

Montreal tax increase 50% over inflation

Agglo tax hike suggests at least 3% in Westmount

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount taxpayers can expect a tax increase of at least 3 percent for 2013 based on a 3.4-percent hike announced two weeks ago by Montreal, which includes island-wide agglomeration expenses.

Mayor Peter Trent made the forecast last week pointing out that in 2012 Westmount's payments to the agglo accounted for 54 percent of the city's revenue from all sources or 64 percent of tax revenue.

The demerged municipalities and the city of Montreal share agglo expenses. While Westmount's share of expenses has yet to be calculated, he said any difference versus last year would likely be small.

"The point is that Montreal's tax increase – while not bad compared with some years – is 50 percent more than the rate of inflation, and my campaign is to get costs under control."

Trent, who is a vice chair of the Montreal finance and budget committee, has been calling for a reduction in employee pension costs as the way of achieving this, especially since a large portion of these are borne by the agglo for police and firefighters. But Montreal, he said, "is not working very quickly" in this effort.

Westmount Y swimmer masters English Channel

BY MICHAEL MOORE

On September 7, just hours after turning 44, Alan Clack finally reached the shallow water on the beaches of Wissant, France, and struggled to his feet after an 11.5-hour odyssey swimming through the frigid water of the English Channel.

He quickly fell back down to the prone position due to exhaustion.

"All of the time, expectations, training and commitment just came crashing down on top of me," said Clack. "It was all

I could do to scream and raise my hands in the air."

Clack's goal to swim the channel first originated 20 years ago with a group of college swimming teammates, but a job offer abroad after graduation forced him to shelve the goal.

Still feeling the allure of the channel, Clack decided to rekindle the pursuit two and a half years ago.

"My wife told me 'someday means never until you put it on the calendar,'" he said. *continued on p. 8*



Photo: Noemie Perreault

Alan Clack, 44, completed the iconic 33-kilometre swim across the English Channel in 11.5 hours.

Claremont's west sidewalk a 'problematic area'

Westmount challenged by garbage from Montreal

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Keeping Westmount sidewalks clean poses an ongoing challenge for Public Works in the commercial districts with restaurants and terrasses, but two particular areas on the border with Montreal are described as especially "problematic."

One is the west sidewalk on Claremont south of Sherbrooke, all of which down to St. Catherine belongs to Westmount. But because the long row of apartment build-

ings and all but six inches of frontage are located in Montreal, much of the source of the problem lies outside Westmount's control.

In particular, according to Public Works director Marianne Zalzal, many tenants put out individual recycling boxes for curbside pick-up by Montreal rather than the large apartment bins used by Westmount – a big source of the problem.

"There's nowhere in Westmount that we have *continued on p. 11*

Don't Miss It

City council meeting, Oct. 1. See p. 12.

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Girls ‘walk for the cure’ from school to Mount Royal



Students from ECS were among an estimated 2,300 girls from six Montreal girls' schools who participated in the 17th annual Girls Walk for the Cure. They walked about 5 kilometres from their school to the chalet atop Mount Royal. Also walking from local schools were The Study and Villa Maria. Other participating schools were Queen of Angels Academy, Sacred Heart and Trafalgar. Students spent time in the weeks leading up to the event to raise pledges for the Community Cancer Care Centre at St. Mary's Hospital, which offers cancer treatment and services.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



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Temporary reserved parking set up on Burton, Claremont

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Reconstruction of the road base on Prince Albert between de Maisonneuve and Somerville started the week of September 17 resulting in the creation of temporary reserved parking zones for Westmount permit holders on portions of Burton and the west side of Claremont.

The work is expected to be completed

by mid-October, according to Public Works officials.

Notices sent to neighbourhood residents dated September 14 also note that parking restrictions related to street maintenance periods were being removed from Winchester, Somerville, Burton and Claremont from de Maisonneuve to Sherbrooke, as well as Prince Albert south of de Maisonneuve.

The parking easement resulted from a number of complaints during Prince Albert roadwork that has been ongoing over the summer, according to Public Security director David Sedgwick, who chairs the city's Administrative Traffic Committee (ATC).

It has involved work by various utilities over the summer in advance of the road reconstruction from de Maisonneuve to Somerville including new lighting (see July 3, p. 1).

Reconstruction north of Somerville is expected to follow – possibly next year – pending the creation of a “village square” at the street's dead end at Sherbrooke, a project slated to be discussed at the upcoming public meeting on the southwest sector October 3 at 7 pm at Victoria Hall.

34 others over 25 years

While the new parking restrictions are only temporary, there are 34 other streets on which reserved parking for permit holders has been authorized dating back as far as 1986 in the case of Olivier, Greene, Wood, continued on p. 13



After the reconstruction of sidewalks on Prince Albert south of Somerville, work began last week on rebuilding the road base.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

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Hearing set for October 9

Devon demo, *deux*

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Rarely has the same house undergone two demolition hearings for total destruction in a year and half.

But that’s exactly what’s shaping up for 28 Devon that still stands today after being sold before it could be levelled. Its previous owner is understood to have decided against living in the Montreal area.

Its demolition and replacement house had already been approved but no permits issued, explained Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier last week.

Now, the new owner is starting all over in the same process with a slightly changed two-storey design to replace the original one-storey house – all to be presented at a public hearing October 9 at city hall at 5:30 pm.

But the same arguments are being used the second time around, namely that the 1951 house is not worth preserving and that the new one will better integrate into the streetscape, according to the demolition file, which can be consulted at city hall.

