

Arena/pool project enters 'community' fundraising phase

Street hockey to kick off event series

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The community phase of fundraising for the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) kicked off March 13 with the unveiling of four main events featuring street hockey, an evening of dancing, a mixed-doubles tennis tournament and an aquatics festival. Its objective is \$300,000.

As fundraising pledges were announced to have exceeded \$4.9 million of the overall \$6-million campaign goal, the main events were described as designed to appeal to a range of interests, according to

Councillor Nicole Forbes, chair of the campaign's community division.

"We're also challenging groups, schools and individuals to come up with great ideas and ways in which they can organize special events, block parties and other projects – large or small – to make this a real community buy-in," she told the *Independent*.

Registration for the sporting events can be done on the campaign website www.wrc2013campaign.com, where further details will also be available. "It's a one-stop shop for everything including donations and sponsorships," said the city's professional campaign coordinator Camilla Leigh.

.....
continued on p. 23

St. Patrick's Day parade sunny but cold



A group of some 20 participants representing the city of Westmount wait at the start of the St. Patrick's Day parade route March 17. They were accompanied by the Westmount Public Security Unit and Councillor Kathleen Duncan. Members of the Westmount Scouts carried the flags of Westmount and the Republic of Ireland. The day was sunny, but cold and windy.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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Is daily parking of cars at apartment building illegal?

Busy Clandeboye lane got busier this year, may get better

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

After an inconclusive city meeting a year ago on the longstanding issue of heavy traffic on Clandeboye lane, a new source of cars was discovered by a resident who recently took her concerns to city Urban Planning officials with an unexpected but welcomed reaction.

The lane provides residents on the east

side of Clandeboye and west side of Weredale Park with access to their backyard garages and parking spaces. But it has also become a shortcut for accessing a 72-car parking lot belonging to Batshaw Youth and Family Services and others circumventing one-way streets.

Clandeboye resident Sara Pedersen was already concerned that
neither she nor her neigh- continued on p. 20

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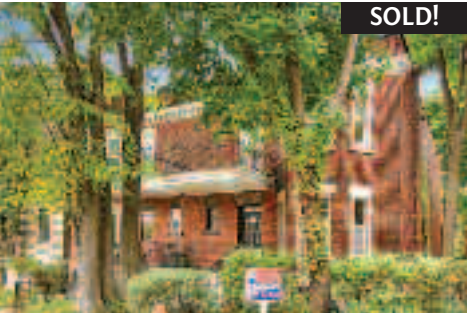
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City: Contractor is prepping pool site for new work

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For swimmers awaiting news as to when the new pool will open this summer, activity at the location last week may have provided a sign of hope. It has been used as a staging area for construction of the arena structure.

According to Sports and Recreation director Mike Deegan, the city's project coordinator for the Westmount recreation project, removing some of this equipment is now under way to make room for the ar-

rival of equipment to build the above-ground entrance pavilion, remove snow and eventually eliminate the parking of workers' cars and then start excavation of the pool.

Also, a search was under way at the request of Pomerleau site superintendent Marc Plamondon for a new location for the parking of about 80 workers' cars in preparation for the start of pool excavation.

There was still no word, however, on an opening date. Councillor Patrick Martin said last week the city is still holding the

contractor, Pomerleau Inc. to the contracted delivery date of May 31 despite rumours it might be later (see March 12, p. 1).

Nevertheless, when does he "feel" the pool will really open? "I don't know," he said. "As far as I'm concerned, it can be ready for June, but I can't speak for Pomerleau. I'll be very disappointed if it isn't."

In the absence of president Pierre Pomerleau, Marcel Dubé, the company's project director for the arena/pool con-

struction, told the *Independent* March 12 after a site meeting the previous day that some scheduling had been discussed but he was not authorized to speak about it.

Meanwhile, Deegan said he had met last week with swimmers' representatives Ross Fraser, Helen Campbell, Nancy Nelson and Catherine Bond to work on some new pool programs, practice venues for the Dolphins swim team and, if required, a short-season Plan B swimming program to be ready when the pool opens.

Garneau is out

Westmount-Ville Marie MP Marc Garneau bowed out of the federal Liberal leadership race on March 13. He was the second contender to do so, leaving frontrunner Justin Trudeau and six others to fight on until the end of voting on April 14.

Garneau's decision was based on what he and his team saw as the runaway lead of Trudeau, whom Garneau described in his statement as "the person Liberals want to see as the new leader of our party." He went on to say, "I recognize that and congratulate him."

Garneau also thanked his organizers and well-wishers, "I want to end this press conference with sincere and heartfelt words to my campaign team and my supporters: I cannot thank you all enough. I have never witnessed such loyalty and commitment."


In a later email interview with the *Independent*, Garneau was asked what had surprised him about his leadership campaign experience. He replied, "How much I enjoyed it. I knew it would be demanding, that the days would be long, and that I would have little time to rest and be with my family. That certainly was the case, but I was also energized by an exceptional team and the support of many Canadians, who told me they believed in me. That gives you strength and allows you to dig deep within yourself to find the energy you did not think you had. As with all challenging experiences, it also allowed me to grow as a person. I will carry fond memories of this campaign for the rest of my life. I'm glad I took the leap."




What about Garneau's political future? "I intend to be around for a long time."


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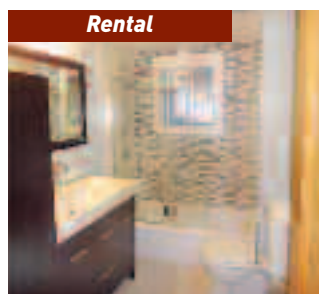


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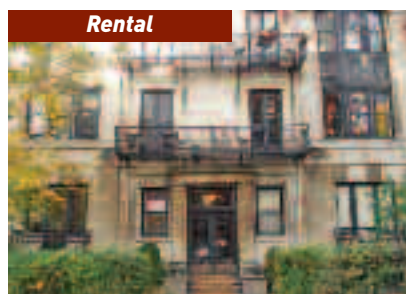
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100 years after Westmount hired its first DG

DG Campbell speaks about ‘quarterbacking’ the city

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Exactly a century after Westmount became the first city in Canada to hire a general manager, the person at the helm of today’s city hall operations voiced concerns March 11 over what he considers challenges the city faces in maintaining its traditions and culture moving forward. Addressing the monthly meeting of the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA), director general Duncan Campbell outlined issues of attracting and retaining good talent, maintaining the city’s aging infrastructure and preserving West-

mount’s core values and reputation in the face of “enormous” outside pressures for change. “We have to be very alert to what’s going on elsewhere because of the ripple down effect [of pressures] from national and provincial governments and particularly Montreal,” Campbell said. It was in March 1913, he explained, that Westmount pioneered the general-manager system now used throughout Canada. “It marked a new epoch, by placing the city on a more business-like basis. And, 100 years later, here I am as the 10th.” He likened his responsibilities to those

of the quarterback on a football team and explained that in Westmount the civil service enjoys a special relationship with the council and residents. “We’re not treated as the opposition as you see in some cities. ...We’re here to serve the council, and we’re here to serve you.” Westmount, he said, “is good example of a city that has core values. We were miles ahead with our code of ethics that was engraved in our employees’ minds.” The city has a reputation to retain of being on the straight and narrow, he explained. “If you lose your reputation, it’s hard to get

it back.” Westmount’s culture is such that the city is concerned about people’s wants and “we bend well over backwards to keep everyone on the same page.” He also said that “we react to public pressure” unlike in Montreal which works “from crisis to crisis.” It’s increasingly difficult to attract good talent to the public sector, in upper management especially, he said. Salary scales, media attention, the impact of social media and fallout from the Charbonneau commission are all reasons. As well, people are continued on p. 5



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Campbell, cont'd. from p. 4

not as committed to spending “30 years” in a profession.

It's the same thing at the council level, Campbell said. “I'm afraid that down the road it will become more and more difficult to find qualified candidates.”

Campbell said he receives over 200 e-mails a day, and, in reply to a question from Chris Brown, said: “I'm criticized if I don't respond” – or if people don't receive a reply within two or three hours. Some issues are complex, however, “and don't have an easy answer.”

While five percent of the population “is delirious with joy” over whatever the city does, another five percent “can't be pleased no matter how much you do for them. So we focus on the 95 percent.”

