

Need a book at the pool? 'Bibliomachine' lands at WRC

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Pop in your loonie, make a selection and out comes a book from the vending machine. And this one goes by the exclusive name of "Bibliomachine."

It's a little corner of the Westmount library that went into operation at the Westmount recreation centre May 12 on the approach of the pool season when a good book to read on the deck just might add more colour to the new venue.

"The idea is to make books available in places where you might not expect them," said director Julie-Anne Cardella. "It also promotes reading."

The "Bibliomachine," whose name was coined by the local library staff, is a former chip-and-
continued on p. 10



The Montreal West Operatic Society performed Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera *Patience (or Bunthorne's Bride)* at Victoria Hall May 7, 10 (pictured here) and 11. The performances were accompanied by live music. The group will be performing the play again in Hudson May 15 to 17 and in North Hatley May 31. Funds from the performances will aid the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation.

Photo: Ralph Thompson.

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Comin' Up, p. 20
Underdog, p. 21

Wayling wins Galler Award as outstanding librarian

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Wendy Wayling, children's librarian at the Westmount Public Library, has been awarded the 2014 Anne Galler Award for outstanding library service from the Quebec Library Association (ABQLA).

The award was presented at the group's annual conference May 8 "in recognition of the exceptional work she has done." In addition to being a children's librarian "extraordinaire," she has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the community, the profession and to the ABQLA, ac-

cording to the selection committee.

Councillor Nicole Forbes, commissioner of Cultural Events, announced the award in advance at the May 5 council meeting and congratulated Wayling.

"This is a very prestigious honour," explains library director Julie-Anne Cardella. "It's usually given to someone after they retire in recognition of what they had accomplished in their entire career."

She said she understands Wayling had been selected after two members of the association who nominated her had noticed the many
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House sold in Westmount for second
highest price ever, see Dodge, p. 19

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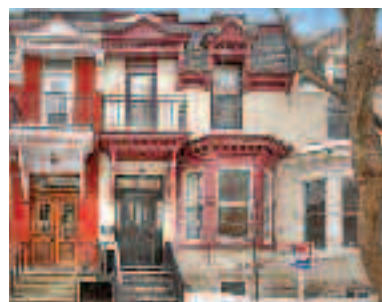
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#7 in Quebec for Re/Max 2013**

Not in rec booklet

City to launch its own masters' swim club starting June 3

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city of Westmount will launch its own masters' swim club at the new Westmount recreation centre (WRC) June 3, Councillor Rosalind Davis announced May 14. The program has just received the green light and is not listed in the recreation program.

The decision to form its own masters' swim club was taken to provide residents aged 18 years and over with an opportu-

nity to swim four times a week and train with a coach who can help them perfect their strokes, she said. "This is very motivating."

The team is an outdoor one that will not compete and is distinct from the Y's masters' swim club, an indoor team that practises and competes year-round.

Registration takes place May 26 at 8:30 am at the pool desk at the WRC at a cost of \$75 for the season. It is open to people who can swim and have a 2014 Westmount recreation card.

Non-residents may be able to register, space permitting, starting May 30 at 8:30 am at a cost of \$160.

The team is being coordinated by pool manager Skyler Wittman and is a program that has been requested for many years, Davis said. "Now we have the new pool to accommodate it."

The masters' swims are scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays 7 am to 8 am and Tuesdays and Fridays 6 pm to 7 pm. The program will use three of the pool's eight lanes.

Pool dumping brings out PSOs, firefighters

A smell of gas or sulphur was reported in the area of Mountain and Montrose May 10 at 9:50 am, Public Security officials said. Patrollers called for firefighters who determined the odour came from a large amount of water in the sewer, probably from the emptying of pools in the middle and upper levels of Westmount.

Rotary sale set for June 6-7

The Rotary Club of Westmount is having its auction and garage sale on June 6 (7 pm, preview at 6 pm) and 7 (9:30 am to 2 pm) respectively.

After many years at the old arena and a hiatus, the sale is returning to last year's venue: the RMR armoury at 4625 St. Catherine St.

For sale is a variety of used furniture, household items and art, as well as sports equipment and toys. The "better" items are sold at the auction.

Montreal lawyer and businessman, Michael Kastner, has donated One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) to support Doctors of the World through the auspices of the Jewish Community Foundation in honour of his friend and mentor, Norton Segal, Q.C. The monies shall be used to fund the distribution of lifesaving vaccines and/or other treatments to combat illnesses such as, but not limited to, tuberculosis and diarrhea, for vulnerable children living in developing countries, often where there is conflict as well as poverty.

Keen to park



The driver of this car seems to have an aggressive interpretation of parking rights. The meter next to this Victoria and de Maisonneuve Bixi stand was not bagged on May 13 when the car was parked, which could lead someone to conclude that parking was allowed. Even so, the meter had expired by the time Public Security came by, leading to a \$53 ticket. The meter has now been bagged as inoperative by Public Works. The conversion converts the space to a non-parking one, which would lead to the same \$53 fine for parking there or an "obstructing circulation" fine of \$58 (Public Security does not normally ticket one car for multiple offences, Public Security director Greg McBain told the Independent the next day). One Bixi rider who saw the situation was less circumspect, "What an asshole." Photo: Independent.

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Dog doo-doo bags in sewer a no-no

Attempts to empty a private pool this spring proved to be a head-scratching experience for the contractor doing the work May 1 as well as Public Works personnel called in when the catchbasin into which the water was being fed began overflowing over Clarke north of The Boulevard.

"He's pumping and pumping and the water can't go down because the catchbasin is full of dog poopie," said Public Works director Marianne Zalzal.

It seems that over the winter, one or more dog walkers had been tossing dog

excrement bags into the catchbasin, she explained. "Come spring, it was completely clogged."

Zalzal said she hopes people will understand from this example why the city asks dog owners to discard their dog bags in garbage cans and not into the sewer.

Springate remembers

Former provincial legislator for Westmount George Springate will be on the French-language TV show *Mémoires de députés* Sunday, May 25 and Sunday, June 1. He was also scheduled to be on May 18.

The show airs on the legislature's dedicated channel and the web, and is hosted by Gilles Morin. Springate was the representative for the St. Anne riding before representing Westmount (as the riding was then called) from 1976 to 1981.

Over his career, he was also a policeman, a professional football player, a sports commentator and a law professor at McGill and John Abbott.

Bike path cyclist flips over handlebars

A cyclist on the de Maisonneuve bike path flipped over the handlebars May 12 just west of Kensington, Public Security officials said.

A passing patroller stopped at 7:58 am to attend to the victim who was shaken up and bleeding from the elbow. The 19-year-old, who lives downtown, was on his way to school.

He continued on his way with the elbow bandaged. It was believed he may have applied a handbrake too suddenly.

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Club to hold national championships

Lawn bowling open house to feature pancake breakfast

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Westmount Lawn Bowling Club will hold its annual open house event May 28-31 so that people of all ages can try their hands at the game, club president Bruce St. Louis told the city council meeting May 5.

"The community is welcome. Everyone is invited," he said in encouraging council members and residents to try the sport. On the Saturday, May 31, the club will feature "a huge pancake breakfast before Family Day," he added.

The open house takes place from 6 pm to 9, May 28 to 30 and from 9 am to 3 pm on May 31.

St. Louis also invited Mayor Peter Trent to roll out the opening bowl when the club hosts the 2014 Canadian Senior Triples Championships August 30 to September 6. "I played in it last year and it's the best bowling you'll ever want to see," he said.

The appearance at question period of St. Louis, the city's former director general who historically would have been on the other side of the microphone, caused Trent to quip to much laughter, "I've been

waiting for this for 30 years – what is your question?"

St. Louis, who took up lawn bowling on his retirement six years ago and quickly achieved championship standing, has become one of the game's most avid promoters.

Triple crown

The Westmount club beside city hall had submitted its application to host the Canadian triples event two years ago, "so needless to say we're extremely pleased with the outcome of the selection process," he points out. "Being given this opportunity will complete our 'triple crown' of hosting major national events."

In 2007, the club hosted the Canadian Open Championships, followed in 2012 by the Canadian Juniors.

In the 2014 tournament, 10 provinces will be sending their best teams to participate. At the end of the seven-day tournament, men's and women's triples team champions will be "crowned."

Further information is available at www.bowlswestmount.ca.



Bruce St. Louis, president of the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club, right, and Richard Menear, vice president, at the council meeting May 5.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANKS TO WESTMOUNT, PUBLIC SECURITY

Approximately two years ago, after numerous hospitalizations and tests, I was diagnosed with conversion disorder, which, in my case, manifests itself in drop attacks (sudden falls) that come on without notice and at any time, and can be accompanied by loss of speech and paralysis of hands and/or feet. It is stress related.

I spend a lot of time in the Victoria and Sherbrooke St. area, where most of the shop owners know me and know not to call 911 unless I have injured myself. I just have to be left lying wherever I fall. The doctor said it is as if my brain, like a computer, hits overload and shuts down, resulting in a fall and, while I am lying on the ground, reboots, and I get up and go on with my life.

Well, a cycle of daily falling started May 9. On May 12, I had a first fall in Home Depot, followed by falls in the SAQ and National, and two falls on the sidewalk on Sherbrooke in front of National.

