

## City, Prospect-ors swing into action against railway plans

*CP denied access from street, mediation sought*

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It took less than a day for the city and a group of Prospect residents to take action against the proposed overnight work on the railway tracks this summer and the positioning of large new signalling structures in front of houses.

In strategies and options worked out at a private meeting June 13 between Mayor Peter Trent and residents, city officials turned down a formal request the next day from Canadian Pacific (CP) to use

Prospect St. as a worksite access, Councilor Theodora Samiotis said.

It was the first step – quickly followed by others the same day – in a joint effort to effect changes in the work and scheduling of the construction project set to start in mid-July.

A draft letter to the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) from Mayor Peter Trent was fine-tuned to request official mediation by the railway regulatory body.

Prospect residents sought legal advice and prepared their own letter of protest, according to resident Frank Candido. They asked that Westmount-Ville Marie MP Marc Garneau intervene.

The city also requested CP and the Agence mét-

*continued on p. 22*

## Strike: Rec. centre worksite quiet



No one was seen at the arena/pool work site the morning of June 17. Construction workers are on strike across the province. See p. 3 for story.  
Photo: Westmount Independent



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Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 29

Underdog BY J. WILMANN p. 27

## Kick-off meeting planned for fall

## Dog owners to re-start association to work with city

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A group of dog owners met informally at Victoria Hall June 12 and decided to resurrect a long-dormant dog-owners' association, organizer Paula Engels said the next day.

The core group plans to get the word out over the summer and make plans for kicking off a charter meeting in the fall, she explained. While it probably would

continue under the name of the inactive Westmount Dog Owners' Association, that too would be left until the first meeting.

"We want to be a partnership with the city so we can contribute and also be a voice to be heard," she said.

Engels, who owns a golden doodle, is also a member of the Summit Woods Advisory Committee, which she joined to become its "lone voice for people with dogs." It's an

*continued on p. 27*

**Miss Vicky's zoning process explained, see p. 5.**

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# Strike shuts down arena worksite

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Most worksites in Westmount – including the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) – were shut down Monday (June 17) by what had been announced as a general and unlimited strike of construction workers province-wide.

All was quiet so far outside the major construction projects, said assistant Public Security director Greg McBain at press time Monday morning. The *Independent* saw no activity at 9 am.

The de Maisonneuve bike path, which goes past both the arena/pool site and the condo site at 1250 Greene, was not affected, he said.

It was not known how long the labour situation would last especially considering that the contractors had provided their association with a lock-out mandate (see June 11, p. 2).

“It just shows how difficult it is to predict the delivery date of any work project,” stated Councillor Patrick Martin, who

steers the WRC steering committee.

The entire project is due October 31. But the pool, contractually due for completion May 31, means that “As of today, Monday, the pool is 17 days late, and counting. For sure, a strike doesn’t help.”

In anticipation of the strike, the city had granted a request from contractors at 1250 Greene to pour concrete June 15, McBain said. Another pour had taken place the previous day for the second ice rink of new arena.

# \$3.6M surplus confirmed, real estate market a boom

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City coffers and taxpayers in Westmount reaped the benefits of an active real estate market last year that contributed strongly to a confirmed surplus of \$3.6 million announced at the city council meeting June 3.

The operating surplus was fuelled by \$2 million more than budgeted in welcome tax, \$1 million more in construction

permits and additional revenue from court fines and Hydro Westmount profits.

“Municipal costs have been well controlled and down over budget,” stated Councillor Tim Price in presenting the city’s audited statement for the year 2012.

The final results showed total revenues of \$96.7 million and expenditures of \$93.1 million of which \$49.8 million went to the agglomeration for Westmount’s share of island- .....

*continued on p. 26*

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## Aims to enable Miss Vicky's to conform

# Zoning change for St. Matthias' is a 3-threshold process

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A public consultation meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 18 regarding St. Matthias' Church kicks off public participation in a complex process required for all changes to the city's zoning by-law.

In this case, the concerned zone itself is not being changed. It is designated as R-2 residential. Rather, it is the usages permitted at 10 and 12 Church Hill being amended. These are contained in a table in the zoning by-law showing St. Matthias'

as one of many "houses of worship" that do not have a "preschool" usage.

Because this usage at St. Matthias' has been tolerated for more than 20 years through the operation of Miss Vicky's preschool, the intent of the current legal exercise is to regularize it, according to city officials.

The proposed change to the table to add "and a school for pre-school education" for St. Matthias' is to enable Miss Vicky's preschool to conform to zoning regulations.

In short, the steps evolve from public

consultation through adoption of a second draft by-law, possible opening of a referendum register and a potential for a referendum.

All steps in the process laid down by Quebec are fraught with legalities and technicalities based on dates, eligibility of voters and numbers of signatures obtained in opposition.

The process can be stopped along the way at any point if the city council decides to withdraw the proposed change. Or, the change becomes law if certain results are not obtained from the public.

To stop the proposed change, residents must successfully go through three steps.

### Step 1: Petitions

Following the public consultation meeting, adoption of a second draft by-law at a subsequent council meeting and publication of official notices, residents opposing the change in the concerned zone (R2-15-03) plus five others that touch it (called "contiguous zones") will have an opportunity to sign petitions applying for a referendum register to be opened at city hall.

The contiguous zones in this case in-

clude a vast area of central Westmount (see map).

To succeed in opening a register per zone, at least 12 "interested persons" (eligible voters) must sign a petition in that particular zone.

Under the law, a period of eight days is required by law for this step in the process, according to city clerk Viviana Iturriaga Espinoza.

Eligibility criteria is to be explained in the published notices, she said.

### Step 2: Register

If the requirements from a zone are met, eligible voters who oppose the change in that zone will be able to sign a referendum register at city hall. Each zone that qualifies preliminarily has its own separate register.

### Step 3: Referendum

If a sufficient number of signatures is obtained requesting a referendum, city council then may proceed to a referendum open to eligible voters in any zone that has qualified.

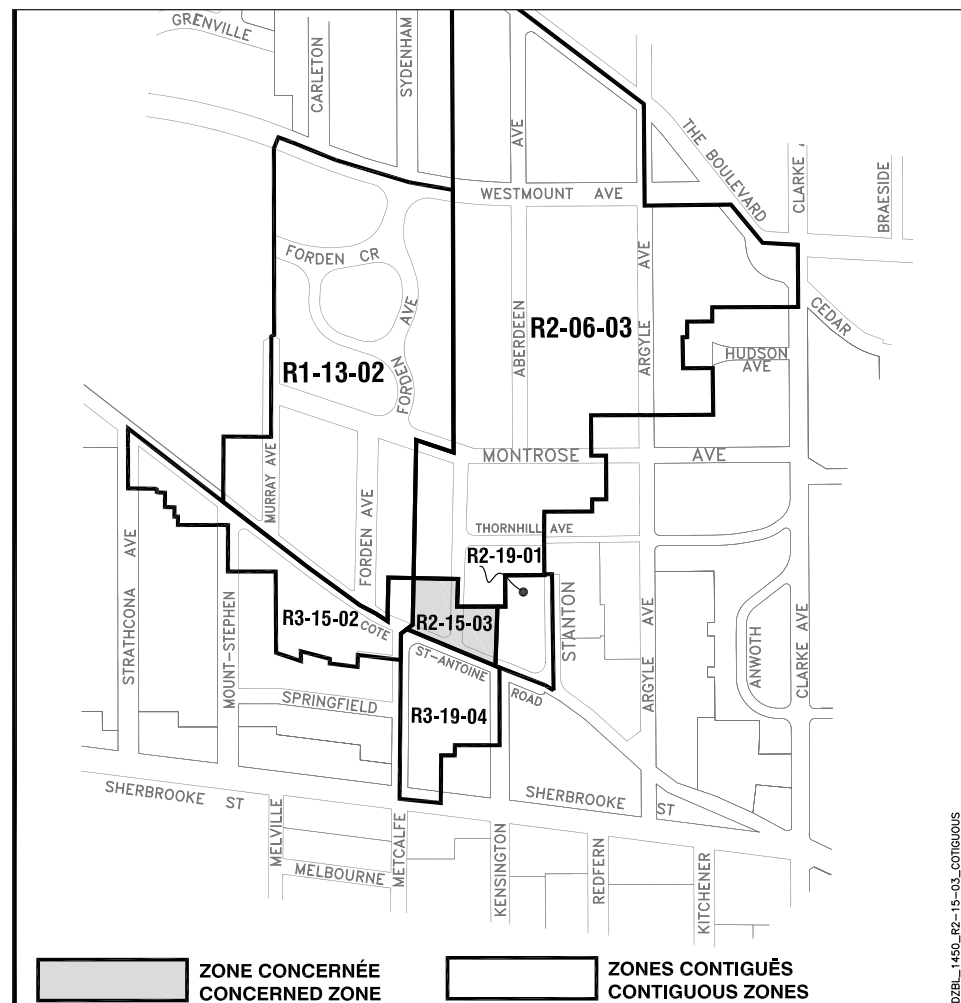


Image courtesy of the city of Westmount

## Steps in process\* for changes in zoning by-law

Adoption of first draft by-law	June 3	By city council
Public consultation meeting	June 18	For all
Adoption of second draft by-law	TBA	By city council
Petitions to open a referendum register	TBA	By at least 12 eligible voters in each of six zones
Opening of a register if required		Only within zones that qualified
Referendum, if required		Only within zones that qualified

\* Process can be stopped at any stage by city council.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## CRITIQU'S GEM IN KAY

Good "Q&A" by Michael Moore with Barbara Kay on her involvement with CRITIQU ("Columnist Kay lends national voice to CRITIQU," June 4, p. 14). At last, this fearless champion of social conservatism is getting some exposure in her own neighbourhood.

For those who don't read the *National Post* (more's the pity), Ms. Kay at least once a week slices up the elites of government and academe for surrendering our age-old values to the shrill demands of trendies posing as utopians.