Rotated on lot

“The new proposal is quite similar to the last one but with the house rotated on the lot,” Poirier said. This will enable it to fit harmoniously into the curve of the street formed by its intersection with Lexington.

Interestingly, the new owner, Ben Cohen, is using the same architect, Adam Borowczyk, who successfully made a case during the previous hearing February 17, 2011 for the city to modify its criteria for sloping roofs.

This allows for the new house to be built with a second storey with an overall height that respects concerns expressed by neighbours and echoed by the Demolition committee (see February 22, 2011, p. 1).

One of 35 houses in Westmount designed by architect Max Roth, the original home is described in Urban Planning documents as resembling “more of a country-style chalet” that does not integrate well into the streetscape and is not an outstanding example of modern era architecture.

The replacement project, estimated to



Plans were posted as part of this demolition notice outside 28 Devon.

cost \$1.5 million, was approved in principle August 21 by the city’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

The new house is to be built of limestone, with a sloping roof of copper, a three-car garage in the basement and having double-hung and casement windows.

The previously approved design, also using stone, had a slate roof and a one-car garage. After the standard demolition notice was posted by the city outside the house September 11, anyone wishing to make written objections or opinions had 10 days to do so.



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‘DGs’ win again in lawnbowling



The final of the 9th annual “Mayor’s Trophy” lawn bowling competition was held at the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club the evening of September 20. Team “Director General” won the cup against team “Urban Planning.” Members of the winning team were, from left: Kevin Dawson (retired fire inspector), Councillor Victor Drury and Phyllis Galbraith with the Finance department. Club president Richard Menear, right, hosted the event, which was open to current and former employees of the city of Westmount. Over 30 participants took part this year. The club was formed in 1902 and is open to new members. For more information and the tournament schedule, visit www.bowlswestmount.ca or contact info@bowlswestmount.ca or 514-989-5532.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith



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Former PW director: Old pool risked floating on water

Source of arena ‘trickle’ traced to defunct sewer pipe

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A 12-inch pipe discovered 30 feet below ground during excavation of the new arena two weeks ago has been identified as an old sewer, Councillor Patrick Martin said last week. Believed to be more than 100 years old, it is not reported to be part of the city’s known drainage network.

The north-south pipe was found to be the source of unexplained water infiltration into the site, which he described as “a trickle” coming through from an old abandoned manhole and a small connecting pipe.

The water is now being captured and pumped into the sewer system “so no more water will enter the site,” he said.

Given the history of the area and the fact that the sewer does not appear on any city plans suggests it was installed prior to the early development of the area and the filling of ravines, Martin said.

Running east of Westmount Park Church, the pipe’s section that passes under de Maisonneuve was made of cast iron but joined to the north, at least, by one of clay, and possibly the same to the

south where excavation is not yet that deep.

A camera that was passed through the pipe the evening of September 20 managed to get 110 feet north. At 100 feet, it depicted an abandoned manhole whose shape and material were recognized as dating from the 1890s, Martin said. Ten feet along, where the pipe narrowed to the north preventing further passage of the camera, a small connecting pipe from the west was also detected.

Small amounts of water were trickling into the sewer pipe from both the manhole and the smaller pipe to the west though their exact origins are as yet unknown.

“It’s an old abandoned leaky pipe, and I’m glad we found it,” Martin said.

Arriving at the same general conclusion as Martin but before the pipe had been identified as a sewer, Ed McCavour, a retired director of Public Works, had suggested that “The pipe could have been used to drain the ravine when it was filled in.”

McCavour worked in Public Works from 1959 until 1993, including the period



Water leaks from 12-inch abandoned sewer line September 19, where it passes from the north under de Maisonneuve.

Photo: city of Westmount

during the building of the pool in 1963. Despite the filling of the ravine, he said, water has a way of finding its natural course.

Water found during old pool excavation

“When we excavated for the pool, we found there was a body of water under it, so the engineers designed a way of reliev-

ing the water pressure so as not to crack the pool or drain the area completely and collapse the pool.”

This was done by installing a standpipe with U-tube beneath similar to a toilet fitting. When excess water built up, it was drained off to St. Catherine, he said.

The presence of water was why “we always kept continued on p. 13

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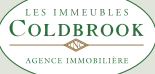
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Not another brick in the wall



Grade 10 students from Westmount High reach up on September 20 towards the school's new retractable curtain wall, which can divide its gym into two. The approximately \$50,000, 2-ply structure replaces an old wooden wall that was in need of constant, costly repairs, explained phys ed department head Karen Kliehauer. A new wooden wall would have cost \$80,000 to \$100,000, and cheaper mesh "walls" stop balls but not sound. The school and its gym department is looking forward to a year focused on fundraising for cancer research, with a goal of \$5,000. First up is a Terry Fox "walk and roll" on Thursday, September 27 in conjunction with the Mackay Centre School.

Photo: Westmount Independent



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CUE GRESCOE ON CARS, OIL

A telling point made by author Taras Grescoe in discussing his book *Straphanger: Saving Our Cities and Ourselves from the Automobile* is that the immense use of automobiles encourages, in his words, “fossil-fuel driven foreign wars.”

The brief statement, made during his presentation at the Westmount Public Library [on September 12], draws attention to the important fact that most of the world’s terrorism is funded by sales of Middle East oil. In other words, to pick up on Taras’ critically-important observation, every time the wheels of your car revolve, they are contributing in some measure to world violence.

JOE KING, CÔTE ST. LUC

SUMMER READING CLUB A BOON FOR COMMUNITY

I would like to say thank you to Wendy and Faith, and all of the children’s librarians of the Westmount Public Library, who put so much time, effort and care into organizing the summer reading club.