In every instance, the people who were there at the time and whose names I don't know, stopped and stayed with me until I was okay and got up. For some, it was their lunch hour and it didn't matter. When I fell on the sidewalk, I asked them to call Westmount Public Security, who know me and my condition and drive me home, which is what happened. Two young West-

mount Security bicycle patrollers, who had attended at my home earlier that morning to get information for their file (and who witnessed several falls while in my home), answered the call and called for a car, which came and they drove me home.

This is an all too frequent happening with the always positive response by whoever is present and I want to thank everyone.

MONROE CHARLAP, LANSDOWNE AVE.

MUCH MORE THAN TV AT TEEN CENTRE

Open reply to Belinda Bowes re: "Why TV at teen centre?" letter (May 6, p. 8)

Thank you very much for showing concern for the youth of Westmount and the surrounding areas. It is very much appreciated.

As in the previous Youth Zone, there is a television at the new Westmount YMCA Youth Zone located in the Westmount recreation centre and it is most definitely being put to use. I would say that it is being used collectively in a very interactive manner, not at all as a means for the youth to vegetate.

The youth use it for video games, movies and hockey nights. The pool table you saw is always in use, more so than the Xbox 360 video game console. In terms of physical activity we have Teen Zone basketball at the Westmount YMCA on a

weekly basis. Additionally, teens engage in soccer and football in Westmount Park and skating at the arena.

We have a very active bunch of youth who are most definitely taking advantage of the opportunities for sport in the area, whether with staff members or with the

various Westmount Recreation sports teams.

Please rest assured that we are not plopping them in front of the TV. Thanks again for your concern.

MARIS ZUNIC, DIRECTOR (CHILD DEVELOPMENT) - WESTMOUNT YMCA

Streamlining permits, infrastructure & traffic



Words from the WMA

PETER STARR

This column is adapted from Starr's president's address at the Westmount Municipal Association's annual general meeting of May 14.

This past year has seen the successful completion of the recreation centre, the largest project in our city's history. For several years, the construction has required a tremendous amount of time and effort on the part of Mayor Peter Trent and his team to bring it in on time and on budget.

Now that the centre is operational, we have an opportunity, and a responsibility, to focus on some of the more pressing issues that have been necessarily kept on the back burner and are in need of immediate attention.

One of the most important issues raised by Westmounters has been the need to improve and streamline city building permit procedures to make the process more open, transparent, and consistent.

Residents complain that the current process is laborious, time consuming and cumbersome. At the beginning of the year, we offered our services to council hold public consultations to better understand the issues at hand. We are awaiting word from Councillor Theodora Samiotis on proposed changes to urban planning that could include a new IT system to simplify the process, and we will monitor progress closely.

Infrastructure evaluation needed

Another area that needs council focus is infrastructure. A comprehensive, up-to-date evaluation of the city's overall physical state should be undertaken as soon as possible. Many sidewalks need repair, our roads have degraded over time, and we deal daily with a sewer system that is more than 100 years old. An evaluation should include parks, public buildings, and Westmount's capital assets, in particular those

of Hydro Westmount, parts of which are outdated and in need of a significant capital injection.

Of continuing interest to the WMA is the new tertiary-care hospital. Scheduled to begin accepting patients in less than a year, concerns still remain regarding the impact of such a large facility on our community.

The lack of sufficient secondary health-care facilities in the West End of Montreal has led the WMA to question the future accessibility of such care for our residents. We were outside the Vendôme Metro station just yesterday, collecting signatures for a petition requesting the new government to provide a second, handicapped-accessible tunnel from the Metro into the hospital. At the back of the hall today we have a petition supporting the tunnel. Following approval, three years will be required to construct such an entrance, long after the opening of the MUHC.

The WMA anticipates that pedestrian, bicycle, and motor vehicle traffic in Victoria village will increase when the Glen campus opens. Westmount council has recently passed new by-laws to protect our residents and merchants. The WMA will continue to monitor the directional street changes under discussion, and ensure that the Victoria village retail environment continues to thrive.

Construction tsunami

Yesterday's *La Presse* devoted two pages to the unacceptable traffic jams that have been created in NDG and Westmount with the perfect tsunami of the MUHC, Turcot, and Decarie Blvd construction. Westmount's Master Traffic Plan will require implementation in a very carefully considered fashion. We have moving targets all around us that will affect traffic patterns and density. As of 2015, over 11,000 people a day will be visiting the MUHC. The anticipated arrival of the Montreal Neurological Institute in 2019 will increase traffic even more.

We also will be working closely with council and the newly-formed Westmount Dog Owners' Association to find solutions to allow

continued on p. 8

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

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88 Church Hill to be discussed June 5

‘Demo’ hearing needed for sunroom extension

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A request by owners of the house at 88 Church Hill to add a rear sunroom extension to the kitchen is being sent to a demolition hearing even though the only portion to be removed is a wooden balcony and window sill.

This public session is required before any exterior changes may be made to the 1901 detached dwelling at the southwest corner of Church Hill and Montrose due to its top 1* heritage rating.

In this case, the proposed sunroom addition will be in plain view from Montrose though the large garden is well below eye level, owing to the way the terrain falls off quickly down the hill.

While the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) has already approved in principle the architectural plans for the work, neighbours or other interested parties are being given the opportunity to provide written comments by May 23.

A date for the hearing has been set for June 5 at 6 pm at city hall.

Design drawings by architect Bruce Anderson were posted outside the house May 13.

The proposed work consists of replacing a wood balcony and staircase with white-painted wood and supporting piers of ashlar (finely cut stone) and/or rubble stone. The hipped roof of the sunroom is to be covered with slate trimmed with copper.

The PAC review found the change would add character to “a rather plain ex-



Demolition notice is posted in front of 88 Church Hill

isting rear façade.” It would also harmonize with the streetscape. The exterior has been designed in keeping with the home's heritage definitions and was found to respect its original character.

According to a file on the project available for consultation at city hall, the purpose of the addition is to enlarge “an already cramped” kitchen by adding a one-storey sunroom with breakfast nook measuring 11 x 18 feet. The sill of a window would be lowered to provide interior access to the addition.

Owned by Edward Brockhouse, the house is described as a 2½-storey detached single-family dwelling of red brick with sandstone trim and a richness of detailing. It has a hipped mansard roof of slate and a variety of architectural elements.

It has been well preserved, is in excellent condition

and is considered exceptional for its “architectural style, integrity and important garden setting.”

The proposed project is estimated at \$270,000. The land is currently listed on the property tax valuation roll at \$1.6 million and the building at \$1.8 million.

Part of Bowman land

Historically, the property was part of a larger land area reported to have been acquired by Charles Bowman in 1828 on which he built his house called “Forden.” On his death in 1848, the property was inherited by his daughter Elizabeth, the wife of Captain Robert Taylor Raynes.

Elizabeth subsequently provided a piece of her land – fields at the time – for the building of the original wood frame St. Matthias' Church (opened in 1875) at the foot of Church Hill, then named Crawford Ave.

After her death, various pieces of the land were sold off by her estate, enabling 88 Church Hill to be built in 1901. Its original owner is named by the city in a description of 1* heritage buildings as Lewis Skaife.



The rear of 88 Church Hill where a one-storey sunroom is proposed to replace the balcony as seen from Montrose Ave. May 13.

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Westmount remains a municipal model

City close to outfitting all trucks with cameras

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Fully 14 of Westmount's Public Works trucks have now been equipped with cameras to open up the blind spots on a truck's right-hand side and back end, Public Works officials said last week. The remaining seven are to be outfitted in September and six Hydro Westmount trucks by year end.

News the city has been forging ahead with the initiative comes in the wake of a rash of fatal or serious injuries suffered by Montreal cyclists and pedestrians in the last few weeks when hit by the right side of a heavy truck, a typical blind spot.

"I feel so sad when I hear that another person has been hit on the right-hand side of a truck," said Public Works director Marianne Zalzal.

"It's so unnecessary. It's costing us

\$1,000 for each truck," she added. "What's a \$1,000 if it saves a life? The cost versus the potential in saving lives is a no-brainer."

On Zalzal's initiative, Westmount led the way among island of Montreal municipalities when it experimented with installing cameras and a monitor on a salt spreader two years ago (see story December 4, 2012, p. 8).

But since then, the city has remained the only one to add cameras, with the exception of Côte St. Luc, whose mechanics "came to Westmount last winter to learn from us and we went to them to help."

Not easy to install

"It's not easy to install the cameras and monitor," said fleet superintendent Robert Talarico, who worked out the technical process with the city mechanics.

"Not all garages know how to do it, to connect them so when the truck reverses, the monitor shifts to the camera in the rear. Chances are if a private trucker goes to a garage they won't be able to do it or the cost would be too much to afford. Here, we have our own mechanics."

But when a driver hits someone, he said, there are two victims. "It can be devastating to the driver to hit and kill someone. I know of a driver who couldn't work for two years after."

Two years ago in May, when Zalzal was asked to make a presentation at a Public Works conference in St. Hyacinthe demonstrating the side guards on Westmount trucks, she said she began looking into ways of reducing accidents resulting from blind spots and asked Talarico if he could install cameras.

A prototype was created, which they

took to the conference. "Ever since I've been spreading the word, that this is an important safety measure," she said.

The city's own trucks that are already equipped or about to be are dump trucks used as salt spreaders in the winter, street sweepers, a tanker, snow blower, loader, garbage truck and six very large hydro workshop trucks, for a total of close to 30 heavy vehicles.