Using surveys

The city is using surveys more and more as a tool to “find out what the population really wants. People who come to council don't necessarily represent your population.”

The building of the Westmount recreation centre has placed additional impact on most city departments and upper management, he said, “There's so much going on, you need to keep a sense of humour – you can't take too much to heart.”

Referring only briefly to work on the arena/pool project – the city's biggest one ever – he said it was progressing “reason-

ably well. It's close to being on budget and schedule, and we're lucky to have a first-class contractor.”

The WMA, he said, “has a really strong role to play” in the community by keeping up with the issues, offering constructive criticism to the council and identifying talent, both for the administration as well as council candidates.

Campbell's own goals were to ensure the Westmount recreation project is brought in, that the city's organization and finances are in a healthy state, by-laws updated and that there was a succession plan in place.

Time permitted only a handful of the dozen WMA board members and others in attendance to ask questions.

Questions asked

Jerry Miller of Thornhill asked Campbell about the gentrification of Greene Ave. to which Campbell stated the city did not have a lot of control over that as-

pect since the street was governed by market forces, merchants and the shoppers themselves. It could only put in processes such as zoning.

Another board member, Maureen Kiely, asked about the possibility of a late opening for the new pool, to which Campbell said, “We're working with Pomerleau to get it ready for the first of June.”

John Fretz asked how Westmount had suffered from the merger years compared with, for example, the Town of Mount Royal, where Campbell has also served as director general.

Westmount was “set up differently,” Campbell explained and was especially hard hit by losing its \$16-million pay-as-you-go infrastructure fund to Montreal. It also had to purchase its water network on demerging. Now the city has to rebuild the fund as well as its aging infrastructure.

The comfort station in Murray Park, for example, is in such bad shape it is now out of service due to mould and water leaks, he said.

After the questions, Campbell was thanked by vice president Paul Marriott, who then convened a board meeting while others pursued their concerns with Campbell outside the Westmount Room at the Westmount Public Library, where the event took place.



City director general Duncan Campbell addresses the Westmount Municipal Association March 11.

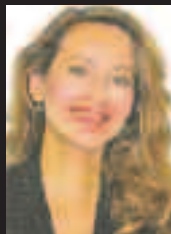
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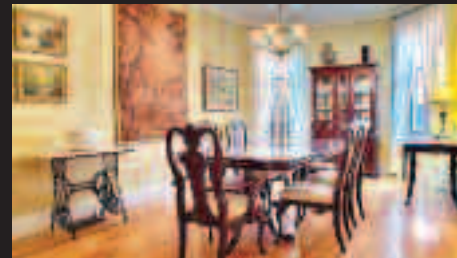
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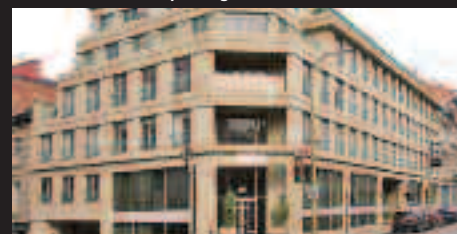
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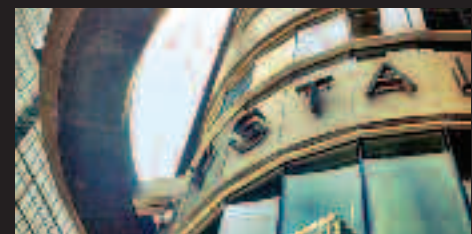
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LOOK TO LONDON

Of late there have been many letters concerning bicycling and parks. I wrote one myself, in which I listed the many Olmsted parks in North America and the many parks on the island of Montreal where cyclists are welcomed along maintained paths. Tourists can even rent bikes in Old Montreal to mingle with walkers along le Quai des promenades.

To continue along this line, Mayor Boris Johnson just recently announced an ambitious plan for London, England. He wants a network of protected cycling paths because he realizes that mainstream citizens do not feel safe when exposed to traffic. He specifically stated that he wants to integrate cycle paths through as many of London's parks as possible. He mentions the great Hyde Park in particular.

It is an ambitious endorsement of the value of urban cycling to the liveability of London. He has budgeted for it over \$1.4 billion through the next decade. He wants this to be the legacy of the London Olympic games.

In one of my previous letters (February 19, p. 6), I unfortunately forgot to list the Lachine canal and its cycling path. It is safe to say that this excellent "new" park would not have taken shape without the idea of a cycling path. Through time, the beneficial spin-offs for urban rejuvenation

have been tremendous. Agreeable condominiums, offices, retail have been repopulating abandoned warehouses and factories; cycling bridges and branch cycling paths have been installed to spur on the rejuvenation.

The flip side of the coin is the cover photo on the last *Independent* ("Strange parking, March 12, p. 1). It speaks all too well of where we should be focusing criticism: that of errant drivers, distracted, on cell phones, speeding, aggressive. It shows a car resting on top of the shrubbery of a front lawn – the bull in the china shop, and its unpredictable behaviour.

Every year, many pedestrians and cyclists are injured and killed by unforgiving motor vehicles. Although progress has been made to regain the liveability of streets through cycle paths, much needs to be done.

ROGER JOCHYM FOR THE WESTMOUNT
WALKING AND CYCLING ASSOCIATION

THE WESTMOUNT REPORT

There are times when reading the *Independent* is the next best thing to watching the *Colbert Report* on the Comedy Network.

With a straight-faced delivery, one cannot help but laugh at the absurdity of the content.

In the last issue, Councillor Patrick Martin suggested that the city of Montreal

follow his lead and "best practices" by removing contingency funds from their contracts, as he did with our arena project ("Excluding contingencies a 'best practice': Martin," March 12, p. 10). This is tantamount to not carrying health insurance, such that one can negotiate the price of treatment at a later time, when one is actually sick.

The fact that one has no money for the payment of treatment seems inconsequential and is consistent with Mr. Martin's convoluted thinking.

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COMMUNITY CORNER

Making your mark on the new MUHC hospital

BY JULIE QUENNEVILLE

Across the hospital sites of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), there are many examples of how these institutions were founded and supported by some of Montreal's most generous philanthropists – The Allan Memorial Institute, the Ross Pavilion at the Royal Victoria Hospital, the Melvyn G. Angus Family Psychiatric Care Unit at the Montreal General Hospital, and Sarah's Floor at the Montreal Children's Hospital – just to name a few.

While much has changed over the decades, the fact that our hospitals rely on the support of donors remains the same. The construction of the new MUHC hospital on the Glen site would not be possible without the generosity of the community.

Just as the earliest hospital supporters had their legacies immortalized, the MUHC is continuing the tradition of honouring donors by offering the opportunity to have their names attached to various spaces throughout the modernized Montreal General and Lachine hospitals, and the new Glen site.

The 2.4-million square-foot Glen site structure will boast hundreds of single-patient rooms, a cafeteria, clinics, laboratories, waiting and conference rooms, outdoor gardens and more, all available for donors to step forward and add their

names.

Contributions of \$10,000 will be permanently recognized on the Best Care for Life donor walls. That could be a donation of \$1,000 a year over 10 years, or as little as \$83 a month! A donation of \$25,000 could be recognized with an office, workstation or kitchenette named in your honour.

There have already been some special announcements, including the naming of the Alexia and Anthony Calvillo Cedars Family Room, in honour of the Montreal Alouettes star quarterback and his wife, both of whom are cancer survivors.

In January, The Auxiliary of the Royal Victoria Hospital announced a \$1-million donation to The Best Care for Life campaign, earning it naming rights to the 12-bed pod of the antepartum and postpartum care unit at the Glen.

Seeing the many names attached to these spaces for years to come will serve as a legacy, physically demonstrating the diversity of groups and individuals who have come together to support the new MUHC.

For more information on the new MUHC, visit muhc.ca/construction. To join The Best Care for Life campaign in support of the new MUHC, visit muhc.ca/cause.

*Julie Quenneville is the director
of development at the
McGill University Health Centre.*

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We are Westmount.

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

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EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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Vic village merchants take concerns to city hall

BY MICHAEL MOORE

A group of Victoria village merchants took their issues to city hall on February 5 in an attempt to solve perceived problems plaguing the neighbourhood and help shape the future of the area.

Vic village a 'living organism'

“We see Victoria village as an ecosystem, a living organism, and we think it’s important that all parts of the body be healthy,” he said in an interview with the *Independent* after the city hall meeting. “We feel that not enough attention is devoted to making the commercial sector more vital.”

