEE p. 20



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Couple escapes injury as city tree limb falls on car

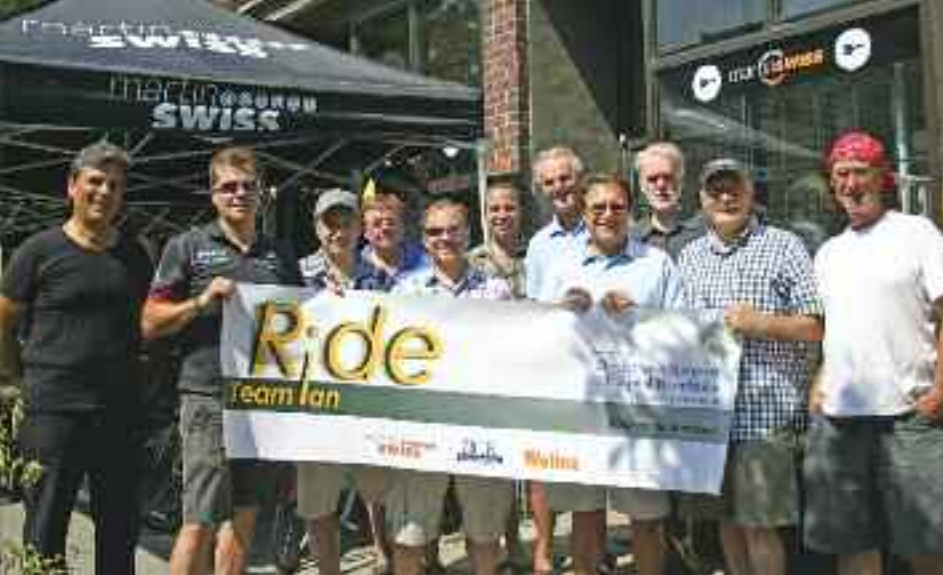
BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A Westmount man and his wife escaped injury when the car in which they were riding was struck by a large tree limb as they waited for the light to turn green at Redfern and Sherbrooke August 30, Public Security officials said.

The tree outside 376 Redfern was a city one, confirmed Public Works director Marianne Zalzal.

While it was not known whether or not winds had brought down the branch, city crews returned the next day and pruned

A ride for Ian



The Team Ian inaugural ride from Kingston to Montreal gets ready to depart on August 25. From left: Nabil Tabet, Steve Dennis of Martin Swiss, Alex Gieysztor, Robert Terriault, Cameron Amos, Alain Labrecque, Peter Smale, Greg Dunning, Guy Melhuish, John Van Toch and Nigel Penny. For story, see p. 7.

Photo courtesy of John Van Toch

more branches from the Norway maple. The tree is now considered to be in good shape, she said.

The incident was reported to a public safety officer, who had just been closing city hall at 10 pm. Public Works was called to remove the limb but officers were able to clear some of the debris to one side while awaiting their arrival. A dangling branch also had to be removed from a street light wire.

The car appeared to have been hit on the trunk as it waited for the light when the branch *continued on p. 23*

Special school section, p. 16-19.

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Chagnon re-elected; riding turn-out way up, beats provincial average

Incumbent provincial legislator Jacques Chagnon won his eighth term handily on September 4 with 67 percent of the vote in the Westmount-St. Louis riding. However, it was down from 75 percent in the December 2008 election.

His closest competitor was the CAQ's Johnny Kairouz with 13 percent.

A total of 23,532 people voted, which made for a turnout of 59.6 percent, versus a provincial average of 53 percent and a previous riding amount of 37 percent.

There were 151 rejected ballots versus 130 last election.

Number of votes for candidate running in the 2012 provincial election

Jacques Chagnon (Liberal):	15,779
Johnny Kairouz (CAQ):	3,045
Marc-André Bahl (PQ):	1,751
Mélissa Desjardins:	1,506
(Québec solidaire)	
Lisa Julie Cahn (Green):	972
Benoit Guérin:	225
(Option nationale)	
Pierre Allard (unaffiliated):	103

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Three accidents reported in two days

Drunk driver asleep with foot on brake at top of hill

BY ISAAC OLSON

Luckily, a drunk driver who fell asleep at the wheel managed to keep his foot on the brake until police officers could intervene or his vehicle may have careened down Aberdeen Ave.'s steep slope.

Around 4:30 am on September 3, Station 12's Lieutenant Jacques Meunier said public safety officers responded to a report of a man sleeping at the wheel of a running vehicle, stopped at the intersection of Aberdeen and The Boulevard. The car was pointed downhill.

Public security officers investigated, confirmed the situation and notified Station 12. When officers responded, said Meunier, they saw the car was still in gear and the 27-year-old Montreal resident, who smelled of alcohol, was completely asleep with his foot on the brake.

Officers set the parking brake and woke the man who then tried to put the car in gear. Police, however, stopped him, pulled him from the vehicle and arrested him for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was later tested at the station, and it was confirmed that he was intoxicated.

"If he had relaxed and his foot slipped off the brake, he would have gone down the hill," said Meunier. "It could have been a very serious accident."

Three accidents in two days

Station 12 reported there were three recent accidents in two days.

Meunier said police are investigating a hit-and-run near the corner of Sherbrooke and Victoria. A motorist reversed into a parked car while exiting a parking spot. The impact did do some damage to the parked car, but the driver left the scene.

The next morning, at around 8:30 am, a 19-year-old cyclist was hit at the corner of Sherbrooke and Melville. The woman was transported to the hospital with what is likely a broken hip, said Meunier, but no one was charged in the incident.

Not 15 minutes after the cyclist was struck, an *continued on p. 23*

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Safe cycling event monitors westbound commuters

Nine bike path users stopped for blowing red light in 1 hour

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Organizers of a second “safe cycling” event on the bike path leading through Westmount Park on September 7 reported counting 406 westbound users during a one-hour afternoon commute between 5



After being reminded that bicyclists must obey traffic lights, cyclist James Heylin, left, receives a free bike light from the WWCA's Dan Lambert. Meanwhile, the association's Anna O'Connor keeps score and Public Security's Westmount Park patroller Michael Paquette assists.

and 6 pm.

Nine of those were stopped at Lansdowne after they were seen failing to stop at the red light at Metcalfe, though others were seen but not counted, according to Dan Lambert of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA). The WWCA held the event in conjunction with Public Security.

Cyclists stopped were cautioned about the need to respect the Quebec Highway Safety Code and to recognize that they were riding through a residential neighbourhood and a park.

Those listening to music through ear buds were asked to remove them.

Data were collected only during a one-hour period when the operation, originally scheduled for 90 minutes, was shortened by the delayed arrival of two public safety officers completing a call. Three were required: one subsequently positioned at Metcalfe as a spotter and two others at Lansdowne to ask the offending riders to stop.