My 8-year-old daughter loved deciphering all the clues and then searching for the appropriate books. She loved colouring in the little stars and hoping to win a prize when her name was entered in the weekly draw (she was very happy when her name

came up one week).

The end-of-summer party you organize was a fun event, with activities for the kids, books given out to each child who had read enough to finish the program, cupcakes and even extra prizes and gift certificates for the very lucky ones.

Events like this, along with the friendly environment in the library all year round, add so much to the community. Thank you!

TANYA GUYATT, LANSDOWNE AVE.

AFTER ATTEMPT ON LIFE, SQUIRREL POWER RAMPS UP

Just under two weeks ago, I was the target of an assassination attempt (“Youths fined for firing pellet gun at squirrels,” Septemrber 18, p. 3). Let me first assure you all that I am fine. Squirrels are naturally fleet of foot, and I am quicker than most. I practically outran the pellets that were fired at me!

Once I had outrun the bullets, I paused for a couple reasons. Firstly, outrunning bullets is tiring work; I needed a break. I also paused for a moment of reflection. I thought about all the hard work the Westmount Squirrel Anti-Defamation Task force had undertaken in the last year. I remembered all the squirrel appreciation workshops we had given. I became momentarily disheartened when, in the wake of the attempt on my life, I recalled

all of the year’s setbacks: squirrel poisonings, attacking dogs, the continuing bias of Westmount Public Security against squirrels. I briefly considered resigning myself from public life and moving to Hampstead.

But no! Westmount clearly needs more squirrel advocacy not less! The attempt on my life, while scary, has emboldened me

to be an even more fervent advocate for the respect and appreciation of Westmount squirrels. Fret not Westmounters, your spry squirrel ambassador is on the job, and more determined than ever.

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Clack swims chanel, continued from p. 1

Clack rededicated himself to the pool, eventually joining the Westmount Y Masters swim club, a group of dedicated adult swimmers who train at the Westmount and downtown Ys under eight coaches, including head coach Mike Calcutt, for self improvement or competition.

Building up his endurance for the 33-kilometre swim, Clack logged hour after hour in the water, eventually topping out at 80 kilometres per week, and incorporated long swims in nearly frozen Laurentian lakes to acclimatize himself to the English Channel’s frigid water. The chanel’s temperature was 15.5° celsius when he swam.

After years of mental and physical preparation, Clack finally departed from

Dover, England at 3:45 am flanked only by a support boat for scheduled feeding. He spent the next almost 12 hours battling towering waves and avoiding massive shipping vessels.

“If you’re lucky, it’s a very difficult swim,” he said. “If you’re at all unlucky, it’s impossible.”

Clack is using his swim to raise money for the Family Resource Centre at the Montreal Children’s Hospital, which helps educate parents about how best to participate in the care of their children.

“As a parent I know the helplessness you feel when your child is sick,” he said. “I thought if the kids and their families can deal with that hardship, I can push through this next mile.”

Agglo, continued from p. 1

While it had set a goal of recovering \$50 million in pension costs for 2012, he said, this has now been budgeted at \$17 million for each of the next three years, 2013 to 2015.

Although Westmount’s budget has yet to be finalized, Trent said, “Local spending is less important than the agglo and in three years, I can’t recall anyone at council meetings even asking about the agglo.”

Urgent work allowed to continue on Côte

Noisy work in the middle of the street at Roslyn and Côte St. Antoine September 12 was allowed to continue after the 9 pm deadline for such work, Public Security officials said. Responding to a complaint at 8:09 pm, officers permitted the work by Bell to continue describing it as being of an “urgent nature.”

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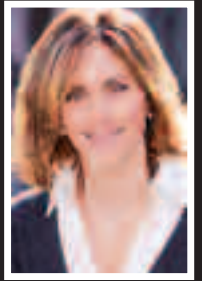
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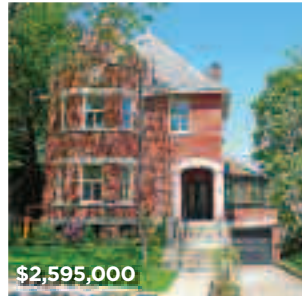
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WESTMOUNT | MID-LEVEL

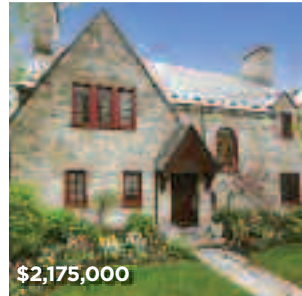
Beautiful 4 bdrm home on great family street, steps to parks & schools, double garage. Great executive rental. mls 9045492



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WESTMOUNT | ELEGANCE

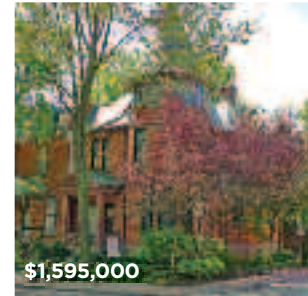
Beautiful 5+1 bdrm home with mature garden. Large kitchen, sol., garage & steps to parks & schools. mls 8724018



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WESTMOUNT | SUNNYSIDE

Beautiful & bright 3 level stone residence with city & river views! 4+1 bdrms, south facing, garage. mls 8759668



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WESTMOUNT | FLATS

Great 3-storey home on the FLATS! 4 bdrms, inlaid hwd floors, garden, det. dble garage. mls 8732001



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WESTMOUNT | BY THE PARK

Superb 3 level house across from the park. 5 bdrms, high ceilings, open fl. plan. Dble parking. mls 10392348

OPEN HOUSE SUN. 2-4 PM 657 BELMONT AVE.