But both Zalzal and Talarico say the widespread use of cameras is not likely to occur until regulated by Transport Canada. Until then, it isn't realistic to expect private contractors to follow that route and, as Zalzal points out, there are many working throughout, and for, Westmount on construction projects.

But both hope that other municipalities like Côte St. Luc will help lead the way and equip their vehicles voluntarily.

Façade of Greene Ave. building inspected

City requires balance of granite veneer be removed

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A large slab of decorative granite veneer that fell from the façade of the building at 1357 Greene May 11 has led to the removal of remaining pieces as a precaution, Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier said last week.

"The whole façade has been inspected and found to be safe for the time being,"

she said.

A "failure" involving the fallen veneer just above a large second-storey plate glass window sent it crashing to the sidewalk, narrowly missing a female passer-by, according to a witness, and hitting a parked car (see photo May 13, p. 9).

"We intervened and asked that the balance of the gable be removed too," Poirier said. The city is reviewing an inspection report and will be following up, she said.

Witness Marvin Zylber, who wrote in an email he had been having coffee across the street at the Second Cup at the time, said he heard someone yell "Oh my God" and ran toward the woman, who was reported not to have been injured.

"I am glad nobody got hurt. My con-

cern is the safety of those buildings, especially Sox Box," he said.

The gable in question is located above the window of Kathryn Osborne Design, which is on the second storey of the building. The Sox Box is on the ground floor.

A Public Security report records receiving the call at 5:35 pm for a large piece of granite falling from the building, officials said. Firefighters and Public Works were contacted to attend. A large safety perimeter was established around the area "condemning the sidewalk" and parking meters were bagged.

Some damage was reported to the sidewalk and a business card was left for the owner of a parked car that had been damaged.

The next day, Urban Planning was contacted and the building owner was to have the rest of the building façade inspected, said Public Security director Greg McBain. "If the plates had crashed down on anyone, they certainly would have caused serious injury," he said.

WMA, cont'd. from p. 6

both our canines and the existing ecology to thrive harmoniously on Summit Woods. Later in tonight's program we have invited Westmounter Peter Howlett, chairman of Les Amis de la montagne, to speak on how civic involvement is so important to maintain and sustain this precious urban forest.

Organizationally, members of the WMA board have recently completed initial work on a new governance document that will help us develop a stronger voice for the WMA, with our team focused and fully prepared for the challenges ahead. We have also created a strategic communication plan that will guide us to better communicate with all Westmounters on a more frequent basis.

Many issues, many challenges: 2014 is certainly another busy year for the WMA, but I'm certain that our dedicated membership and our very competent board members are more than capable of undertaking the work. If we work together in a spirit of cooperation and rational discussion I believe we can make an important contribution towards maintaining Westmounters' quality of life.

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Library director Julie-Anne Cardella demonstrates the new book vending machine at the WRC agora.

Bibliomachine, cont'd. from p. 1

chocolate bar device that has been refitted and stocked with some 200 books specially selected from among those donated to the Friends of the Library group's book sales.

The adult and children's books may be read by people waiting for hockey practices to end, having a bite to eat or taken home, she explained.

The outreach initiative came from

Cardella after reading about similar machines in use at Montreal arenas, and now pools, in the Southwest borough.

Everything sells

While most of the books are fiction, including best sellers, the Montreal experience has shown that "everything sells," she said.

Chantal Beaulieu, the Montreal librarian consulted by Cardella "told me that she

Batshaw Children Needing Homes

Fay and Robin need to stay together

A long-term foster home is being sought for six-and-a-half-year-old Fay and her three-year-old brother Robin. The siblings are very close and need to stay together. Fay is a bright girl who is able to speak in full sentences. She is very active, imaginative and loves to play. She can be quite affectionate, clingy and is eager to please those around her. When out in the community with family, she will indiscriminately hug a stranger if she is not closely supervised.

Fay tends to have temper tantrums if

she is not allowed to have her own way. But she responds well to structure and consistency.

Robin is a delightful, healthy boy. He has a good daily routine, eats well and sleeps through the night.

The ideal family for Fay and Robin would be Inuit, inter-racial (Inuit and Caucasian) or an aboriginal family.

For more information, call Batshaw Youth and Family Centres at 514.932.7161, local 1139.

Fight broken up on Clarke among 3 residents

Public safety officers broke up a fight between three young Westmount men across from 617 Clarke at Anwoth May 12, Public Security officials said. Responding to a call for a disturbance from a resident at 11:50 pm, the patrollers found two men lying on top of a third on the grass.

The victim, a 20 year-old, was uncertain whether or not he wanted to press charges against the others but decided not to,

though he wanted to file a report when police arrived.

The other two drove off in a car, but not scot free. The car was ticketed for being illegally parked.

Group preparing to graffiti Abbott sound barrier?

A group of five young men and women in their early 20s acting suspiciously around the railway tracks at Hillside and Abbott May 14 at 2:35 am were ordered to leave the area, Public Security officials said. Acting on a call from a resident of Abbott, public safety officers observed one standing on the signaling gantry over the tracks while others were on the tracks and in a lane.

Suspecting they may have been intending to write graffiti on the prototype sound barrier, officers ordered them to assemble for identification and called for police. After assisting in identifying the, police departed on another call and the group was told to leave the area.

Car hits median at The Glen

A car had to be towed away when it hit the median on St. Catherine at Lansdowne May 6, Public Security officials said. It had been driving north on Glen Rd. and was turning west at 8:25 pm just as a public safety officer was stopped at the light. No injuries were reported but both the driver and passenger, a 90-year-old woman, were described as in shock. The passenger was driven home to Grey Ave. in NDG while the driver awaited CAA. No damage was reported to the median, which was marked with reflective plates.

included an obscure chemistry book, a book on car mechanics and even poetry."

The machine itself cost about \$1,000 along with another \$1,000 to redesign and transform it to take on a Westmount library "look" complete with the owl logo. It has had to be tweaked several times to ensure that books fall down properly, she said.

"We're hoping to put a book-drop recycling receptacle beside the Bibliomachine so we can get them back to use again for a second or third reading after people are finished with them or decide to choose another one instead."

The library plans to monitor the machine a couple of times a week to replenish stock, she said.

Wayling, cont'd. from p. 1

programs and activities she had initiated or organized that are regularly highlighted in the association's newsletter. Among them are the Summer Reading Club and the McEntyre Essay Competition.

Wayling, who began working part-time at the library in 1992 while taking her library science degree at McGill, has headed the children's department since 1998.

"I was very, very honoured because I've been with the association for 20 years," she said. "It's nice to be honoured by your peers."

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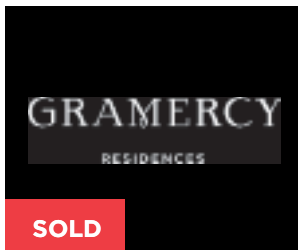


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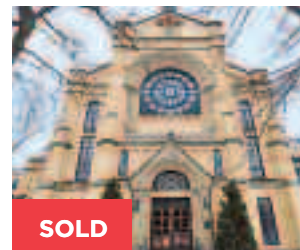
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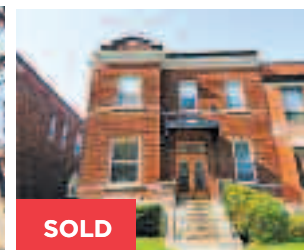
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Interlink concert highlights Westmount Park centennial

By MARTIN C. BARRY

The Interlink Choir, which is made up of students from Westmount Park Elementary School and senior citizens from the Contactivity Centre, staged its 19th annual concert in the auditorium at the school on May 15.

Leading up to the concert, members took part in separate practices with choir-master Ian Lebofsky from September to April, during which time they communicated only by notes and letters delivered by Lebofsky. As Westmount Park Elementary is in the midst of celebrating its 100th anniversary, the songs chosen were a reflection of the school's last 100 years.

They ranged from old favourites such as "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" and "On the Sunny Side of the Street," to more modern pieces like "I Can See Clearly Now" by Johnny Nash and "Fun, Fun, Fun" by the Beachboys' Brian Wilson.



Senior citizens from Contactivity Centre finally got to sing with students from Westmount Park Elementary School during the annual Interlink Choir concert on May 15.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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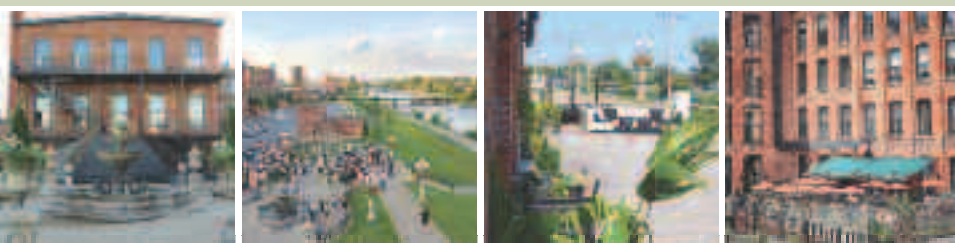
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Filmmaker Almond gets a warm Westmount welcome



Paul Almond, seated, autographs a copy of *The Gunner* for Westmount author Roch Carrier.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

It was more like a relaxed reunion of old friends than a book signing at the Atwater Library on the afternoon of May 14.

