

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 7 No. 10c

We are Westmount

October 15, 2013

*Has Westmount become a party town?*

## Out-of-control teen party takes over an hour to break up

Public safety officers and police spent more than one hour October 4 clearing a party of intoxicated teens that got out of hand at a house on Rosemount Ave., Public Security officials said. The party host, a 16-year-old, stated she had invited 10 school friends for a sleepover, but could no longer maintain control when the party grew to a total of 50 to 60.

The host was issued a ticket for \$119 for noise and disturbing the peace and her parents, who were not home, were to be informed. An older sister was in the house.

When officers arrived at 10:47 pm in response to noise complaints, they reported finding so many people on the front ter-

race, in the yard, on the sidewalk and on the street that police were called to assist. Some of the youths were described as intoxicated, mouthing off at officers and dispersing onto nearby streets. The area was finally cleared by 11:55 pm.

The incident was reminiscent of another large disruptive party in the neighbourhood last March but not known to be related, according to Public Security.

This is the third large teen party that the *Independent* has reported on this fall (see "Party ends, 40 teens fan out into Westmount," October 8, p. 2; and "Drinking young people run in all directions," September 17, p. 1).

*Touchdown! New WAG field inaugurated*



A professional trumpeter heralds a touchdown during the inaugural event at the refurbished field of the Westmount Athletic Grounds October 4. As previously reported, Selwyn House paid for the field's renovation. It lost the football game 56-17 to Dalbé-Viau high school from Lachine.

Westmount's election-list notices are late and there will be a second revision day, see p. 4

*'Going into this with an open mind'*

## City 'explores' teen centre partnerships with Y, seniors

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Plans are gearing up for creative and expanded use of the TAG Teen Centre facilities in the new Westmount recreation centre, the *Independent* learned last week. These could involve a sharing of resources with the Westmount Y and the Contactivity seniors' centre.

"We're exploring some options with the Y for the management of the Teen Centre and for Contactivity to use it when the

teens aren't there," said city director general Duncan Campbell. "We're going into this with an open mind. It's all new."

In fact, Contactivity has already reserved space in the exercise and multipurpose rooms adjacent to the Teen Centre, according to Sports and Recreation director Mike Deegan. The centre is based right across the street at Westmount Park Church.

"It's the goal of the Sports and Recreation de- continued on p. 19

LATE-BREAKING: Andrei Jones is expected to pull out of the election on Oct. 15, which would mean the acclamation of Cllr. Theodora Samiotis.

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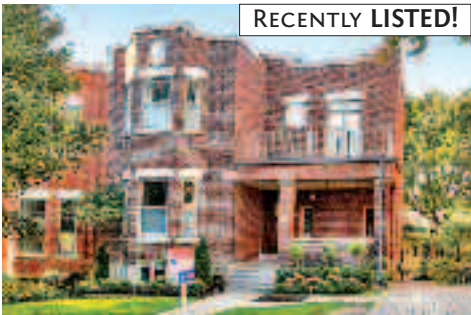
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Source: Re/Max Quebec



## Films, soirée among Westmount events

# French e-books to launch during Public Library Week

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

French e-books are about to make their debut at Westmount Public Library. The new service is expected to be launched October 23 as one of the highlights of the 15th annual Public Library Week October 19 to 26.

While the English e-books have been available at the library for two years, the French service has now been made possible due to a grassroots effort by public libraries in Quebec, which has been breaking new ground with licensing agree-

ments, according to reference librarian Benoit Morin.

It's now Westmount's turn to launch the service after a long waiting line, he said.

Leading off the library week program is a "Guess the Giller Breakfast," October 19 at 10 am. This is a presentation by library staff moderated by broadcaster Shelley Pomerance. To reserve, call: 514.989.5299. The same evening there is a screening of *The Man of Steel* for ages 10 and over.

"We have events planned for everyone," said programming and outreach library Donna Lach.

Another film, the adult-oriented *Unfinished Song*, takes place Monday, October 21 at 2 pm.

This year for the first time, a soirée called "Celebrating Westmount Authors" will recognize "the richness and diversity of our local authors," Lach explained. "Over 40 authors live in the city." It takes place October 23 at 7 pm at Victoria Hall starting with words of welcome by Roch Carrier. Those planning to attend are

asked to sign up by calling 514.989.5299.

The library's annual pumpkin decorating competition continues throughout from October 1 to 25. Participants are asked to decorate (no carving) a pumpkin at home and on submitting it receive a ticket in exchange for the library's 16th annual Family Extravaganza, an after-hours event that takes place October 26 from 7 pm to 9 pm. It's a family event for children aged 5 and over.

## Windsor block party



The families of Windsor Ave. held a street party the afternoon of October 5. The city provided barricades to close off the street, tables and a rope for a tug-of-war (north side vs. south side). The result? A tie.

Photos courtesy of Jean-François Emmanuel.

## Warned in April, ticketed in October

A contractor using heavy equipment after hours October 3 was issued a ticket for \$269, Public Security officials said. He was described as cooperative and stopped

using the machine outside 245 Clarke at 6:48 pm, but the company was recognized as the same one he had warned April 23 for using the machinery after 6 pm.





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MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION  
LE 3 NOVEMBRE 2013 • NOVEMBER 3, 2013



## PROLONGATION DE L'HORAIRE DE LA COMMISSION DE RÉVISION

En raison de circonstances hors de notre contrôle, les avis de révision de la liste électorale pour l'élection municipale du 3 novembre 2013, n'ont pas été distribués dans le délai requis par la présidente d'élections. Par conséquent, les travaux de la commission de révision seront prolongés.

La commission de révision siégera à l'hôtel de ville de Westmount (4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest) pendant les dates et heures suivantes :

- Le mercredi 16 octobre 2013 de 10 h à 22 h;
- Le jeudi 17 octobre 2013 de 10h à 19 h 30; et
- **Le mardi 22 octobre 2013 de 10h à 19 h 30.**

**DONNÉ à Westmount ce 15<sup>e</sup> jour du mois d'octobre 2013.**

## EXTENSION OF SCHEDULE FOR THE BOARD OF REVISORS

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the notice of revision of the electoral list for the November 3, 2013 Municipal Election was not distributed within the time delays required by the Returning Officer. As such, we have extended the schedule for the Board of Revisors.

The Board of Revisors will sit at Westmount City Hall (4333 Sherbrooke Street West) on the following dates and times:

- Wednesday, October 16, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.;
- Thursday, October 17, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and
- **Tuesday, October 22, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

**GIVEN in Westmount on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2013.**

**Viviana Iturriaga Espinoza**  
Présidente d'élections/Returning Officer

Pour information/For information  
514-989-5280

[www.westmount.org/vote2013](http://www.westmount.org/vote2013)

# Electoral list revisions extended to October 22

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount is one of more than 40 municipalities affected by a delay in the mailing of notices by a contractor regarding revisions to the electoral list for the November 3 municipal election, city officials said October 11.

As a result, Westmount has added an additional sitting of the board of revisors at city hall on October 22 from 10 am to 7:30 pm.

This is to meet a legal requirement that citizens receive at least five days' notice for seeking revisions after receipt of the mailing, according to city clerk and returning officer Viviana Iturriaga Espinoza.

The original revision dates also remain in effect. They are Wednesday, October 16 from 10 am to 10 pm and Thursday, October 17 from 10 am to 7:30 pm, again at city hall. In order to cast a vote, one's name must appear on the electoral list.

While citizens can expect to receive the required notices and reminder cards by Canada Post on October 15 or 16, she said, these will list only the original two revision dates since they had already been printed before the delay.

"People have to have enough prior notice to put their documents together and arrange to attend a revision sitting if they have changes to make," Iturriaga Espinoza explained.

The delay resulted when the contractor who issues the notices for Westmount and the other affected municipalities was unexpectedly unable to do so on schedule. While this is a contractor used previously by Westmount and is experienced with the electoral requirements, she said, preliminary information suggested there had been a printing problem.