Representing the 100-plus member merchants’ association, Le Gourriérec and three of his fellow shop owners met with city representatives to discuss the urban plan that will shape the neighbourhood for the next decade.

“It’s a benefit to the city to have a strong merchants’ association,” said Cynthia Lulham, who represented the city alongside fellow councillors Kathleen Duncan and Theodora Samiotis, and Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier. “I am very glad to see and be appreciative of the work they are doing.”

Half of the association’s members also

live in Westmount, which Le Gourriérec believes allows them a unique viewpoint on the area as both residents and retailers.

The merchants brought forth three main concerns they said are hindering the area both residentially and commercially: a lack of parking spaces, the influence of Cromwell and tweaking zoning laws to benefit locals.

Calling it the biggest problem facing the area, Le Gourriérec estimates Victoria village already suffers from a 300 to 400 parking spot shortage, a crisis he predicts will only worsen with the opening of the MUHC super-hospital by the end of 2015.

“It is frustrating for merchants and residents alike that they have to go shopping outside of their neighbourhood because there’s no access,” he said. “It’s not normal that residents are being driven outside of the town to shop when we have stores in Victoria village that can cater to 99 per cent of the population.”

To get a first-hand look at the parking concern, Lulham said she hoped to go on a tour of the area with the shop owners the next week. As of March 18, Lulham had not taken the tour with the group, though the invitation had been extended again by Le Gourriérec the last week of February.

He and the other merchants who attended the meeting asked the city to look

into curtailing the spread of what he called “the Cromwell problem,” a reference to the real estate giant that has been accused of increasing rents unreasonably in the area, forcing out Victoria village staples and replacing them with high-end boutiques and franchises.

“Everybody knows [the rent hikes] are morally wrong, but it really needs the city

to fix it because it is too large of an issue for an individual resident or merchant,” he said.

The merchants’ association also encouraged the city to expand its efforts to tweak zoning by-laws to ensure real estate development prioritizes benefits for the area’s residents and merchants instead of financial boons for real estate developers.

A self-proclaimed optimist,

Le Gourriérec praised the city’s openness to the merchants’ suggestions at the meeting, admitting numerous issues since the 2006 demerger have made it difficult for city hall to accommodate the commercial sector until now.



A view north up Victoria Ave., March 18.

Photo: Westmount Independent

Machine moving machine



A crane was at the arena site March 18 to hoist materials and equipment over the fence into the site and surplus material off of it. Here the crane is moving a platform lift onto the site.

Photo: Westmount Independent



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Alexis Nihon undergoing subway-level overhaul

By MICHAEL MOORE

Once home to a mélange of sprawling chain megastores and independent niche shops, Place Alexis Nihon's subway level is now riddled by a series of construction sites renovating the floor's commercial landscape.

Connected directly to the Atwater Metro station and, by extension, Dawson College, the shopping centre's subterranean level has been the entry point to the mall for several vintages of the schools' 10,000-plus student population.

The most prominent shift is taking place on the floor's most prominent spot, and has retail ramifications beyond the shopping mall. The wall that previously held the glowing oversized red letters of Zellers now supports a construction barrier sporting the red bull's eye logo of Target announcing the American retail giant's opening foray into Quebec.

In January 2011, the Minnesota-based company purchased the leases to 220 Zeller locations across Canada for \$1.8 billion, intending to convert 125 to 135 of

them to Target stores. Opening in November after a \$10-million renovation, the Alexis Nihon location will be among the opening wave of 18 Target stores in Quebec, according to a press release.

Several other of the floor's locations are undergoing a similar facelift.

Once a series of small specialty shops, a large portion on the floor's east side storefront is currently a barricaded construction site designed to increase available space and make room for another large retailer adjacent to shoe chain Yellow's concept store. A spot on the floor's north side, across from the new Target location, is undergoing a similar renovation.

A fourth location, adjacent to Tim Hortons and the entrance to Atwater Metro platform, currently draped in a black curtain, is also awaiting a new tenant after Fleuriste Jardin Alex moved to a quieter spot on the floor.

Calls made to Guy Charron, VP of retail for Alexis Nihon's parent company Cominar, about which retailers would be moving into the spaces were not returned.



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Target's new Place Alexis Nihon location, seen on March 7, will open in November 2013.

Loud music brings Public Security – again

A tenant at 4998 de Maisonneuve was sent a ticket for \$146 after he failed to turn down music as requested at 1:18 am, March 1, Public Security officials said. Officers were called to the building after the doorman received several complaints. The

tenant did not respond to repeated knocking at the door and requests to lower the volume, it was reported. While the music could no longer be heard at 1:36 am, the ticket was to be issued anyway since similar incidents were recorded.

Montreal Impact brings stay-in-school message to Roslyn



Lillian Ava Wasson Acland, centre, in grade one at Roslyn, was among a select group of pupils who got a chance to get up on stage in the school gymnasium with the Montreal Impact soccer club's captain, Davy Arnaud, left, and team mascot Tik-Tak on March 11. The Impact's owner, Joey Saputo, and team manager Adam Braz were also at Roslyn to announce the continuation of a stay-in-school program that the Impact has co-sponsored with the English Montreal School Board for the past eight years.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Dog roams free – again

A Westmount woman was ticketed \$75 for allowing her dog to run loose March 10, according to public safety officers. It was found roaming around on Murray Ave. by someone who called Public Security. When officers traced the owner

through the dog's tag, she was found to have received 12 verbal warnings and tickets under the dog by-law since 2011. The dog was picked up from the station by a woman stating she was looking after it during the owner's absence.

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Ingram: Gender issue underlies nursing profession’s neglect

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Addressing Westmount Rotarians during their weekly lunch-hour meeting on March 6, philanthropist and Westmounter Richard Ingram shared his dream: to make Montreal one of the top five world cities for developing nursing research.

During the early 1970s, Ingram founded Archivex, a Montreal-based company specializing in off-site storage of office records. After he sold it in 1999, he used a portion of the proceeds to launch the Newton Foundation.

The McGill School of Nursing launched a new “patient and family-centred initiative” last September thanks to a \$9-million donation made by Ingram’s foundation. The school hopes to fulfill his dream through the McGill Nursing Collaborative Program for Education and Innovation in Patient and Family-Centred Care.

“It seems to me that we the people acting as individuals often express our grati-

tude directly to nurses for the care which they provide us,” he said. “On the other hand, we the people acting as a society remain deaf and mute to their need for the resources required to provide for our own well-being.”

Despite his own support for the profession, Ingram said he still wonders why nursing ranks near the bottom among causes that are targeted by philanthropists. But during a question-and-answer period, he acknowledged that part of the reason may be that “it’s a gender issue ...

“... And the reason it’s a gender issue is because women are more caring than men,” he added. “People who go into nursing choose nursing, and everybody who chooses nursing is somebody who primarily wants to give care to others and so they fight for others and not for themselves. Most other professions, I find, they fight more for themselves. They’re more selfish.”



Richard Ingram, whose charitable foundation donated \$9 million last September to the McGill School of Nursing, addressed the Rotary Club of Westmount on March 6.

Horticultural enthusiasts get tips, taste of apple ice wine

By MICHAEL MOORE

Celebrated apple ice wine pioneer François Pouliot treated some of the city’s amateur horticulturists to a history – and taste – of his award-winning product at Westmount Public Library on March 12.

“Apple ice wine is a meeting of Quebec’s winter and Quebec’s apples. It wouldn’t be possible without the province’s very cold winters and very good apples,” said Pouliot, who spoke at the in-

itation of the Westmount Horticultural Society

Produced on the 110-acre La Face Cachée de la Pomme orchard in Hemmingford, Pouliot’s signature Neige brand uses separate winter and fall harvests to create a series of wines he calls a metamorphosis between the province’s climate and agriculture.

In the winter harvest, frozen apples hand-picked in –25°C weather in mid-December to late January are pressed and the

extracted juice fermented for eight months at low temperatures before bottling.

The orchard’s fall harvest, used to create Neige Première, is similarly pressed, with the liquid then left in the natural cold for six weeks, allowing the water to freeze and the concentrated juice to be extracted and then fermented for a further six months in the cold.

Since purchasing the orchard in 1994, Pouliot and Neige have been the literal toast of the town, garnering over 100 international awards, and touching the lips of US president Barack Obama and British royal couple Prince William and Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, during respective visits to Ottawa.