\$1,295,000

WESTMOUNT | BELMONT AVE.

Great family home on coveted street. 4 bdrms, fin. bsmt., garden and large garage + 4 car parking. mls 8691018



\$1,295,000

WESTMOUNT ADJ. | SUBURBAN LOT

Great 4+1 bdrm home on 9,400 sf lot, eat-in kitchen, new bathroom, fin. basement & garage. mls 8704697

OPEN HOUSE SUN. 2-4 PM 4429 DECARIE BLVD.



\$990,000

WESTMOUNT ADJ. | SQ. GOUVERNEURS

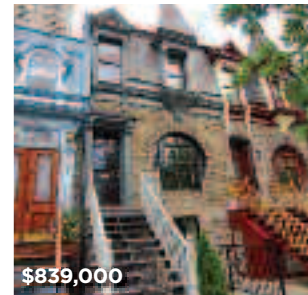
Elegant & bright 3-storey, 4 bdrm townhouse steps from Monkland. Large terrace & double garage. mls 8750388



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WESTMOUNT | THE "FLATS"

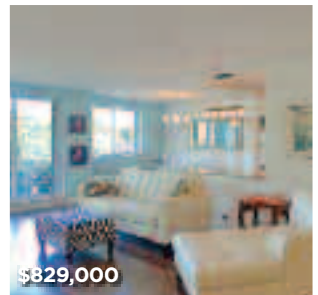
Bright top unit with 3rd floor private deck. 4 bdrms, high ceilings, large kitchen, garage. mls 8727199



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DOWNTOWN | SHAUGHNESSY

Steps from Concordia U., Entirely reno'd N.Y. style 2+1 bdrm, 3 level townhouse. Patio & 2 parking. mls 10973027

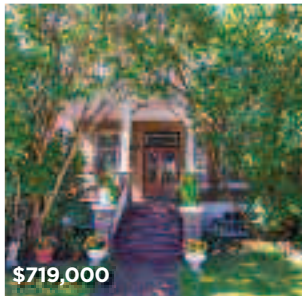


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NDG | MONKLAND VILLAGE

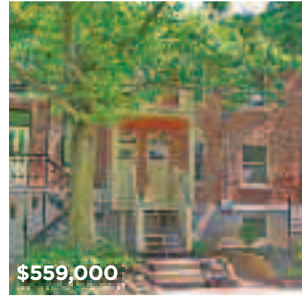
Charming & fully renovated 3 bdrm house w/fin. bsmt, garden and lrg garage. Steps to Monkland. mls 8759723



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WESTMOUNT | VICTORIA VILLAGE

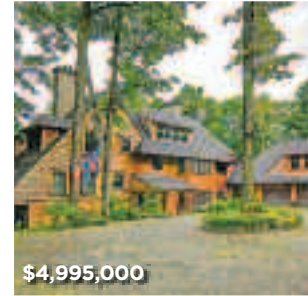
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WESTMOUNT ADJ. | COVETED STREET

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Tango Martini cites repeated flooding as it shuts store



Co-owner Carol Cheung says Tango Martini plans to continue with online sales.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Tango Martini, a boutique at the corner of Abbott Ave. and St. Catherine St., which has sold fine Chinese collectibles and an-

tiques for the past decade, will be shutting permanently on Wednesday, September 26. However, the store plans to continue online sales as most of its business over

the past few years was with interior designers who usually arrive with a shopping list of needs. Tango Martini will be able to serve them from a warehouse located elsewhere in Montreal. According to co-owner Carol Cheung, one the reasons for closing was flooding during heavy rainfalls, which has happened repeatedly in the neighbourhood. “Just between last October and July this year, in less than one year we had three floods,” she said, adding that the damage to their inventory stored in the basement was enough to convince them it was time to move out.

20 garbage bags dumped

Responding to a complaint September 12, public safety officers discovered 20 garbage bags piled up at Montrose and Mountain at 9:46 pm. When the property owner was contacted, she said she had been away and the bags were not from her house. Public Works was called to remove them.

Multimags closed after 2 years in Westmount



Westmount's 4932 Sherbrooke St. Multimags location closed on September 7. Staff was packing boxes early the next week. A sign was posted on the door inviting customers to visit their Monkland Ave. store. The store opened in September 2010, after moving from its location on Sherbrooke west of Claremont, just outside of Westmount. When asked why they were closing, the staff member said they had no comment.

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Stocking up for the winter

Adventures in Urban Farming

MARCI BABINEAU



One of the great things about harvest time is the opportunity to grab as much of the goodness available from the growing season and fill our pantries and cellars to bursting. This is how Canadians used to manage to eat “in season.” With renewed interest in eating locally and moving away from petroleum dependence, stocking up for the winter is enjoying a renaissance.

Luckily, there are still farmers who will nearly pay you to cart off bushels of their tomatoes, corn, peppers and eggplant at the right moment. The question is how do we manage the Herculean task of storing our food for the lean times? Here is a short list with some details to pique your interest or possibly jog your memory.

Canning is a process that requires cooking loads of stuff way in advance. And the end result is like opening a jar of the sum-

mer in February. Water bath canning is taking high-acid prepared foods preserved by vinegar or sugar, boiling the jars for 15 or 20 minutes in a large canning pot, depending on the recipe, removing them from hot water, applying the canning lids – and the fun part – listening to the lids suck on one by one.