Water conservation by-law being fine-tuned for October

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Four months after the original draft of the city's first water conservation by-law was tabled in May comes word that the final version will not be ready for adoption until the October 1 meeting of council.

“It's important that we take the time to fine-tune it,” Councillor Theodora Samiotis said last week. “If we're going to do it, we need to do it right.”

Initially planned to be in effect for this

During a similar morning operation August 22 between 7:30 and 9 am targeting eastbound cyclists, 367 were counted of which 17, or 4 percent, failed to stop at the red light at Lansdowne (see August 28, p. 8).

“Education and police enforcement will help improve cyclist behaviour in the short-term,” Lambert said. “But in the long-term, with the anticipated growth in cycling, safety should be part of the school curriculum, particularly in communities with a high percentage of cyclists.”

summer's watering and lawn sprinklering season, the by-law's delay will allow time for the city to launch an educational campaign so residents will be well aware of the new regulations in time for the spring, Samiotis explained.

While she said she had not seen the proposed modifications, a number of concerns raised at a public information meeting June 11, as well as those reported by some councillors, would suggest that some adjustments could be expected in sprinklering times and in easing a ban on driveway and patio washing during summer months (see June 19, p. 3).

Since this is to be the city's first water conservation by-law, “We were going from zero to 100,” Samiotis explained. “So in reviewing the draft, we've been looking at other municipalities.”

Samiotis attends meetings of an environmental roundtable of demerged municipalities, many of which already have water by-laws in places, including most West Island communities and the Town of Mount Royal.



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Westmount Art Scene

Photography and painting: Individuality plus realism

BY HEATHER BLACK

Images by Westmount photographer John Archer add colour to the group show “Avius” at Gallery Han Art, while at Galerie de Bellefeuille, photorealism prevails. Entitled “Beyond Realism,” this exhibit features painters from across the world, including six of the original 13 photorealists: Tom Blackwell, Audrey Flack, Ralph Goings, Ron Kleemann, Richard McLean and Ben Schonzeit.

“Avius” at Han Art Gallery

Archer’s two photographs are lively, colourful designs that catch the eye. Red, yellow and green transposes “Trailer Park with Tailgate,” a typical trailer park scene, into a joyous pattern of colour. The signs “vacancy” and “no trespassing” are in sharp contrast to the warm and vivid hues. “Palmtrees” consist of a row of lime palms set against a mauve sky. The effect of sat-



“Palmtrees” by John Archer

urated colour, similar to silkscreened graphics, highlights the trees’ form.

The theme of “Avius” is man’s impact on the natural environment. Jiagang Chen adds a personal face to industrialization in the image “Abandoned Warehouse II.”

Here, a beautiful young woman in traditional dress is photographed within a decrepit and desolate industrial setting. Nils Udo offers a textural dimension in the image of a waterfall with flowers, “Barance de linferno.”

The exhibit continues until Sunday, September 16 at 4209 St. Catherine St.

“Beyond Realism” at Galerie de Bellefeuille

Lifelike representations – often of everyday items – distinguishes photorealism. Within the genre, settings like Tom Blackwell’s motorbike scene “Red Lightning” are frequently painted in an intense, hyperrealist style. This is also true of Roberto Bernardi’s mouthwatering image of stick candy, “Tramonto.” Painted with detailed reflections on the glass, wrap or ceramic counter, a heightened reality is achieved. A diffused yellow light, also seen in his composition of cocktail glasses “Il Taglio,” softens the composition.

Scenes by American neoclassic painter David Ligare are also filled with dramatic light. Painted in rich oils, “Still Life with Peaches, Figs, and Bird” depicts a bowl of fruit set against a calm sea and sunset skies. “Still Life with Cherries and Bird,” an unusual composition of a bird perched on a basket of cherries, also offers a glimpse of a sunset sea.

Montreal artist Paul Béliveau’s detailed paintings of books and, for the first time, portraits are also exhibited. For “Interview: Close,” he depicts fellow realist artist Chuck Close in oils on wood panel, achieving an unusual cracked texture.

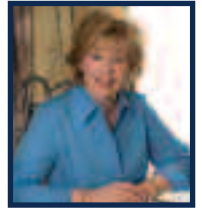
The human figure is also a frequent subject for photorealist continued on p. 7

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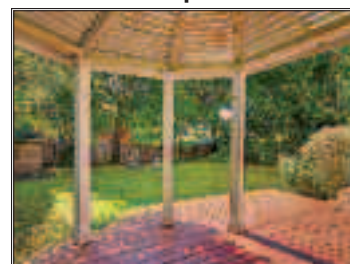
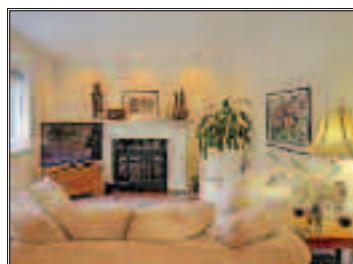
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IN QUEBEC TO STAY

While people were heading down the 401 to Toronto in the middle of the La-porte/Cross affair, we took a chance on the province and moved to Quebec in the middle of the bombings, etc.

Anything the province throws at us now will be tame compared to those dark days.

RENA WATSON, METCALFE AVE.

CYCLISTS NOT THE BULL IN THE CHINA SHOP

There is no doubt there are a few cyclists who are unsafe and discourteous. But coming from a household where all three adults of a certain age cycle to such destinations as lawn bowling, gardening, shopping, cultural events, and friends' houses, we find that many fellow citizens are trying to paint us as demons.

We are on the cycling paths each day and in all honesty the incidence of these unsafe and discourteous incidents is low – much lower than the rate of incidence of cars speeding, drivers talking on cell phones, turning across traffic without looking, double parking, U-turns, driving through red lights.

Drivers, though, are hands-down winners when it comes to causing serious injury to pedestrians and cyclists. And when one evaluates environmental deterioration, usurpation of public space, the car is

again a clear winner. But if one considers how to contribute to a healthy lifestyle, to Westmount's aim of sustainability, to the enhancement of public space, then it becomes clear that urban cyclists must be valued.

They should not be easy demon targets while ignoring the bull in the china shop. They are the most promising vector in Westmount's stated aim of decreasing vehicular volumes.

ROGER JOCHYM, FOR THE WESTMOUNT WALKING AND CYCLING ASSOCIATION

ROSY RUMINATIONS

Juliet: "What's in a name? That which we call a rose. By any other name would smell as sweet." (*Romeo and Juliet* – II, ii, 1-2.)

Mayor Peter Trent has once again donned his armour and mounted his steed in the defence of our fair Westmount.

Outside forces seem intent on merging our federal electoral riding with that of our neighbours under the name Wilder Penfield. Westmount-Ville Marie will be relegated to history and to quote Trent, the new riding "...doesn't tell anybody where the riding is."

Mayor Trent has even declared that he is willing to bring this to our prime minister if needed.