Once the city became aware on October 10 that the notices had not been delivered on time, "We were unable to receive any reply from the contractor because the company was overwhelmed by the volume of similar enquiries."

Anyone planning to make changes, corrections, additions or deletions to the electoral list is required to take at least two pieces of identification with them showing names and addresses and date of birth pertaining to the applicable person or persons. This could include a driver's permit, Medicare card and/or a passport.



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## Six mark 25 years in Westmount 'family'

# City employees honoured for long service at annual dinner



City employees honoured for 25-year service by Mayor Peter Trent (left) and city director general Duncan Campbell (right) are, from left: Catherine Swift, Roy Meiselbach, Marc Gonin, Jean McKenzie, Michael Deegan and Thomas Hopkins.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Six city employees were inducted into the city's Quarter Century Club at its 70th annual banquet October 9 at Victoria Hall. The event brings together active and retired employees who worked at least 25 years with the city and recognizes others for milestone years.

This year's quarter-century honourees were Hydro Westmount meter readers Marc Gonin and Roy Meiselbach, firefighter Thomas Hopkins, Jean McKenzie of Public Security, Catherine Swift of the

library and Michel Deegan, director of Sports and Recreation.

Mayor Peter Trent took the occasion to acknowledge the role Deegan had played over the last year as the city's site coordinator for the new Westmount recreation centre. Without Deegan, he said, "We wouldn't have what we have today."

He also noted how the Quarter Century Club brought together so many of the Westmount family in a way the city of Montreal, with so many employees, could never do. "That's what makes us different and why we fought so hard to keep West-

mount independent," he pointed out.

There are now 32 current employees with at least 25 years of service and some 185 living retirees who are also members of the Quarter Century Club.

Other employees receiving service awards this year were: 30 years (Maria Fisher – Finance); 20 years (Patrick Boulay – Public Works, Maureen Lafrenière – Communications and Odette Nadeau – library); 15 years (Denis Meunier – Hydro Westmount and Rino Montagna – Public Works).

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## Redfern obstructions come from 2 different sources

A complaint of construction trucks blocking the sidewalk on Redfern October 1 at 9 am did not involve the large condo project under way north of St. Catherine but rather work being done at a private home across the street, Public Security officials said. The contractor was asked to obtain a permit to use the public way which he did.

Later the same morning, Public Security officials discovered the east lane of the street completely blocked by two landscaping trucks plus a moving van all to do with the apartment building at 4300 de Maisonneuve. The movers were told to return the next day and the landscapers to hurry up and dump a delivery of gravel which they did and left.

## Operation éclairage hands out 58 pairs of bike lights

A joint bicycle safety operation by police from local Station 12 and Public Security took place September 30 at Wood and de Maisonneuve, Public Security officials report. A total of 70 safety pamphlets were distributed as well as 58 pairs of bicycle lights to those without them. Under the Quebec Highway Code, bicycles must be

equipped with a white front light and a red one at the back. The Operation éclairage campaign, was staffed by police traffic officer Steven Goldberg, community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel and Public Security bike patrollers Sabrina Tremblay and Zachary Sobkowiak.

**ÉLECTIONS MUNICIPALES  
À WESTMOUNT**

**WESTMOUNT  
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**



Westmount

LE 3 NOVEMBRE 2013

NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> 2013

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## KUDOS TO PUBLIC WORKS, PUBLIC SECURITY

A big branch fell from a neighbour's tree in the wind storm on October 7. There was no injury or damage to property, but access to our driveway was blocked. One call to Public Security was all that was required to handle it. A crew arrived in the ugly weather to dispose of the branch and we were able to use our driveway by the end of the day.

Thanks for your speedy response!

SHANE VELAN, LANSDOWNE AVE.

## MONTREAL, PLEASE TURN LAND INTO A PARK

I read with interest (October 1, p. 3) that the vacant lot located at Claremont and de Maisonneuve is owned by Provigo/Loblaws. I am glad to learn that no development is planned there, and also that the quality of the soil is being tested. As a medium-term resident of the Vendôme Metro station neighbourhood, I can attest that keeping this space green – officially – should be a major priority. It is the only green space between Claremont and Decarie below Sherbrooke St. The trees there are a most welcome refreshment from the concrete.

I would love to see the city of Montreal change this property to a park. We often bring our two-year-old son to play in near-

by Somerville Park. Not having to cross Claremont to get to the next nearest park to us would also contribute greatly to our general safety.

LOREN CARLE, NDG

## BY-LAWS, BY LAWYERS

Do you know that Westmount has over 1,445 by-laws and one cannot be too careful if you wish to stay within the law.

On September 30, I took advantage of the wonderful weather to get on top of a few chores that had gone unattended during golf season. So I wheeled out the ShopVac (no man should be without one) and vacuumed out the car.

As I am deaf, I was not completely aware that the vacuum suction makes almost as much noise as a leaf-blower.

Luckily, I was finished the chore before the authorities were alerted.

However, I thought I had better prepare my case if the noise police showed up, so I Googled the by-laws and went to "Noise," and there it was By-Law 1387. No mention of vacuum cleaners, but the decibel levels were discussed. I think I was below the level of a jet plane so I may be safe.

But the item that caught my attention was the potential fines, I quote: "\$100 for a natural person, .....\$200 for a legal person." Don't you just love lawyer talk!

MICHAEL HARRISON,  
MOUNTAIN AVE.

# Runs in District 8 to make it a race Andrei Jones seeks more communication, accountability

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The filing of nomination papers by Andrei Jones just hours before the deadline October 4 has forced an election race in District 8 for Councillor Theodora Samiotis. And that's exactly what his motives were.

"I felt I had to step up to the plate," he said on hearing she was still unopposed the day before. "It's good for someone, regardless of the job they've done, to compete for political election. It provides an opportunity for feedback and accountability."

And for Jones, who at age 23 expects to graduate in mechanical engineering at Concordia next spring, the challenge of running for city council is yet another one that drives him "to do anything possible to meet and defeat any challenge."

He's presenting himself "with a clean slate," he says. And with an aim to work for "improved communication and accountability" between the city and citizenry, and to try "to make sense" out of some things that just don't sit well with him.

A graduate of Selwyn House and Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, Jones has already worked in his chosen field for Bombardier Aerospace, CAE and the Université Libre de Bruxelles in design and data analysis – all as part of Concordia's co-op program.

He's also been a part-time swimming instructor and lifeguard at the Westmount Y and a Westmount lifeguard during the summers 2008-2010.

## Niggling questions

The new pool at the Westmount recreation centre is, in fact, one of several niggling questions he believes citizens should have had clearer answers to. "If a large construction company is going to be six months late, the least it could do is inform people and apologize."

And, he continues, "Why did it take a whole summer to fix the sprinkler in Stayner Park in front of my house? Apparently a valve broke – but the whole summer?"

Then, there's the sound barrier "that's gone on so long it's ridiculous. I know there are various arguments, but at least it could have been built in areas not affected by the Turcot project," he suggests. "They

could start somewhere."

Jones was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, left at age four and has lived in Westmount for 10 years with his parents and

three siblings. He describes his interests as cooking, cycling, alpine skiing and mechanics.

"I'm really looking forward to Thanksgiving," he said. "I plan to cook at least one turkey and maybe two: one for my family on the Monday and one for my friends the day before." His secret to a good turkey? "It's a mix of my grandmother's recipe and Martha Stewart." In short, and in part, he says, baste it with

beef consommé.

## Winner in satellite design

One of the projects he worked on at Concordia was the winner in the Canadian Satellite Design Challenge last year. He expects its launch to come in the near future.

And if Jones were elected to city council, how would that affect the possibility of a job opportunity outside the Montreal area? "I would have to find something here," he replies. "My first commitment comes first."