And she tackles head-on all those top-ics Canadians prefer to sidestep in the name of "political correctness: abortion, euthanasia, Quebec, group sex, feminism, etc.

And she does it all with the forensic skills of a top lawyer, supported by painstaking research, and large doses of common sense and decency.

When it comes to fighting for the survival of the traditional family, Barbara Kay takes no prisoners. Alas, there are very few of her kind in Canada, and in obtaining her support, CRITIQU has itself a gem.

TIM BURKE,  
ST. CATHERINE ST.

## GREENING OF SHUFFLEBOARD AREA

Instead of installing a dog run in Westmount Park, the city should do the complete opposite; that is, expand and enhance the designated location (the former shuffleboard area) with some additional natural landscaping, to preserve and underscore this area of the park as a relatively peaceful oasis, which provides large, mature shade trees and the nearby lagoon and waterfall – features that will not be part of the new park area at the arena site (shade trees require years of growth to achieve that quality).

Regardless of the additional park acreage, Westmount Park is not sufficiently large to benignly include a dog run, as the inevitable accompanying barking is not limited to the dog-run area, but carries much further afield. Barking, unlike other sounds (e.g., people playing soccer, children in the playground), is particularly annoying – akin to the sudden, puncturing, invasive noise of a car horn, even when intermittent.

The last thing our park needs is even more barking noise. If you do not wish to have a dog run in Westmount Park, it is important that your councillor and Mayor Peter Trent hear from you.

SUSAN KAZENEL,  
KENSINGTON AVE.

## STOP PARK SCARRING

I wish to add my voice to the growing chorus opposed to placing the dog run anywhere inside Westmount Park, particularly in the area near the water where people used to play shuffle board.

This oasis of peace would be missed by many: the nannies socializing while their charges play, the tai-chi practitioners gathering chi near the water, the teenagers figuring out the grown-up world, the disabled and their care-givers pausing for a rest, the little children trying out their wheels in safety, the yoga disciples taking a slow deep breath, the book lovers enjoying a quiet read...*bref*, anyone who loves our park.

Westmount Park has already been carved out into segments. Let's stop this scarring before it is too late.

MAYA KHANKHOJE,  
KENSINGTON AVE.

## KEEP WESTMOUNT PARK FROM GOING TO THE DOGS

Dog runs are not tranquil places. At times, dog runs are noisy, smelly and dirty. Relocating the dog run to the centre of Westmount Park risks destroying one of the oldest and most beautiful areas of this jewel in our city that, up until now, many Montrealers have been able to enjoy.

The proposed relocation site for the dog run, a shaded, old-treed area alongside the pond, is not a comparable exchange for the new green space of the Westmount recreation centre.

Moreover, it is unacceptable to compare the proposed Westmount Park dog-run location to the one in Murray Park, which is steps from Forden for people who drive to the dog run, and in a minimally treed section of the park. In comparison, all access points to the proposed Westmount Park dog run require people to walk their dogs to the centre of the park, creating heavy dog traffic and eliminations.

It is not too late to rethink the relocation given that there are at least three other dog runs in the city.

The centre of Westmount Park is a natural green sanctuary, a treasure to be enjoyed by the entire community.

DOG OWNERS MAIDA SEWITCH AND  
NANCY RAFMAN, AND JOYCE BARAKETT,  
ST. CATHERINE ST.

## CITY SHOULD PROVIDE YEARLY COST RUN-DOWN

For at least the next five years, Westmount taxpayers should be informed at tax

time the exact actual amount of their municipal tax that has been needed to cover the actual total the costs for the previous year of providing, maintaining and operating the new arena/pool complex.

These total costs should include any and all outlay for work, materials and interest paid in respect to the project and its subsequent operation and maintenance, typically including the following items:

- All items undertaken for site evaluation, designing, costing and promoting the previously rejected above-ground arena/pool concepts;
- All items of site evaluation, tendering, construction and provisioning needed to provide a completed landscaped, furnished and operating arena/pool complex;
- All related items of work such as those for relocating the Lansdowne dog run;
- All annual costs of operation and maintenance, reduced by any compensation paid to the city for use of the arena/pool facilities.

JOHN DOREY, VICTORIA AVE.

## OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR, COUNCIL, RE: PLAYGROUND

While the millions of dollars in cost overruns begin to pile up for the arena/pool project, where the sentiment of residents is, at best, lukewarm, have any of our elected officials considered spending even one tenth of one percent of that project's cost on the most intensively used 100 square meters in our city, namely the playground in Westmount Park?

The equipment is deplorably dated, unimaginative, corroded and dangerous – and being used daily and copiously by our most valuable assets, our children. Shame.

HARVEY ELMAN, METCALFE AVE.

## OPEN LETTER: CONDO PROJECT ON METCALFE

I live at 181 Metcalfe Ave., and I was in shock when I heard that the building at 175 Metcalfe is doomed to be demolished and converted into condos.

I don't think I will be able to live in the conditions of a war zone. Am I supposed to be exposed to dust for 18 months? Do I have to listen to constant noise that could affect my hearing and nerves? Won't the vibrations affect our little house?

Will the construction company guarantee to compensate us for damages to our house and health? We moved to Westmount to escape the skyscrapers of downtown Montreal. We like the character of Metcalfe. .... continued on p. 7

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT


**We are Westmount.**


Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

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EDITOR: Kristin McNeill  
CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

LETTERS & COMMENTS:

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### Accounting & Classified ads

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16,337 copies

Audited by  Canadian Media Circulation Audit

OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY:

Sherbrooke-Valois Inc., 310 Victoria Ave., #105, Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9  
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Now they want to change it.

Do we have legal rights? It seems that the people who work at Westmount city hall are not too concerned about the well-being of the citizens who live in Westmount. I heard horror stories about the suffering of people near the Redfern condo development project, and those living near the Hillside condos. Am I going to be one of the next victims?

The deed of our house states that we have a servitude of passage. It seems that the plan of the construction company took this right away from us. It means that they didn't leave space for us to park the car at the back of our house.

I came to the conclusion that all parties ignore our existence.

JUDY GLASS,  
METCALFE AVE.

## ARGUMENTS VERSUS A GLASS HOUSE

I have very rarely come across such a strong NIMBY (“not in my back yard”) stance such as expressed by Gerald Glass in his comments about the planned condominium project to replace Vanguard School at Metcalfe and Hillside (“Open letter, re: possible condos at Vanguard,” June 4, p. 10).

Most of Mr. Glass' comments are totally risible, selfish, even pathetic (“scare birds

for miles around”?). I will not even bother to address them individually. However, I am curious about Mr. Glass' credentials as a condo market expert since he seems to be quite clear on the subject. And, at the end of the day, is that his problem?

Much more important, though, is that his appreciation of architectural merit is quite primitive. Anyone who uses the argument of preserving this non-descript building in order to make a case against the proposed project is clutching at straws.

I have practised architecture for almost 40 years, and I can state unequivocally that this existing building has absolutely no architectural merit whatsoever. On the contrary, this indescribably banal structure is in fact completely foreign to the character of its immediate environment. What will replace it is another matter altogether, but I can guarantee that its demolition will leave no architectural historian unhappy.

What bothers me more is Mr. Glass' obvious attitude that “if it bothers me in any way, I will be against it.” This type of negative attitude is what makes it so often difficult to improve on existing situations, to work for the betterment of the community and to ultimately rise to challenges, that, yes, may be beyond the scope of someone's immediate petty concerns.

YVES L'ESPÉRANCE,  
ABBOTT AVE.

## READY FOR QUESTIONS AT CONDO DEMO HEARING

The promoter and general contractor of the condo project at 175 Metcalfe will answer questions at the public hearing of the demolition committee to be held on June 19.

For strategic reasons in the context of a highly competitive market, we had to develop our condo project with a highly discreet approach.

Now that we are finally able to release the information, we welcome the opportunity the *Westmount Independent* offers us to clear the air and put everything into proper perspective, while getting rid of the growing urban legends.

The transformation of the former Vanguard school has evolved tremendously over the past year. Our involvement with the school started as we had been selected to handle, as a general contractor, the relocation of Vanguard's three campuses in a merged facility in the former orphanage building on Côte de Liesse.

Unexpectedly, the initial sale of the 175 Metcalfe to a third party having hit a snag, we had to take over and purchase Vanguard's building.

Upon acceptance of the deal, we initiated the development of a condo project, which initially was taking advantage of the existing structure. At the request of the city

authorities and its advisory committee on planning, we had to change our project and accept to incur an increase of our construction costs to demolish the existing building in order to install our indoor parking facilities in two levels of underground parking.

Now that the design of our project has been duly accepted, we are finalizing the preparation of our presentation for the public hearing of the Demolition committee, which will enable us to demonstrate to the surrounding neighbours who have expressed some concerns, how every effort will be invested to minimize the impact of the construction work of our condo project.

We are confident that the municipal authorities as well as the local population will realize the importance of working harmoniously with us, expediting the approval of the demolition of the building, as it will enable us to hold our launching event in the context of the imminent completion of the MUHC and the Westmount recreation centre, both in close proximity to the 175 Metcalfe.

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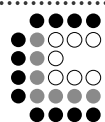
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Lulham travels to BC for municipalities conference

# Latest updates brought back info on storm water, seniors and city infrastructure from national forums

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The latest information on issues relevant to long-term planning in Westmount have been brought back to the city from two recent conferences held by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) attended by Councillor Cynthia Lulham.

These concerned storm water management, infrastructure funding and quality of life for ageing populations.

Sent by the city to the FCM Conference on Sustainable Communities in February in Windsor, Lulham said storm water management is of particular interest since guidelines on this issue are currently

being worked on by Urban Planning, for which she is the commissioner.

These include a number of water collection features such as retention basins, tree grates, soft-cover landscaping and water gardens.

Model water garden planned

The city, she said, is planning to create a model water garden in front of the conservatory as a way of controlling heavy rain that seeps under the greenhouse doors, as occurred June 1 (see June 11, p. 9). Proceeds of \$1,300 from the perennial plant exchange May 16 will go toward this project.