I suggest that the question is more im-

portantly what Westmount "is" as opposed to where it is located. What Mayor Trent has once again forgotten is that the definition of a place exists in its streets, houses and places of gathering. This is where life and history are being made daily. The very "concept of Westmount" is malleable and evolving.

Long ago, the notion of Westmount as the bastion of old money has been replaced by a multicultural, increasingly francophone and inter-generational community. It is a group living in a beautiful but fast decaying stage set from another era and still governed by remnants and relics of that past.

It is unfortunate that this present generation of Westmounters has yet to spread its wings and put its own stamp on the city's definition. Perhaps in time, the elderly will be acknowledged, French will be heard within our council chamber, parks will be resurrected and cherished, the dog will not be vilified and inclusion will be at the centre of our mantra.

Until that time, I urge Mayor Trent to focus on the fact that, "...the bloom has come off this particular rose."

DAVID LUDMER, GROSVENOR AVE.

GUIDES AT CHÂTEAU RAMEZAY A LONG-STANDING WESTMOUNT TRADITION

As a long time resident of Westmount and president of the English guides at the Château Ramezay museum. I would like to bring to your attention the upcoming open house for recruitment of new guides on Tuesday, September 11 from 10 am to 2 pm, hosted by both French and English speaking volunteer guides.

We are looking for volunteers to attend a training course for English-speaking guides starting on Thursday, September 27.

Our links with the Westmount community are strong. In the 1970s, Westmount volunteers, as part of a Junior League project, formed the Guides Association and initiated a program for visiting school children. Many aspects are still used in the "Living History" program, where students learn about daily life and handle the objects used by the First Nations people and early settlers. Students come from across Montreal, including Westmount Park School and Selwyn House.

Sharing the history of the past 500 years with both students and adult visitors is a very rewarding experience. In 2010, the museum was designated "Château Ramezay Museum – Historic Site" by Parks Canada.

For more information, please visit www.chateauramezay.qc.ca or phone 514.861.3708, ext. 225.

VALERIE AITKEN, BLENHEIM PL.

Skate boarders warned on Aug. 29

Seven skateboarding youths, including three local residents, were warned August 29 on Lansdowne Ave. that the practice was not allowed on Westmount streets under the nuisance by-law, Public Security officials said. The group of 12- to 13-year olds complied and headed west into NDG where at least one lived.

The previous week – on August 23 – officers warned two youths at Forden and Westmount Ave. about the same regulations applying to longboarding. The pair were carrying longboards and were accompanied by two "filmers." While Public Security had received a complaint about longboarding in progress, they did not witness it in action.

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Group cycles from Kingston to Montreal in memory of Ian Van Toch, raises money for cancer research internships

A group of 14 cyclists rode from Kingston to Montreal over the weekend of August 25 to 27 in memory of Ian Van Toch, who died of heart disease in 2007 at the age of 22. Though he died of this kind of disease, “his passion was using his biomedical computing skills to find cures for cancer,” his father John said.

The Ian Lawson Van Toch Cancer Informatics Fund helps to sponsor other as-

piring young scientists gain hands-on experience as interns in the research facility of Jurisica Labs at the Ontario Cancer Institute, where Ian got his start.

This year’s ride raised over \$36,000 to bring the fund total to more than \$125,000. For information, visit www.team-ian.org.

See photo, p. 1.

Under the 720: A fire, open manholes discovered

A homeless man described as “one of our regulars” was reported to have lighted newspapers under highway 720 (the Ville Marie Expressway) August 30, Public Security officials said.

The man was found at the scene just off Selby St. after Public Works called Public Security at 10:05 am to report someone trying to light papers. The small fire was quickly put out by officers, who called police to check out the individual for possible outstanding warrants. He was cleared and not arrested. The man, who listed his address as a well-known shelter, told officers he had been cleaning up a mess of papers that had accumulated under the highway. His age was reported in another incident four weeks earlier as 61.

Half an hour earlier, a Public Security patrol came across several manhole covers missing in a nearby parking area used by Dawson College under the highway. The Quebec ministry of Transport was informed, and officers cordoned off the empty openings with danger tape. The two incidents were not reported related.

Evidence left behind

The apparent owner of a camera was believed to have left it behind after taking pictures of himself smoking marijuana in Murray Park, Public Security officials said. The Canon Power Shot was found September 2 by a citizen, who turned it over to public safety officers at 9:27 am.

Art scene

continued from p. 5

bert de Lartigue, Shaun Downey, and Yigal Ozeri reveal the variety of individual style within the genre.

“Beyond Realism” continues until Tuesday, October 2 at 1367 Greene Ave.

The added touch

Westmounters are indeed treated to superb work by international as well as local artists. What makes these works memorable is the little bit extra that each artist brings to their subject and medium. Archer’s exaggerated colour, Bernardi’s intense light or Beliveau’s enhanced texture, are indicative of talent and originality.

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TRENDSETTERS

HEIDI SPECTOR

By VERONICA REDGRAVE

At the annual Daffodil Ball, I noted a sleekly dressed Westmounter. She stood in chic simplicity in a blue ball gown near a sparkly white rabbit costume, flown in from the Las Vegas Cirque du Soleil, and a “Red Queen”

.....
continued on p. 9



Westmount resident and artist, Heidi Spector, poses poolside alongside one of her works of art, at her home on Edgehill Rd., August 27. Spector describes her dressing style as uninhibited and eclectic.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

Combining fashion, art...

continued from p. 8

with her 125 glasses-of-champagne skirt. It turns out that Heidi Spector's sense of style is part of her DNA: she is an artist. As we chatted, she told me she is showing her art in New York. Her work reminded me of Frank Stella and Harald Schmitz-Schmelzer with their colourful stripes. However, her style of dressing is subdued whilst very much today.

STYLE

How would you describe your personal style?

Uninhibited and eclectic. I like to be original and ahead of the trends.

What is your favourite way of dressing?

I like to dress casually with an elegant flair. Getting dressed in the morning is another creative outlet for me aside from my art.

On weekends, what do you like to wear?

I have taken up cycling and bought some Campagnolo bike clothes from Vélos à Rabais situated in the same building as my studio.

When you are working on your art, what do you wear?

High heels always! My colleagues in the studio find it somewhat amusing. For the invitation to my exhibit at Holt Renfrew, I was photographed wearing high-heeled suede boots as a commentary on the way I dress when I paint. The clothes I wear when painting are the same clothes I wear wandering around the streets of Montreal. Thankfully, I am rather neat when I paint.

Do you have favourite art or artists?

Besides myself?

LIVING

If you had a choice, where would you live in the world (money being no object)?

I used to live in New York while attending university. I look back on that time of my life as a great inspiration to the geometric minimalist art I am currently creating. The experiences I had there were so emancipating. The vibrancy of that city is still very appealing to me. However, I chose to move back to Montreal because of my love of family. My home is where my mother is and nothing can replace that. Now I have built my own family here and feel Montreal is a great place to raise kids, particularly Westmount.