“When somebody in Tokyo is drinking Neige, they aren’t just having a glass of apple ice wine. They are also having a taste of Quebec and our Quebec winters,” said Pouliot.

At the conclusion of his 90-minute presentation, Pouliot uncorked a few sam-



François Pouliot offered samples of his apple ice wine after his presentation on March 12.

ple bottles of his product to offer the roughly 20 audience members.



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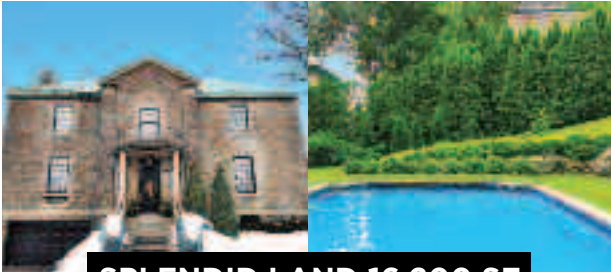
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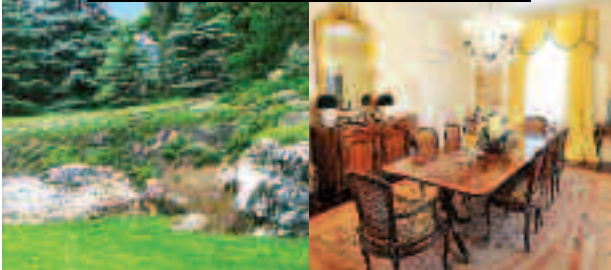
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Temple volunteers take part in food drive for Share the Warmth



Charles Altman, left, and Lia Raykhlin work at “Matzah to Mitzvah: A Passover Experience for All Ages” at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom on March 10. Participants were invited to contribute to the “Clear out Your Chametz” food drive and to take part in a sandwich assembly line to benefit Share the Warmth Foundation, an organization dedicated to fighting hunger and poverty. The weekend also included activities to learn about Passover for all ages.

Photo courtesy of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom

Moyal, Yufe take part in 24-hour Passover seder



Westmounters Jonathan Moyal, left, and Alyssa Yufe were among those who got a head start for the upcoming Passover holiday when they participated in the “24-Hour Passover Seder Project” on March 14 at the Segal Centre for the Performing Arts. Seen here biting into a giant matzah, Yufe came up with the idea for an event that would allow spectators to experience more than a half-dozen types of seder, including one from the time of King Solomon, one in the future and one in the Warsaw ghetto during the Holocaust. The seder is a ritual feast that marks the beginning of Passover.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Easter & Passover fare right here in the Monkland village



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Getting into spirit of St. Patty's Day



Photo: Martin C. Barry

The Contactivity Centre for senior citizens got into the spirit of St. Patrick's Day a few days early. On the lunch menu March 14 was Irish stew with all the fixings. The five-person Celtic band Dragun Ban (White Dragon) provided the entertainment. From left: band members Claude Bertrand, Normand Bélanger, Donna-Marie Sullivan, Jennie Ferris, Danielle Leblond, and Contactivity Centre members Diane Deschamps, Angela Lanno (hugging Lansdowne Bear), Jane Atkinson and Hugh Darwood.

Parenting as sport



On the Lighter Side

INGRID KOVITCH-DANNENBAUM

We received our best parenting advice from a good friend. At the time, I was pregnant with our third child.

"Forget man on man", he advised. "Think zone defense." More valuable words of wisdom have never been uttered.

Indeed, the ensuing 14 years have been little other than one colossal and relentless effort at containment. Particularly since – not content to "settle" for three – we went on to add yet a fourth rookie sensation.

Clearly outmatched, we have long abandoned any fantasies of scoring, squelched all expectations of a potent offense and conceded any hope whatsoever of actually winning. We are content to minimize damage, occasionally neutralize our opponents, and simply keep the team afloat.

At the time, the "zone defense" philosophy replaced our previous strategy of "keep them alive until they can smile" followed by "keep them alive until they can speak." (In a cruel twist of fate, we have

found it necessary to reprise this approach during adolescence).

But sports as metaphor for parenthood has carried us through all other stages.

Meals in the Dannenbaum household are typically elbows-up, full contact affairs, followed by team huddle and chalk-talk game plan at the whiteboard.

"You! Gabby! Cover the cat litter!"

"And you! Josh! Take the dog!"

"Eli! Jamie! Quick shifts! Play hard!"

Penalties abound and fouls flourish. Thankfully, there are no limits to timeouts. Nor to empty or inane threats. More than one transgression has been met with my go-to offensive:

"I saw that..." I warn. "Strike one. Do it again and you're out!"

"But I thought it took three—"

"Hey buddy, no back-talk," chimes in Dad, "Listen to your captain. I mean, mother."

"No fair", mumbles vanquished culprit. "Double team..."

There have been moments when I have wanted to hang up the gloves. Like the times I discovered, while bathing my not-quite-potty-trained toddlers, suspicious-looking debris floating amidst the bath toys. (Talk about mucking it up in the corners!)

"Substitution!!" I've yelled. Desperately.

Station 12 Reports

String of similar burglaries tied to two suspects

BY ISAAC OLSON

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

In the last few weeks, there have been seven local businesses burglarized in the same fashion but, reports Station 12 constable Caroline Gauthier, there are two different suspects, and police aren't sure if they are working together.

Five of the businesses have been in Westmount and the other two just over the border on Sherbrooke St. in NDG, she said.

The most recent burglary was Tony Shoes on March 12. Located on Greene Ave. just south of Sherbrooke, the shoe store was burglarized at 5:20 am, said Gauthier. The suspect smashed the front door's window, went straight to the cash register, opened its drawer and cleaned it out, stealing a substantial amount of money. By the time police arrived, she said, the suspect was gone.

In some of these cases, said Gauthier, the suspect will take the contents of the drawer, but if he can't get it open, he will take the entire cash register. The machine will often be found a few blocks away in an alley, empty of its contents, she said.

When no one else was home.

I have watched longingly on Monday mornings as my husband heeded the call to join the big leagues. While I slumped dolefully by the window like a poor, undrafted prospect, he would skip out the door toward the tranquil serenity of an overcrowded ER, his entire body fairly screaming "Not it!!!"

Despite our best efforts, the challenges of parenting have wedged us behind the eight ball more often than we would care to count. We have been thrown numerous curveballs, are typically caught flat-footed, and frequently end up fumbling the ball. (At least we can still take them to school!)

Though arguably out of our league, we couldn't ask for a better team. It is full of character players who compete with emotion, always give 110 percent, and never fail to make things happen. It may not be a slam dunk, and we have yet to hoist the hardware, but so far it's been a great ride.

And I'm sure we'll pick it up in the sec-

The targets have been on Sherbrooke St. and Greene Ave., explained Gauthier, noting two Sherbrooke St. businesses were hit in one night on February 28: Chou Chou Bis and La Fournagerie. Other Westmount businesses burglarized include Eatz Encore and Premium Boutique.

"It's always the same thing – the same *modus operandi*," said Gauthier. "The alarm system was working in all of these cases, but the suspects move quickly and leave the scene before police arrive."

The police have both suspects on video, said Gauthier, so it is clear that there are two different people. In one case, the suspect is described as a white male between 30 and 40 years old. He was wearing a black, hooded jacket and a black hat. He is of medium build. The other suspect is of a similar description but, she said, he had a big mustache and wore gloves.

"Are they working together or not? We don't know," said Gauthier, but it is important that merchants remain vigilant in securing their business each night. Before setting the alarm and locking up, she said merchants should empty the cash register, even of its coins, and display the empty drawer to the window so criminals casing the business will see there is nothing to steal.

ond half.

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

Early construction start brings forth \$267

A ticket was issued to a contractor for using heavy machinery at the work-site at 215 Redfern March 7 before the permitted start time of 7 am, according to Public Security reports. A neighbour called to complain at 6:35 am and officers found workers in the throes of installing equipment for the pumping of cement.