“Now that people are building fewer decks because of the maintenance they require, the water garden will serve as a model to show residents how the ground can be graded away from a house or ground-level patios and sloped into a water garden.”

Infrastructure funding

At the FCM’s annual conference and trade show in Vancouver three weeks ago, one of three major initiatives announced

concerned infrastructure grants (such as the one Westmount obtained for the arena/pool project) and guaranteed long-term indexed funding through the gas tax subsidy.

“We can’t budget if we don’t know if we’re getting the subsidy,” Lulham said.

She also found a quality of life report on the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population, another initiative, to be very important for Westmount in future planning and has passed on the information to the Healthy City Project.

The third initiative was *Guidelines for New Development in Proximity to Railway Operations* presented by Lulham in her professional capacity as project manager for the FCM-RAC Proximity Initiative. The RAC is the Railway Association of Canada. These are updated guidelines to address issues concerning noise, vibration and safety outlined in an FCM communiqué following the meeting.

Westmount has maintained close ties with the FCM since its co-founding as the Union of Canadian Municipalities in 1910 by William Lighthall, the city’s mayor from 1901 to 1903.

## Jogger hit by car in mixed communication

A young NDG woman was reported taken to hospital June 6 after being hit by a small Canada Post truck at Côte St. Antoine and Lansdowne around 11:53 am. In relaying the incident, Public Security officials said both she and the driver had signalled the other to proceed but ended up crossing the intersection at the same time.

The victim, a jogger, suffered injury to the face, leg and arm but was conscious and able to speak with officers. Fire department first responders took over her care until Urgences Santé arrived to take her to the Montreal General Hospital, accompanied by her parents, who had been contacted.

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# Remembering Mary Sancton, matriarch of publishing family

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mary Sancton, retired social worker, avid gardener and matriarch of the Sancton family that owned and published the *Westmount Examiner* for two decades, died June 10. She would have turned 96 June 23.

She had been living at Manoir Westmount for many years and had only recently moved to Château Westmount, where she was reported by the family to have died peacefully after a long and full life.

A private service at her request took place last weekend.

Widow of John Sancton, she is survived by her three sons and their wives – Andrew and Pam of London, Ontario; Ted and Zsuzsi Kapas of Montreal; and Don and Jeanie of Beaconsfield – as well as grandchildren Rebecca, Derek, Robin, Lara, Kimberley and Matthew.

Mary Sancton not only took a keen interest in the newspaper business but forged her own career working first as a factory inspector in her native London during World War II. She obtained a graduate degree from McGill in her 50s and worked

as a social worker based in Westmount until mandatory retirement at age 65.

“Looking back now,” said son Don, “I think it’s interesting to see how the role of

women has changed in her lifetime. And how she was a player, working in the war, forced to stop her first job in social work due to pregnancy and then forced to retire.



The late Mary Sancton at age 91 in 2008.

“She was committed to her family and her work and was very perseverant. She seemed quite willing and able to roll with events. Maybe it was that British trait of being able to carry on. We (as sons) were demonstrated, and provided with, principles to live by and achieve, without being preached at and without being told to do a particular thing.”

Sancton was born Mary Alice Bain in Blackheath. She met and married John in England while he was serving with the RCAF. She came to Canada as a war bride in 1946.

They lived in Stanstead and Fredericton before finally settling in Ormstown while maintaining a small apartment in Westmount. They moved to Westmount after raising the family and subsequently to the Manoir whose controversial founding John had spearheaded as president of the Rotary Club of Westmount.

Taking an interest in community concerns, Mary served as president of the now-defunct Seniors of Westmount Action Group (SWAG).

“I’m forever grateful for having come to Canada,” she told the *Independent* in a profile at age 91 (see October 1, 2008).

## Station 12 Reports

# Witness watched car break-in on Tupper St.

BY ISAAC OLSON

The following news story is based on information from police reports provided by a Station 12 constable in an interview with the Independent.

Somebody watched a Westmount-based car get broken into and burglarized but, even as the suspect fled in another vehicle with stolen items, the witness failed to notify police until the car’s owner returned to the scene, according to Station 12 constable Adalbert Pimentel.

The car, a Mercedes, was parked on

Tupper St. near the Gladstone intersection for about 25 minutes at around 5 pm on June 5, he explained. When the victim returned to his car, his remote entry system wasn’t working and when he used the key, he noticed somebody had hastily searched through the vehicle, Pimentel said.

A pair of sunglasses and a memory stick were stolen.

A witness came forward and said he saw a suspect fleeing from the vehicle with objects in his hands. The suspect, Pimentel said, fled in a white, four-door Chevrolet driven by another individual.

The suspect who did the burglarizing is described as a white male, 5’8” and wearing black sweat pants with green stripes on the side.

“If you notice something, don’t wait to notify authorities,” said Pimentel. “Call 911 immediately while it’s happening, so we can have a better chance of catching the suspects. Ideally, you’d get the licence plate of a vehicle used in a crime.”

# Summit Woods project to study user interaction

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A research study of how various users of Summit Woods interrelate is being undertaken by an NDG resident studying at the University of Waterloo.

Taryn Graham, an MA candidate in the department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, has launched an online survey as part of her master’s program to collect feedback from user groups on demographics and experiences in Summit Woods – all with the support of city council.

## Lulham presented ideas to council

“I presented her ideas to council members, and we decided to support her by allowing her to put up posters in Summit Woods about the survey,” said Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Parks and Urban Planning.

“The Summit Woods Research Project” is described by Graham as aiming to find ways “to help promote community-based dialogue and provide guidance for trail etic-

quette that is considerate of people, animals and the environment.”

Being a dog owner familiar with issues involving dogs in the nature reserve, Graham “thinks the groups for and against can be bridged,” Lulham explained. Her findings could be ready as early as the fall, Lulham said.

John Fretz, president of the Summit Woods Advisory Committee, told the *Independent* that while this group represents various users, it had not yet been contacted by Graham for input.

## Find balance

A solution to finding the balance between dogs and other users of natural areas is not confined to Westmount, he said. “We have yet to find ours. To do so is very complex, involves a lot of historical research and if you want something you have to pay for it.”

Graham’s survey can be accessed at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/Summit-WoodsResearchProject](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Summit-WoodsResearchProject).

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## Remembering Colin Irving (1934-2013)

Noted litigator Colin Irving died June 11.

Irving went to school in Westmount, lived here and worked in the city since in 1997, when he founded the firm now called Irving Mitchell Kalichman, currently located at Alexis Nihon.

He was best known as a constitutional expert, and appeared before the Supreme



The late Colin Irving in 2010.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

Court over 20 times. His work included landmark cases involving the legalization of gay marriage, the repatriation of the British North America Act and Bill 101. He also obtained the 1988 release of Janise Gamble, who was wrongfully convicted of murder in 1976. Irving worked on that case *pro bono* and later added to his volunteer work by working at the Mile End legal clinic and founding the Tyndale St. Georges legal clinic.

In 2010, Irving was awarded the inaugural Médaille St. Yves by Pro Bono Québec. He was to go to Toronto in May as one of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association's "Celebrating Canada" honourees for 2013, but was unable to attend due to illness.

Irving was a keen squash and badminton player, and won many titles, including the Canadian doubles open in 1960 and the Canadian Masters singles championship in 1995.

He is survived by his three children, Andrew, Caroline and Gillian.

He was profiled in the November 16, 2010 *Independent* (p. 14).

## Westmount Y closes weight room for renovations

By MICHAEL MOORE

The Westmount YMCA's weight-room aficionados are being forced to look elsewhere for their summer work-out sessions this June after the Y closed its third-floor conditioning room for renovations.

The room has been closed since June 3 as part of a three-week plan to repair and upgrade the floor's equipment and decor, including the replacement of the floor and track.

"The floor of any weight room in any fitness centre will typically undergo a great deal of wear and tear," said Westmount YMCA director Gary White. "As the floor wears down and acquires scuffs and tears, it can pose a risk to members. It was simply time for us to replace our floor."

White expects to have the renovated conditioning floor re-opened to members by June 22, "if all the work goes according to schedule."

In addition to the new floor, the YMCA will be repainting the room's walls and ceiling, as well as reupholstering the seating on some workout benches and machines, and upgrading some of the older

free weights.

White is also using the closure to install some new equipment, including television-equipped cardio machines; a squat rack and more bumper plates; and abdominal and leg machines.

Until the floor re-opens, members looking to get in their summer work-out will be able to use their membership at any other YMCA centre in Montreal.

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## LaSalle politician gets to Vic Hall meeting via solar-powered bike



Spotted outside Victoria Hall on June 15 was Patrick Asch, *Projet Montréal's* candidate for mayor of LaSalle in the next municipal election, and his all-weather, solar-powered electric tricycle. "The Elf" is made in the US by Organic Transit. Asch worked with the company to achieve Transport Quebec approval, which includes bilingual labelling and motor power limitations. The tricycle can travel legally on Quebec roads up to 30 km/h under its motor power but can achieve and is allowed to travel at over 40 km/hr with added pedal power. Asch uses it for commuting and has "cycled" as far as Sherbrooke. Asch was attending a meeting of Bird Protection Quebec.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



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## BUREAUX ADMINISTRATIFS FERMÉS Le lundi 24 juin et le lundi 1<sup>er</sup> juillet 2013

Les bureaux administratifs de la Ville de Westmount, soit l'Hôtel de ville, le Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, et les Services de la sécurité publique, des sports et loisirs et des travaux publics sont fermés **le lundi 24 juin 2013** en raison de la Fête nationale du Québec et **le lundi 1<sup>er</sup> juillet** en raison de la Fête du Canada.

La Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée **le dimanche 23 juin et le lundi 24 juin** ainsi que **le dimanche 30 juin et le lundi 1<sup>er</sup> juillet**.