What is your favourite flower?

One of the flowers from a Carmelo Blandino painting found at Galerie de Bellefeuille on Greene Ave.

If you could invite any artist from any era, who would it be?

Since I like to give dinner parties, I would invite several artists and individuals who broke new ground artistically. Personal favourites of mine are my art agent Mia Feroletto, who founded ARTWALK NY, artist Gene Davis for whom I have named two paintings and artists Agnes Martin, Guido Molinari, Frank Stella, Ellsworth Kelly and Sol LeWitt. As music is a tremendous influence on my art, I

would certainly request DJ Tiesto to spin the tunes.

Who is your favourite designer?

Jean Paul Gaultier because we share a common passion for stripes in vibrant colours.

FASHION

You are often in New York City. Do women dress differently there?

Whether in New York or in Montreal, I find that women dress with taste and sophistication. These days comfort is also important and women don't want to suffer for fashion.

What did you wear for your opening at Margaret Thatcher Projects in New York?

I wore a black dress to emphasize the contrast with my painting "High Roller," which consists of 52 one-inch lines in which four shades of red are repeated 13 times – a reflection of a musical beat. I also wore black patent leather strappy high heels.

What do you think of today's fashions?

I love all the vibrant coloured jeggings everyone seems to be spotted in but truthfully, I had them three years ago! Still love them though. Stylish, sexy and comfortable clothing is certainly pleasing to me.

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99 Somerville was once part of Hurtubise farm



*History by
the house*

ANDY DODGE, CRA

The small semi-detached house at 99 Somerville Ave., corner Claremont Ave., has as much sales history before it was built as it has in the past century, since its construction in 1909.

The tract of land reaching through what is now the western edge of lower Westmount up to Côte St. Antoine Rd., which at the time was the only east-west road from the growing city of Montreal to Lachine, was farmland belonging to Joseph Hurtubise. The strip of land just to the east belonged to Jackson Rae, who also farmed it. The Greene family, which had taken a real interest in developing eastern Westmount during the later 19th century, purchased the two strips of land in the 1870s and turned them over to Richard Warminton Jr., a tinsmith whose parents had moved to Montreal from Devonshire, England, 20 years earlier.

In 1875, Warminton had built a lovely

Victorian mansion, which still stands at the corner of Claremont and Côte St. Antoine. Looking down the hill, he conceived of a growing community and with Campbell Bryton developed a plan which included Windsor, Chesterfield, Sherbrooke, Western (now de Maisonneuve) and Dorchester, as well as Claremont. The Greeses turned the land over to Warminton in 1878 for \$97,800, and he



99 Somerville

struggled to put together the development but was forced to surrender it to La Banque du Peuple in 1883.

Five years later, the bank used the cadastral plans, which Warminton and Bryton had created and sold off as various lots to investors and developers, including Thomas Bulmer, a bookbinder and stationer, who purchased the lots between Chesterfield and Somerville, Prince Albert and Claremont for \$30,000. He sold four of those lots to Louisa Clarke, wife of George Jaques, in 1889. During the next decade, the vacant lots changed hands four times before the one lot, 208-39C, was sold to Gregoire Meloche, a contractor, in November 1898, for \$2,139.72, or 40 cents per square foot. Even then, Meloche was forced to settle a claim with a bricklayer named Joseph Deslauriers before taking the land back and starting con-

struction of what turned out to be four houses along Claremont, including 99 Somerville and 369-373 Claremont.

The city valuation roll says 99 Somerville was built in 1905, while the other three were built in 1909; since the city building permits were destroyed by fire in 1924 we have no way of confirming the accuracy of the roll, but the newly-constructed house at the corner sold in February 1910 to Dame Hannah Logan, wife of William Boyd, manufacturer's agent, for \$7,500. She held on to the small house for nine years but got only \$8,500 from Thérèse Nezblanc in September 1919, and in fact the Boyds continued to live there until the following April, paying \$70 monthly rent.

Nezblanc, the widow of Lucien Coblentz, finally moved in and lived there until July 1924, when she sold to Joseph Perron "in trust," though the deed does not say for whom the property was in trust, nor what price was paid, offering only that the exchange was made for "\$1 and other good and valuable considerations." That legal evasion found its way into the next two transfers, first to Samuel Lichtenhein in May 1925, then to Eugene Napoleon Bender, general purchasing agent of Canadian Pacific Railways, in August 1927; both of them paid the same \$1 price, according to the deeds.

By 1935, Bender had moved to Pasadena, California and sold the house to Gladys and Heber Jones, the latter of whom is described as "sleeping car conductor," though the deed does not say whether he worked for the same railway as the vendor. The price paid was only \$5,000. *Lovell's Directory* shows that by 1936 Adolphe Jones had moved into the property, and it appears he lived there for the next 30 years or so, finally purchasing it from the then widowed Gladys (St-Denis) Jones for \$18,000 in 1964. He is described as "lieutenant-detective" by this time, but there is no indication which police force he worked for.

Ownership in his continued on p. 22

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Durnford's LEGO film premières at world film fest



Victoria Ave. resident Megan Durnford attends the world première of her film “Une brique à la fois” on August 25 at the Festival des Films du Monde. The writer and filmmaker's latest work tells the story of the fascinating world of the AFOLs – adult fans of LEGO. Her son Hugh, 11, is in the film.

Photo courtesy of Laurent Dionne



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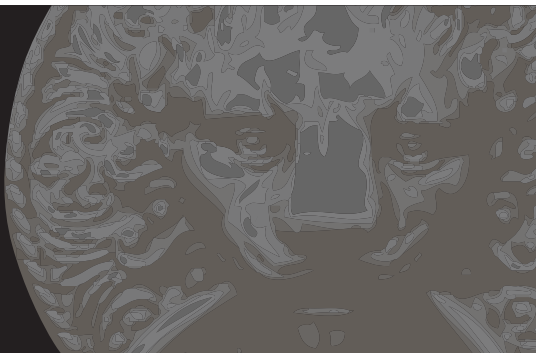