These “canned” goods (they are actually preserved in glass jars), like tomato sauces, pickles and jams are then good for a year or so, with all the recycling done in-house (because you reuse the jars each year) and is still good if the electricity goes off.

Pressure canning takes more equipment, but this process enables you to can everything from beans to meat to squash.

Freezing the goodness of summer

Freezing is a no brainer in Canada, really. Even if the power goes off in January, one can trundle everything outside quickly and never lose a thing. Roma tomatoes go straight in a freezer bag to be squeezed out of their skins when they thaw. Berries and other soft fruit can go straight in without even washing them, as they can be rinsed as part of the thawing process. Lightly

blanched greens, corn, pre-cut leaks and peppers, green herbs, pesto, all can be stored in the proper sized amounts to pop straight into a soup or stew.

Drying or dehydrating not hard

Drying or dehydrating can be done in the regular oven or a special dehydrating one. Dehydrated food takes up less space and the ingredients for entire soups can be dried in their raw form and re-hydrated with surprisingly tasty results. This same collection of dried vegetables can be made into delicious crackers.

Cold room storage takes a bit more commitment and there is not really room to begin to do it justice here. Suffice to say that if you have space in an unheated portion of your basement, if it's a small cold room, you can store root vegetables, apples and properly wrapped cabbage through the winter.

Sprouting seeds is the cold season's answer to fresh greens that are actually more nutritious than many fully developed plants. When a seed first sprouts, it engages all of the potential of that plant. As long as you have a good store of seeds, winter can be replete with local freshness!

Claremont, Burton, continued from p. 1

rows of apartment buildings with so many boxes being put out,” she explained last week.

Garbage also flies around in the second jurisdictionally problematic area located on Côte des Neiges Rd. across from Mount Royal. This is where it blows off the street in Montreal into the wooded mountain-side in Westmount bordering the road.

While these are already targeted as “problematic areas,” Zalzal said, she will be asking for special attention to be paid to the Claremont sidewalk following a recent complaint of garbage strewn on the street, sidewalk and lawns as well as garbage bags put out from the Montreal buildings “despite regulations” (see September 4, p. 6).

In this long block, the Westmount boundary goes approximately six inches behind the sidewalk, Zalzal said, except close to Sherbrooke where the large Pickwick Arms building at the southwest corner lies entirely in Westmount. Public Security also continues to monitor parking on the west side of the street where many tenants over the years have sought on-street parking permits but “still don’t qualify,” explained Public Security director David Sedgwick.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
 “Orange Soufflé and \$20 Drink” – a dramatic reading by **The Golden Stagers** at the Westmount Public Library, 2 pm.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
 • From 10 am to 5 pm, works from 70 local artists, as part of **Art Westmount 2012**, will be exhibited at Victoria Hall, the conservatory, Westmount Public Library, and Place Kensington. Also on Sunday, September 30. Free.

• Members of the **Royal Astronomical Society** will be at the summit lookout to observe the night skies, 6 pm to 9:30 pm.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1

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, according to the city website, one working day before the council meeting.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

Public consultation on ratification of agreement between city and owner of **1250 Greene** regarding public square, 6:30 pm at city hall. (See story, September 18, p. 6.)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

• Public consultation meeting on the **southwest sector**, 7 pm at Victoria Hall.
 • Rotary Club of Westmount presents **John Hallward** on “Giv3: A Return to Greater Civility and Greater Happiness,” 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.
 • “Get Creative and Expand your Horizons” with **Ruth Shine**, as part of the Westmount Public Library’s 2 O’Clock Series, 2 pm in the Westmount Room of the library.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

Peter Gossage and J.I. Little launch *An Illustrated History of Quebec*, 6 to 8 pm at Nicholas Hoare, 1366 Greene Ave. Free. Call 514.933.4201.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

A screening of *Nosferatu* (1922) and *The*

Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1920), accompanied by Montreal band Sweet Mother Logic on piano, cello and organ to take place at Westmount Park United Church (4695 de Maisonneuve). Refreshments at intermission. Event open to all, but recommended that children should be age 10 and up. Tickets at door: \$12 or \$8 for seniors and students. Doors open at 7:30 pm.

MWOS to hold auditions, Pirates to take place at Vic Hall in spring

The Montreal West Operatic Society (MWOS) is scheduled to hold auditions for its 73rd production, “The Pirates of Penzance” on Wednesday, October 10 and Thursday, October 11 from 7 pm to 9 pm. Singers, who are soloists or choristers – experienced and otherwise – are welcome, the organization said.

The production will be performed at Victoria Hall in the spring.

For an appointment, contact 514.990.8813 or casting@mwos.org.

Volunteers needed to remove invasive shrub from Summit Woods

Volunteers are being sought to help remove the common buckthorn shrub on Wednesday, October 3, from 8:45 am to 11 am. Organized by Westmounter John Fretz, the work will take place under the direction of Westmount’s Public Works department. The meeting place is the summit look-out. For information, call Fretz at 514.939.5670 or email supermolto@sympatico.ca.



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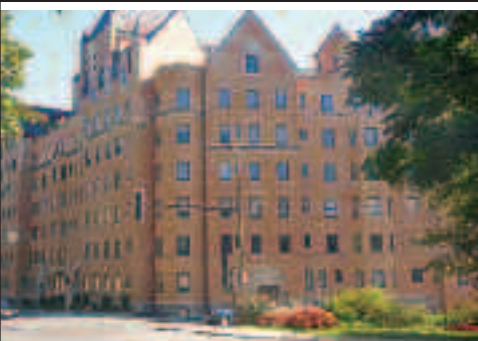


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Parking changes on Burton

continued from p. 3

Elm and Hallowell. Many were created in 1995.