Il n'y a aucun changement quant aux collectes des résidus alimentaires et des ordures, qui s'effectueront selon l'horaire normal.


## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES CLOSED Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> and Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>

The administrative offices of the City of Westmount, including City Hall, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security and Sports & Recreation, will be closed on **Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013** for the Quebec National Holiday and on **Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>** for the Canada Day holiday.

Westmount Public Library will be closed **Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> and Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**, as well as **Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> and Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>**.

The kitchen waste and garbage collections will take place according to the regular schedule.

# May sales: Very slow



*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 May 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’s real estate market slowed to a crawl in May this year, recording only 10 sales in the month – which is usually one of the busiest in the year – with an average of almost 19 transactions.

Prices were very low as well, with four less than \$1 million and only two above \$1.5 million, the highest just over \$2 million. Still, the lowest price was \$861,000 – the highest minimum price since January – and the average mark-up was 24 percent, about the same level it was in April. The adjusted average price is down only one or two percent from levels seen in the last several months.

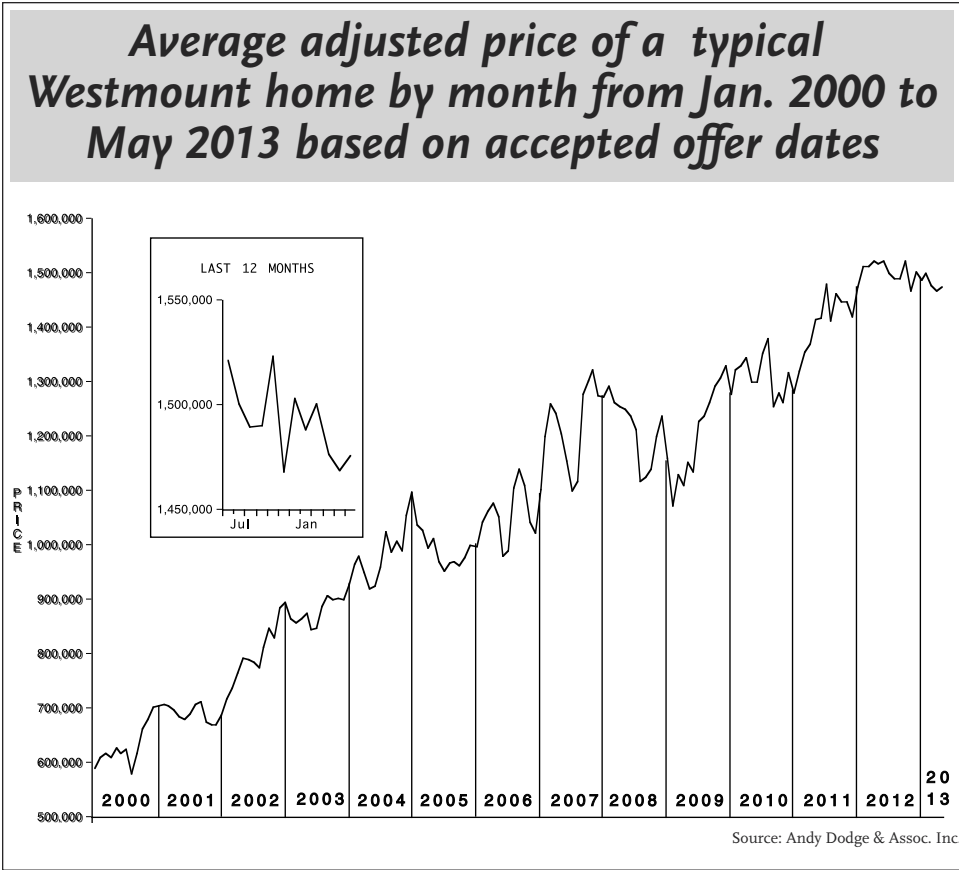
At the same time, we are seeing new houses coming on the market very late in the spring. MLS records show that at least 65 single-family dwellings have been listed since April 1, not including those which sold right away. Of the 10 that sold in May, the average time on the market was 196 days, or 6.5 months; two were on the market for more than a year; and only one sold in less than 45 days.

The latest check of the MLS tables is 157 listings in Westmount, 62 of them (almost 40 percent) asking over \$2 million, only 21 under \$1 million. Whether some of the listings are only “fishing expeditions” is difficult to say, and certainly there are houses in Westmount that are worth well over \$2 million, but the prospects of finding buyers at that level appear to be extremely thin. So far this year, agents have reported seven sales between \$2 and \$3 million, three more over \$3 million and none over \$4 million.

### Busy condo market

The condominium market was busy in May, as was the adjacent-Westmount market. Five condos ranging from \$360,000 to \$860,000 were sold, along with two co-op apartments and a flat in a triplex.

There were almost as many sales in adjacent-Westmount districts, with two



north of the city, two west of Westmount, one just east and three in the Square Mile, including two on Redpath Crescent. The various districts experienced five sales in each of February and March, nine in April and now eight in May.

The market can be expected to slow down even more as spring turns into summer, meaning sellers will have to become more realistic about their prices.

# Casting off dignity to take up golf



*On the Lighter Side*

INGRID KOVITCH-DANNENBAUM

Last summer I took up golf. I was inspired by recent injuries (sufficiently numerous to finance the bulk of my orthopedic surgeon’s mortgage) and by an inexplicable urge to cast off any shreds of dignity that I might once have possessed. I was further goaded by some hockey pals, who staunchly maintained that despite the ability to play while wearing dress pants, a belt, smoking a cigar, and resembling John Daly, golf was still, undisputedly, a sport. And a tough one at that.

To prove his point, one of these so-called “friends” brought me to a driving range, thrust a vintage club into my hands and proceeded to bombard me with all manner of silly instruction. Luckily, never

daring to leave things to chance, I had read five golf books in the preceding 48 hours.

Though quite the source of mirth and derision, this obsessive attention to detail served me well. Before long I was whacking balls with a regularity that was unexpectedly satisfying. My coach-buddy pronounced me the best beginner he had ever seen. As a top-notch player, he had never actually *seen* any beginners, or at least not for a very long time, but he chose not to disclose this trifling particularity.

Falsely buoyed, I headed out the following week to try my luck (and my patience, as it turned out) on an actual golf course. Within minutes I felt as helpless and disoriented as a bear cub raised in captivity and then suddenly released into the wilds to fend for itself. I discovered that the Astroturf of my artificial habitat and the natural, untamed grasslands were not interchangeable. Previously content to swat with a hither-and-yon-in-the-general-vicinity-of-forward strategy, I was rather perturbed by this new and pressing need to *aim*. And after several attempts, I conceded with dismay that no matter how

sharply honed the wee Ikea pencil, there was simply no way to cram a triple-digit number into the little score box.

My friend was patient. After one particularly fine shot, she cheered me on with a heartening “Well that’s a perfectly serviceable miss!” In return, when she was oddly delighted to make par on a subsequent hole, I squelched all urge to gloat over having won 11 to 4. (Or birdie-triple-par, as I like to call it).

### Don’t kill the ball?

She gently, if repeatedly, suggested that I “try not to kill the ball” – a perplexing bit of counsel that flew in the face of every reason I had ever known for playing sports. So I continued to swing really, really hard, and, sure enough, I did hit one beauty straight and far, and in the approximate direction of the pin. “OMIGOD!” I shrieked, “One in a row!”

Thus did I learn that shrieking was a strict no-no. As were many other fundamental features of any self-respecting sport: jumping about, diving, back-slapping, trash-talking, opponent-crushing,

performing despite distraction ... the list went on and on. I struggled in particular with the requisite hush before hitting. Why such fuss? After all, the ball was just lying there. It wasn’t going to just skitter off into the woods (*before* you hit it anyway.)

On the other hand, I did discover several unforeseen advantages. Unlike other sports where beginners either ride the bench or float about in the field of play only wishing they might someday touch the ball or puck, here was a game in which beginners actually play *more*. Though unable to decipher the dense micrographia that was my scoresheet, I estimated that I had probably squeezed a good 250 strokes into my nine holes. Plenty of bang for my buck.

Better yet, as one could spend hours and hours in complete silence, without the faintest bit of exertion, and using fewer heart beats than swings, here was a game that I could play while in a coma.

And at the rate I am going, that holds great promise.





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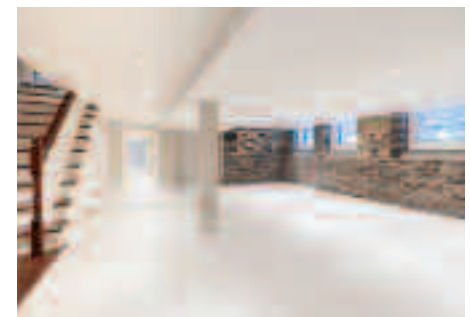
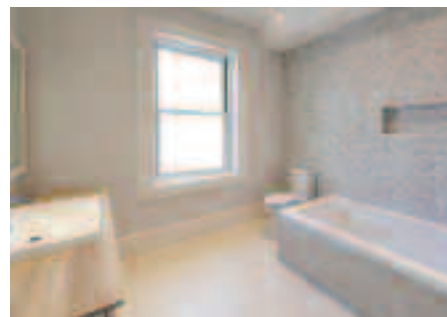
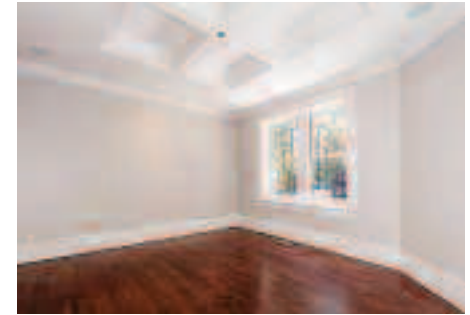