Canadian filmmaker and former Westmounter Paul Almond was in town to sign copies of *The Gunner*, the latest installment in his Alford Saga novel series.

Almond now lives during the summer on his family's farm in Shigawake in Quebec's Gaspésie region and in California during the winter. While he's a son of Gaspésie, he spent part of his early life in Westmount where he attended Roslyn School.

"My house in Shigawake on the Gaspé coast is the oldest house in the area continuously inhabited by one family," said Almond. "It was built by my grandfather."

Among those who turned up for an informal wine-and-cheese reception upstairs at the library were Westmount author Roch Carrier and Westmount actress Cary Lawrence, who was one of the lead members of the cast in Almond's 1991 film *The Dance Goes On*.

Almond, 83, turned to full-time writing in the early 1990s following a 37-year career in television and film. His haunting 1968 full-length movie, *Isabel*, featuring then-wife Geneviève Bujold, is regarded

today as part of the canon of classic Canadian film.

Almond has so far produced six volumes of the Alford Saga, with a further two due out this October and in April next year. In the autumn, Almond will be back to speak at the Westmount Public Library as well as at St. Matthias' Church in Westmount.

"I'm a big fan of Paul's," said Montreal Press Club president Linda Renaud, who was also among the guests. "We know him as a filmmaker so I just can't get over this second career he is having."

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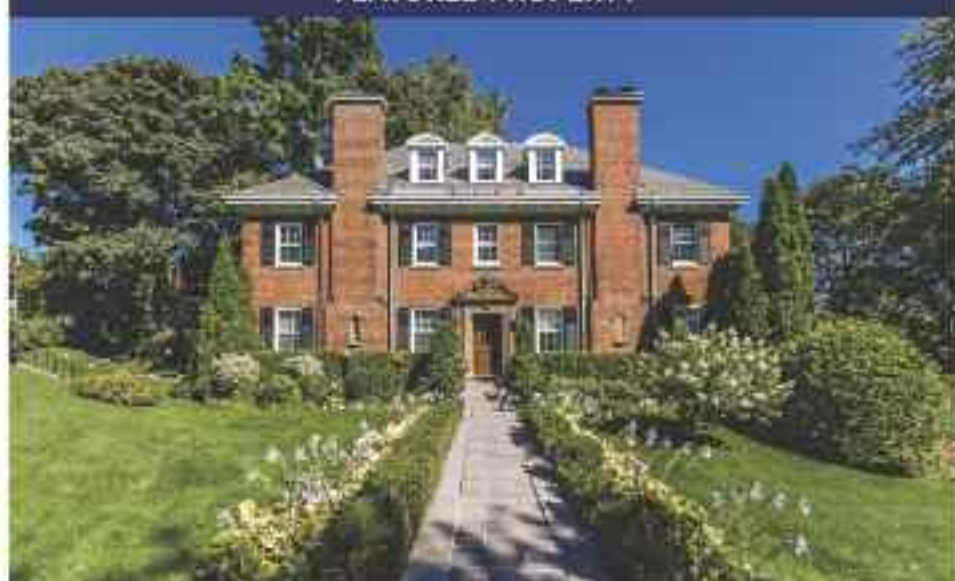
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Four new faces on WMA board

Howlett traces history of *Les amis de la montagne*

By MICHAEL MOORE

While most of Montreal was fixated on Game 7 between the Canadiens and Bruins, about 40 members of Westmount Municipal Association pulled themselves away from their TVs to assemble at Victoria Hall for the organization's annual general meeting on May 14.

The meeting was highlighted by a presentation by *Les amis de la montagne* president Peter Howlett, who traced the nearly three-decade history of the Mount Royal preservation organization.

Influence of hockey?

"I was told by [Mayor Peter Trent] that tonight's attendance is lower than usual, but I'd like to think that Game 7 is the cause rather than the choice of me as speaker," joked Howlett.

A registered non-profit, *Les amis de la montagne* has spearheaded numerous initiatives to maintain and enhance Mount Royal, including a series of summits to map the future of the landmark.

Parking inspector chases chaser

A parking inspector was issuing a ticket in front of 4410 St. Catherine near Kensington May 7 at 3:40 pm when he heard a "younger man" calling out and chasing an "older man" and grab him by the back of the jacket, Public Security officials said.

Passers-by went to the assistance of the parking inspector as he tried to separate the two men.

A man identified only as "a police officer" also stopped in a red car to help.

Public safety officers arrived on the scene and the matter was eventually left in the hands of police.

"Mount Royal is the iconic emblem of Montreal. I don't think that needs much discussion. It merits it. It's well inscribed in all of our hearts and souls, thoughts and spirits," he said.

The organization traces its origins back to 1986, when it was founded to help protest the planned construction of a tower on Mount Royal by then-mayor Jean Drapeau.

Longstanding relationship

Since the organization's inception, Westmount's geographical proximity and affluence have made it a key friend of *Les amis de la montagne*, which receives 90 per cent of its \$2.5 million annual budget from donations and sponsors, according to Howlett.

"The city of Westmount has been active from the beginning. More than a third of the governors and an even higher percentage in the leadership are comprised of Westmount residents. I don't think that's an accident," he said.

Over the last 28 years, the organization has tried to raise public awareness about issues facing the mountain and influence governmental decision makers about how best to tackle them.

As part of his presentation, Howlett highlighted some of the projects past and present spearheaded by the organization, including the renovation of Beaver Lake and its surrounding facilities by the city of Montreal.

According to Howlett, the restoration of the man-made lake began with a \$2-million donation to *Les amis de la montagne*, money it used to raise awareness and an addition \$24 million in public funding for the project.

WMA announces new board

As part of the annual meeting, the as-



Les amis de la montagne president Peter Howlett (left) answers questions about the future of Mount Royal while moderator Jean-Pierre Picard looks on.

sembled WMA members approved the appointment of new faces to the board of directors equal to one quarter of the total, with Matthew Cope, Nigel Goddard, Margaret Lefebvre and Marilyn Vanderstaay all joining the organization.

The new appointment will swell the board to 17 members in 2014-15 despite the departure of Frits Beran, Julia Carbone and Anthony Moffat, who all decided not to return for another term.

Board members Peter Starr, Paul Marriott, Maureen Kiely, Patricia Dumais, Jean-François Prévost, Mavis Young, John Fretz, Mehdi Ghafouri, Marilyn Gillies, Chloe Landry, Jerry Miller, Jean-Pierre Picard and Brigitte Stock will all return in 2014-15.

Senior trips over kiddie's bike on sidewalk

An 81-year-old Westmount woman fell to the sidewalk at de Maisonneuve and Wood May 7 when she tripped on the training wheels of a child's bike, according to Public Security officials. The accident took place as an officer was passing by at 1:37 pm and saw "a commotion." He went to her assistance and called for Urgences Santé. The woman hit the back of her head and was taken to St. Mary's Hospital but was reported to have been conscious and responsive. She was identified as living on Metcalfe.



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Patton wins Volunteer of the Year award



Westmount environmental activist Jenny Patton (middle) receives the Derek Walker Volunteer of the Year award from Westmount Municipal Association president Peter Starr and vice-president Patricia Dumais. One of the city's first waste watchers, Patton served as chairperson of the Healthy City Project's environment committee for 15 years. "Jenny is the glue that held the Environment Committee together," said Tom Thompson, who introduced Patton during the ceremony.

Photo: Michael Moore

Intoxicated pair stopped on Claremont

Two intoxicated men were stopped by public safety officers May 10 on Claremont at Windsor after two complaints were received about them, Public Security officials said. The first call at 7:19 am reported their location as Prince Albert Park but they could not be found there. At 8:13 am, a caller reported them to be on Claremont, where the two were stopped. One was identified as a resident of Claremont on the Montreal side of the street. The other was reported to live in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve. They agreed to leave.

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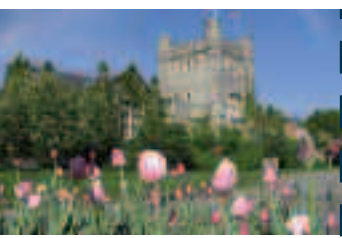
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infoWestmount

HÔTEL DE VILLE

Refonte de notre environnement urbain : sondage sur le secteur sud-est de Westmount

Suite à l'étude du secteur sud-ouest (village Victoria), la Ville de Westmount veut se doter d'une vision pour le secteur sud-est. L'objectif consiste à retisser l'environnement urbain de manière à rendre ce secteur plus accueillant et à renforcer les liens entre la rue Sainte-Catherine et le quartier résidentiel attenant au boulevard Dorchester. Les résidents sont invités à participer au sondage en ligne, soit en visitant le site Web de la ville au www.westmount.org, soit en se procurant une copie au comptoir de la réception à l'Hôtel de ville. Info : tsamiotis@westmount.org.

Horaire estival en vigueur à compter du 2 juin

Entre le 2 juin et le 5 septembre 2014, les bureaux administratifs de la Ville, soit l'hôtel de ville, Hydro Westmount, le Victoria Hall et les services des travaux publics, des sports et loisirs et de la sécurité publique seront ouverts **du lundi au jeudi de 8 h à 16 h 30 et le vendredi de 8 h à 13 h**. De plus, la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount et la galerie du Victoria Hall fermeront le dimanche pendant les mois d'été.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Club de lecture en anglais

Le mardi 20 mai à 19 h. *The Happiness Project* de Gretchen Craft Rubin. Info : 514 989-5299.