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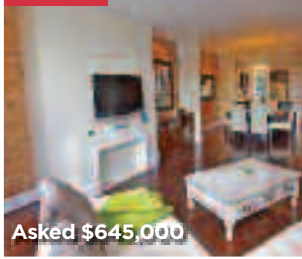
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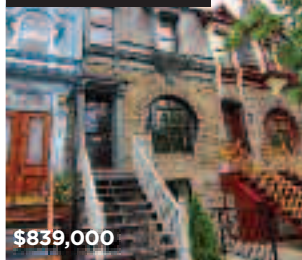
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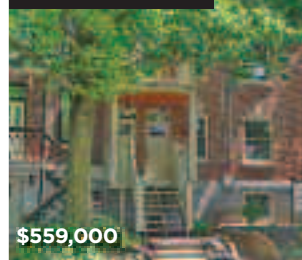
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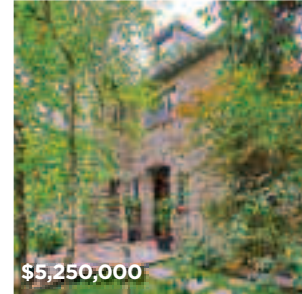
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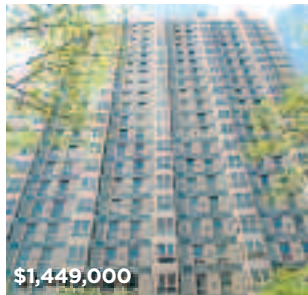
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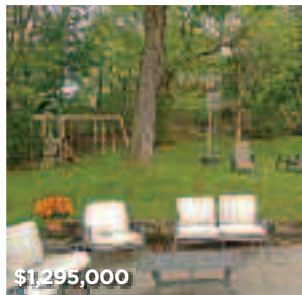
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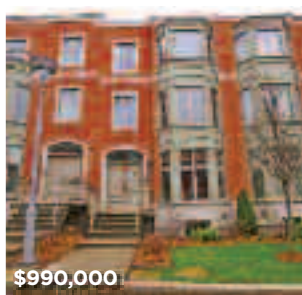
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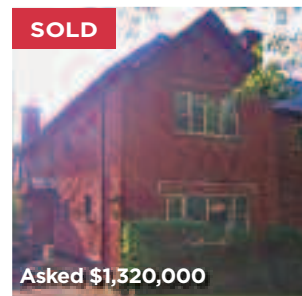
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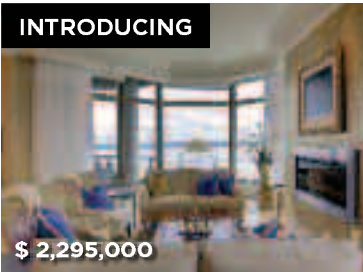
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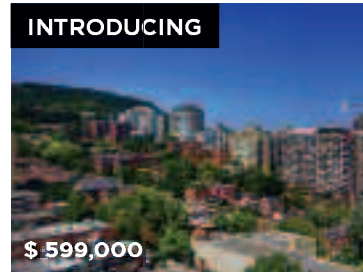
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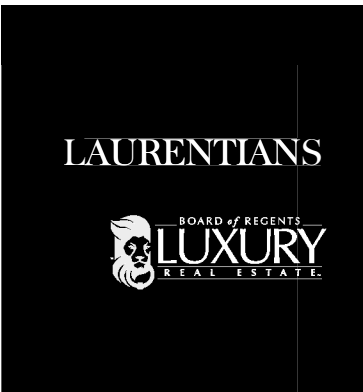
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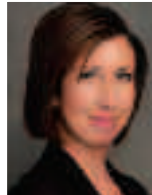
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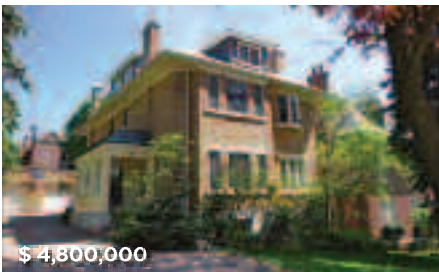
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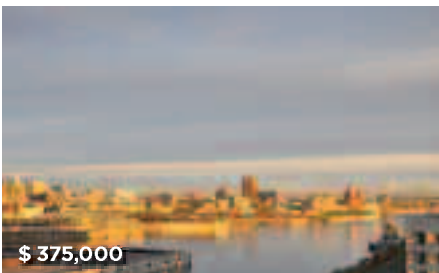
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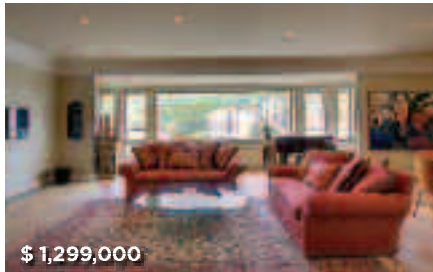
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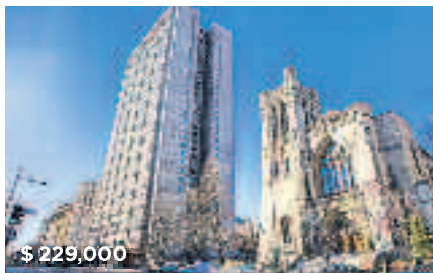
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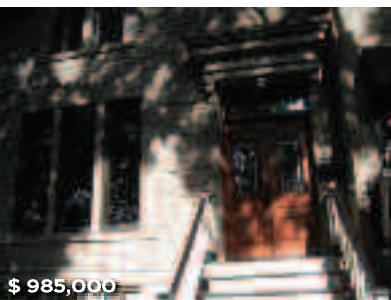
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BACK TO SCHOOL 2012

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

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 5 to 9 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 to use it,” he said, although studies show children between the ages of five and seven should be able to use it on themselves.



Ellia always carries an EpiPen in a pouch around her waist.
Photo: Cindy Shtevi

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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 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 in- *continued on p. 19*

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BACK TO SCHOOL 2012

continued from p. 17

tense, with a very 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?’”

Taking the plunge

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 on-line courses, too.”



Miriam Freitag

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-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.

Teaching English as second language

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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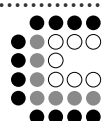
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- A Century of Hebrew Literature: Language and identity
- Current Trends and Paradoxes
- The Demand for Certainty: The mathematical perception
- Europe: Vibrant society or living museum?
- From Fate to Destiny: On the nature of the human journey
- Haiti: An unfinished revolution?
- Has Imperialism a Bright Side?
- L’islam au Québec
- *Journey of the Universe*: Emerging perspectives
- Loving Creatively: Medieval and modern transformations (Dante & Jung)
- Mysterious Mr. Dickens
- *Soli Deo Gloria*: The life and times of J.S. Bach
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Picasso’s blue period

Just like his namesake, the famed Spanish artist Pablo Picasso, this Picasso is going through a blue period of epic proportions.



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At 14 years old, Picasso is looking for a new home. This senior German pointer was once living with someone with a special condition for whom he was an excellent companion. When his owner, a young girl who has cerebral palsy was finally given the resources to live in a place which afforded her greater mobility, Picasso wasn’t allowed to move with her and her family.

After all those years of loyalty, Picasso is seriously blue and misses his familiar surroundings. Who can blame him?

The years have gone by and though they have been somewhat kind to him, he is getting on. Since he’s been at the shelter, he has been rehabbed into better shape, by getting regular check-ups and the love and care he deserves. He has blossomed (quite possible when you are a senior dog!) into a fine and even young-acting dog, who is reminiscent of Benjamin Button, his new nickname. He is getting younger every day!