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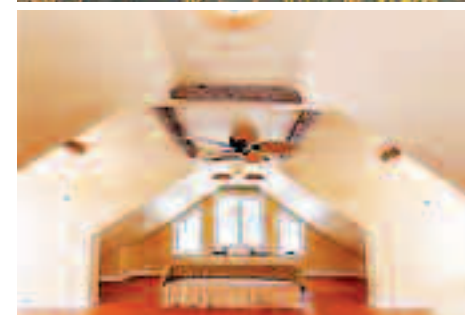
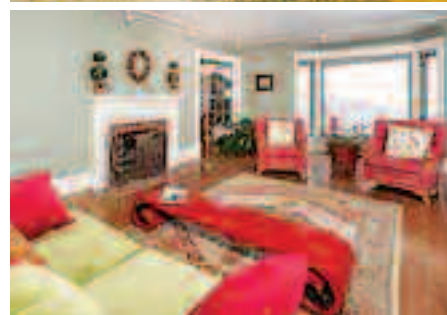
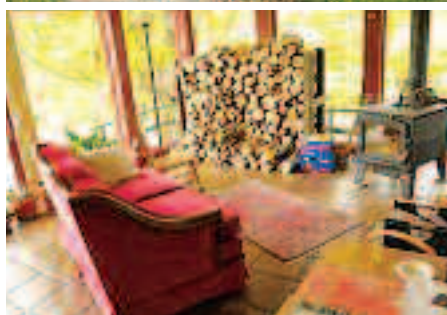
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# Montreal Children's Library closed while Atwater Library undergoes renovations, programming continues

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The main branch of the Montreal Children's Library, housed within the Atwater Library, closed May 24 for renovations. Scheduled to re-open at the end of November, it continues to provide its regular programming but has had to suspend its lending library.

"It's a shame that we have to close temporarily," said its executive director Helen Kyne. "We're taking this opportunity to be out and touching base with the community more than ever, to make sure that the people who need us and who enjoy all the free activities and the added educational information we give them will still know how to reach us."

Kyne said their librarian will be traveling to visit the daycares that normally visit the branch to read to the children. The daycare centres have also had the opportunity to take a long-term loan of collections during the library's shut-down. The balance of inventory has been transported to storage units.

"Come September we will still be providing our after-school programming, except that it will be at the Centre Greene," Kyne said.

In the meantime, it's business as usual at the MCL's two other branches – Jean Rivard and Richmond Square.

## Summer program in Cabot Square

The MCL's "Fun in the Sun" program is to take place the mornings of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from July 9 to August 8 in Cabot Square.

In September, the "Moms and Tots" and "Pre-School Story Times" programs will be taking place temporarily at the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf in Westmount.

The children's library temporary closure is the result of the major renovations occurring at the Atwater Library, including the installation of a new sprinkler system and new washrooms.

The MCL's administration has moved to a temporary office at 1410 Pierce St. downtown.



Montreal Children's Library executive director Helen Kyne, centre, oversees movers Hayni Unal, left, and Kasim Mehmet as they transfer the library's "Story Time Trunk" into a moving van on June 6.

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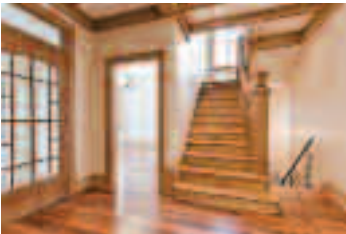


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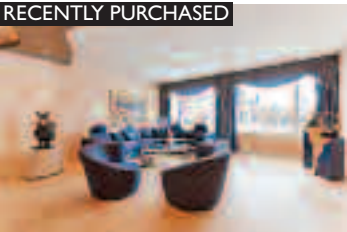
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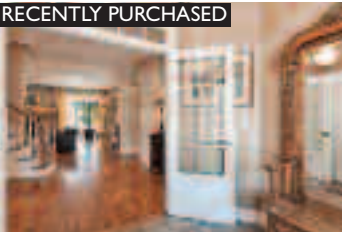
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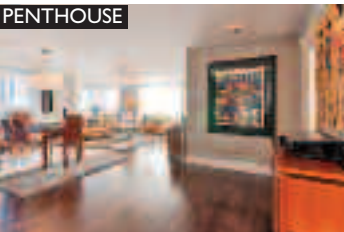
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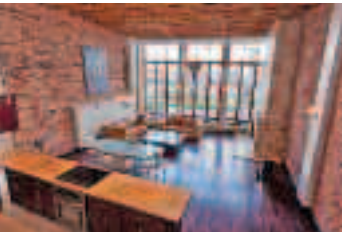
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## Noisy outdoor celebrations silenced

Two outdoor parties had to be silenced overnight June 7-8 when residents complained of the live music, Public Security officials report. The first complaint on Saturday at 11:33 pm concerned an annual Grand Prix party on Lexington set up under a large tent. A complaint of a second party at 12:49 am was traced to a house on Cedar near Mountain. Residents in both cases were said to have complied with requests to lower the sound level.

## Intoxicated Westmounter driven home

A man found sleeping on a city flower planter outside 315 Victoria was driven home June 6 for his own safety, Public Security officials said. The man was described as a 23-year-old resident of Melville who had been spotted by a patroller lying across the planter at 3:11 am.

## Westmount High raises money for woodworking planer



From left: Westmount High School students Alexis Horner and Analyssa Paraskevopoulos, and in the background Kiernan Collie, were washing cars at the Esso service station at the corner of Grosvenor Ave. and Sherbrooke St. on June 15. The students and members of the Parents' Participation Organization (PPO) were taking part in a fundraiser for the "Teachers' Wish List," a fund that pays for educational extras. With \$1,100 gathered by 4 pm, they reached the goal of this year's event, which was to raise \$1,000 to buy a planer for the woodworking shop.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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## 60% had no dog licence

Of 22 dogs checked for licences in Summit Woods and Murray Park during the mornings of June 6 and 7, 12 did not have valid permits, Public Security officials said. Three of the "wayward" dog owners lived in Montreal. All dogs, regardless of residency, must have Westmount licences

to use dog runs, including Summit Woods. All were given 14 days to obtain a licence. One, a man with two dogs who lives on Trafalgar in Montreal, was also ticketed \$75 for walking them off-leash at the summit.

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# Local students honoured for anti-bullying awareness

By MICHAEL MOORE

High school students from Westmount High were honoured May 29 for their commitment to end bullying, each earning a certificate indicating their completion of the Canadian Red Cross’ “Beyond The Hurt” program.

“When the program was presented to us, right away we thought it would be a success, and it was. The feedback that we got was unbelievable, but it’s still just the start of something that can get even bigger,” said Royal Vale principal Nathalie Lacroix-Maillette, at whose school the ceremony took place.

The two local schools are among a half dozen English Montreal School Board institutions to introduce Beyond The Hurt this spring, signalling the program’s opening foray into Quebec.

Created by RespectED, the violence prevention wing of the Canadian Red Cross, the program attempts to help resolve bullying issues by training students as youth peer facilitators to help transform the culture of harassment in their respective schools.

In March and April, RespectED’s

provincial lead, Nicolas Nadeau, travelled to each school to meet with between 10 to 15 students, using a series of educational activities over two days to teach them non-confrontational methods to resolve and prevent future bullying issues.

“Everybody in this room has power. It might not be the same amount of power, but we all have power,” said Nadeau.

In the second part of the program, the newly trained facilitators will deliver a bullying prevention presentation to their classmates.

“It’s great when you have the information yourself, but you need to be able to share it with the rest of your school,” said Nadeau.

The program’s implementation coincides with the provincial government’s institution of Bill 56 last summer, which forces every Quebec school to create and adopt a comprehensive anti-bullying and anti-violence plan.

During the ceremony, Nadeau handed out individual certificates to each student who completed the program, as well as a group one for each school to hang in its hallway.

The ceremony was supplemented by a



Students from six schools, including Marymount and Royal Vale, were honoured May 29 for completing the Beyond The Hurt program.

medley sung by Royal Vale’s glee club, including a performance of Aretha Franklin’s version of “Respect” and a slideshow chronicling Royal Vale students’ meeting with Nadeau.

Youth facilitators from Marymount,

Royal Vale, LaurenHill Academy and Vincent Massey Collegiate were also honoured. Students from the final EMSB school to complete the program, James Lyng, were unable to attend.



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*Westmount Art Scene*

# Saskatchewan's Perehudoff and Montreal Jewish artists

BY HEATHER BLACK

This month, two Westmount galleries feature work of artistic merit and historic value. William Perehudoff's abstract colour combinations dominate Han Art Gallery, while "The Jewish Painters of Montreal" at West End Gallery offers a mix of landscape and figurative studies.

***Perehudoff at Han Art Gallery***

Perehudoff (1918-2013) is one of Canada's best known abstract artists. Introduced in 1963 to the Color Field movement by New York artist Kenneth Noland, for the duration of his career, Perehudoff explored the emotional effect of colour on colour. Yet these spacious compositions are also a bold interpretation of Saskatchewan's distinct landscape.

"A Winter Tale" (1965) is a horizontal composition of indigo, blue, ochre and burgundy lines. As the lines vary in width from left to right, the colour undulates like ribbon. Painted in acrylic on raw canvas, the design suggests wheat fields, snow drifts and sky.

The 1965 circular composition (AC-89-004) features yellow, ochre and grey rings set against a burgundy background. Com-

binning soft-edged shapes with glossy acrylic lines, Perehudoff creates "a pulse" or active interplay between colours and shapes.

A more recent painting (AC-97-04), contains hard-edge pink and yellow blocks painted in acrylics. Set at various angles, the subtle shifts from the vertical create an enlivening imbalance that is representative of his later work.