Conférences culturelles :

Honeybees: Tales from the Hive

Le mercredi 21 mai à 19 h. Avec Alexandre McLean, apiculteur et cofondateur de la compagnie mont-réalaïse Alvéole. Info : 514 989-5299.

Lancement du Club de lecture d'été TD

Le samedi 31 mai de 10 h à 16 h lors de la Fête familiale au parc Westmount. Ne manquez pas le lancement de notre Club de lecture de l'été TD 2014 à l'occasion de la Journée familiale. Cet été, le Club de lecture d'été TD est à l'heure de la connectivité et de la créativité. Tout au long de l'été, la Section des enfants de la Bibliothèque propose une série d'activités conçues pour inciter les enfants à la lecture. Demandez la trousse dès lundi le 2 juin au comptoir des enfants – il y a des prix fantastiques à gagner!

Soirée cinéma familiale : The LEGO® Movie

Le vendredi 6 juin à 18 h 30. Pour les jeunes de 5 ans et plus. Entrée gratuite. Info : 514 989-5229.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Opéra Primavera Lyrica : un concert de levée de fonds pour le piano du Victoria Hall

Le dimanche 25 mai à 14 h au Victoria Hall. Une sélection d'airs de Verdi, Bellini, Mozart and Bizet avec Brigitte O'Halloran, soprano, Geneviève Lévesque, mezzo-

Prochaine séance du conseil : le lundi 2 juin

soprano, Jaime Sandoval, ténor, Eugen Voicu-Dragos, bariton et Louise Pelletier, piano. Billets : 40 \$ (reçu d'impôt de 20 \$). Info : 514 989-5226.

Dramatis Personae : The Good Doctor

Du 28 mai au 2 juin au Victoria Hall (mercredi, 19 h 30 ; samedi, 14 h et 19 h 30 ; dimanche, 14 h ; lundi, 20 h). La troupe de théâtre communautaire Dramatis Personae présente la pièce *The Good Doctor* de Neil Simon dans le Salon de la loge. Mise en scène : Jacqueline Van de Geer. Gratuit (les dons sont très appréciées). N.B. : présentations en anglais. Infos et réservations : www.theatrewestmount.org.

39^e journée familiale au parc Westmount



Le samedi 31 mai de 10 h à 16 h. Amusez-vous au parc entre voisins et amis lors de cette fête annuelle. Il y aura des activités pour tous : courses, jeux gonflables, animaux, promenade aérienne, kiosques communautaires et plus. Les informations vous parviendront par courrier sous peu. Info : 514 989-5353.

Concert gratuit: Dans un jardin anglais

Le dimanche 1^{er} juin à 14 h au Victoria Hall. Le Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée et la Ville de Westmount présentent *Dans un jardin anglais*, une production de La Compagnie Baroque Mont-Royal proposant des oeuvres de compositeurs anglais dont Purcell, Handel et Locke. Info : 514 989-5226.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Système d'appels d'urgence CodeRED

CODE RED Le 1^{er} mai 2014, Westmount a mis en œuvre le système automatisé d'appels **CodeRED**. Le système permet à la Ville de joindre les résidents par téléphone ou par texto concernant les situations urgentes et ce, dans un délai de quelques minutes. Si vous avez une ligne téléphonique résidentielle fixe, vous êtes déjà inscrits. Vous devez toutefois vous inscrire si vous désirez recevoir ces messages sur un appareil mobile, une ligne fixe confidentielle, ou par courriel. Visitez le www.westmount.org ou rendez-vous au **kiosque de la sécurité publique lors de la journée familiale au parc Westmount le 31 mai**.

Bois Summit : les chiens doivent être en laisse EN TOUT TEMPS jusqu'au 15 juin

En raison de la période annuelle de migration des oiseaux, les propriétaires promenant leurs chiens au Bois Summit doivent les tenir en laisse en tout temps **entre le 16 avril et le 15 juin**. Les officiers de la Sécurité publique émettront des contraventions aux personnes qui ne respectent pas le règlement.

CITY HALL

Reshaping our urban environment: survey on the southeast sector of Westmount

Following the completion of the study on the southwest district (Victoria Village), the City of Westmount wishes to formulate and adopt a vision for its southeast sector. The objective is to reshape the urban environment to render that sector more welcoming and to create stronger links between Ste-Catherine Street and the residential area contiguous to Dorchester Boulevard. Residents are invited to complete the online survey by visiting the City's website at www.westmount.org, or by picking up a paper copy at the City Hall reception desk. Info : tsamiotis@westmount.org.

Summer schedule in effect beginning June 2

Between June 2 and September 5, 2014, the City's administrative offices at City Hall, Hydro Westmount, Victoria Hall, Public Works, Sports & Recreation and Public Security 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.** Westmount Public Library and the Gallery at Victoria Hall will be closed on Sundays during the summer months.

LIBRARY

English Book Club

Tuesday, May 20 at 7 p.m. *The Happiness Project* by Gretchen Craft Rubin. Info : 514 989-5299.

Cultural Lecture Series:

Honeybees: Tales from the Hive

Wednesday, May 21 at 7 p.m. Meet Alexandre McLean, beekeeper and co-founder of the Montreal company Alvéole. Info : 514 989-5299.

TD Summer Reading Club launch

Saturday, May 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Family Day in Westmount Park. Join us for the launch of the 2014 TD Summer Reading Club on Family Day. This year's theme focuses on connectivity and creativity! 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 starting Monday, June 2 at the Children's Desk – you'll earn great prizes this summer!

Family Movie Night: The LEGO® Movie

Friday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m., Westmount Room. For ages 5 and up. Free admission. Info : 514 989-5229.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Opera Primavera Lyrica : a fundraising concert for the Victoria Hall piano

Sunday, May 25 at 2 p.m. at Victoria Hall. A selection of arias by Verdi, Bellini, Mozart and Bizet featuring Brigitte O'Halloran, soprano, Geneviève Lévesque, mezzo-soprano, Jaime Sandoval, tenor, Eugen Voicu-Dragos, baritone and Louise Pelletier, piano. Tickets: \$40 (includes tax receipt for \$20). Info : 514 989-5226.



Next Council Meeting: Monday, June 2

Dramatis Personae : The Good Doctor

May 28 to June 2 at Victoria Hall (Wednesday: 7:30 p.m.; Saturday: 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday: 2 p.m.; Monday: 8 p.m.). Dramatis Personae, Westmount's community theatre troupe, presents Neil Simon's *The Good Doctor* in the Lodge Room, directed by Jacqueline Van de Geer. Free (donations welcome). Info and reservations: www.theatrewestmount.org.

39th Annual Family Day in Westmount Park



Saturday, May 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy fun in the park with family and friends at this annual event. There's something for everyone : races, inflatable games, petting zoo, zip line, community kiosks and more. Watch your mailbox for more details soon. Info : 514 989-5353.

Free Concert: Dans un jardin anglais

Sunday, June 1st at 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. The *Conseil des arts de Montréal* en tournée et the City of Westmount present *Dans un jardin anglais*, a production of the *Compagnie Baroque Mont-Royal*, featuring works by English composers Purcell, Handel, Locke and others. Info : 514 989-5226.

PUBLIC SECURITY

CodeRED Emergency notification system

CODE RED On May 1st, Westmount implemented the **CodeRED** automated emergency notification system, which provides the City with the ability to reach residents by phone and inform them of emergency situations, all within minutes. If you have a residential land line, you are already registered in the system. If you wish to receive messages on a mobile device, an unlisted land line or by email, however, you must register. Sign up on the City's website at www.westmount.org. **You can also register at the Public Security kiosk in Westmount Park during Family Day on May 31st.**

Summit Woods: dogs must be leashed AT ALL TIMES April 16 to June 15

Because of the annual bird migration period, dog owners using Summit Woods must keep all dogs on leash at all times **from April 16 to June 15**. Public Security officers will patrol and may issue fines to those contravening the by-law.



VILLE DE CITY OF
WESTMOUNT

April sales: Yes, Virginia, there are high-end buyers



Mood of the Market

ANDY DODGE, CRA

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

Yes, Virginia, you can sell your house.

A huge brick mansion on Montrose Ave. just east of Mount Pleasant Ave. sold in April for \$6.7 million, the second-highest price ever paid for a house in Westmount and the highest ever sold through Multiple Listing Service, according to Marie-Yvonne Paint, who listed it last August and had to wait for last month's election to be able to bring its owners an offer they would accept.

That sale solidifies the notion that there is, indeed, a market in the over-\$2 million range. With three sales over \$2M in March

and another three in April, those whose houses are truly in that price range can rest assured that there are buyers willing to pay the price.