It goes without saying that for Picasso, with age comes experience, and he is very well versed in the language of manners, companionship and has the ability, due to those hard-earned years to get along with just about every sort of being.

In fact the word on the street about Picasso is that he is the one to watch, for if you see beyond the markings of his advanced age, you will find the heart and soul of a seriously wonderful and solid ca-

nine companion. And just like Picasso before him, our Picasso has yet a few masterpieces before him.


In a blue funk? Curs- *continued on p. 21*

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Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount

AVIS DE DEMANDE DE DÉMOLITION
À TOUTES LES PERSONNES INTÉRESSÉES :

AVIS PUBLIC est par la présente donné que la Ville de Westmount a reçu une demande du propriétaire du bâtiment situé au **28, avenue Devon** pour un permis de démolition de ce bâtiment.

Tous les documents pertinents concernant cette demande de démolition, incluant les plans, peuvent être consultés durant les jours d’ouverture de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30 au bureau de la directrice du Service de l’aménagement urbain de la Ville de Westmount situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount.

Toute personne qui veut s’opposer ou faire des commentaires à l’égard de la délivrance d’un permis de démolition doit, dans les dix (10) jours de la publication de l’avis public ou, à défaut, dans les dix (10) jours qui suivent l’affichage de l’avis sur l’immeuble concerné, faire connaître par écrit son opposition ou ses commentaires au greffier de la ville à l’adresse suivante :

Greffier de la Ville
Ville de Westmount
4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest
Westmount (Québec) H3Z 1E2
Téléphone: (514) 989-5318

Toutes les personnes qui auront déposé une opposition ou des commentaires par écrit à l’intérieur de ce délai seront avisées de la date, de l’heure et de l’endroit où se tiendra la séance publique du comité de démolition au cours de laquelle cette demande de permis de démolition et le « programme préliminaire » pour la réutilisation du sol à être dégagé seront considérés. Ces personnes (ou leurs représentants dûment autorisés par écrit) pourront être entendues par le comité sur la démolition au cours de la séance publique.

DONNÉ à Westmount, Québec, ce 11^e jour du mois de septembre 2012.

Nancy Gagnon
Greffière adjointe de la ville

NOTICE OF DEMOLITION APPLICATION
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Westmount has received an application from the owner of the building situated at **28 Devon Avenue** for a demolition permit of this building.

All relevant documents concerning this proposed demolition, including plans may be consulted on any working day, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in the office of the Director of Urban Planning Department of the City of Westmount located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount.

Every person wishing to oppose or make comments on the granting of a demolition permit must, within ten (10) days of publication of this public notice or failing such notice, within the ten (10) days following the posting of the notice on the immovable concerned, make his/her objections or comments known in writing to the City Clerk at the following address:

The City Clerk
City of Westmount
4333 Sherbrooke Street West
Westmount, Quebec H3Z 1E2
Telephone: 514 989-5318

All persons who shall have filed objections and/or comments in writing within the said delay shall be notified of the date, time and place of the public sitting of the Demolition Committee at which the said application for the demolition permit and the “preliminary program” for the reutilization of the vacated land shall be considered. All such persons (or their representatives duly authorized in writing) may be heard by the Demolition Committee at the said public sitting.

GIVEN at Westmount, Quebec, this 11th day of September 2012.

Nancy Gagnon
Assistant City Clerk



Picasso

Underdog

.....
continued from p. 20

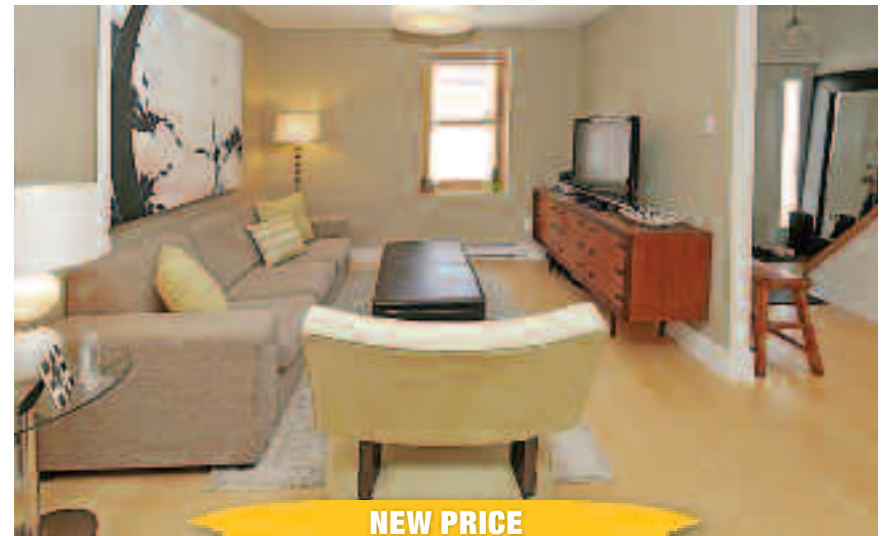
ing up a blue streak? Sounds like Picasso. To meet this great, contact the SPCA e-Shelter at 514.915.7311 or adoptions.sPCA@gmail.com.

Dog on the loose

A Montreal woman was ticketed \$75 August 14 for walking her dog off-leash in Summit Woods outside of the permitted off-leash hours, public safety officers report. She was spotted by patrollers at 10:25 am carrying a black leash but, when approached, had trouble catching her dog.

No circulars!

A distributor was ticketed \$75 September 30 for delivering a package of unsolicited flyers at a home on Belmont Ave., according to Public Security officials. It bore a no-circulars sticker. The infraction contravenes By-law 1072 governing the distribution of circulars.



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House history

continued from p. 10

name lasted only two years before he sold to Clarence Thompson, a social worker, for the same \$18,000. Thompson doubled the price seven years later, selling to John Moss, professor, and his wife, Virginia Lavin, in 1973. The house turned over twice more during the decade and the value exploded in the 1980s when Peter Charlton, a chartered accountant, picked it up in December, 1987, for \$225,000.

In 1989, the house sold to Les Entreprises C. Belle Ltée, which involved Carlo Belle, an engineer with Both, Belle Robb, whose headquarters was nearby on de Maisonneuve Blvd. He rented the house

through the 1990s before selling to Hélène Bélanger in 1998 for \$218,000, substantially less than he had paid for it at the peak of Westmount's real estate market in 1989. Two sales later, in 2003, the price was again double what she had paid for it, when Donald MacMartin and Laura Michielini, residents of 335 Metcalfe Ave., purchased it for \$449,000. They turned the house over to another family member in 2011 and continue to own 335 Metcalfe.

One of the property's features is its location next to a public children's playground immediately next door. That land was seized by the city for non-payment of \$980.34 worth of taxes and interest in 1940 and was eventually made over as a park.