# Election 2013: Who's running?

## Acclaimed

Mayor Peter Trent\*  
Ward 3 Victor Drury\*  
6 Nicole Forbes\*

## Races

Ward 1 Patrick Martin\*,  
Julia Carbone Gold  
2 Peter Starr, Philip Cutler  
4 Kathleen Duncan\*,  
Rosalind Davis  
5 Christina Smith, John Fretz  
7 Cynthia Lulham\*,  
Mavis Young, Nigel Goddard  
8 Theodora Samiotis\*,  
Andrei Jones

\* Incumbent

Not running: incumbent councillors Tim Price and Gary Ikeman.

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER: David Price

EDITOR: Kristin McNeill (on maternity leave)

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

## LETTERS & COMMENTS:

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. E-mail any letter or comments to indie@westmountindependent.com.

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## Takes on Lulham, Young in District 7

# Goddard runs on health, safety near tracks & work sites

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Nigel Goddard's bid for council in District 7 has changed the game, turning it into a three-way race in what had been shaping up as a fight between Councillor Cynthia Lulham and Mavis Young, her close challenger the last time around.

Recent citizen action on upgrades to the tracks and in curtailing overnight work on the commuter line, "really made me realize that citizen action can make a difference," he says.

"What I've really been passionate about is the whole issue of pollution and its effects on the health and safety of residents living close to the railway and highway. More needs to be done and this is the perfect time to raise the issue."

It's also Goddard's chance, with what he calls his brainstorming and consensus-building skills, "to do something for the betterment of my neighbours and city, and be part of the democratic process."

His concern for reducing pollution of all kinds includes noise from construction sites, the creation of "a friendlier city for biking" with added bike paths, more synchronized traffic lights and a ban on

smoking in Westmount Park.

"I also would like to encourage and promote consensus building through bringing people together." He was thinking how regular meetings between a condo developer and nearby residents might lead to greater understanding. "When you get to know someone, it's easier to be nice to them."

Goddard, who graduated in economic geography from Concordia, has worked as an art consultant for some 20 years. He also plays alto sax in a band called The Kingpins. He says his ability to perform in public and to analyze clients' needs puts him at ease in dealing with people and assessing their concerns, all of which would be useful on council.

### More to be done – soon

Goddard also wants to put it on the record that he "applauded the way the incumbent (Councillor Lulham) has looked at the issue of trains and the highway, but that more has to be done and it should be done before the start of the Turcot project.

"In a democratic system, people have a choice. I bring passion to this issue and now there are more trains than ever and I'm greatly affected by it – especially the diesel emissions from a wind from the east." A member of the Westmount Train Action Group (WTAG), he repeats what he has said at city council meetings: that using seismographic equipment, he has

measured train vibrations equal to more than a 4.0 earthquake.

He said he doesn't want to experience a Megantic-type derailment even though the commuter trains do not carry flammable material.

Interested in "all kinds of history," Goddard was born in Rugby, England, and lived in a house that actually had the same layout as the one he chose to purchase on Irvine, he said. He also likes trains, but recalls that there weren't any on the Sunday he visited and decided

to buy his house.

"Yes, I knew there were tracks nearby. But tracks don't make any noise. It's what you put on them." And although there has been some effort to upgrade the trains, he says, "it doesn't mean we shouldn't make it better."

There is "a lot of ingenuity here in Westmount and if we brainstorm and really focus on it as a community we should be able to come up with four or five solutions." He notes that a 10-decibel reduc-

tion in noise was achieved by the installation of the prototype sound barrier at the foot of Abbott and said, "I would love that amount on Irvine."

Westmount is a family, he adds, "and we may not always agree, but we rise together from an outside attack like the forced mergers. That's what got me politically involved. Malaise should not go unchecked or it can affect the whole organism."

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## Corrections

In a story last week on Eric Maldoff's recognition as *advocatus emeritus* (p. 10), Maldoff no longer serves on the executive committee or boards of the MUHC or McGill, which he did not chair, but is now a governor emeritus and chair of the university's finance committee.

On p. 1 of our October 8 edition ("Three candidates acclaimed"), we wrongly identified the district of elected-by-acclamation councillor Victor Drury. He was in fact acclaimed in Ward 3. Sitting councillor Kathleen Duncan and challenger Rosalind Davis are in a race in Ward 4.



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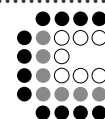
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# Trent, Drury and Forbes sworn in Mayor predicts fewer brickbats

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

While candidates in six electoral districts campaigned for council seats, incumbent mayor Peter Trent was sworn into office October 9 along with two councillors who were also unopposed. They were Victor Drury in District 3 and Nicole Forbes in District 6.

In the ceremony at city hall, all declared under the new oath required by Quebec that they would fulfill their duties of office

“with honesty and justice, in accordance with the law and with the Code of Ethics and Conduct of the Elected Municipal Officers of the city of Westmount and undertake to observe the rules of that code applicable to me after my term has ended.”

They also chose to add as a codicil the oath traditionally used in Westmount to furthermore swear to discharge their duties “without partiality, fear, favour, or affection and in the best interest of the city



Councillor Nicole Forbes.



Councillor Victor Drury.



Mayor Peter Trent signs his declaration of oath of office before city clerk and returning officer Viviana Iturriaga Espinoza.

and its citizens.”

After each had signed the declaration, Trent presented brief comments on the four years ahead which he looked forward to as being “less stressful and without as many brickbats” as the previous ones. “I can be a little more frank now,” he said, “the last term was quite a battle” to build

the Westmount recreation centre.

But, he added, “We didn’t do it for us, but for our children and children’s children.”

The six remaining councillors to be elected November 3 are to be sworn into office November 11 before the first meeting of the new council.

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## Both in wrong as women argue over dogs

A verbal altercation between two women over unleashed dogs September 26 near Wood and Holton was resolved when both admitted being in the wrong, Public Security officials report. When officers were called to the scene at 5:09 pm, they questioned each woman, learning one had been telling the other to leash her two dogs and the dog owner claiming she had been harassed over the issue. They were told the dogs should not have been walking off leash, but the complaint should have been made directly to Public Security.

## 79-year-old cyclist falls

A 79-year-old cyclist was taken to hospital by ambulance October 2 after falling in the lane behind 335 Clarke, Public Security officials said. Responding to a call from a witness at 4:17 pm for a man lying on the ground and not moving, officers found him conscious and able to breathe. One hand was bleeding from absorbing the impact of the fall. Because of his age, however, he was immobilized until the arrival of Urgences Santé at 4:59 pm. The resident of Olivier was taken to the Royal Victoria Hospital.



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## Station 12 Reports

# Suspects refuse to steal old cell phone, get arrested

The following news stories are based on information from police reports provided by a Station 12 constable in an interview with the reporter.

BY ISAAC OLSON

A teenager discovered the virtues of carrying around an older model cellphone and an empty wallet when four suspects attempting to rob him rejected the device. Station 12 constable Caroline Gauthier

said the boy, age 15, was walking on Sherbrooke St. near Lansdowne Ave. on October 3 when he was suddenly surrounded by four similarly aged teenagers. Two walked in front, slackening the pace while two others walked close behind until the walk slowed to a stop. Gauthier said one of the suspects asked for the time and the victim told them, 6:25 pm.

The four teens told the victim to empty his pockets and, when he did, he pulled

out an older model cellphone. After taking a look, the suspects returned the phone to him saying they didn't want such an old device, said Gauthier.

The suspects then demanded the 15-year-old empty his wallet, said Gauthier, but the boy had no money. Gauthier said the victim felt very scared and intimidated by the four boys surrounding him. This, she added, makes it the equivalent of an armed robbery.

The four suspects left the boy, said Gauthier, and he made a run for home. He

called police immediately, said Gauthier, and he was able to give a very detailed description of the suspects. Station 12 police apprehended the four boys a short time later in Westmount Park.

While one of the suspects lived near Westmount, none were local, she said, noting one was 14, two were 15 and the oldest was 16.

The suspects were, after being processed as minors, were brought home to their parents as is legally required when handling minors.