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10 GROVE PARK | DETACHED 7 BDRM W/GARAGE



WESTMOUNT ADJACENT \$2,249,000
3023 JEAN GIRARD | LUXURIOUS 4 BDRM W/2 GARAGE



WESTMOUNT \$2,195,000
14 ROSEMOUNT | LUXURIOUS 5 BDRM W/2 GARAGES



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3 BELLEVUE | DETACHED CONTEMPORARY W/VIEWS



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17 CHELSEA PLACE | BRIGHT CORNER UNIT



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765 UPPER BELMONT | 5 BDRM W/2 GARAGES



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OLD MONTREAL \$849,000
50 ST PAUL | 2,000 SQ FT W/GARAGE



INTRODUCING | PENTHOUSE
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FORT DE LA MONTAGNE | 1,480 SQ FT RENOVATED 2 BDRM



INTRODUCING
DOWNTOWN \$575,000
1515 DOCTEUR-PENFIELD | 1,345 SQ FT 2 BDRM



OLD MONTREAL \$539,000
365 ST PAUL | PENTHOUSE W/PRIVATE TERRACE



DOWNTOWN \$529,000
500 RUE DE LA MONTAGNE | BRIGHT 2 BDRM W/GARAGE



INTRODUCING
WESTMOUNT \$499,000
10 YORK | BRIGHT 2 BDRM W/GARAGE



INTRODUCING
MONTREAL \$449,000
1501 DOCTEUR-PENFIELD | SPACIOUS W/TERRACE & GARAGE



INTRODUCING
DOWNTOWN \$6,995/Monthly
SIR ROBERT PEEL | BEAUTIFULLY RENOVATED 2 BDRM

February sales: Headed for new heights



Mood of the Market

ANDY DODGE, CRA

The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings, which were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in February 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 offers a picture of these trends over time.

Westmount real estate agents were working on a different level than the rest of Montreal, it seems, since the average house price zoomed upward and volume was perfectly strong – not as strong as last year but that was because last February was way above average.

The Montreal Real Estate Board highlighted its February monthly report by talking about a decrease in sales volume of 22 percent compared to February last year. The 13 sales in Westmount are well

below the 21 posted last year, but not too bad compared to the 16.1 average in the last dozen years.

And after a relatively static adjusted price during 2012, it appears the spring demand is going to push prices up strongly in 2013.

Two sales over \$3 million in February gave new life to the top end of the Westmount market; only one other house has sold over \$3 million since last April, in terms of accepted offers. Nine of 13 sales agreements posted last month were for more than \$1 million, and six of the 13 were listed for less than 30 days, an indication that there is a strong interest in local real estate as we move into spring.

February also saw a minimum price of \$570,000, lower than all but two prices registered in the past year, involving a house that had been on the market since last April. Another three sales were recorded between \$730,000 and \$862,500. Only one sale was posted for less than municipal evaluation and mark-ups were as high as 58 percent above tax value, with an average 27 percent mark-up.

Only two condominium apartments sold in February, bringing the total for the

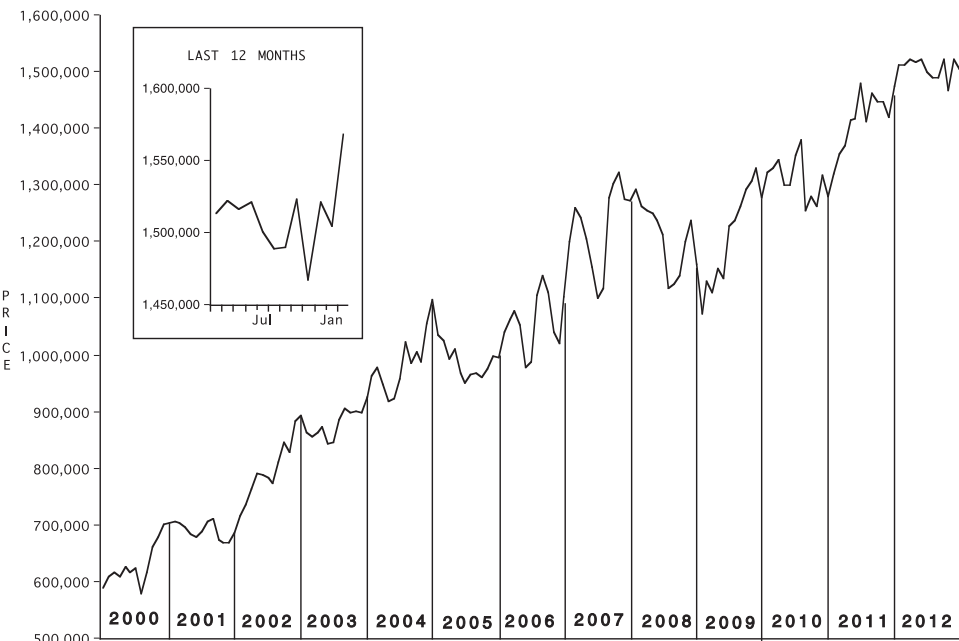
year to three, all between \$500,000 and \$600,000. In February last year, eight condo sales were posted, so it is clear the interest in that type of property is down substantially.

Four houses sold in adjacent-Westmount districts in February: one each in eastern NDG and southern Côte des Neiges, two just east of the city limits, one

of them over \$2 million. Three of the four were sold within 10 days of listing, an indication of strong demand in those neighbourhoods, too.

So despite government efforts to put a lid on the national real estate “bubble,” it appears the Westmount market is headed for new heights.

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



Source: Andy Dodge & Assoc. Inc.

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Unauthorized cars ticketed on Hillside

Cars that parked without authorization at the municipal housing project on Hillside, including St. Margaret’s residence, have been ticketed at the request of the management, la Société d’habitation du Québec, according to Public Security officials. Ten tickets were issued February 26 and another four on March 11.

Found purse taken to police station

A parking inspector found a brown cloth handbag at Wood and St. Catherine March 9, Public Security officials said. Among the contents reported were car keys and a couple of pill boxes but no identification.



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End-of-season game at WAG



Boys were playing hockey on March 16 at the WAG's outdoor rink. It was to close March 18 at 10 pm, according to Sports and Recreation.

Photo: Westmount Independent



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BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the November 19, 2012 meeting of city council.

581 Côte St. Antoine: to build a vestibule at the side;

222 Prince Albert: to replace a back door;

3714 The Boulevard: to replace some windows;

11 Côte St. Antoine: at École Internationale, a Category I building, to replace some windows on three levels;

9 Ingleside: to replace some windows and doors;

53 Surrey Gardens: landscaping of a new dwelling to include walkways, terrace and driveway in front and side yards; a fence and gate;

791 Upper Belmont: to landscape the front yard to include new steps and railings;

1368 Greene: to erect two signs for “Maison Carole Franck Paris.”

4334 Westmount: at a Category I house, to replace some windows;

4134 Dorchester: at a Category I building, to build a retaining wall in the front yard with provisions regarding height;

5 Renfrew: to convert a rear door opening into a window and replace some of the windows;

50 Chesterfield: at a Category I house, to rebuild a balcony in the back yard;

4698 Westmount: to replace some windows and a balcony door;

4569 Sherbrooke: to replace some windows;

3200 The Boulevard: to replace some windows and a side door;

32 Winchester: to convert a rear window opening into a door;

123-125 Irvine: to replace some windows;

4911 de Maisonneuve: to replace some windows and a back door;

28 Devon: to build a new house;

9 & 10 Weredale Park: to install a Videotron telecommunications cabinet in the side yard of the two buildings;

485 Elm: at a Category I house, to do some landscaping in the rear yard including a new planting area and resurfacing of the driveway;

4262 Dorchester: at a Category I building, to erect a back fence;

66 Bruce: to replace handrails on the lower and upper balconies;

780 Lexington: at a Category I house, to replace some windows and doors;

357 Prince Albert: to build a side and back fence;

437 Mount Pleasant: at a Category I house, to replace some windows;

476 Roslyn: to replace some windows;

The following construction permit was approved at the December 3, 2012 meeting of city council.

4675 St. Catherine: to build the new Westmount Recreation Centre.

No permit recommendations were submitted to city council for approval in January.



28 Devon photographed March 1; former house now demolished.

War of words re: Hillside and Redfern

Redfern resident Richard Dumont took to his e-mail account February 27 to challenge city councillor Cynthia Lulham's in-person stance against parking on sidewalks near St. Andrew's nursery school on Hillside, eventually drawing a contrast between enforcement of Westmount by-laws there and an alleged lack of enforcement on his home street.