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Dog doesn't like a bath

A dog heard barking on an apartment balcony on Kensington was objecting to being bathed, its owner told public safety officers August 28. When officers responded to the complaint from a resident in another building nearby, they could see but not hear the dog, nor could they obtain any response at the dog owner's door.

The complainant, who was reported to be more concerned for the dog's safety than affected by the barking, called back at 6 pm at which time officers managed to meet with the owner who said the dog cries when she tries to give it a bath.

Ladder leads to break-in on Côte Rd.

A house on Côte St. Antoine was found to have been searched throughout during an apparent break-in August 31, Public Security officials said. A ladder leading up to an open window did not belong to the resident. While police checked out the house inside, public safety officers kept watch outside the home after arriving on the scene at 10:17 pm. The house was located near the border with NDG.

Accidents

continued from p. 3

81-year old woman was hit by a vehicle while trying to cross the street at the corner of Mount Pleasant and Holton. The woman, he said, was more shaken up than injured, but she was transported to the hospital by ambulance. There were no charges in this incident either.

"We want to remind pedestrians, cyclists and drivers to be on the lookout for each other," said Meunier, noting cyclists need to stop at stop signs and not wear earphones. "When you are about to cross an intersection, make sure that you are seen and that you see others."

Leafblowers continue

Out-of-season leaf blowers are a problem that just won't go away, according to complaints that Public Security continued to receive for yet another week. Between August 14 and 20, at least three tickets for \$267 and one warning were issued to gardening contractors for operating the devices after the spring clean-up ending May 1.

Tree limb falls on car

continued from p. 1

fell across Redfern from the southwest corner, officers said.

The accident is reminiscent of a tree that fell on a car on Côte des Neiges Rd. in August 2006 killing the driver, Gabriel Rossy, and leading to a lengthy court case against the city's insurer, Lloyd's of London. In a Supreme Court decision June 22, the incident was ruled a traffic accident under Quebec's highway no-fault insurance system (see June 22, p. 7).

The recent Redfern incident is also similar to one on Decarie Blvd. on September 5, where a tree limb fell on a car occupied

Info alert

continued from p. 1

"The more eyes, the better," Lulham told the *Independent*, adding that she hoped by publicizing the incidents, people in a wider area who did not receive the notice – such as those on Redfern and Stayner – would be aware of suspicious activity.

Her notices went to addresses on Abbott, Lewis, Irvine, St. Catherine and Hillside, specifically where there were back lanes.

In the advisory, residents were asked to call 911 immediately for any suspicious activity, strangers in back alleys or going-to-door. The Abbott intruder was described in the notice as "male, black, about 5-foot 10 or -11 in height, age 30 to 40, stocky build and wearing a blue shirt."

As a result of the incidents, Lulham said she now plans to set up a neighbourhood blog as a means to dispersing many kinds of information of particular interest to those in her district.

by a couple (see *Free Press*, September 11, p. 14.)

While the city maintains an annual program to prune trees in different sectors on a rotating basis, it also inspects trees that display some outward signs of possible deterioration, Zalzal explained.

But some problems could lie hidden within and not be apparent, she explained. With several thousand of city trees, it is not possible to inspect each one unless there has been reason to call for an inspection. "I would say from the amount of large trees we have, there are not many claims for damage."

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8:30 to 9:00 pm — Questions and Answers
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Bi-polar Disorder in Children and Adolescents
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Pediatric Intensive Care - Bubbles, Balloons and Baffles
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Nada Jabado, MD

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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- The **Rotary Club of Westmount's** first fall lecture series speaker is Dr. Philip Waters, who will speak on "Intraoperative Echocardiography: Its Importance in our Hospitals," 1 pm at Victoria Hall. 12 noon preamble, 12:30 pm lunch. Cost: \$20 lunch and presentation. RSVP: 514.935.3344 by the Friday before.
- As part of the Westmount Public Library's fall author series: "An evening with **Taras Grescoe**, author of *Straphanger*," 7 pm in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library. Register at the circulation desk or call 514.989.5299.
- Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom's new season of "**Book Lovers Forum**" begins with Gina Roitman's review of *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain, 9:30 am coffee and pastry; 10 am review. Info: 514.937.3575, ext. 212.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

- **Montreal Storytellers' Guild** starts its new season. The guild will be holding storytelling events from September to June on the second Thursday of every month at 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Free

and open to all adults and children over 12. Info: 514.593.9947.

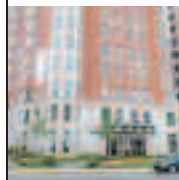
- The Atwater Library Lunchtime Series presents the **Misterioso Bassoon Quartet**, which will perform a classical to jazz repertoire for the bassoon, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Free.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

- The **Westmount Municipal Association's** (WMA) open board meeting, 7 pm in the reading room of the Westmount Public Library. According to the WMA, the agenda is posted on www.wma-amw.org/blog/ a week before the meeting.
- The **Women's Canadian Club of Montreal** begins its season with speaker Robin Yates, of McGill's department of History and East Asian Studies, on "Some Aspects of Chinese History," 12:30 pm at the Unitarian Church (5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd.) Free for members; or \$10 for visitors. A sandwich lunch available for \$5, beginning at 11:15 am. Info: 514.932.4005.

.....
continued on p. 25

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And more comin' up

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- Westmount Public Library's fall author series presents **Andrew Westoll**, author of *The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary*, 7 pm in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library. Register at the circulation desk or call 514.989.5299.
- The **University Women's Club of Montreal** holds its first dinner meeting of the season at the Atwater Club, 3505 Atwater Ave. Dinner costs \$30.76, plus \$10 for non-members. Reserve: 514.932.3922. Newcomers welcome.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Westmount's Sherlock Holmes Society, **The Bimetallic Question**, hosts a "Benefit for Greyhounds," a live performance play reading of *Tides of the Wight*, a new Sherlock Holmes adventure, 6:30 pm at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. Refreshments served, admission is free, a voluntary donation will be collected in support of The League of Extraordinary Greyhounds (retired racer adoptions). Info: 514.733.8935 or <http://bimetallicquestion.org>.



Seen in photo are several society and cast members, from left, front row: Eva Newman, Elliott Newman, and Chris Herten-Greaven with adopted retired racing greyhound Pepper; back row: David Dowse and Paul Billette.

Photo: Susan Fitch

Centre Greene's after-school program has begun

Centre Greene's after-school program started its new semester the first week of September. Children are under the supervision of trained staff from 3:30 to 6 pm. For information, contact the centre at 514.931.6202, visit 1090 Greene Ave. or www.centregreene.org for rates and registration.