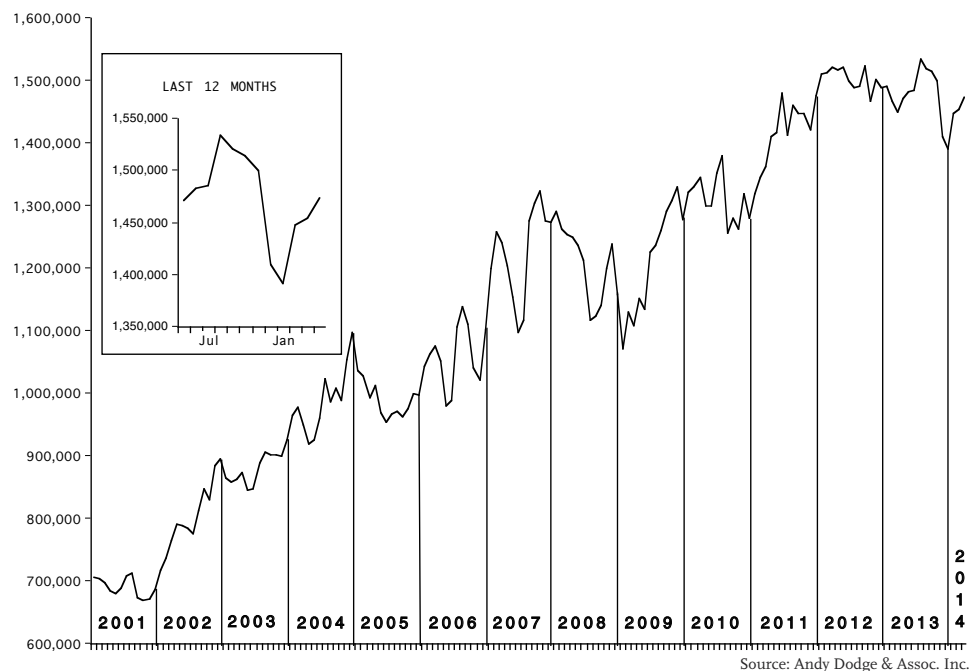
Trouble is, volume, which was above average in March (21 sales), appears to have tailed off in April, an indication the buyers wanted to wait and see what everyone else was going to do before taking the plunge.

Eleven of 14 sales posted by agents in April were accomplished in the second half of the month. With the euphoria over the April 7 election results, 38 new properties have been listed in Westmount, 16 of those over \$2 million, bringing the total listed over \$2M to 73 properties. So there might be a market out there, but buyers can still be picky about their choices.

Two for less than \$1M

Overall in April, only two sales were for less than \$1 million, both lower-Westmount houses that sold in the high \$600,000 range. Exactly half of the 14 sales were for less than their municipal evaluation, and the highest mark-up was only 16.6 percent. The average price/valuation ratio was 95.7 percent, down slightly from 100.4 percent in March, but higher than in the first two months of the year.

Average adjusted price of a 'typical' Westmount home by month from January 2001 to April 2014 based on accepted offer dates



There were no condominium sales posted in April, just two co-op apartments in Westmount Square, and those were on April 1 and 3, before the election. Five homes sold in adjacent-Westmount districts, four for less than \$1 million and one in the Circle Rd. area for \$1,428,000. Again, we were surprised that there were

no condo sales in the big buildings just east of Westmount.

At last count, there were 164 houses offered for sale through MLS in Westmount, up from 146 in mid-March, so there's still a long way to go, but hopefully things will thin out as we get toward the summer months.

Relais in the park



École St. Léon grade 4 students, from left, Liam Chiche, Arsène Saada, Michela Santini and Céleste Courchesne get ready to run in the school's 1-km Relais in Westmount Park on May 16. The event was first held in 1938 and has been done every year since 2002. The whole student body, over 600 students, took part.

Photo courtesy of Elisabeth Patterson.

Hungry, innovative squirrel



After using a metal bird feeder for more than 20 years and successfully defeating squirrels, our photographer caught one who had finally found a way around the defences. On several occasions, he has seen this squirrel grasp the feeder from underneath and pull itself around the hinged bar and nibble the sunflower seeds.

Photo: Ralph Thompson.



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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

"Honeybees: Tales from the Hive" by Alexandre McLean, co-founder of Alvéole Montreal. Westmount Public Library, 7 pm.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

Ben Hur (1925), the classic silent film accompanied by live musicians. \$9. Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. 7 pm.

SUNDAY, MAY 25

Complete sonatas for harpsichord and violin by J. S. Bach performed by RedOwl. Free. Westmount Park United Church, 4695 Maisonneuve. 3 pm.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

Start of four-day open house at the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club, adjacent to city hall. 6 pm to 9 pm. Also May 29 and 30 (same times) and Saturday, May 31, 9 am to 3 pm.

The Good Doctor by Neil Simon, presented by Dramatis Personae. Lodge Room of Victoria Hall. Donation of \$10 requested. 7:30 pm. Also Saturday, May 31 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm, Sunday, June 1 at 2 pm and Monday, June 2 at 8 pm.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Family Day, Westmount Park, 10 am to 4 pm.

MONDAY, JUNE 2

City council meeting, city hall, 8 pm

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

Public consultation on southeast planning vision, city hall, 7 pm.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

'Demolition' hearing re: 88 Church Hill, city hall, 6 pm.

ONGOING:

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

Contactivity Centre walking group for 60+. Mondays and Thursdays, 10 to 11:30 am. Meet at the Greene Ave. entrance to Westmount Square. Free. Info: 514.932.2326, karen.evoy@gmail.com

Please send your events in the above format by Friday at 2 pm to cu@westmountindependent.com.

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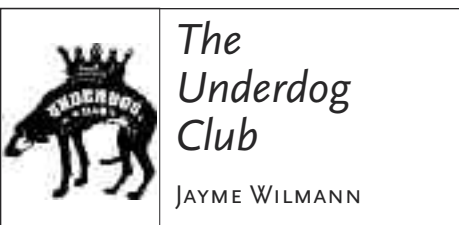


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Not a shadow anymore



When Shadow was given his name as a puppy because of his black fur, he probably had no idea that this cute – and apt – appellation would ring so true over the next seven years of his life. The by-product of a home that was not able to manage to care properly for a dog, this lab/chow mix – though never abused physically, according to Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions – was neglected and overfed to the point of obesity. The metaphor of Shadow's name has been his unfortunate reality, and all he wants now is a little light and love in his life.

Shadow has a very handsome face, but at a hefty 95 pounds, he has about 30 pounds to lose – that's a third of his body weight! His portly frame sits on four stubby legs and is covered in fluffy fur, making Shadow a somewhat odd-looking canine. Did we mention that he has black fur? Another strike against him. Black-haired dogs are generally not popular choices.

Shadow has not received any applications since arriving at the shelter, and the one person who asked to see him took one look and said "I don't think so." However, all Shadow needs to return to a proper weight and to have his external self reflect his fabulous personality is a proper diet, someone to take him on the long walks that he loves so much and a little patience – all things he never had the opportunity to experience in his life.

Described as a sweet, loyal and unique soul, Shadow is an extremely low-maintenance dog who is happy just to occupy the same space as his person. This easy,



happy-go-lucky boy would make a great companion for a couple or someone living alone, as he is used to living one on one with an owner. A quiet home without other dogs would be an ideal setting for Shadow.

If you are interested in learning more about Shadow, please contact Gerdy's at info@gerdysrescue.org or page 514.203.9180.

Thank you for your interest in the oft-overlooked underdogs of our world. Please visit www.underdogclub.org for more misfits and pretty please friend us on our FaceBook page "The Underdog Club."

Escapee caught on Sherbrooke

A motorist rescued a loose dog on Sherbrooke St. May 7 and dropped it off at Public Security at 10:20 am, department officials said. The dog is well known to personnel at the station for escaping from a house or yard on Rosemount Cresc. The owner was issued another \$76 ticket when she came to pick it up.

Winning the Jackpot



Here is an adorable, healthy and happy 11-month old kitten who is ready for a forever home. Jackpot is very affectionate with everyone as well: people, cats, dogs! A perfect addition to a family in our neighborhood.

Jackpot is such a handsome grey and black short-haired tabby.

He is memorable, with entrancing green eyes and unique eyebrow markings that make you look twice at him and move in closer.

You would not be disappointed: He is so gentle and sweet natured, very calm and cuddly.

He won the cat lottery in his time of need when he was saved from the cold on the road where he was abandoned as a young kitten. He was found just in time and taken in by Gerdy's Rescue.

Ready for permanent family

He was then vaccinated and neutered when he was old enough. Time has gone by and he is ready to go from foster care to a permanent family.

You would certainly win the jackpot if you adopted him. He is a wonderful young fellow in every way.

For more information on Jackpot, please do not hesitate to contact Gerdy at Gerdy's Rescue on her cellular at 514.203.9180 or email her at info@gerdysrescue.org.

There is more information on him and on the rescue group at their website www.gerdysrescue.org.

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41 Burton – from swampland to row houses



History by the house

ANDY DODGE, CRA

The strip of land stretching south from Côte St. Antoine Rd. to what was then Dorchester St. and is now York St., lot 208, was originally the Joseph Hurtubise farm until it was sold in 1873 to Richard Warminton, a British tinsmith who had built his elegant home at 649 Côte St. Antoine Rd., at what is now the corner of Claremont Ave., some time between 1869 and 1875.

The establishment of the Town of Notre Dame de Grâce in 1874 had attracted investment westward, and Warminton visualized the development of the farmland below his house, even though it appears that much of the lower portion was on swampland.

With his friend Campbell Bryson, Warminton subdivided the property and developed a network of streets, including Claremont and Prince Albert Ave., and what were to become Winchester, Somerville and Burton avenues. Goad's map of 1890 clearly shows that the area was riddled with swampy marshland, though perhaps the extreme west end of the planned Burton Ave. was a little safer than, for example, Somerville.