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## Man refuses to leash dog while playing flute on Greene

A 43-year-old man was issued a ticket September 30 for refusing to leash his German shepherd while playing the flute for passers-by at the southwest corner of Greene and de Maisonneuve, Public Security officials report. The dog lay on the sidewalk about 15 feet away from an open guitar case into which people had been tossing coins.

After refusing to comply with the leashing order, the man began walking north with the unleashed dog until police intercepted him and identified him as a resident of Edouard Montpetit. When he refused again to leash the dog, he was given the ticket and left in the hands of police.

## Cyclist injures face in midnight Glen fall

A young woman who fell off her bicycle at 12:05 am October 5 on Glen Rd. across from Hydro Westmount was assisted by passers-by until a Public Security patroller took over after noticing several cars stopped on the road. Officials said no one seemed to know how she had fallen, but she was described as intoxicated.

The woman suffered bruises and cuts to the face as well as a bleeding nose. Urgences Santé was called despite her refusal to receive medical assistance. Due to the extent of her head injuries and her inability to recall what had happened, she was required to sign a waiver after a lengthy process at which time she was believed to understand what had happened.

A male companion living in LaSalle had cycled ahead not knowing she had fallen, but returned to the scene and the two left walking their bikes.

## High wind topple trees

Several vehicles were reported damaged by fallen branches and trees during high winds October 7, according to Public Security reports. Parts of city trees were re-

ported down on Oakland, Somerville (see story, p. 18) and Roslyn while a large branch from a tree on private property fell on cars parked off Arlington Lane.



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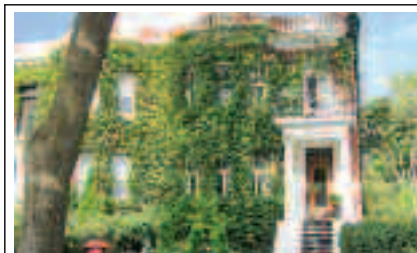
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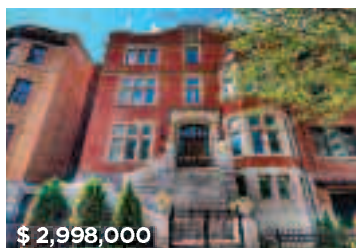
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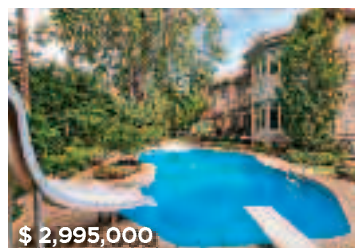
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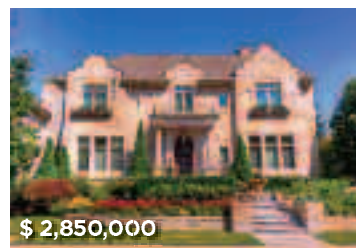
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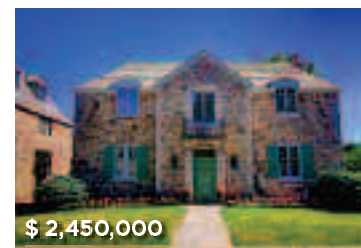
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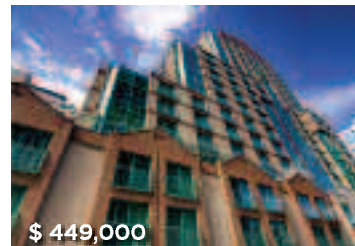
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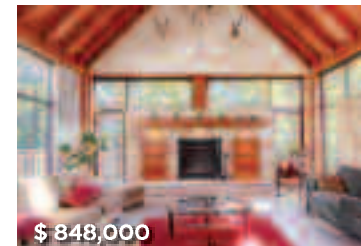
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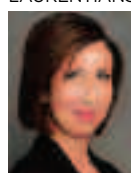
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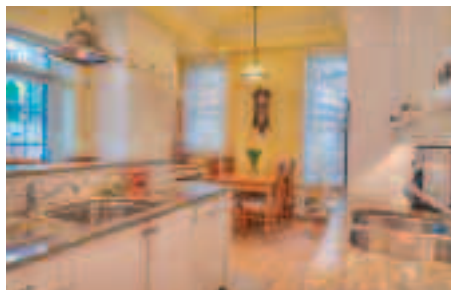
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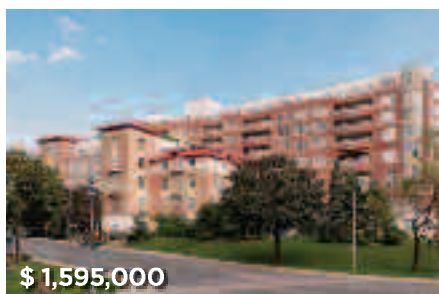
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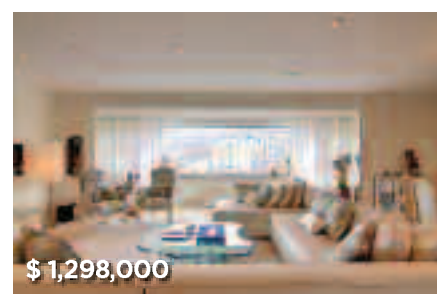
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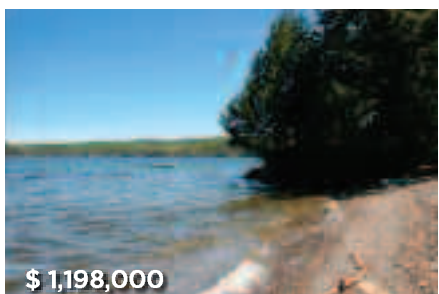
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# September sales: Only the (Westmount) lowly



Real estate  
ANDY DODGE, CRA

other 66 are asking more than that amount, out of 165 on the market now in Westmount. This compares to 60 over \$2 million and 151 overall a month earlier, so the trends are obvious.

### Average price dropped

The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings which were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in September 2013. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses and prices cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph below offers a picture of these trends over time.

Volume rebounded in September for the lower half of the Westmount real estate market, that is, for houses selling at or less than \$1,500,000, but it is still suffering badly for houses over that mark. Only one of 12 properties sold in September exceeded \$1.5 million, and none went for more than \$2 million.

Two of the year's lowest house prices were posted in September, doubling the number of sales this year between \$500,000 and \$600,000. The next two prices were \$900,000 and \$915,000.

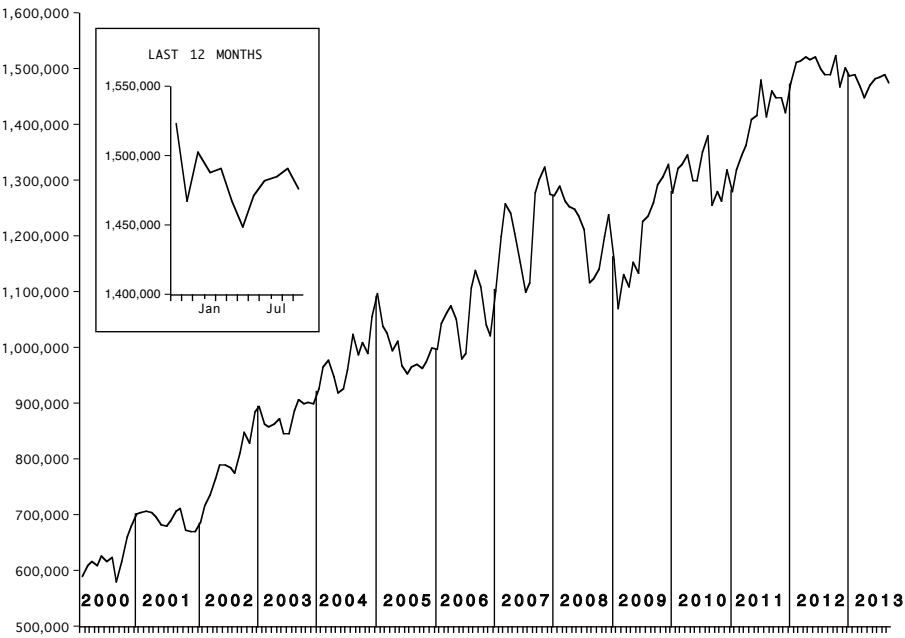
So far this year 11 home sales have been reported above \$2 million, and an-

In fact, prices were so low that the average price of the September sales dropped to \$1,163,000, the lowest raw average price for a month since July last year. However, mark-ups over city valuation stayed strong, an indication buyers are willing to pay for the product, but not in the higher price brackets. The last sale over \$2 million posted by agents was negotiated in July, and only three have been settled since April. Depending on how desperate the owners of those big houses are, those high asking prices may have to come down substantially to get that part of the market moving again.