There are 85 officially listed streets in the city.

The most recent zone was established in 2011 on Westmount Ave. opposite Marianopolis to deal with traffic generated by the college.

“We’ve made few changes in the last couple of years while the Master Traffic

Plan was being prepared,” Sedgwick explained.

While most resident-only parking zones apply to the overnight period after 6 pm, some are in effect 24 hours a day and others from 6 to 10 pm.

Most were initiated by complaints from residents, followed by a review by the ATC and a poll of all residents in the concerned blocks and a six-month trial period.

Water leak, continued from p. 6

water in the pool to keep it from floating,” explained Fred Caluori, who retired in 2006 after succeeding McCavour as Public Works director.

Caluori also pointed out that water was encountered in excavation for the city’s electrical substation under the lawn bowling clubhouse in 1996. There, the water table was much higher than at the arena site.

So far, however – with excavation almost complete for the two new ice rinks – no water has been reported other than what came from the old sewer. Martin said he did not know about the experience with the old pool but found it “interesting.”

Previous coverage of Prince Albert work

We reported that Bell was to replace the manholes and lower its conduit bank in July. (July 10, p. 3)

Our April 10, p. 14 reported that Bell Canada excavated the street around the intersection of Prince Albert Ave. and de Maisonneuve Blvd. in order to unblock underground conduits. Bell was to refill the holes temporarily, with permanent repair to be done by Westmount a few months later, with the expense billed to the phone company.



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Oh, the inanities



Parenting as a Sport

INGRID KOVITCH-DANNENBAUM

For lessons in humility, nothing compares to parenthood. What other than a squirming, howling, seven-pound bundle of one's own finest genetic stock could reduce otherwise rational adults into gurgling, cooing ninnies? (Apart from a puppy, that is.)

Who else besides an indomitable, utensil-wielding three-year-old could inspire these same previously sensible people to shout such cautions as "No garlic-pressing your brother's fingers!" – a phrase we found ourselves reciting during one particularly trying period with startling regularity.

One might have thought that with the maturation of offspring (or at least the passage of time) such inanities would have faded from speech. Far be that from the case! Strangely enough, throughout the years, there have been a growing number

of situations that have spawned similar mind-numbingly absurd maxims.

Fancy meal etiquette

There were fancy meals at The Grandparents; relaxing affairs during which we maintained the illusion of casual adult conversation while simultaneously – in our finest ventriloquist imitation – hissing a variety of directives at our quarrelsome posse. Among others was the oft-repeated "Stop wiping your hands on the tablecloth. Use your father's pants instead!"

Always vigilant about preserving wee craniums, we ensured that protective gear was worn for all wheel-based sporting activities. One day, I noticed our third son skulking past me on his way upstairs. Tucked under his arm, and rather poorly disguised, was his skateboard. I watched as he positioned it carefully at the top of the flight of stairs. Though I was possibly mistaken, it certainly appeared as though he were about to get on. "Gabby!" I admonished, "No skateboarding down the stairs without your helmet!"

In similar safety-conscious fashion, we worked diligently to educate the children about car and road precautions: seatbelts, how to cross streets, never to walk behind

parked vehicles, signs indicating that the motor was on, etc.

Despite all this, one son remained powerless in the face of his steadfast obsession with all things automotive (not to mention his enduring oral fixation). More than once, we found him stumbling, trance-like and with tongue lolling, toward our humming Honda. "Josh!" I cried, "How many times have we told you not to lick the car when the engine is running?!"

Acceptance of foolish missives

To our immense relief, not only have our children accepted these foolish missives without challenge, they are not above adding to the growing litany themselves.

On one memorable occasion, I was interrupted during dish duty by an ear-piercing shriek. Panicked, I flung open the back door to find my sons huddled around their sister, debating – or so it seemed to me – how best to reattach her severed limb. Closer inspection revealed no obvious injuries. Instead, the kids appeared to be fighting over a pulpy, larva-like creature. Jamie, our tomboy daughter, continued to bawl at a not-inconsequential volume. "It's my turn to hold the bloody maggot!"

(For the record, she was not being pro-

fane.)

I am proud to report that over time, our family has become increasingly environmentally conscious, particularly with respect to water usage. Through our family living in Israel, we have discovered the joy and gratification of showering in a basin, and then using the accumulated grey water to flush toilets. With 20 houseguests and a well-run-dry at the cottage, we quickly embraced the doctrine of "If it's yellow, let it mellow."

As such, there was hardly a raised eyebrow at our table during a recent restaurant outing. After ordering, our eldest excused himself to use the facilities. Following a brief pause, the 15-year-old decided to join him.

"Wait!" he hollered over the heads of the bewildered diners. "I'm coming! Don't flush!"

Westmounter Ingrid Kovitch Dannenbaum is an avid dabbler in sports, cooking, DIY projects, outdoor pursuits, and crafts (when she is not accumulating pets and corraling her four kids, that is). In her spare time she works as a family doctor.

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‘Beyond Realism’ draws together art enthusiasts



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounters **Helen** and **Jacques Bellefeuille** hosted an exceptional exhibit at their Galerie de Bellefeuille on Greene

Ave. The show, “Beyond Realism,” brought together photorealists from all over the world, as well as Quebec talents. The open-to-all celebratory vernissage on September 8 and 9 meant that the gallery space was jammed with art aficionados and collectors.