His original, 1,000-word e-mail led to a brief reply from Lulham that linked his alleged infractions on Hillside to ones he deplores on Redfern: "There is no excuse for doing the very thing – driving/parking on the sidewalk – that you send us photos and videos of on Redfern – no matter how you try to justify it."

1,200-word e-mail

This communication led to a 1,200-word e-mail from Dumont, followed by a short one from Lulham, another from Dumont and a final one later that day from Lulham. The *Independent* was first copied by Dumont on the e-mail string and later by Lulham as well, as were other city officials, a Montreal policeman and other Redfern residents.

Dumont replied in his second e-mail to Lulham's linkage of the traffic issues on the two streets: "There is a *huge* difference between a parent walking their three-year-old child to the door of his/her school and parking their car 10 yards away ... all the

while *not* blocking sidewalk access nor endangering lives – and then immediately moving their vehicle ... [...] and having 25-ton cement trucks come barreling up onto the sidewalk [and] 22-wheeled cargo trucks doing the very same thing"

Dumont also contrasted the frequency of alleged violations and the differing levels of evidence: "You and Westmount city hall must have a file that is 12 inches thick by now with all types of evidence – written, photographed, video-taped – to support our claims of permit, civil and traffic abuse from that particular [215 Redfern] worksite [...] I invite you today, right this minute, to provide one piece of evidence as to a ... right-of-sidewalk ... being denied ... in front of CPE St. Andrew's."

Who 'f-bombed' Cllr. Lulham?

From the beginning, Dumont was careful to condemn a third party who allegedly used what he describes as the "f-bomb" while arguing with Lulham at the time and location of the original Hillside incident.

Lulham's final e-mail ended on a defiant note: "So get it in the press Richard [...] I have no problem defending my actions or that of all the city departments and personnel who have been doing what is in their powers to better a difficult situation."

This e-mail exchange is not the first one between Redfern residents and city representatives. Another similar one occurred in the fall of 2012.

Greene blocked



A large hole could be found March 15 at the corner of Greene and de Maisonneuve, blocking the way westward. Work appeared to have stopped that day as well as March 18. According to the owner of Lapidarius jeweller and antiques shop, Maged Taraboulsy, the work seemed to have started about 10 days earlier. When he spoke with three city personnel who were on the scene last week, they said they had "encountered a major problem," though they didn't elaborate. Despite the inconvenience of the hole, Taraboulsy said "we're much better looked after in Westmount than Montreal." Calls into Westmount Public Works were not returned by press time.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

AOK at 215 Redfern

Public Security foot patrollers at the 215 Redfern worksite reported February 27 hearing "a faint noise" at 6:30 am but on speaking to the foreman were assured no work had begun yet. Workers, he stated, had been made aware of the 7 am start time.

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Comin’ Up

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Bacchae: theatre performance and discussion, 7 pm at Victoria Hall. Experimental production of scenes from Euripides’ *The Bacchae*. Discussion to follow with actors and professors Myrna Selkirk and Lynn Kozak. Free. Info: lynn.kozak@mcgill.ca.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

- “**Mountainside United, 1786**” presented by Edwin Coffey, secretary, board of trustees, 7 pm to 9 pm in the Westmount Public Library. Part of the Westmount Historical Society spring lecture series. Admission free for members; non-members \$5 at the door. Info: 514.989.5510.
- David Wilson, professor of history at the University of Toronto, gives a talk on **D’Arcy McGee**, based on his biography, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. Free.
- **Paola Ridolfi’s** “Dispersions” exhibition runs until Saturday, April 13 at the Gallery at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

- **Earth Hour activities**, 6 to 10 pm at Victoria Hall. Storytelling and exhibits related to energy and climate change, food and drink. Bring your own cup. The actual Earth hour is between 8:30 pm and 9:30 pm.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

Author reading with **Deirdre Kelly** on her book *Ballerina: Sex Scandal and Suffering behind the Symbol of Perfection*, 7 pm in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library. Free.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

- City of Westmount’s annual **spring flower show** until April 20, in the conservatory and greenhouses. Open Monday through Friday 10 am to 7:45 pm; Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 4:45 pm.
- The **Atwater Poetry Project**, coordinated by poet Darren Bifford, presents readings by poets Méira Cook and Bruce Taylor, 7 pm at the Atwater Library. Free.

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Clandeboyne lane, cont’d. from p. 1

bours had received any follow-up communication from the city when she began noticing additional traffic in the lane.

“We are now facing a second parking lot – behind us,” she told the *Independent*. She has seen up to a dozen cars “piled up” behind two apartment buildings during the daytime only, leading her to suspect it might be rented out commercially.

Addressing her concerns to Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier March 11, Pedersen received a detailed reply the same day from Poirier saying the matter would be investigated. Inspectors were seen on the site the next day.

“It was an extremely positive experience,” Pedersen said. “After all our previous e-mails to city officials it was just the idea that she took the time to reply. It’s the first I’ve heard from anyone concerning the exact by-laws involved.”

Parking legality complicated

The legality of parking spaces used by non-residents and possibly bordering on a commercial enterprise was a complicated by-law issue, Poirier told the *Independent*. It depended on many factors. These include the size of each space (a minimum of 8x18 feet per car), the number of spaces per type of building, zoning and proof the spaces were actually being rented.

“We can’t be chasing ghosts,” she said. “I have to have solid evidence if the end result is to end up in front of a judge.”

Sheila Murphy, whose house on Clandeboyne also backs onto the lane, said she too has seen an increase in traffic generated by cars that arrive in the morning to park behind the apartment buildings and leave at the end of the day but are not there overnight or weekends.

Living on Clandeboyne for 43 years, Murphy has seen the lane transformed from a quiet place where her children used to play to one that has become almost a thoroughway since Batshaw’s quarters

were transformed from a boys’ residence to offices and the boys’ playground into a parking lot for employees and visitors.

City creates new route

Four years ago, recalled Councillor Theodora Samiotis, the city and Batshaw “went to great expense” to create and pave an east-west link between the lane and Weredale Park (“Clandeboyne lane to be bypassed,” May 19, 2009, p. 4). The idea was that users of the parking lot would access it mainly from Weredale rather than travelling the length of the lane.

“Unfortunately, there still has to be work on their communication with employees,” Samiotis said. “I share the frustration of residents. I realize there are challenges, and I’m continuing to press for more action.”

Linda Corbeil, Batshaw’s director of finance and administration, said reminders are sent out every six months to employees at all five of its campuses asking them to use “the new entrance.”

“I know the link is not a perfect solution but we’re all trying to find a solution,” she explained last week. “It’s always been a priority for us to work with the community. I’ve met quite often with people from Westmount Public Works and with [city director general Duncan] Campbell, and there is a limit to what we can do. It is a public lane.”

Batshaw surveys

Nevertheless, she said, Batshaw has conducted at least two surveys that she can remember. Findings showed that about 85 percent of employees using the lot have been rerouted to the new access and that “we had a dozen recalcitrants.” Those stated they were headed west going home and used the lane to avoid the one-way streets that directed them all the way up or down Atwater.

Corbeil said that *continued on p. 21*



Cars parked behind apartments on Weredale Park March 13.

Photo courtesy of Sara Pedersen



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Med students work the catwalk for eating disorder awareness



From left, med students Annie Lalande and Myriam Labossière, and Westmounters Jean-Pierre Falet and Haya Aziz are organizing a fashion show event whose proceeds are to be donated to Anorexia and bulimia Quebec.

Clandeboyne lane, cont'd. from p. 20

spaces in the lot are not allocated to specific employees and visitors may not be aware of the directive. When asked if informative signage had been installed, she said that might be one option. She had, in fact, noticed some 20 cars parked there on a weekend when no one else was working and suggested they could have belonged to shoppers.

Murphy said the link had “definitely made a change” in reducing the number of cars, but that other measures are still needed.

At the meeting with residents March 29 last year, the city proposed installing an arm or gate at the link coded only for residents and city service providers. This would force non-resident cars to use the

link.

Residents were divided on its ideal location, however, and it was left that Public Works would go back to drawing board to look into a new place for the arm (see April 3, 2012, p. 14).

“The gate is still a viable solution,” Campbell said. Asked where the issue goes now, he said, “It’s still in our court to work with Batshaw to obtain more adherence to the understanding that cars in their lot do not use the lane.”

But the speed of drivers and the use of cell phones by some took on urgency and a new perspective a few months ago for Pedersen and her husband, Patrick Shea, when their young son was almost hit by a car in the lane.