The condominium market inched along with only two sales, bringing the total for the third quarter this year to seven, but in fact one of those two was just over \$1,600,000, the highest price paid for a resale condo this year. The average mark-up for the seven condominium sales reached only 12 percent over the 2011 valuation compared to an average 20 percent for the

continued on p. 15

## Average adjusted price of a 'typical' Westmount home by month from Jan. 2000 to September 2013 based on accepted offer dates



Source: Andy Dodge & Assoc. Inc.



# Westmount real estate brokers preach patience, realism in slower market

BY MICHAEL MOORE

With houses no longer flying off the market, Westmount's real estate brokers are preaching patience to clients watching their homes sit unsold on the market-place.

"Sellers have to not only be patient, but realistic in this market. While the volume of sales is certainly down, there are sales

## *Real estate, cont'd. from p. 14*

entire year. The figures are not substantial enough to say that buyers are losing interest in condominiums, and in fact if the aging owners of the large houses could sell, they might be ready to pay substantially for some of Westmount's more expensive condos.

Adjacent-Westmount, which picked up the slack from Westmount's lack of sales in August, saw only two sales in September: a house on Redpath Crescent and an apartment in the Trafalgar Apartments on Côte des Neiges.

While in Westmount prices (in terms of mark-ups) have stayed fairly even compared with last year, in every part of adjacent-Westmount we have seen modest reductions of prices.

with high prices. Properly priced and presented, houses can sell quickly," said Jill Prévost of Groupe Sutton Centre Ouest.

The 107 houses sold through August represents Westmount's second-lowest tally of the 21st century, ahead of only the 102 sold in 2009 (see: Oct. 1, 2013), according to real estate consultant and *Westmount Independent* columnist Andy Dodge.

The slowdown's impact has been most prominent on Westmount's more upscale properties. In August and September, only two of the 30 houses sold in the city went for more than \$2 million, according to Dodge.

Christina Miller of Profusion Immobilier believes the competition for people listing their homes above that threshold has never been greater.

"When I last checked there were 68 homes asking for \$2 million or more. That's a crazy record. I remember looking a couple of years ago and there were 23. I thought *that* was cause for alarm, let alone 68," she said.

## *'Sellers overestimating value'*

According to Joan McGuigan of McGuigan Pepin, sellers are overestimating the value of their homes, leading to longer

listing times that crowd the market.

"There are too many overpriced houses that make the market look really bad when they are on the market for more than a year and often more than two," she said.

Some critics have blamed the 2012 election win by the Parti Québécois for the downturn in the real estate market, particularly in notoriously pro-Liberal Westmount.

## *'Many factors'*

"There are many factors affecting the market, like company layoffs, few jobs, weak economy, fear. Most people I talk to, though, say this market needs a change in government," said McGuigan.

RE/MAX Québec Inc.'s Brian Dutch sees a Westmount demographic composed of business people seeking stability in their professional and private lives.

"I still have clients who are waiting for the Liberals to come back before deciding to sell. If the PQ was voted out, it couldn't hurt because the people who live here aren't necessarily PQ diehards," he said.

However, Miller feels the current climate is an inevitable part of a real estate cycle that will eventually rectify itself.

"If you look through history, there have always been ups and downs, ups and

downs. I think we're at a place where we are just stabilizing," she said. "I think the economy is slowing in that same cycle so there's a natural tightening of the family budgets."

In that slowed market, Dutch believes the salesmanship and experience of the broker plays an even more crucial role in securing sales.

"In a good market you can sell anything because it sells by itself. In a more saturated, lower market, you just have to be that much better than your competition. The buyers will still come, but you can't just sit back waiting for it to happen," he said.

## *Welcome boost*

The Montreal market received a welcome boost October 9 with the release of a new Greater Montréal Real Estate Board report announcing that island-wide sales jumped by 12 percent in September from the same time in 2012.

The report also announced that sales for the entire greater Montreal area grew by eight percent for the same time span.

"The beauty of real estate is it only takes one buyer, and there are lots of them out there," said Prévost.

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2013.10.16 • Vol. 1/19  
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# infoWestmount

## HÔTEL DE VILLE

### Élections municipales le 3 novembre

 Une élection générale municipale sera tenue à Westmount le dimanche 3 novembre. Pour plus d'informations, visitez le [www.westmount.org/vote2013](http://www.westmount.org/vote2013).

### Inscrivez-vous à E-Westmount

**Votre connexion à l'information de la Ville.** Recevez par courriel des bulletins municipaux et des avis d'urgence. Inscrivez-vous au [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) ou au [ewestmount@westmount.org](mailto:ewestmount@westmount.org).

## CENTRE DES LOISIRS DE WESTMOUNT

### Suivez la construction du CLW

Consultez les plus récentes photos du Centre des loisirs au [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org).


## SPORTS ET LOISIRS

### Carte d'accès 2014 disponible

**À compter du 15 octobre au Victoria Hall.** Procurez-vous la **carte d'accès - installations sportives 2014** au bureau des Sports et loisirs (tarif d'abonnement individuel : 25 \$; tarif familial (max. 5 cartes) : 50 \$). Assurez-vous d'avoir en main deux preuves de résidence (compte de taxes ou services publics, ainsi qu'une carte d'identité, tel un permis de conduire; N.B. les baux et comptes de téléphone cellulaire ne sont pas acceptés). Pour recevoir la carte, vous devez être présent car une photo est prise sur les lieux. Info : 989-5353.

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

### Extravaganza de l'Halloween : Une Aventure Spiderwick

 Décorez une citrouille à la maison (aucun découpage s'il vous plaît!) et apportez-la à la Bibliothèque entre le 1<sup>er</sup> et le 25 octobre pour obtenir un billet d'entrée à la 16<sup>e</sup> édition de la Grande fête familiale de l'Halloween. Enfilez ensuite votre costume d'Halloween et venez vous amuser **le samedi 26 octobre de 19 h à 21 h**. Les citrouilles gagnantes seront annoncées lors du gala. Un événement amusant pour toute la famille! Pour les jeunes de 6 ans et plus. Billets requis. Info: 514 989-5229.

### Devinez qui remportera le prix Giller

**Le samedi 19 octobre à 10 h.** Venez rencontrer Shelley Pomerance et le personnel de la Bibliothèque lors de ce petit-déjeuner-causerie pour discuter des cinq romans canadiens pré-sélectionnés pour le prix Giller, le prix littéraire le plus prestigieux du Canada. RSVP : 514 989-5299.

### Cercle de lecture

**Le mardi 22 octobre à 10 h 15.** Aucune liste de lecture imposée et aucune date limite, seulement des discussions au sujet des livres que vous avez lus ! Info : 514 989-5299.

## Prochaine séance du conseil : le lundi 11 novembre

### Westmount célèbre ses auteurs

**Le mercredi 23 octobre à 19 h au Victoria Hall.** À l'occasion de la Semaine des bibliothèques publiques, la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount organise une soirée spéciale pour célébrer la richesse et la diversité de ses auteurs locaux. Info : 514 989-5386.