On the Saturday, lucky guests arrived before a sweeping storm brought torrents of rain and broken branches tumbling onto the street. The tornado warning announced for northern Vermont had brought a tiny tail end to Westmount!

Noted amidst the art lovers were Westmount residents **Jon Wasserman**, **Bill Brownstein**, **Larry Lusko** and **Bunny Berke** (chic in a black suit in spite of the storm), pianist **Dorothy Fraiberg** (cool in black and white), **Richard Samuelson**, and former Westmounters **Roslyn Takeishi** and **Sally Yaffé**, as well as **Cheryl Goffman** (wearing a much-admired huge coral necklace), **David Simons**, photographer **André Cornellier** of UMA, **Manon Vennat**, **Hélène Couture** (in a cute short skirt and high top

running shoes) and **Marilyn Lightstone**, in from Toronto.

The Bellefeuillees collaborated with **Louis Meisel** (there with his wife **Susan**); and **Frank Benaducci**, from the New York galleries **Louis K. Meisel** and **Benaducci Meisel**; **Maggie Bollaert**, (attending with **Colin Pettitt**) of **Plus One Gallery**, London, England; and the **OK Harris Gallery**, New York.

Also at the event was **Marina Press**, soon to be seen in **Bravo TV**’s new show *Gallery Gals*, airing Monday nights. She came up from New York with **Bonnie Franklin**. The glam girls, both in sexy short dresses, work at the **Louis K. Meisel** and **Bernaducci** galleries respectively.

Amidst the many photorealists in attendance were Quebec artists **Paul Béliveau**, **Florence April**, **Neil MacCormick**, and **Joan Pujol**.



Helen and Jacques Bellefeuille in front of a work by Tjalf Sparnaay.



Bunny Berke and Larry Lusko in front of a work by Drew Goings.



Artists Jason de Graaf and Paul Béliveau in front of their respective works.



Manon Vennat and Marilyn Lightstone.

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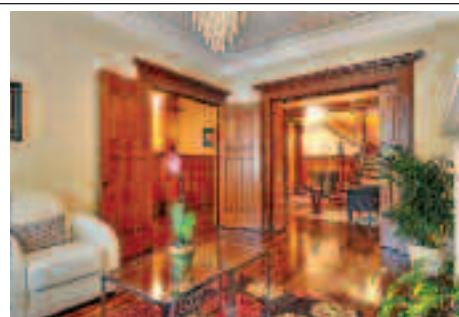
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What's to Eat Westmount?

Chinese food cleaned up: Simple sichuan for fall

BY REBECCA BINICK

During the hotter months of summer while the grill reigned outside on the deck, our stove and oven were ignored, knobs left off, to be heated up only weekend mornings for percolated coffee.

Recently with the temperature dip and ready to withstand some extra heat in the kitchen, we gravitated towards Chinese food. Not the deliciously sticky fare the now defunct Village Szechuan dished out on the corner of Monkland and Decarie, but the cleaner, homestyle Chinese cooking that happens in residential kitchens in China.

While many of us are trying to eat less meat, Chinese home cooking uses loads of vegetables and employs meat in modest amounts only to flavour the vegetables themselves. It is fast, inexpensive, comforting, healthy, bright, delicious and miles apart from chop suey.

While there are a couple of restaurant options for authentic Chinese in Montreal,

we are behind Toronto and Vancouver in choice. On the bright side, you can make it easily at home. Fuchsia Dunlop's new book *Every Grain of Rice* is an excellent guide.

The only foreign woman to ever attend the Sichuan Culinary Institute in Chengdu, Dunlop (born and raised in the UK) navigates you through light and dark soy sauce, Chiankiang vinegar, sesame oil, Lee Kum Kee's soybean chili sauce and the basic Chinese pantry staples that are needed for some seriously easy, impressive and delicious dishes.

The soup recipe below was adapted from Fuchsia Dunlop's "Sour and Hot



Photos courtesy of Appetite for Books

Mushroom Soup" and was recently prepared for a friend with an end of summer cold.

Hot and sour mushroom soup

Ingredients:

- 6 dried shiitake mushrooms
- 1 carton of grocery store-bought chicken stock
- 1 thumb sized piece of ginger, peeled
- 10 white button mushrooms
- 1 package of enoki mushrooms (available at any Chinese market)
- 1 package silken tofu – soft (or 225 g of any plain soft white tofu)
- 1 tbsp cooking oil
- 2 tsp light soy sauce
- ½ tsp dark soy sauce
- 2 ½ tbsp Chiankiang vinegar (available at any Chinese market)
- dash of salt and ground black pepper
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- finely sliced green onion

Soak the dried shiitake for at least 15 minutes and once rehydrated, trim off tough stem and slice the mushrooms lengthwise.

Heat up the chicken or vegetable stock



in a pot.

Cut ginger into slivers. Wash white button mushrooms, trim stems and cut into quarters. Trim and wash enoki mushrooms. Slice tofu.

Heat oil in a wok, add ginger wait until sizzles but before it turns brown add all mushrooms. Stir-fry until you can smell the mushrooms. Add warmed stock, bring to a boil then turn heat down to low and add sliced tofu.

Add soy sauces, Chiankiang vinegar, salt and pepper. Turn off heat, gently stir in sesame oil. Serve in bowls and garnish with green onions over top.

Rebecca Binick is the manager at Appetite for Books.

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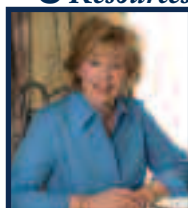
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Shy, but why?