“Does someone have to get seriously hurt or killed for the city to take action?” asked Shea.

And now, Pedersen is pinning more hopes on the city’s Urban Planning by-laws in the hopes of at least stemming recent increases in traffic. She said she is also counting on Samiotis to convene a follow-up to the meeting held a year ago.

The *Independent*’s earliest coverage of the Clandeboyne Lane issue was in its issue of April 29, 2008, p. 7 (“Clandeboyers oppose Batshaw traffic; Batshaw never received complaints”).



Photo: Westmount Independent

The link from Weredale Park to the Batshaw parking lot, March 16. This route bypasses the Clandeboyne lane.

“(Re)Born This Way” is to take place Friday, March 22 at the Omni Hotel (1050 Sherbrooke St. W.) and will feature fashion designers, models and stand-up comedians in a fashion and talent show-style event, as well as an after-party. Volunteers are first-year medical and dental students from McGill.

Westmounters Jean-Pierre Falet and Haya Aziz, in pre-med school, are taking the reins to organize this year’s soirée under the guidance of first-year med students Annie Lalande and Myriam Labossière.

“Eating disorders are a big issue in society,” said Lalande on March 12 when the foursome dropped by the offices of the *Independent*. “There is a big stigma surrounding it.” She said the event concept started two years ago as a way to bring awareness to body image – central to eat-

ing disorders – with a fashion show.

“We all know someone who has been affected by [one of these diseases],” said Falet. He continued that it is a problem for both women and men and this event “opens up the perspective on eating disorders.”

Tickets are \$15 in advance or at the door. For more information, call 514.992.3188 or visit the FaceBook page by entering the key words “(Re)Born This Way – Fashion Show.”



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take in a few animals becomes too many, and they lack the resources and space to care for them all. Cats lack individual attention under these conditions but typically bounce back in home environments where affectionate handling and bonding are prioritized. Cats who have been in such situations need to be introduced slowly to children.



Orwell

The same is true for Orwell and London, cats currently being sheltered at the SPCA’s Annexe. Workers at the shelter have been working diligently to prepare these cats for new homes. They have been inoculated, sterilized and are ready for adoption. London is a white domestic short-hair with extraordinary gold-green eyes. At 6 years old, he is a strapping, outstanding gentleman of a feline. He is very social and loves to be picked up. Orwell is a two-year-old long-haired dark grey Persian with stunning emerald eyes. He is intelligent and witty, and easy to bond with since he loves to play and interact. Please contact the Annexe to find out more about them. You can reach Summer at cyposia@gmail.com or Marilyn at adoptions.spc@gmail.com. The Annexe is located at 7314 Mountain Sights (south of Jean-Talon). It is open from 11 am to 5 pm.

Akita ‘likes to be outside’
A resident at one apartment building was concerned about a dog left on the balcony of another on Clarke February 27. Public Security officials said she called the department to check it out and the dog’s owner was traced through the building’s doorman. She was reported to have stated that dog was an Akita – a northern breed – that likes to be outside and that she checks on it regularly. She was advised to obtain a valid licence.

Small fire started in Clarke garbage
The cause of a small fire in the lane between Olivier and Clarke March 6 was not immediately known, Public Security officials report. It was discovered around 6:30 pm in boxes, garbage bags and a recycling bin behind apartments at 331 Clarke. The fire department was on the scene and the lane blocked.

Top scorers, Westmount bridge club

Westmount tally bridge winners with top accumulative bridge scores for the four best sessions in February were:
1. Deal Perry with 13,500 points.
2. Jacqueline Ricard with 13,310 points.
3. Margaret Glassford with 12,480 points.

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Westmount women, NDG Soccer



The traditionally summer sport of soccer is increasingly played in winter and Westmounters Emily Carson (second row, right), Jennifer Du (not pictured), Gillian O'Driscoll (third row, third from right), Carolyn O'Neill (second row, centre) and Alexandra Zorbas (third row, centre) are part of the trend. For the first time, NDG Soccer offered a winter program for adult women this year and the fivesome participated. Offers one Westmount participant: "The timing of the practices is great if you are juggling work and kids. 8:30 pm to 10 pm on Tuesdays is after dinner and after homework is done so you can get out with friends in a fun, recreational atmosphere, get some exercise and come home de-stressed." Coaches are Doug Allan and Eric Heddle. Westmount women are crossing the border into NDG in other seasons too. Last summer, 15 percent of NDG Soccer's female participants were Westmounters.

Photo courtesy of NDG Soccer

Arena fundraising, cont'd. from p. 1

Street hockey at Family Day

Leading off the main events is the largest of the four, the "WRC Street Hockey Tournament," at Family Day, May 25. Academy Rd. will be divided into four rinks on which 400 Westmount residents are expected to play, with registration fees of \$40 a person for those 18 and over, and \$30 for others.

The team that raises the most money through sponsorships and donations will win the opportunity to watch a Montreal Canadiens' hockey game from the loge of team owner Geoff Molson, volunteer campaign chair.

Westmounters will also be able to bring in their "pre-loved and no-longer-used" hockey equipment to donate to the Canadiens' Bleu Blanc Bouge in Action program, which will redistribute it to those in need.

Coordinated by volunteer Ingrid Kovitch Dannenbaum, the event will also feature a "Chuck-a-Puck" contest and a "Gourmet Food Truck Rodeo" offering bite-sized gourmet food, such as oysters and lobster rolls from various food trucks organized by Cuisine de Rue Montreal. Kovitch Dannenbaum is an *Independent* columnist.

Evening soirée, May 31

The soirée on May 31 is an evening with an *Arabian Nights* theme being called "Scheherazade – une Soirée au Souk," chaired by volunteer Sada Reddy. For 300 guests (at tickets costing \$140 per person),

it includes cocktails in front of the conservatory, dinner and dancing at Victoria Hall and a silent auction featuring a sketch donated by Leonard Cohen, two tickets to the sold-out One Direction show, and a one-year membership to Moksha Yoga.

Mixed doubles tennis, June 7 to 9

Touted as Westmount's first mixed-doubles open tennis tournament, this event June 7 to 9 is designed for 64 teams at all skill levels comprising couples, families and friends. Chaired by volunteer Antony Kovic, the tournament will conclude with an awards ceremony and party. Registration fees are \$75 per person.

Aquatics festival, August 24

The "WRC Aquatics Festival" is scheduled to take place August 24 around the new pool for some 500 adults and children.

Chaired by volunteer Helen Campbell it will include a number of events including a swim-a-thon, wade-a-thon, aerob-a-thon, and team relays, as well as demonstrations of diving, water-polo and swimming by "top" athletes. Registration fees are \$15 to \$100 depending on the event. A "food truck rodeo" similar to the one at the street-hockey tournament will also be offered.

Campaign donations and information about naming opportunities associated with them may be obtained from Sports and Recreation coordinator Bruce Stacey at 514.989.5391.

Bike path unblocked

A delivery truck and a lift were found blocking the bike path at de Maisonneuve and Greene February 26 at 9:25 am in connection with work at the condo development at 1250 Greene, according to public safety officers. A flagman was instructed to move the vehicles aside and another truck that was double-parked was told to return later.

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Cabaret-themed evening raises money for FQJ



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Fondation Québec Jeunes (FQJ) holds a gala each year to celebrate Valentine's Day, and what a glamorous gala this year's was! The \$1,000-ticket cabaret-themed ball was held on February 14 at Griffintown's cavernous Arsenal, which was transformed with red drapery, fuchsia feathers and fabulous lighting.

Partygoers included black-tie clad titans of industry, such as the three event co-presidents **Pierre Camirand**, area vice president, Quebec and Eastern Ontario, ScotiaBank, there with his wife **Marie Sanche**; **Michel Gagnon**, CFO American Iron & Metal Company Inc., with his wife **Caroline Gagnon**; **Pierre Gagnon**, vice president, legal affairs and secretary, Aéroports de Montréal, with his wife **Paule Bérubé**; as well as chair of the ball organizing committee **Nathalie Gagnon**, with her better half **Patrick Gervais**; **Claude**

Bergeron, executive vice president, legal affairs and secretariat, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec; **Janie Bélique**, senior vice president, natural resources, industries and consumer goods, Fonds de Solidarité, and her husband **Étienne Massicotte**; **Viau Foods'** co-CEOs **Joe Reda**

(with wife **Cathy Giancaspro**), and **Enzo Reda** (with his wife **Annik Cormier**); Transcontinental execs **Isabelle Marcoux**, diva-elegant in red (chair of the board) and **François Olivier** (CEO); **Isabelle Hudon** (in black and white), president, Sun Life Financial Québec, and her husband **Gilles**



From left: Pierre Gagnon, Robert Lorange, François Camirand, Jean-Michel Antil, Michel Gagnon and André Morrisette.