### Film: *My Mother, the Nazi Midwife and Me*

**Le mercredi 30 octobre à 19 h.** Un documentaire qui dénonce l'assassinat systématique des nouveaux-nés juifs dans les camps de personnes déplacées en zone militaire américaine – une histoire qui a failli passer inaperçue. Introduction et discussion avec Gina Roitman, auteure et co-réalisatrice. Info : 514 989-5386.

## ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

### Rencontrez les candidats

**Le mercredi 16 octobre à 19 h au Victoria Hall.** Rencontrez les candidats qui se présentent à l'élection municipale. Événement présenté par l'Association municipale de Westmount et le journal Westmount Independent.

### Les conférences d'automne de l'AHW :

#### Quatre sites historiques à Westmount

**Le jeudi 17 octobre à 19 h à la bibliothèque.** Conférenciers: Doreen Lindsay, Caroline Breslaw et R. Allen-Rigby. Présenté par l'Association historique de Westmount. Info : 514 932-6688.

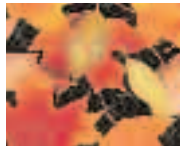
### La nuit des horreurs à Westmount

**Le jeudi 31 octobre de 17 h à 20 h au pavillon du bowling à côté de l'hôtel de ville.** Ne manquez pas la Nuit des horreurs le 31 octobre. Vous ne devinerez jamais qui vous attend dans la noirceur ... si vous osez entrer ! Soirée géniale et terrifiante pour les jeunes de tous âges. Venez déguisés ! De plus, l'équipe de la sécurité publique vous propose des conseils pour une soirée d'Halloween en toute sécurité au [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) Info : 514 932-5468.

## TRAVAUX PUBLICS

### Collecte de feuilles mortes

#### Au cours des mois d'octobre et de novembre.

 Placez vos sacs de feuilles et de résidus de jardin en bordure du trottoir avant 7 h les jours de semaine en vue de la collecte par les équipes de la Ville. Seuls les sacs en papier sont acceptés. Info : 514 989-5390.

## CITY HALL

### Municipal Election November 3

 A municipal general election will be held in Westmount on Sunday, November 3, 2013. For information, please visit [www.westmount.org/vote2013](http://www.westmount.org/vote2013).

### Sign up for E-Westmount

**Your connection to City information.** Receive municipal bulletins and emergency notices by email. Sign up at [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) or [ewestmount@westmount.org](mailto:ewestmount@westmount.org).

## WESTMOUNT RECREATION CENTRE

### Follow the construction of the WRC

See the latest photos of the Recreation Centre online at [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org).

## SPORTS & RECREATION

### 2014 Facility Card available

**Beginning October 15 at Victoria Hall.** Residents can purchase their **2014 Facility Membership Card** at the Sports & Recreation office (Membership fee: \$25 for individuals, \$50 for families (max. 5 cards). Be sure to bring two proofs of residence (municipal tax bill or utility bill, as well as an identity card such as a driver's licence; leases and cell phone bills not accepted). To get a card, each individual must be present, as pictures are taken on site. Info: 514 989-5353.




## LIBRARY

### Halloween Extravaganza: A Spiderwick Adventure

Decorate a pumpkin at home (no carving please) and bring it to the Library between October 1<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Then pick up your ticket for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Family Extravaganza. Join us after hours on **Saturday, October 26 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.** Prizes will be awarded for the pumpkin contest. A family event for children ages 6+ . Tickets required. Info: 514 989-5229.

### Guess the Giller Breakfast

 **Saturday, October 19 at 10 a.m.** Join Shelley Pomerance and Library staff as they discuss the five Canadian novels on the Giller shortlist, Canada's most prestigious literary prize. RSVP: 514 989-5299.

### Readers to Readers Book Club

**Tuesday, October 22 at 10:15 a.m.** Join our morning book club just to talk about great books recently read. No reading lists or deadlines. Info: 514 989-5299.

### Celebrating Westmount Authors

#### Wednesday, October 23 at 7 p.m. at Victoria Hall.

To celebrate Public Library Week, the Westmount Public Library is proud to present this special soirée


### Next Council Meeting:

## Monday, November 11

recognizing the richness and diversity of our local authors. Info: 514 989-5386.

### Film: *My Mother, the Nazi Midwife and Me*

#### Wednesday, October 30 at 7 p.m.

 This compelling, hour-long documentary unearths a chilling story that time has almost buried: a systematic murder of Jewish babies in a DP camp in the American military zone after the end of the war. Writer and co-producer Gina Roitman will introduce the film and lead a discussion afterwards. Info: 514 989-5386.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Meet the candidates

#### Wednesday, October 16 at 7 p.m. at Victoria Hall.

Meet and question the candidates that will be running in the municipal election. Organized by the Westmount Municipal Association and the Westmount Independent.

### WHA Fall Lecture Series: Four Westmount Heritage Sites

**Thursday, October 17 at 7 p.m., Westmount Library.** Speakers: Doreen Lindsay, Caroline Breslaw and R. Allen-Rigby. Presented by the Westmount Historical Association. Info : 514 932-6688.

### Westmount Fright Night

#### Thursday, October 31 from

#### 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Lawn

#### Bowling Clubhouse next to

#### City Hall. Don't miss Fright

#### Night on October 31<sup>st</sup>. You'll

#### never guess who might be

#### waiting for you there in the

#### dark ... if you dare enter! A

#### bone-chilling evening for

#### kids of all ages. Costumes a must. Check out the

#### Public Safety team's Halloween safety tips at

#### [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org). Info : 514 932-5468.



## PUBLIC WORKS

### Autumn Leaf Collection

**Throughout October and November.** Place your bagged leaves and garden waste behind the sidewalk by 7 a.m. on weekdays for collection by City crews. Please note that only paper yard waste bags will be accepted. Info: 514 989-5390.



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# The Fall Social Calendar, Part I

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

## OCTOBER Wednesday, October 16

Canadian Haddasah-WIZO Art Auction. 6:30 pm. Hosted by Montreal Haddasah-WIZO in collaboration with Galerie de Bellefeuille. Honouring Andy Nulman. Cocktail dinatoire, valet parking. Espace Reunion, 6600a Hutchison. Tickets \$118. Chairs Sara Hutman, Lilianne Routtenberg. Tickets \$118. 514.933.8461. alanna@montreal.chw.ca

Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre Sushi Night. 6:30 pm. Honourary chair, Oliver Jones. Chairs Brian Dunn, Betty Infilise. Aikawa Restaurant, 55 Brunswick. Tickets \$80. Susan McKinnon Bell 514.931.6265, local 25. susanbell@tyndalestgeorges.com.

## Thursday, October 17

Dinner honouring the 200th anniversary of the Battle of The Chateaugay. 6 pm. MC Richard Pound. Special guest Nicolas de Salaberry. Speaker historian Desmond Morton. Canadian Grenadier Guards Armoury, 4171 Esplanade. Tickets \$85. 514.982.4525. mildred-benoit@hotmail.com

Grace Dart Foundation Gala. Celebrating 150 years of care and love. 6:30 pm. Chair Elise Nesbitt. Le Windsor, 1170 Peel. Black tie optional. Valet parking. Tickets \$200. Prestige \$400. 514.255.2834, Local 3350.