Perehudoff's paintings ..... are both powerful and *continued on p. 21*



William Perehudoff, AC-89-004



Sam Borenstein "Ste. Lucie, Quebec" (1963)



## Place K residents showcase their art at annual vernissage, sale



Grosvenor Ave. resident, Sheva Strollovitch, right, purchases an art piece at the annual Place Kensington watercolour art class vernissage and sale held at the seniors' residence June 13. Art teacher Marcia Roszler looks on while resident and acting cashier, Jane Hollander, accepts payment for the watercolour. Roszler has been an art instructor at Kensington since 1989 and explained that "participating in art class can keep you feeling good about yourself and boost your ego when you see your art hanging on the wall with your name on it. This is especially true with residents who have dementia and helps them keep focus. It is also a chance, while the students are at art class, to give a break to the caregivers." The vernissage is an annual, one-day event that features sketches and watercolours.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

### Art scene, cont'd. from p. 20

stunning. Entitled "An Ode to Woven Fields," the exhibit continues until Sunday, June 30 at Han Art Gallery, 4209 St. Catherine St.

#### "The Jewish Painters of Montreal" at West End Gallery

This exhibit features work by artists from Montreal's Jewish community, created from 1930 to 1975. Noted for both social realism and landscape, these artists include: Alexander Bercovitch, Ghitta Caiserman Roth, Harry Mayerovitch, Louis Muhlstock, Ernst Neumann, Moe Reinblatt as well as Jack Beder, Rita Brian-sky and Sam Borenstein.

Beder is known for his streetscapes. Painted in oils, "Along St. Louis Square" (1940) features Montreal architecture, while "Gastown Vancouver" (1940) depicts a commercial street. The exhibit also includes five sketches from his series "Cafe Scene." Drawn from 1930 to 1935, the café's clientele come alive in quick, repetitive strokes.

Briansky's sketches "Country Interiors"

(1945), and "Family Portrait" (1946) of postwar immigrants capture the social reality of the day. Her painting "Picking Milkwood" (1975) depicts a young woman outlined in black. Black twigs painted with loose brushstrokes adds a design element to the work.

Several of Borenstein's oil paintings of Quebec towns are included: "Ste. Lucie, Quebec" (1963) and "St. Césaire, Quebec" (1965), featuring his mentor A. Y. Jackson in the foreground. A rare watercolour, "Brittany Boats" (1939), is painted in Borenstein's signature orange and red.

Interesting in both content and style, "Jewish Painters of Montreal" continues until Saturday, June 22 at West End Gallery, 1358 Greene Ave.

#### The test of time

These exhibits provide a unique opportunity to view work of artistic and historic significance. Han Art Gallery's Perehudoff exhibit is the first in Quebec since 1993, while West End Gallery's retrospective, "The Jewish Painters of Montreal" reflects our Canadian heritage.

## Digging of new pool halted



At least nine major machines were idle at the arena/pool work site the morning of June 17, including those that have been making progress on the "pool hole" (foreground).

Photo: Westmount Independent

## Comin' Up

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

- **Public consultation meeting on rezoning of St. Matthias' Church** to permit a school occupancy, city hall, 7 pm (see "St. Matthias' rezoning kicks off for Miss Vicky's, June 11, p. 1).
- **MUHC Good Neighbourly meeting**, 7 pm to 8:30 pm at 5100 de Maisonneuve Blvd.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

- **Demolition meeting, Vanguard School building**, 5 pm at city hall (see "Hearing set for demolition of Vanguard building, June 4, p. 1).
- Stephanie King reviews *The Marriage Plot*

by Jeffrey Eugenides, 9:30 am coffee, 10 am review at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. Admission: \$8.

• **Poetry workshop** with Ann Lloyd, 10:15 am at the Westmount Public Library. Info: dlach@westmount.org.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

Auction of **unclaimed objects** from police Station 12, 7 pm at city hall.

MONDAY, JUNE 24

**St. Jean** activities organized by the city of Westmount, 2 to 10 pm in Westmount Park. In case of rain, activities will take place at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St.



Trent protests to AMT, CP

# Prospect-ors decry train signals in front of homes

By Laureen Sweeney

A group of residents on Prospect are up in arms over a large signalling structure to be installed in front of their street, whose houses face the train tracks.

“Why smack in the middle of the only street facing the track?” asked resident Frank Candido.

The residents are also upset that Prospect, along with Clandeboye, had not received fliers announcing an information meeting June 6 on railway construction work this summer distributed by the Agence métropolitaine de transport (AMT).

The problem came to light when local councillor Theodora Samiotis sent out reminder emails June 4 to several of the residents, encouraging them to attend the meeting to receive up-to-date information on the work and “the impact it will potentially have for our area.”

“I think it is important,” she wrote, “for residents to be at this meeting – particularly those living on Prospect, Greene and Clandeboye area, as some of the major signalling work that is being planned will be taking place in that section of the tracks.”

She told the *Independent* that the city had not been consulted about the work

and only learned about it at a meeting with the AMT and Canadian Pacific (CP) May 21. That was when she had requested an information meeting be held and offered city hall as a venue (see June 11, p. 5).

“The AMT ran out of fliers,” she explained. “It’s very sad because the whole intent of the meeting was to give people an avenue to discuss plans with the AMT, but it was the execution that faltered.”

Despite an email sent from Samiotis to six Prospect residents June 4 and an email from the Westmount Train Action Committee (WTAG) sent to 13 people living on Prospect June 3, no one attended from Prospect or Clandeboye. David Schacter of WTAG said he sent out 200 email notices in total.

Resident Candido said he did not feel the need to attend since he believed the construction work impacted residents further west where a third track is being built and that people on Prospect would not be affected by the signalling station.

“This is not just about construction noise for a few weeks, the impact is for the rest of our lives,” stated Anita Chandan, whose house at 41 Prospect, directly overlooks the location of the proposed new structure.

Candido said it was now the city’s role

to “demand” the repositioning of the Prospect signals. Similar ones are also slated for the foot of Abbott and behind the POM condo building at 4700 St. Catherine in district 7. See story below.

A private meeting was set up with Candido, a group of area residents and Mayor Peter Trent, Samiotis and Lulham for June 13 on the sound barrier and train issue with (see “CP refuses land for berm”).

### Signals must meet criteria

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who works professionally in the railway industry, told the *Independent* that the positioning of signals is prescribed by Transport Canada according to various criteria such as distances from each other and the switches. The lights don’t flash, she said, and are installed in cones so they cannot be seen from the side.

The old signalling structures have to remain in use, and therefore in place, until the new ones were operational, which would suggest that they had to be installed at different locations, Lulham said.

The new Prospect signals would replace existing ones at Hallowell and at Atwater.

The new structures, called gantries, are needed to span three tracks rather than

two now that a third track is being added to improve commuter service.

Both Chandan and Candido propose the new gantry be installed a little to the east at Weredale Park in front of Batshaw Youth and Family Services, an office building not occupied at night.

He said he had spoken with an AMT official who told him that had potential.

## CP refuses land for berm

A group of Prospect residents learned at a meeting with Mayor Peter Trent June 13 that a proposal to build a sound-muffling berm along the tracks in their district was no longer an option since Canadian Pacific would not allow construction on railway land.

While the city had reportedly been advised of the decision in February, residents had not been informed. “We asked to be kept better informed,” said resident Frank Candido.

The city would, however, be meeting with Transport Quebec officials June 27 to discuss a feasibility study regarding a sound barrier.

### Prospect, cont’d. from p. 1

ropolitaine de transport (AMT) to hold a special meeting this week with residents of Prospect over the new signal structure. “We want to bring both sides together,” Samiotis said.

A tentative meeting date of Thursday, June 20 at 7 pm at Centre Greene was unconfirmed, Samiotis said Monday at press time.

“I’m pleased the mayor understands the situation and is playing ball with us,” said Candido, who pressed for the private meeting along with five other Prospect residents concerned they had not been adequately informed about the plan to erect a 26-foot signalling structure (gantry) in front of their houses (see story above).

Two of the three described at a public information meeting June 6 are to be placed in front of homes facing the tracks. These are at Prospect and the “POM condos” at 4700 St. Catherine (see June 11, p. 5).

In his letter to the CTA, Trent stated that “We are not satisfied with the manner that the notice of the proposed work was

conveyed to us.”

He requested that the CTA “intervene immediately” so that an alternative to the schedule can be discussed by all parties and an effort made to accommodate the concerns of residents impacted by changes to the rail network.

While notices announcing the original meeting had not been delivered by the AMT to Prospect and Clandeboye, Candido told the *Independent* June 14 his complaints of inadequate communication and his decision not to attend the meeting now were “irrelevant.”

“What we’re faced with is the construction of the signals so we need at all costs to delay the start of the work until they agree to move them.”

The private meeting between Trent and residents also included Samiotis and Councillor Cynthia Lulham, both of whom represent districts affected by the second summer of work on the railway line related to the installation of a third commuter track.

## POM residents also facing new signals?

Prospect residents may not be the only ones looking out their front windows onto one of the three proposed new railway signalling structures (see “Residents tell AMT, CP to limit track work to daytime only,” June 11, p. 5). So may some residents of the “POM” condo building at 4700 St. Catherine.

Councillor Gary Ikeman, who is president of the condo association, said he was told that one of the three new ones would be directly behind the building, which is actually the front façade for condos facing

the tracks.

The current signal structure (gantry) is just to the east of the building, aligned almost at the Bethune tunnel into the Public Works yard.

He said he asked a Canadian Pacific official at the end of the train meeting June 6 at city hall to position the new gantry to the west of the building rather than in the middle of it. “He said he would look into it.”

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## Arlington street sale, part 2



Odile Poupart and her family check out toys for sale at the table of Caroline Aitken (background left) at 95 Arlington during the street's second go at its annual street sale June 15, where five households had their tables set up by 10 am. A previous effort had brought out a few hardy souls, who set up their booths despite steady drizzle. The street also celebrates with a block party in August. Photo: Ralph Thompson

## Workers stopped at Château Maisonneuve

Work at a large apartment and office complex was stopped June 5 when a call was received for an odour of gas just after the 6 pm deadline for using heavy equipment, according to Public Security reports. Patrollers told workers in the garage of Château Maisonneuve (4998 de Maisson-

neuve) they could not continue their work past 6 pm. The complaint had come from a neighbour at 6:02 pm.