There's shy, very shy and painfully shy. Out of these, Lonnie falls into the last category – hands down.

This almost 4-year-old border collie was saved from a high-kill municipal pound and comes with a spotty history. There are suspicions that she may have suffered abuse and as a result is timid and submissive.

At times this makes Lonnie a little incontinent; she sometimes pees at moments when her nerves get the better of her. The trainer who assessed Lonnie assures us that there is no aggression in this lovely creature, just another bruised soul who needs consistent, gentle encouragement to lure her out of her shy self.

Recently, she has made a lot of progress at the shelter where she is being cared for. She has learned to play fetch in a fenced



Lonnie

area and feels comfortable enough to enjoy her surroundings. Her trust bond with her human caregivers also grows, and she has learned to come when called and occasionally likes to be cuddled.

As a special needs dog, Lonnie is as bright and full of promise as they come. Once she is placed in a secure home where she feels safe with people who are willing to work on building her trust, she will knock it out of the park.

And the peeing? With time, this too may subside. Ideally, Lonnie is best suited in a home where consistency and routine are provided and where she will have the opportunity to build bonds with people who won't betray her trust.

If you like to take long walks and listen to mellow music, then quiet and charming Lonnie is the girl for you. This special collie needs a special human to be her match. To look in on Lonnie, contact the Frontier Animal Society at frontieranimal-society@gmail.com or 819.876.7474.

In other news...Underdog Buddy, from Frontier Animal Society, was adopted by an NDG family who read about him in our column in the *Free Press* recently.

Attempted break-in halted by senior citizen

By ISAAC OLSON

On September 19, a 78-year-old woman thwarted a likely burglar who was, it seems, attempting to break into her home on de Maisonneuve near Lansdowne at around 12:30 pm.

The woman was home when she heard a noise and went to investigate. She discovered a man had broken a ground-floor window, explained Station 12's constable Julie Côté. The man, however, upon seeing the woman, fled the scene quickly and the resident was unable to get a description. She did, however, immediately call police.

Police are treating it as an attempted break-in, but it is difficult to say exactly what the man's intentions were, noted Côté. She recommended people set their security alarms even when they are in the home. Often people get in the habit of only setting it when they leave, she said, but burglars may try any time of day or night.

"Always call police immediately, try to get someplace safe and do not involve yourself with the suspect," said Côté. "We never know who we are dealing with."

Business broken into for second time

Sandra Beauty Inc., located on Sherbrooke near Grosvenor, was the target of a

break-in and burglary for the second time since April 2011.

At around 8:30 am on September 19, Westmount Public Security noticed the beauty shop's front door had been smashed so police were notified, said Côté. Police arrived, investigated and found some \$300 was stolen from the business, but the suspect(s) left behind no clues. No description is available. The alarm, she said, did not go off and it is not clear as to why.

String of car break-ins on the mountain

Between September 13 and 17, police responded to seven reported break-ins around Summit Woods and Summit lookout, said Côté. Thieves, who have been working at all hours, are largely targeting bags, purses and electronics left out in plain sight in cars.

She said thieves seem to be taking advantage of the fact that those who park in the area often spend a few hours exploring the park. It is important, she said, that people not leave anything of value or bags visible through the windows.

She recommended, if anything, to put the items in the trunk when parked at a previous location so the thieves, who may be monitoring the area, don't see that there is something being stashed in the trunk. Most cars, she noted, are equipped with buttons that open the trunk and the thieves simply use that to get inside.

Cat claimed just in time

Public safety officers took a brown and white cat to the station September 12 at 1:15 pm. It had been found in a yard at 346 Grosvenor looking unwell. Before it could be sent to the SPCA, however, the owner on Victoria Ave. managed to retrieve her pet. (See "Lost cat?" September 18, p. 24.)

Cyclist ticketed

A 20-year-old Westmount man was ticketed \$37 on September 14 for cycling on a path in Westmount Park. He was spotted by a bike patroller at 7:51 pm as he passed the comfort station on a Bixi. The man was intercepted at the bike path and told he would receive a ticket by mail.

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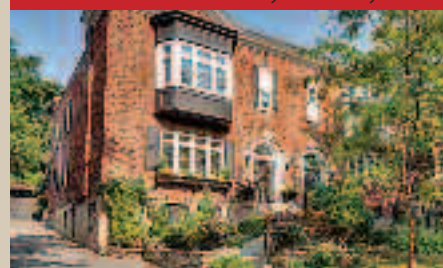


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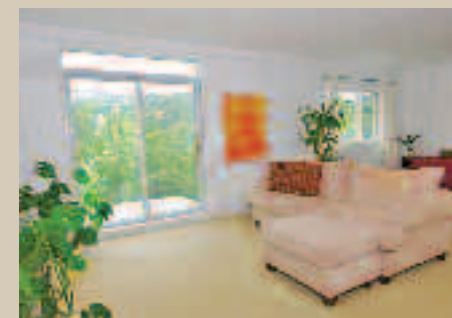


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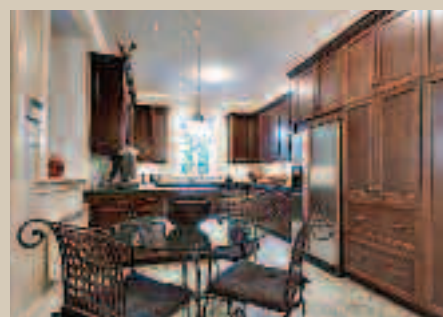
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