Warminton's efforts to get involved in real estate did not work out so well, as the growth of the newly established Village of Côte St. Antoine – which broke away from Notre Dame de Grâce in 1880 – suffered from the depression of the 1880s. La Banque du Peuple, which was handling a \$94,000 loan to Warminton from Edward and George Greene, seized the property in 1883, but promised to honour the building plans, which Warminton and Bryson had so carefully laid out.

Finally, in July of 1888, the bank unloaded the property south of Sherbrooke



St. to Thomas C. Bulmer, believed to be a local stationer, for \$30,000. Two years later, Bulmer turned over the area between Somerville and Western avenues, Claremont and Prince Albert avenues, to Toronto realtor Charles J. Brown for \$12,000. He split the property further and sold off about 100 feet by 80 feet, fronting on Claremont Ave. and what was to become Burton Ave. (this is the first mention of Burton in a deed), to George D. Baillie for \$1,955.96, or 24 cents per square foot. Baillie died a year later and his heir, John Baillie, took over the property and held it until he sold it in 1902 for 30 cents per square foot.

Consortium buys in

The purchasers were actually a consortium led by John M. Campbell and Thomas Gilday, who had formed Campbell & Gilday, roofers, in 1888, and apparently had branched into the contracting business. Along with doctors Frederick W. Gilday and Archibald L. Campbell, they broke the lot down for construction of five townhouses stretching from the corner of Claremont Ave. (The roofing firm, by the way, looked after many roofs in Westmount for almost a century before moving to Ottawa in the early 1980s.)

Once the houses were built, the partners divided the properties between them, with John Campbell taking title to 41 Burton, which he rented out to various tenants. This lasted until 1923, when on March 16 he sold to John Maloney for

\$7,200. It was very quickly turned over to Miles E. Davis, a foreman, who paid \$7,500. Davis, the next owner, lived there until 1937 and then rented the house for several years before selling to Ralph W. Barclay in November 1946, for \$8,000, only \$500 more than he had paid for it almost a quarter-century earlier.

In fact, Davis maintained his interest in the property by accepting a \$4,000 balance of sale when he sold to Barclay. This is important because two more rapid-fire sales occurred. The first was only two weeks later to Richard B. Wotherspoon, who paid \$9,750, including taking over the balance of sale, then the following July when Harold J. Wall paid \$10,000, again taking over the balance of sale. Wotherspoon apparently did move there briefly – Lovell's Directory identifies the occupant as "R.B. Watherspurn" – but Harold Wall lived there for a generation, unwilling to sell even when he moved out in 1968, at which time he started renting the small house again.

The house maintained its rental status once Wall turned it over to Jill Reville of Ottawa, wife of John Hill, who is described as a "civil servant," in August 1974, for an undisclosed price. They lived on Clarke at the time. As far as we can discern, she used it to generate revenue and was still living in Ottawa seven years later when she sold to Paul Wilson, a banker, for \$103,000 in November 1981. (That sale, like the previous one, was declared as "\$1 and other continued on p. 24

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Allmand: Senate has a role, should be reformed

BY STEPHANIE O'HANLEY

It's unlikely Canada will see constitutional changes with respect to the Senate very soon, says Warren Allmand.

But in the short term Canadians would have a much better senate "if we had better appointments, less partisanship and more independence," Allmand, a former federal Liberal Party member of parliament for NDG, cabinet minister under Pierre Trudeau, and McGill human rights professor, told a weekly luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of Westmount on April 30.

"The senate according to the Fathers of Confederation was supposed to be a place to assure representation for minorities and minority interests that never get elected in the house of commons," Allmand said. "For example, racial or religious minorities, the disabled, women, indigenous peoples, writers, musicians, scientists, have something important to say, they should be appointed to the senate."

"We have people like General Dallaire, we have Lois Wilson, the moderator of the United Church of Canada, and Gene Forsey who are outstanding individuals who have contributed a lot to the senate," Allmand said. "Today though some people have mentioned to me recently, why isn't Sheila Fraser, the former auditor general, appointed to the senate?"

Allmand called the timing of his speech, only days after the Supreme Court of Canada came down with a ruling on Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government's proposals on senate reform, "gratuitous."

He said the topic had been on his mind for a while. "People were stopping me on the street for months now asking me about the senate," Allmand said. "What is

it about, why do we need it?"

"I think this was principally prompted by a number of things, Allmand said. "First, the spending scandals of senators Duffy, Brazeau and Harb and Wallin, and secondly, there were attempts by the government, by the prime minister, Mr. Harper, to unilaterally change the senate."

Three attempts

Allmand said that since coming to office in 2006 Harper has tabled three bills that were "attempts to change things in the senate without going through the amendment formula in the constitution."

"All of these bills died on the order paper," Allmand said. "They were never passed because there was a lot of controversy surrounding those bills, and a lot of opposition, especially in the provinces."

Allmand said the Quebec government asked the Quebec Court of Appeal whether the Harper government's proposed changes could happen unilaterally and the court ruled that any change to the senate would have to be done through the general amendment formula, which requires the agreement of seven out of 10 provinces, plus the federal government.

On February 1, 2013 Prime Minister Harper asked the Supreme Court of Canada to rule on the same issues, including what would be required to totally abolish the senate, Allmand said. The Supreme Court released its judgment on April 25.

"The Supreme Court unanimously ruled that to change the terms of office to eight years, nine years, whatever, you need a constitutional amendment, which would require the agreement of the federal parliament, plus seven out of 10 provinces representing 50 percent of the population and the same if you wanted to have elected senators," Allmand said. "They also ruled

that for the abolition of the senate you needed unanimous agreement of all the provinces and the federal parliament."

While federal NDP leader Thomas Mulcair promotes the abolition of the senate in the long term, "personally in a federal state like Canada as in the United States, as in Germany, as in Australia, they have upper houses and the purpose is to protect the regions," Allmand said.

'Worthwhile'

"The senate is worthwhile keeping because of its role to protect the smaller provinces, to speak for the smaller provinces of the region, to put in the house of the senate people from minorities, not only minority groups but also minority points of view, and of course it's also good to have a house of sober second thought," Allmand said.

The federal Liberals under Justin Trudeau say while people do not want to reopen the constitution at this time, the senate could be greatly improved without a constitutional amendment if it ceased to be partisan and if it operated independently of the government in power and the parties in the house of commons, Allmand said. "He (Trudeau) dismissed all the Liberal senators from the Liberal caucus and from the control of his leadership and he said henceforth they should use their own judgment on voting on bills and their amendments," he said, noting Trudeau challenged Prime Minister Harper to do the same.

Allmand said in the long run he'd like to see an equal Senate with "maybe six senators per province" but not with the powers it has today. Senators would be able to delay legislation but not veto it, "except for very special things," he said. "That would be on minority rights, human rights and provincial interests, for exam-



Warren Allmand.

ple appointments to the Supreme Court, appointments to cultural groups like the head of the CBC or the Canada Council, things like that. And you can have a system where the senators could be appointed half by the provinces, half by the federal government, there are different formulas."

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House History, cont'd. from p. 22

good and valuable considerations," but by this time notaries were required to declare the actual value of the transaction for municipal transfer tax purposes.)

As interest rates reached their peak that year, despite the ensuing recession, Wilson was able to obtain \$3,000 more - \$106,000 - when he sold the house in October 1983, to Patrick Brennan, portfolio manager. He again held on to the property only for two years before selling to Dr. Jane Poulson for \$116,000, in March 1985. The economic recovery of the late 1980s almost doubled the return for Poulson, who sold to Dean Barriere and Fiona Downey in July 1992, for \$203,000, but as the next recession kicked in (and the Parti Québécois

took power in Quebec City), the house became more difficult to sell. Canada Trust Realty finally took over the property for \$215,000, in July 1994, and then was forced to unload it two months later to Pierre Latraverse for \$185,000.

With only mild improvements, Latraverse moved the small row house into the 21st century and sold it for \$623,500 in October 2008. Charles Flicker and Tegan Webster are raising a new family there.

HISTORY OF 41 BURTON AVENUE (since construction)

Date	Buyer	Price
16 Mar 1923	John A. Maloney	7,200
1 May 1923	Miles E. Davis	7,500

5 Nov 1946	Ralph W. Barclay	8,000
21 Nov 1946	Richard B. Wotherspoon	9,750
18 Jul 1947	Harold J. Wall	10,000
2 Aug 1974	Jill Reville, wife of John M. Hill	1
1 Nov 1981	Paul Wilson	103,000
4 Oct 1983	Patrick Brennan	106,000
4 Mar 1985	Dr. Jane Poulson	116,000
28 Jul 1992	Dean Barriere & Fiona Downey	203,000
5 Jul 1994	Canada Trust Realty Inc.	215,500
1 Sep 1994	Pierre Latraverse	185,000
6 Oct 2008	Charles Flicker & Tegan R. Webster	623,500



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Many of the ladies attending the Batshaw Foundation's Cocktail Challenge said "yes to the dress," and arrived in knee-length styles ranging from stripes and pretty prints to sassy sequins.

The annual evening was for the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Foundation, in support of its programs including Camp Weredale.

Westmounter **Andrew Carter**, CJAD host and Camp Weredale board member, was on hand to greet guests. Sponsored by Domaine Pinnacle, the party starred mixologists from Taverne on the Square, Burgundy Lion and Joverse, who created cocktails based on Domaine Pinnacle's Coureur des Bois Maple Whiskey.