## Westmount volunteering

Westmount-based NOVA Montreal is looking for volunteers to offer two to three hours a week to do activities with children, allowing their caregivers to take time off. Training is offered, according to the Volunteer Bureau of Montreal. Volunteers should have previous experience with children and speak English and/or French. Contact Lauren Pace at 514.866.6801, ext 303 or info@novamontreal.com.

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# Wildflower Westmount



605 Victoria Ave., June 12 around 5 pm.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

## Come to cut grass?

A woman called Public Security June 5 to say she had been sitting in her backyard on Clarke just south of Sherbrooke at noon when a man opened the gate. Asking him what he was doing, he replied he had come to cut the grass but made a hasty departure. She asked that more frequent patrols be made of the back lane. Public Security officials said patrollers have been alerted to the incident and are paying special attention to the area.

## Not authorized for late work on Redfern

A contractor was ticketed \$269 for cutting cement June 3 at 11:14 pm at 215 Redfern, Public Security officials said. While he claimed to have permission, a follow-up with Urban Planning revealed he had not obtained authorization to work after the 9 pm deadline. The complaint came from a neighbour.

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2013.06.19 • Vol. 1/12  
Publié par la Ville de Westmount • Published by the City of Westmount

# infoWestmount

## HÔTEL DE VILLE

### Horaires estivaux en vigueur

Entre le 3 juin et le 6 septembre 2013, les bureaux administratifs de Westmount seront ouverts **du lundi au jeudi de 8 h à 16 h 30 et le vendredi de 8 h à 13 h**. La Bibliothèque publique sera fermée le dimanche.

### Prévention du Virus du Nil occidental

Les autorités provinciales mènent cet été des opérations d'épandage de larvicides dans certaines régions du Québec, dont Montréal, pour lutter contre les moustiques responsables du virus du Nil occidental (VNO). Westmount et 18 autres villes et arrondissements de l'Île de Montréal seront ciblés pour le programme. Consultez le [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) pour en connaître davantage.

### Vente à l'encan le 20 juin

**Le jeudi 20 juin à 19 h** à l'hôtel de ville de Westmount. La Ville procédera à une vente à l'encan de bicyclettes et divers objets non réclamés le jeudi 20 juin à 19 h au 4333, rue Sherbrooke O. Visite préalable à compter de 18 h 30. Argent comptant seulement. Consultez la liste d'objets devant être vendus au 4333, rue Sherbrooke O. ou au [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org).

### Bureaux administratifs de Westmount fermés les 24 juin et 1<sup>er</sup> juillet 2013

Les bureaux administratifs de la Ville, dont l'hôtel de ville, Sports et loisirs, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Sécurité publique et Travaux publics seront fermés le lundi 24 juin en raison de la fête nationale du Québec et le lundi 1<sup>er</sup> juillet en raison de la Fête du Canada. Les collectes de résidus alimentaires et d'ordures s'effectueront selon l'horaire normal.

### Inscrivez-vous à E-Westmount

**Votre connexion à l'information de la Ville.** Recevez par courriel des avis d'urgence, des bulletins et autre. Visitez le site [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) ou envoyez un message à [ewestmount@westmount.org](mailto:ewestmount@westmount.org).

## CENTRE DES LOISIRS DE WESTMOUNT

### La construction du CLW en images

Des photographies de toutes les étapes de la construction sont en ligne au [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org). Suivez le projet via [Facebook.com/westmountrecreationcentre](https://www.facebook.com/westmountrecreationcentre) et [Twitter@constructionalert](https://twitter.com/constructionalert).

### Campagne pour le CLW : MERCI !

Un grand merci à tous les participants, les bénévoles et les donateurs des événements Tournoi de hockey de rue, Scheherazade - une soirée au Souk et du Tournoi de Tennis, qui furent un grand succès. Suivez le progrès de la campagne.

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

### Club de lecture d'été TD : Bon voyage!

**Dès le lundi 3 juin.** Thème 2013 : « LES VOYAGES »! Tout au long de l'été, la section des enfants de la bibliothèque propose des activités conçues pour inciter les enfants à faire de la lecture. Demandez votre trousse au comptoir des enfants – il y a des prix fantastiques à gagner ! Info : 514 989-5299.

## Prochaine séance du conseil : le mardi 2 juillet

### Club d'échecs et de Scrabble

**Les vendredis 21 et 28 juin de 14 h à 17 h.**

Venez jouer une partie amicale, nous sommes à la recherche de nouveaux joueurs. Info : 514 989-5299.

### Journée d'archéologie

**Le jeudi 20 juin à 16 h**, Salle des activités. Enfants de 7 ans et plus. Avec Stephanie Maurel, en collaboration avec le Musée Redpath et le département d'anthropologie de l'Université McGill. Viens découvrir comment on emballe les momies, en apprendre sur les pierres historiques, l'ancienne poterie et bien plus ! Info : 514 989-5229.

## ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

### Fête de la Saint-Jean 2013 à Westmount

**Le lundi 24 juin de 14 h à 22 h** au parc Westmount. Fêtez la Saint-Jean avec un après-midi et une soirée d'activités, de spectacles et gâteau, couronné par le feu de joie traditionnel ! Apportez-vous un pique-nique ou achetez une collation sur les lieux. Activités pour tous à compter de 14 h. Info : 514 989-5226.

### Fête du Canada 2013 à Westmount

**Le lundi 1<sup>er</sup> juillet de midi à 17 h** au parc Westmount. Venez célébrer le 146<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de notre pays avec vos amis et voisins ! BBQ de midi à 14 h organisé par l'équipe de natation les Dauphins de Westmount, suivi de jeux gonflables et jeux aquatiques avec les sauveteurs de Westmount. Beau temps, mauvais temps. Info : 514 989-5353.

### Concerts d'été au parc Westmount

**Six dimanches à 14 h à compter du 7 juillet.** Apportez une chaise ou un pique-nique au parc pour un après-midi de musique jazz, classique ou populaire tous les dimanches entre le 7 juillet et le 11 août. Premier concert de la série : *Les malcommodes* (jazz). Info : 514 989-5226.

## SPORTS ET LOISIRS

### Camp de sciences de Westmount : inscrivez-vous dès maintenant !

**Camp à compter du lundi 8 juillet.** Le camp de sciences pour les jeunes de 6 à 13 ans est de retour en 2013 avec un programme excitant d'activités et de visites en partenariat avec, entre autres, les universités McGill et Concordia et l'institut neurologique de Montréal. Inscrivez-vous au Victoria Hall. Info : 514 691-9307 et [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org).

## CITY HALL

### Summer schedule in effect

**Between June 3 and September 6, 2013**, Westmount's administrative offices will be open **Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.** The Public Library will be closed Sundays.

### West Nile Virus prevention program

This summer, provincial authorities are conducting larviciding programs in some regions of Quebec, including Montreal, to reduce the population of mosquitoes that carry the West Nile Virus (WNV). Westmount and 18 other cities or boroughs on Montreal Island will be part of this programme. Consult [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) for more details.

### Public Auction June 20

**Thursday, June 20 at 7 p.m.** at Westmount City Hall. A public auction of unclaimed bicycles and various objects will be held on Thursday, June 20 at 4333 Sherbrooke St. W.; preview from 6:30 p.m. Cash only. Consult the list of items for auction at City Hall or at [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org).

### Westmount's Administrative Offices closed June 24 and July 1, 2013

The City's administrative offices, including City Hall, Sports & Recreation, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Security and Public Works will be closed on Monday, June 24 because of the Quebec National Holiday and on Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup> because of the Canada Day holiday. Kitchen waste and garbage collections will take place according to the regular schedule.

### Sign up for E-Westmount

**Your connection to City information.** Receive emergency notices, municipal bulletins and more by email. Visit our website at [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) or send a subscribe message to [ewestmount@westmount.org](mailto:ewestmount@westmount.org).

## WESTMOUNT RECREATION CENTRE

### Construction of the WRC in pictures

See photographs of the construction site anytime at [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) or follow the progress of the work via [Facebook.com/westmountrecreationcentre](https://www.facebook.com/westmountrecreationcentre) and [Twitter@constructionalert](https://twitter.com/constructionalert).

### WRC Campaign: THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to everyone that participated, volunteered or donated to the very successful Street Hockey Tournament, Scheherazade - Une Soirée au Souk and Tennis Tournament. Stay tuned for the Brick Appeal!

## LIBRARY

### TD Summer Reading Club – GO!

**Starting Monday, June 3.** This year's theme is all about JOURNEYS! Throughout the summer months, the Children's department will host a number of events designed to inspire kids to read. Ask for your Reading Kit at the Children's Desk – you'll earn great prizes this summer! Info: 514 989-5299.

## Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, July 2

### Chess and Scrabble Club

**Fridays, June 21 & 28 from 2 - 5 p.m.** Drop by for a friendly game as we look forward to meeting new players! Info: 514 989-5299.

### Archeology Day

**Thursday, June 20 at 4 p.m.**, Storytime Room. For ages 7 and over. With Stephanie Maurel in collaboration with the Redpath Museum and the Anthropology Department of McGill University. Come learn about pot reconstruction, lithics, mummy wrapping and more with Stephanie Maurel. Info: 514 989-5229.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### 2013 Fête de la Saint-Jean in Westmount

**Monday, June 24 from 2 p.m.** in Westmount Park. Celebrate Saint-Jean with activities, entertainment, music, cake and the traditional bonfire! Bring a picnic or purchase a snack on site. Info: 514 989-5226.

### 2013 Canada Day in Westmount

**Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, noon to 5 p.m.** in Westmount Park. Celebrate our country's 146<sup>th</sup> birthday with friends and neighbours. BBQ hosted by the Westmount Dolphins Swim Team, followed by inflatable games and water games with the Westmount lifeguards. Rain or shine event. Info: 514 989-5353.