## Friday, October 18

Taste of Scotland Whiskey Tasting. Fundraiser for St. Andrew's Society of Montreal. 6 pm. Black Watch Officer's Mess, 2067 Bleury. Tickets Norma King 514.842.2030. info@standrews.qc.ca

## Wednesday, October 23

Designer Marie Saint Pierre hosts fundraising event to benefit Fonds Sous Zéro, supplying outdoor clothing to children. Honorary president Isabelle Hudon, president, Financière Sun Life, Québec. 5:30 pm. Ogilvy, 1307 St. Catherine St. 2nd floor. Tickets \$100. 514.842.7711, local 406. shopping@ogilvycanada.com

## Thursday, October 24

Canadian Irish Studies Foundation Gala Celebration in honour of its founding chair, Brian O'Neill Gallery. Evening supports the School of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University. Cocktail reception, dinner and presentations. 6:30

pm. Centre Mont-Royal, 2200 Mansfield. Tickets \$100. 514.848.2424, local 8711. cd-nirish@alcor.concordia.ca

## Friday, October 25

Bal Icognito, masked ball, presented by the Young Leaders Circle of Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation. 10 pm. Entrepôts Dominion, 3968 St. Ambroise. Tickets \$100. \$120 at door. Catherine Desforges 514.934.4846, local 29205. cdes@mchf.com

Trafalgar School's Trafalgar Ross Lecture. Guest speaker Heidi Hollinger. 10 am. Trafalgar School, 3495 Simpson. Tickets Martha Hancock 514.935.2644, local 219. mhancock@trafalgar.qc.ca

## Saturday, October 26

Montreal Chinese Hospital Gala. 6 pm. Fairmont Queen Elizabeth, 900 René Lévesque (Dorechester) Blvd. West. Chair Jean-Pierre Martineau. Black tie. Tickets \$200. Linda Yee 514.871.0961, local 248. linda.yee.hcm@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

## Tuesday, October 29

Humour for Hope benefit for Cedars Cancer Institute. Featuring Godfrey from Comedy Central, and Orny Adams, *The Tonight Show, Letterman*. 7 pm. Club Soda, 1225 St. Lawrence. Tickets \$100. Balcony \$50. 514.934.1934, local 71225.

## NOVEMBER Friday, November 1

WestHill Grandmothers present A Musical Cabaret. A benefit in support of African grandmothers caring for their orphaned grandchildren whose parents died of AIDS. 7:30 pm. Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve West. Tickets 450.688.2213.

## Tuesday, November 5

Colorectal Cancer Association presents The Monte Carlo Casino and Fashion Gala. 6 pm. Featuring swimwear by SHAN and jewelry by Anzie. Le Windsor, 1170 Peel St. Tickets Elyse 514.875.7745, local 225. elyseb@colorectal-cancer.ca

## Wednesday, November 6

Atwater Library & Computer Centre Benefit Cocktail. Honoured guests Constance and Lawrence Pathy. 6 pm. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater. MC Dennis Trudeau. With Dave Turner Jazz Trio Tickets \$125. Tanya Mayhew 514.935.7344. tmayhew@atwaterlibrary.ca

## Thursday, November 7

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Gala. Honourary president Joey Saputo. 6 pm. Le Windsor, 1170 Peel St. Tickets Kim Lacombe 514.744.5537, local 225. klacombe@jdrf.ca



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# Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Meet the Candidates for the November 3 municipal election. Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. 7 pm.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

In the McClure Gallery of the Visual

Arts Centre: Vernissage and Book Launch for ceramist Eva Lapka's exhibition: 10 Years. Free admission. Visual Arts Centre, 350 Victoria Ave. 6 pm.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Guess the Giller breakfast. Westmount Public Library. 4574 Sherbrooke St. 10 am.

St. Matthias' Anglican Church rummage sale. 131 Côte St. Antoine Rd. 514. 933.4295. 10 am to 1 pm.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Faith, Values, and Human Rights: A Constructive Dialogue on the Charter. Free. Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 4100 Sherbrooke St. 2 pm to 4:30 pm.

ONGOING:

Tumbling Tots. Centre Greene. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 am to 11 am. Indoor/park playground for parents and children under 5 years. \$3.50/morning drop-in. Coffee and cookies provided.

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Due to the volume of applications we receive, only qualified candidates will be contacted. **No phone calls please.**




The branch that fell on Somerville October 7 ("Tree partly down," October 8, p. 22) did do damage to the side mirror of a parked car, the Independent subsequently learned. A nearby homeowner had complained to the city about the tree and a branch had previously fallen off. An email to Public Works asking about the tree's future and whether it was city property was not returned by press time. City crews did clean it up.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith.


## BODYWARES

**Bryn Walker Fall collection has arrived.**

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## To BE LISTED IN COMIN' UP

Please send your event, in the following format, to  
[CU@WESTMOUNTINDEPENDENT.COM](mailto:CU@WESTMOUNTINDEPENDENT.COM)

**FORMAT:**  
Day, Date  
Event. Price (must be under \$12). Place, address (must be in Westmount). Time of day.

**EXAMPLE:**  
**Sunday, February 31**  
Some Awesome Event featuring John Smith, CA. \$5.00. Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke. 4:30 pm.

**Be sure to write by Friday at 10 am for inclusion the next week.**



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**Teen Centre, cont'd. from p. 1**

partment to use the TAG space as more than a drop-in centre, Deegan explained.

This includes providing other opportunities for teens in terms of activities and educational events, he explained. These are also areas in which the Y's resources could prove particularly useful, he noted.

**Separate quarters**

While the Teen Centre has separate quarters that include its own entrance off Lansdowne, an activity room, study room,

full kitchen, washroom and outdoor terrace, it opens onto a central hallway that provides a view directly down to one of the two rinks.

This also provides the potential for some of the teens to develop an interest in playing hockey, Deegan pointed out.

Meanwhile the city has rehired Rachael Ampofo as the teen centre's coordinator, a role she filled before the teen centre had to close for demolition of the old arena.

While neither the TAG quarters nor the exercise/multipurpose rooms were ready in time for viewing by the general public during the open house tours, the area was sufficiently completed to be viewed by the *Independent* last week.

The tour of the entire west side of the complex along Lansdowne revealed how this part of the building is at or just below ground level. The sun provides natural light onto the underground ice rinks.

The Sports and Recreation offices are immediately inside the rec centre's main pedestrian-only Lansdowne entrance. Further north along the west hallway are the multipurpose and exercise rooms that can be opened into each other as required. At the northwest corner of the building is the Teen Centre.

"The teens will also have the possibility to use the exercise room for their own activities," Deegan said.

But their apartment-type quarters of about 1,100 square feet will provide them with their own space in which computers and other study-related work can take

place separately from the main activity room, which will contain a TV, pool table, computer for games, seating and other furnishing.

The TV – a 60-inch flat screen – has been donated by retired city director general Bruce St. Louis, he said.

"We've left the high ceilings without enclosing them to create a greater feeling of space," he noted.

By comparison, the old Teen Centre was a single room at the pool entrance which, it was found through a focus group, made the teens feel "marginalized and second-class." Now, "It's their home away from home," where they can come and do their homework after school and have a meal. They could never do that before."

And if it turns out the quarters can be shared by seniors playing cards or other activities in the morning when not use by teens, the flexibility for which the Teen Centre was conceived could deliver additional options for use.

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# TRENDSETTERS

## NANCY BLOOMFIELD

By VERONICA REDGRAVE

PHOTO RALPH THOMPSON

*I met Nancy Bloomfield at the Canadian premiere of her new line of sleeves, called Karms. I admired the way Nancy completely changed the look of her sleeveless “little black dress” simply by adding one of her colourful creations. She told me that her renown has crossed the pond. Isabel Lloyd, assistant editor at The Economist’s Intelligent Life, was recently added as a fan, and she showed me a photo of her holding a Karms package. Like most Westmounters, Nancy loves dogs, and has a rescue poodle mix, Calvin, who joins her other dog Hobbes. For our interview, both dogs rushed out to greet me with happy, wagging tails, and what looked awfully close to smiles. Nancy is donating a percentage of sales to the SPCA Annex, where she is a volunteer.*

*How would you describe your personal style?*

Cozy, comfortable, relaxed. I like to keep up with fashion, and I like taking risks. I’m getting good at balancing style with comfort.

*What is your favourite way of dressing?*

I have been told that my wardrobe has two personalities... Black tie or sweatsuits. I am the most happy in jeans, a tee and a blazer. One of the reasons I created Karms was to dress up a work outfit en route to an evening event.

*On weekends, what do you like to wear?*

We relax on weekends and during football season. My husband and three sons are all in front of the TV. I’m the one in the Peyton Manning jersey.