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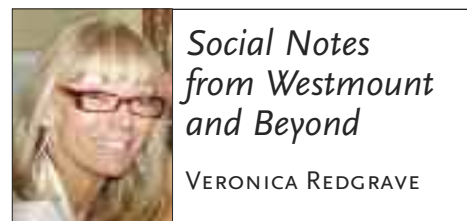
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Miriam Foundation event with an Italian flair



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Under a sweltering summer sky, Westmounter **Herbert Black** hosted a private



Philip Silverberg, Catherine Malouin, Yanick Blanchard and Barbara Silverberg.

cocktail/dinner at his home on the hill on July 16.

The elegant evening was held after the Miriam Foundation Lori Black Memorial Golf Tournament, of which Black was honorary chair. Cheerfully playing in heavy humidity at the Hillsdale Golf and Country Club, 192 keen golfers took part. Sponsorships were from \$1,000 to \$8,000 for four players.

Committee members contributing to the event's success included chair **Norman Bercovitch** and **Yanick Blanchard**, head of Lending, National Bank of Canada.

Guests arriving at Black's home admired the stupendous view from the Italianate balcony, with towering cool white mandevilla vines and beautiful bouquets. A large ice sculpture somehow saved its shape in the heat as guests sipped champagne and sampled sushi, shrimp and lobster from Mikado.

Bob Perras' team valet-parked a range of cars including a sensational silver Ferrari, and a beautiful vintage automobile, lovingly buffed to its crimson glory.

To beat the heat, cool linen was the choice of many *fashionistas*, giving an Italian feel to the magical soirée. (Speaking of Italy, former Alouettes player **Gino Berretta** chatted about his vineyard in Tuscany. Sigh ...)

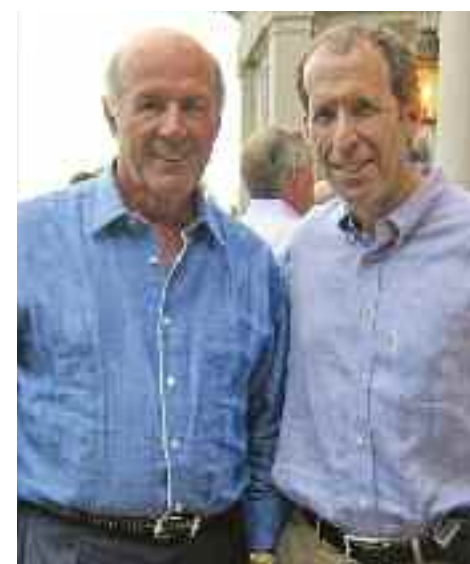
Westmounters noted included **Leo Kolber** and **Roni Gandell** (Milan-chic in linen), **Linda Smith**, **Alta Levenson**, **Barbara** and **Philip Silverberg**, **Danny Minogue**, **Bernice** and **Morty Brownstein**, **Danny Lavy**, as well as **Allen Brandman**, **Catherine Malouin**, **Walter Griesseier**, **John Rosanvallon**, **Guy Carbonneau**, **Vincent Dampousse**, **Jacques Aubé** and Miriam Foundation's **Warren Greenstone** (executive director), **Julie Klucinskas**, and **Nancy Smith** (director of events).

People love this annual fundraiser for the Miriam Foundation. **David Kozloff** came back from Ogunquit, and **Nick Christopoulos** (Wells Fargo) arrived from Toronto.

The graceful affair raised \$400,000 for the Miriam Foundation, which helps people with autism and developmental disabilities lead fulfilling lives.



Véronique St. Pierre and Herbert Black.



Gino Berretta and Danny Minogue.

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On the look-out for fall social events

Westmount Independent's fall social calendar will be published in mid-October. Please email event information, including name of the event, date, contact, ticket price and location, to redgrave@videotron.ca.



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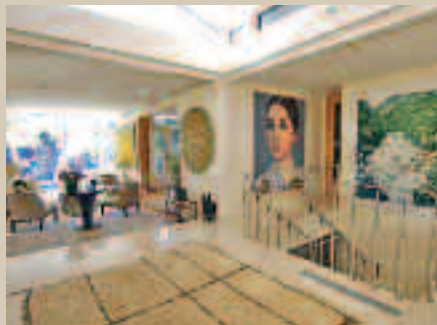
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WESTMOUNT \$1,225,000 **4549 Sherbrooke W.**

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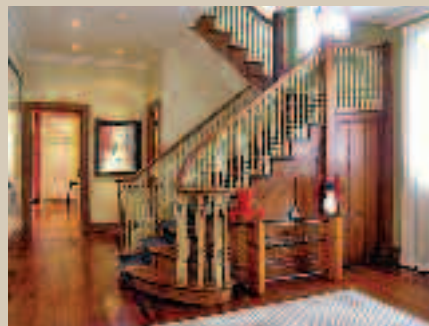
WESTMOUNT \$2,995,000 **530 Argyle Avenue**

Renovated 3 storey property on a beautiful street. Spacious and fabulous space ideal for family, open kitchen with family room that leads to a large deck and lovely manicured garden. 4+ bedrooms, art studio, gym, wine cellar, large heated double garage etc... attention to details. MLS 8757203



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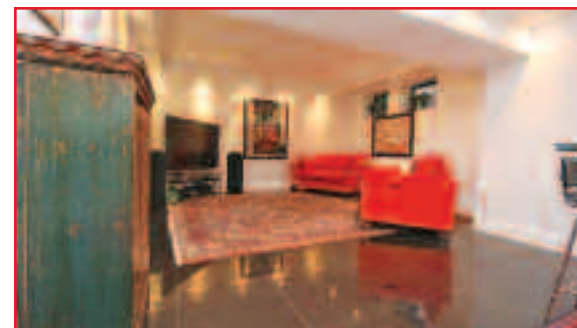
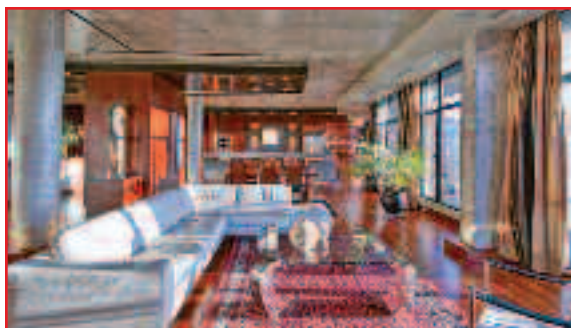
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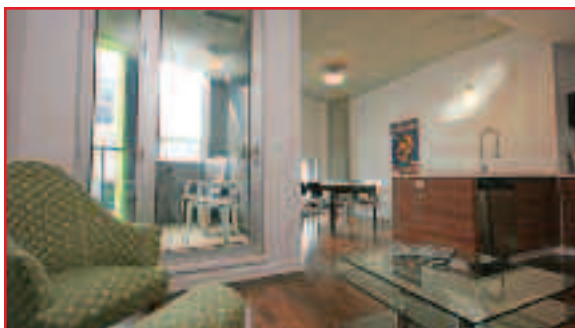
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