### Summer concerts in Westmount Park

**Six Sundays at 2 p.m. beginning July 7.** Bring a chair or picnic and listen to live jazz, classical and popular music every Sunday afternoon in Westmount Park from July 7 until August 11. First concert of the series: *Les malcommodes* (jazz). Info: 514 989-5226.

## SPORTS & RECREATION

### Westmount Science Camp: register now!

**Camp begins Monday, July 8.** The Science Camp for 6 to 13-year-olds is back in 2013 with another exciting programme of activities and field trips in partnership with McGill and Concordia Universities, the Montreal Neurological Institute and others. Register at Victoria Hall. Info: 514 691-9307 and [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org).



VILLE DE | CITY OF  
WESTMOUNT



# Flore discovers watery vestige in its new location

By MARTIN C. BARRY

You never know what you're going to uncover when you're moving into a new space.

The owners of Flore, a flower and décor store currently located at 5008 Sherbrooke St., were in the midst of refurbishing their new outlet just down the street when they made an interesting discovery.

"Years ago this was a private house," said Gilles Lord, who has run Flore with Denis d'Etcheverry since 1995.

In the process of gutting the basement and first floor of the former townhouse built in 1911 to create a combined space, they uncovered what they believe are the

remains of an interior swimming pool. "It must have been about 10 feet deep," Lord said, pointing out details in an area at the back of the first storey, where a basin-like structure was filled with gravel after the building was rededicated for commercial use.

According to Lord, the building has a colourful past. "It was supposed to have been a bordello," he said, adding that the pool is said to have been installed by "an old gentleman" many decades ago.

Lord and d'Etcheverry plan to move into the new location at 4932-4932A Sherbrooke in September when the renovations are completed.



Gilles Lord, co-owner of Flore, is seen here May 31 in an area of the store's new location on Sherbrooke, where he thinks there was once an indoor pool.

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### Surplus, cont'd. from p. 3

wide costs. Almost \$1 million also went to the Montreal Metropolitan Community for the city's regional share.


Council immediately appropriated \$2.6 million of the surplus to specific items. The lion's share of this – \$2 million in equal amounts – was allocated to the extension of the new arena's second rink (to be repaid through fundraising) and to soil decontamination of the former Glen bus terminal property on-going since 1991.

This amount brings the city's total accumulated surplus to \$21.4 million earmarked for specific causes such as unexpected snowfalls.

There is no specific plan yet for the unappropriated surplus of \$804,000, according to city director general Duncan Campbell.

The year's results also reflected delays in the timetable for the building of the Westmount recreation centre, which generated more revenue than expected from interest on short-term cash deposits offset only slightly by increased costs of extending the recreation programs.

Less snowfall than expected in 2012 reduced those costs and shaved some \$800,000 off the budget of \$3.3 million while personnel vacancies and less graffiti translated into lower than budgeted Public Security costs.



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# How tall will new pool fence be?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Along with landscaping details for the new Westmount recreation centre (WRC), one item that also appears to be undecided is the height of the pool fence, which now is to be extended to include some portion of the now closed Lansdowne dog run.

The fence around the perimeter of a pool property must be at least six feet high under the city by-law, according to Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier, though she said she did not know if a higher one was contemplated. “I would be more comfortable with eight feet,” said Sports and Recreation director Mike Deegan, the city’s WRC project coordinator.

The old pool fence was 10- or 12-feet high, but people still managed to climb it.

That fence, however, was installed some 50 years ago before motion detectors and other surveillance tools became commonplace. The area will now be closely monitored, said Councillor Patrick Martin.

Plans consulted at city hall prepared before the dog run was closed show the pool area enclosed by a black chain-link fence of unspecified height surrounded by hedging. Pools in the backyard of homes are now also required by provincial law to be fenced off at a height of four feet to prevent direct access from the house.

In Westmount, where the six-foot high fence enclosure is also required, most people choose to erect the four-foot fence across the end of the property where the pool is located, Poirier explained.

## Running dog hit by car at night

A dog running north on Belmont and across Westmount Ave. June 4 was hit by a westbound car at 11:20 pm, public safety officers report. The driver, a woman living on Upper Lansdowne, called Public Security and when officers arrived they found the dog’s owner on the scene arranging for a taxi to take them to an emergency animal clinic.

from the jaw and have an injured hind paw. Officers provided the cabbie with a blanket to protect the car. The dog lived on Belmont north of Westmount Ave. It was not wearing a collar. Few other details were recorded in the rush to get the dog to the hospital, officials said. Police were contacted but reported as saying they did not need to take a report.

The dog was reported to be bleeding

### *Dog group, cont’d. from p. 1*

area, she said, where “dogs are blamed for so many things they aren’t responsible for.”

And the “misconceptions that dogs wreck everything” motivated her to speak with other dog owners and organize the preliminary meeting to determine whether there was sufficient support and

## Poodle needs 12 stitches after ‘hit-and-run’ attack

A Westmount woman went to Public Security offices June 6 to report an attack on her dog by another May 31, officials said. The attack caused “considerable injury” to her white poodle by a tan pit bull that took place at 2:45 pm on The Boulevard west of Mount Pleasant near her residence. The owner of the other dog, described as an unknown woman in her 20s, was reported to have just kept on walking with it.

will to re-activate or start up a new owners’ association.

Among some 25 who attended was Beryl Parker, who many current residents may remember as the lightning rod behind the start of the original dog owners’ association some 30 years ago, working with the city on leash- laws, dog runs and education awareness campaigns.

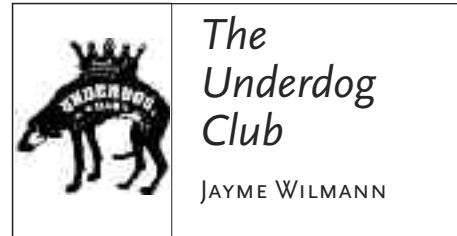
“We plan to support Summit Woods any way we can,” Engels said. “We respect it and probably use it more than others. We want to preserve it and expand awareness of this respect and preserve our right to be there.”

She said the group hopes to contact all Westmount dog owners about their plans through a mailing to everyone with a dog licence, if this can be worked out with the city.

Another plan is to set up a “Friends” component of the group. This would be composed of non-residents who buy Westmount dog licences that enable them to use the dog runs and Summit Woods.

For more information or to become a member, she said, dog owners should email paula.engels@videotron.ca or brianbaxter@talman.ca.

# Senior chow a love



Nicky was inherited by family members, who brought him to the shelter after one month when they realized having a dog was too much responsibility for them. Staying true to many of the characteristics of his breed, this 10-year-old chow chow is calm, independent and well-behaved.

Nicky is absolutely stunning even as a senior with a gorgeous and full cinnamon-coloured coat. In their native China, chow chows are often referred to as “songshi quan,” which translates as “puffy lion dog.” Workers at the shelter have taken to calling Nicky the “Lion King.”

At just 42 pounds, he is a bit underweight and needs to gain a few.

Chow chow’s tend to attach themselves to one person to whom they remain fiercely loyal, so Nicky is really struggling in the shelter environment. Abandonment has resulted in confusion for Nicky, so he is becoming depressed and sad while waiting for a new home.

When he finds his forever home, he will happily reward his new person with continual affection, a steady bond and a keen sense of devotion.

Nicky needs daily walks but does not require a large amount of exercise, and will be very relaxed and easygoing in the house.



Nicky

### *Fundraiser update*

John Benoit of Ben and Tournesol reported in an email thanking donors and buyers that during the recent Sherbrooke/Victoria sidewalk sale, his store’s fundraiser for Gerdy’s Adoptions and Rescues “managed to raise \$24,000 – an amount far superior to what I imagined possible.”

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# Labelle vernissage supports Oxfam project



## Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Oxfam Quebec's director **Marquis Giguère**, along with **Rita Soares Pinto**, were guests of honour at a May 8 fundraising cocktail sponsored by Westmount's



Linda Birks

Mod's Hair. They were introduced by Westmount res **Patricia Alibrandi**.

The invitation-only evening was the vernissage of artist **Leila Labelle**, who was recently in Burkino Faso, Africa. Inspired by *Half the Sky, Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, the book by Pulitzer Prize-winning authors Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, and the famed PBS documentary of the same name, narrated by George Clooney, Labelle planned the event to raise funds for Oxfam Quebec's project in Burkino Faso. Her art collection, "Around the World, Harmony. Empowering women around the world for better human rights and education, one woman at a time," ranged from \$350 to \$3,000. The collection of mixed media works had an African and Asian feel, some with coins added and others with calligraphy or sequins. One large piece resembled a delicate carpet, with Moorish motifs rendered in silver.

To honour all women and mothers around the world, the evening's date was chosen to coincide with Mother's Day.

Guests included Westmounters **Louise Goyette** in a pretty, ..... long summer dress; *continued on p. 30*



From left: Christophe Astruc, Susan Alper and Stéphane Laveur.

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Claude Abitbol, left, and Leila Labelle.



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***Social Notes, cont'd. from p. 29***


Susan Alper, ready for summer in a sexy LBD; Linda Birks, stepping out in radiant red and beige heels; and Samar Corbani, as well as Claude Abitbol; Mod's owners Stéphane Laveur and Christophe Astruc, as well as Natasha Fotopulos and her sis-

ter, Montreal city councillor Helen Fotopulos, attending with her husband, artist Nicholas Voeikoff-Erens. Other sponsors were Westmount's Alain Simard Fleurs, Rouge Media, Bureau en Gros, Faros Restaurant, Philippe Dandurand Wines, Vitamine and Sea, Pureology and Sassi Restaurant. Three thousand dollars was raised.



From left: Helen Fotopulos, Nicholas Voeikoff-Erens and Natasha Fotopulos.

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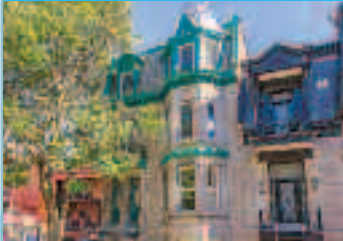
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