*If you had a choice, where would you live in the world?*

Italy, anywhere in Italy... Food and fashion!

*What is your favourite flower? Do you have flowers in your home?*

Peonies are my favourite flowers. I love the summer weeks when the peonies are all in bloom in our garden, and I can pick fresh ones daily.

*Who would you invite to a dinner party if you could have anyone in the world,*

*and from any era?*

The Beatles, all four of them. Jon Stewart to laugh with. Sigmund Freud to interpret my dreams. Jim Henson to thank him for creating *The Muppets*. Coco Chanel for her ability to revolutionize women’s clothing. Daniel Ek just because I love Spotify. Steve Jobs because it’s Steve Jobs. And Catherine the Great, because anyone called “great” would be interesting dinner company. Oh, and Lassie for my doggies to play with.

*What is your favourite big Montreal gala?*

I’m on the board of the McGill Chamber Orchestra, and all of their performances and events are not to be missed!

*What designer do you like to wear to these black-tie events?*

Serge and Real.... Always .... (*Westmount’s famed couture boutique*)

*What do you think of today’s fashions?*

I think today’s woman wants fashion and function. She wants everything, but everything is costly. That’s what inspired me to create Karms. A great addition to any wardrobe. You can go from am to pm by adding a sleeve. And they’re easy to pack.

I especially love this in-between season,



# Gurung's Canadian premiere raises \$5,000

## Social Notes

from Westmount  
and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE



A full moon. Veuve Clicquot. Couture-clad guests. The stars were aligned for the Ritz-Carlton Residences Canadian premiere of **Prabal Gurung**. His clothes are worn by **Michelle Obama** and the **duchess of Cambridge**, **Lady Gaga** and **Gwyneth Paltrow** – to name but a few celebrities.

The evening not only showed Gurung's fall collection, but also his exclusive accessories, which were flown in from New York, as was a copy of the gown Gurung created for **Emma Watson** to wear to the Met Gala.

Sponsors for the silent auction were **Maison Boulud**, **Silver Star Mercedes Benz**, **Prabal Gurung Furs**, **La Coupe** and **Ursula B**, the boutique that carries Gurung in Quebec. Noted in the chic suite at the residences were Westmounters **Giselle Lerch**, **Anna Maria Pinchuk**, **Lindsay Yarrow**, **Carmie Saputo**, **Mary Katrantzou**, **Mary Larson**, **Sandra Levy** and her daughter **Olivia**, and **Stephanie Luetticken** – all wearing Prabal Gurung, as were **Rucsandra Calin**, the director of sales and marketing at Ritz-Carlton Residences (in a Gurung LBD, little black dress) and **Ursula Babiarz**, in a Wedgewood-blue-and-white patterned dress.

Also noted amidst the bevy of ladies were **Annette Woloshen**, **Ruth Chiriqui**, **Carolyn Ubani**, **Louise Boisse**, **Catherine Zuzak**, **Brittany Molson**, **Cynthia Price**, **Arlene Sochaczewski** and her daughter **Gilanna**.



Carmie Saputo and Carolyn Ubani.



Rucsandra Calin, Philippe and Julia Lawi, and Ursula Babiarz.

Other Westmount res noted included **Linda Hammerschmid** and **Nancy Bloomfield**, as well as **France Denis**, **Bente Stephensen** and designer **Caroline Constatas**, a former Westmounter, in from New York for Montreal Fashion Week.

Fashion connoisseurs **Stéphane Leduc**, editor of *Dress to Kill* magazine; **Eva Friede**, fashion editor at *The Gazette*, along with *ELLE Quebec's* **Marika Djogo**, and super stylist **Claude Laframboise** were seen applauding the show, which raised \$5,000 for Prabal Gurung's charity Shiksha Foundation, whose mission is to educate underprivileged children, particularly girls, in Nepal, where the designer was born.



Linda Hammerschmid and Louise Boisse.



Anna Maria Pinchuk and Lindsay Yarrow.

Please send details of your upcoming events for the Westmount Independent Fall Calendar to: [redgrave@videotron.ca](mailto:redgrave@videotron.ca)



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# Dreaming in Autism comes to Selwyn House

BY STEPHANIE O'HANLEY

Christine Rodriguez wrote *Dreaming in Autism* to show people just how hard it is to parent a child with autism. On October 22, Rodriguez with her company, La Trigressa Productions, will perform the one-woman award-winning play at Selwyn House School as a fundraiser for the non-profit group Autism Speaks Canada.

The event marks the third showing of *Dreaming in Autism* at Selwyn House. Rodriguez presented it to the school's faculty and staff in August 2012 and it was so well received that Selwyn parents were invited to see it last February, explained Krista Leitham, a community fundraising manager for Autism Speaks Canada.

The organization holds walks to fund scientific research, raise money for family service grants and heighten awareness about autism in the wider community. It held its Montreal walk in May. "It's the first time we ourselves are involved with (*Dreaming in Autism*)," said Leitham. "This is a great chance for all the supporters to come and join us and see what this is all about."

The play gives people a better understanding of autism, Leitham said. "It will

help them to recognize the signs of someone with autism, especially in the school or in a social setting," she said. "Ultimately the goal is to have the child accepted and understood."

"I want people to experience what the day-to-day is of having a child with autism," said Rodriguez, whose son, now in grade 5, was five and six years old during the time she wrote *Dreaming in Autism*. "Children with autism have certain issues that make the daily routine a little bit more challenging. I wanted people to be sensitized to how they view children with autism and how it affects the family."

Rodriguez, who has a degree in screenwriting and works as a professional actor and model, first performed *Dreaming in Autism* at the 2012 Montreal Fringe Festival. It's played in Ottawa, won awards and last month was part of FemFest 2013 in Winnipeg.

### Joy, ostracism, strain on marriage

In 50 minutes, Rodriguez chronicles her experiences with her young autistic son. The joy of her new baby's arrival becomes eclipsed as her son becomes older. He behaves differently from other chil-

dren and asks the same question over and over. He's ostracized by peers and their parents. She feels isolated and her parenting is criticized. It's difficult to get a diagnosis, find government services and pay for private care. The stress puts a strain on her marriage.

But while her play captures the individual struggle many families face, Rodriguez said her play is about understanding, acceptance and love. "My point of view is listen to every child, listen to what their issues are."

"There are people with autism who don't even know they have it," Leitham said. Autism spectrum disorder is so prevalent, it affects 1 in 54 boys, and these are the children you meet at the hockey rink, at school, socially or in the medical system, she said.

As children with autism increasingly attend mainstream schools, more awareness is needed so that autistic children are accepted, Leitham said. "It starts by having education first. You can't have awareness without education."

To change attitudes, Autism Speaks Canada is doing outreach with the Lester B. Pearson School Board, the English Montreal School Board and the Quebec Association of Independent Schools, Leitham said. "If we can change our ways,



Christine Rodriguez in the play.

Courtesy of Joseph Ste. Marie and La Trigressa Productions.

then ultimately we can live side by side," she said.

*Dreaming in Autism* will play at Coristine Hall, Selwyn House School on October 22, 2013 at 7:30 pm.

Ticket sales benefit Autism Speaks Canada. There are two options for tickets: a \$10 donation with no tax receipt or pay \$20, receive a tax receipt and a chance to win a free ticket to a conference on autism in Montreal featuring autism advocate Temple Grandin and researchers funded by Autism Speaks Canada.

For tickets or more information, call 514.518.3880 or email latigressa@live.ca.

## Westmount walks for Mental Health



Westmounters are among the organizers and participants of the fifth Montreal Walks for Mental Health, the only event of its kind in Canada.

Registration takes place on Sunday, October 20 in Phillips Square at 10 am. The walk starts at 11 am. Westmounter, organizer and co-founder Suzanne Hercovitz modeled the latest version of the walk's hat on Victoria Ave. October 10. Westmount resident Mary Murphy is on the organization's board.

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