Michelle Mackay and Philip Bélec.

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From left: Jacques Maurice, Dominique Bertrand, Gilles Coulombe, Isabelle Hudon, Isabelle Marcoux, François Olivier.

Photos courtesy of Fondation Québec Jeunes

Coulombe; FQJ's chair of the board **André Morrisette** with **Geneviève Desmarais**; Moët-Hennessy Canada general manager **Stéphane de Meurville** and **Véronique Gonneville**, national brand manager (their champagne was delicious!); **Luc Bisaillon**, vice president, commercial financial services, RBC Royal Bank, with wife **Lyne Desrochers**; FQJ executive director **Robert Lorange** with his wife **Marie Semeraro**;

and member of parliament **Maxime Bernier**.

Westmounters included **Lise Laberge** and **Daniel Labrecque**, CEO, DNA Capital; **Michelle Mackay** and **Philip Bélec**, director of Mont Blanc; **Dominique Bertrand** (in a black lacey gown); and **Jacques Maurice**, director, wealth advisor, Scotia McLeod.

The amazing meal was *continued on p. 25*

Indie spring/summer social calendar

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

MAY

THURSDAY, MAY 30

Building for the Future gala. Segal Centre for the Performing Arts honours Jonathan Wener, president/CEO, Canderel. Reception 6:30 pm. After party 9 pm. 5170 Côte St. Catherine. Donation of \$750 is requested. Contact Émilie Hervieux, 514.739.2301, ext. 8365. ehervieux@segal-centre.org

FRIDAY, MAY 31

Scheherazade, une Soirée au Souk. An evening of wining, dining and dancing at Victoria Hall in support the new Westmount recreation centre. Silent auction. Tickets \$140 at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. as of April 22. Info: 514.989.5226 or jbarnes@westmount.org.

JUNE

WEDNESDAY JUNE 5

McCord Museum Ball, celebrating Montreal's heritage. St. James Theatre, 265 St. Jacques St. W. Tickets \$500. Patrons \$750. Information: Léa Sanche Lefebvre. 514.398.7100, ext. 280. www.mccord-museum.qc.ca.

THURSDAY JUNE 6

Miriam Foundation Art Auction. Chairs Judy Wolfe, Carol Tryansky, Franki Yanofsky, Jeannette Hoffman-Zaffir. Information: Nancy Smith 514.345.1300. nancys@miriamfoundation.ca. www.miriamfoundation.ca

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

Temple @130: Reflections celebrating Westmount's Temple Emanu-el-Beth Sholom's 130th anniversary since its

founding. Chair is Westmounter Jewel Lowenstein. 6:30 pm. Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, 1380 Sherbrooke St. W. Gala dinatoire and private viewing of exhibition "Dale Chihuly: A Master of Contemporary Glass." Tickets \$360 (valet parking, guided tour, dinatoire). \$225 (dinatoire, exhibition). \$72 (exhibit and dessert). Tickets 514.937.3575, ext. 215 or tebs130@gmail.com.

JULY

SATURDAY, JULY 6

Strangers in the Night benefit for the Starlight Foundation. Over 60 restaurants offer fine food. Tickets 514.945.3347. www.strangersinthenight.ca.

AUGUST

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

Hope & Cope's Soirée Fantastique, sup-

porting Hope & Cope at the Jewish General Hospital. 6 pm Shaar Hashomayim, 450 Kensington, Westmount. Gala dinner and entertainment. Tickets: 514.340.8255. www.hopeandcope.ca.

Previous spring events were published in the March 5 and 12 issues.

Social Notes, cont'd. from p. 24

created by epicurean expert **Armando Aruda** and his team from the Fairmont Queen E.

Wines were supplied by the Bellini family, and **Marisa and Francesco Bellini** were there. Media personalities included **Gregory Charles**, **Ricardo**, burlesque artist **Scarlett James** and comedians **Annick Lemay** and **Cathy Gauthier**. Emcees were **Brigitte Bédard** and FQJ spokesperson, comedian **Jean-Michel Anctil**.

Guests boogied until the wee hours of the night to the can't-sit-still-music of Paul Chacra's 1945, then happily exited into the night, knowing that \$535,000 (net) was raised for young people aged 11 to 17 encountering difficulties.



From left: Jacques Sylvestre, Sophie Picard, Benoît Chartier, Sophie Gaudet, Isabelle Marcoux, Lise Faucher, Sophie Ouellette, Philippe St-Germain and François Olivier.

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TRENDSETTERS

THERESE BROWNSTEIN

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

At a recent glamorous gala, I couldn't help but notice a stylish stand-out. She wore a beautiful bright blue short cocktail dress and fabulous sparkly sequined stilettos. And none of that bubble-gum pink lip gloss for this lady. Her thousand-watt smile shone through a redder-than-red lipstick. In chatting with her, I soon discovered that Therese Brownstein is known for her love of colour, so I thought a great way to add some cheer to some of the grey days or late winter would be to introduce the vibrant style of this trendy Westmounter.

STYLE

How would you describe your personal style?

Sophisticated, eclectic and trendy. I always like to look put together whether I am travelling, going out for dinner or taking my beloved grandson Oscar to the park.

What is your favourite way of dressing?

I like to mix all kinds of labels from designer to affordable. For example, I like to pair a Banana Republic sweater with J Brand jeans, a Lanvin jacket and fabulous Mimosa boots from Browns. I also like to colour-coordinate: I am known for it. I love colour! In fact, I rarely wear black. I love all colours from brights to pastels. This season I am really into burgundy, and a great burgundy dress needs matching burgundy Mary Janes! (Gentle readers: Remember these shoes we grew up with? You know, the flats with the little strap across the arch?) I have an obsession with accessories, from necklaces and handbags to shoes, of course. And I never leave the house without a fab pair of sunglasses to match.

On weekends, what do you like to wear? And where do you go?

I don't really dress differently than during the week. I am always relaxed and comfortable with an edge. I usually stay in the city on weekends, hang out with family and friends and go for dinner with my husband.

What is your favourite gala gown?

A Herve Leger black-and-white, long striped dress that I bought 15 years ago. It still looks timeless, sexy and modern, and I still wear it today.

What kind of shoes do you love?

I love heels and flats. Heels for night and flats for day. I like to be comfortable at night so my heels need a platform and they need to be sexy. I love ballerinas and flat riding boots. This season I am really into the smoking slipper – it's a nice update to the ballerina shoe.

LIVING

If you had a choice, where would you live, money being no object?

Montreal is where my heart is since it is where my family is. I want to be where they are. However, if they all decided to move to New York City, I'd be delighted to follow them. It's one of the greatest cities in the world with all its diversity, energy, opportunity and culture.

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

Callas – I love them and their simplicity, freshness and modern feel. I always have flowers in my home. It's an absolute must!

Who would you invite to a dinner party if you could have anyone in the world from any era?

Coco Chanel. I'd love to learn more about the creative influence of one of the most iconic labels of today.

What is your favourite Montreal event?

The Grand Prix is always a fun weekend. The city is buzzing with tourists and celebrities, and it's always fun to go out and people-watch.

What do you think of today's fashions? Couture and elegance seem to be a dying art.

I don't think they are a dying art. I think



Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

At home on March 8, Westmounter Therese Brownstein wears a striking, cobalt blue outfit, complete with Chanel sunglasses, Lanvin Cameo necklace, cardigan from Zara, a Mason top, Rich and Skinny jeans and Brown's couture suede boots.



portraits - pets - homes

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there is always a market for couture. Designer quality and styling just can't be beat.

I do love this new trend of designers collaborating with retailers such as H&M and Target so that everyone can have access to their talents. I own a few pieces that Sonia Rykiel created for H&M, and I love them. I think today's affordable fashions are great. I shop in these stores all the time. We didn't have this 20 years ago. Today's generation is very lucky to have this accessible affordable fashion. It's all about attitude, confidence and style.

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