Quaffing the delicious – but powerful – drinks was balanced by fried hors d'oeuvres from M.A.D. Catering (Megan Dunn). The event's main sponsor was Jarislowsky Fraser Limited along with The Alan and Roula Rossy Foundation, Scotiabank and ROBIC. Special guest **Yves Morin** played the piano.

The wet and windy night was bright-

Cocktail Challenge for Batshaw



Stuart Webster, Scott Prichard, Andrew Carter, Rochelle Cantor, Mary Gallery and Claire Webster.



Kim Drummond and Louise Anne Poirier.

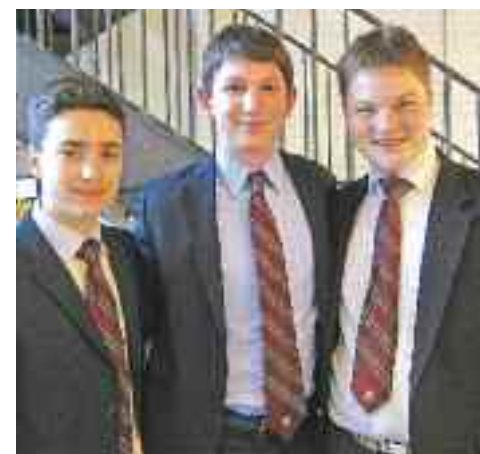
ened by simple stems of "it-must-be-spring-soon" tulips, by Westmount Florist.

Foundation board members present included **David Brodeur**, treasurer, and Westmounters **Karma Hallward** (president), **Elizabeth Cundill** (vice president) and **Andrew Clark** (treasurer).

Other local res included **Cynthia Gordon** and **Mostafa Elhilali**, **Thea** and **Brian**



Bruce and Dee Doby.

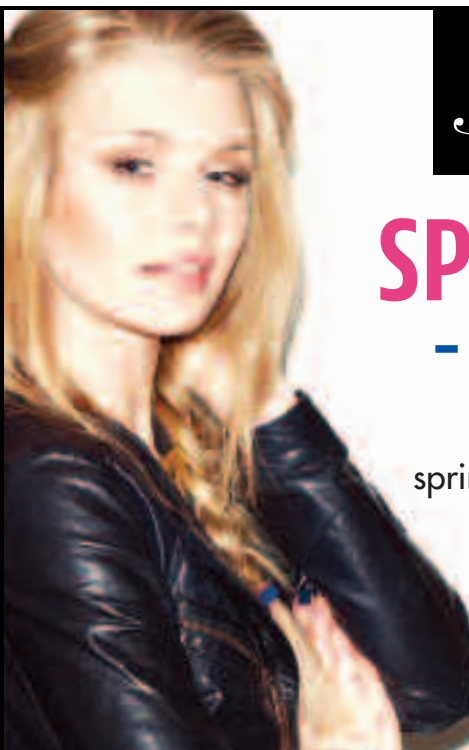


Tristan Mancuso, Philip LeMoyne and Ryan Chadwick.

Drummond, Dee and Bruce Dobby, Caroline Price and Julian Elliot, Judy Martin and sister Susan Bell, Mary Gallery, Tina Khan, Mark Lowe, Erin O'Brien, Michele and Ronald Kaulbach (sporting a Maui tan), Jill and Stuart Cobbett, Gigi and Jamie Wilson, Denise and Tim Price, Susan and Hal Hannaford (head at Selwyn House) and Claire and Stuart Webster, as

well as former Westmounter **Kim Drummond** and **Louise Anne Poirier**.

Volunteer raffle ticket sellers hailed from Westmount schools; **Lynsey Cook**, **Lorena Furfaro**, and **Olivia Charette** from The Study, and **Sonia Toy**, **Helen Pombouras** and **Samantha Spector** from LCC. Alexa *continued on p. 26*



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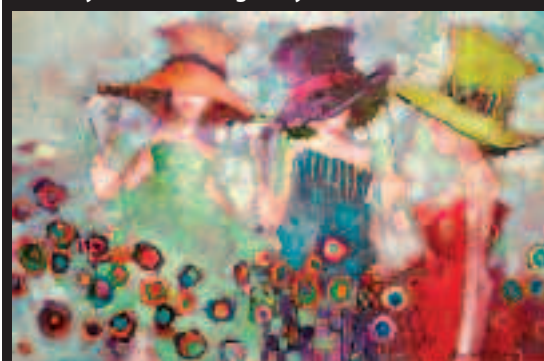
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Temple's Rabbi Grushcow launches *Jewish Perspectives on Sexuality*

BY MARLENE EISNER

It's not often that people gather in a house of worship for a presentation that covers topics such as BDSM (bondage, dominance, sadism and masochism), sexual consent, pleasure and diversity. But come they did, as more than 60 people attended a book launch and panel discussion May 7 at the Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom.

The Temple's rabbi, Lisa Grushcow, began working on *The Sacred Encounter: Jewish Perspectives on Sexuality* around four years ago while she was living in New York. She is the editor of the book, and a contributor to the anthology of articles written by religious scholars and leaders on the topic of sexuality and religion. The project was done in collaboration with the Central Conference for American Rabbis as part of its Challenge and Change series.

Social Notes, cont'd. from p. 25

Dlouhy, an LCC grad now studying in Vermont, also pitched in.

Coats and dripping umbrellas were masterfully handled by Loyola volunteers, sharply dressed lads **Philip LeMoyne**, **Ryan Chadwick-Chabot** and **Tristan Mancuso**. Silent Auction Prizes were amazing, including tickets for Michael Bublé and Justin Timberlake, and an apartment in Rome – sigh – as well as Canadiens jerseys signed by Carey Price and Max Pacioretty. The evening's Cocktail Challenge win-

ner was Taverne on the Square. The \$70,000 raised goes to support the foundation's programs. The evening was held at the Parisian Laundry, renowned for cutting edge art, and some party-goers wandered about to view the works.

Down in "The Bunker" basement room, one wag was overheard saying that there was "another party here last night" as he commented on an art work-installation of paper cups lying in a pile on the floor.



Karma Hallward, Janet Faith, Tina Khan, Vanessa Udy, Linda LeMoyne, Elizabeth Cundill and Patricia Vetter.



Rabbi Lisa Grushcow addresses the audience as the other panelists look on. From left: Dr. Donald Boisvert, Sarah Frances Hagel, Taylor-Shannon Baruchel and Dr. Morton Weinfeld.

She said three factors motivated her to become involved in the project: the value of a liberal voice when it comes to religion and sexuality; the question of what does God have to say about being gay and the inclusion of the Talmud.

"People who are liberal and religious, we don't just abdicate this [sexuality] conversation," said Grushcow.

"The book is about the entire range of human diversity. We are sexual beings ... this is a joyful discussion about sex, to raise the notion from a Jewish perspective that sex is within the realm of Judaism."

Four panelists joined Grushcow, each giving a 10-minute talk that focused on a chapter or article in the book. Donald Boisvert, an associate professor and the incoming chair of the department of religion at Concordia University, referred to an article by Rabbi Daniel Lehrman, who wrote: "There is a spiritual aspiration and motivation behind BDSM." Boisvert linked religion with the trust needed during certain sexual activities, the "sweet pain that can indeed liberate us and sanctify us."

Morton Weinfeld is a professor of sociology at McGill University who has written on Jewish identity and community in

North America. He spoke about the connection between Judaism, sexuality and liberalism, stating that, "the Jews are by far in the US the most liberal white group in the country when it comes to issues of sexuality."

Taylor-Shannon Baruchel, a Temple congregant who is studying for her masters at Concordia, addressed the article written by Rabbi Grushcow on "What not to wear – synagogue edition." Her talk centred around clothing and gender issues.

"How do women's bodies affect men's prayers? ... the focus remains on ... how women dress, and not how men dress," she said.

Grushcow said she hopes the book opens discussions on sexuality, religion and diversity, bringing a level of understanding and acceptance. When at the end of the evening a woman asked how God accepts homosexuality when sex is meant for procreation only, Grushcow answered: "We should always be wary of reductionism."

"We do very well when we look to understand the leap to judgment, and I hope that is what is conveyed in this book."

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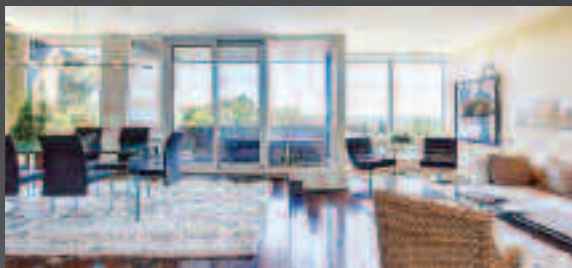
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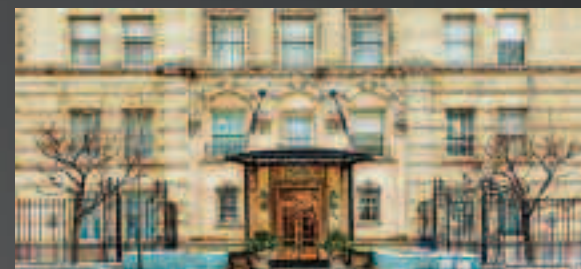
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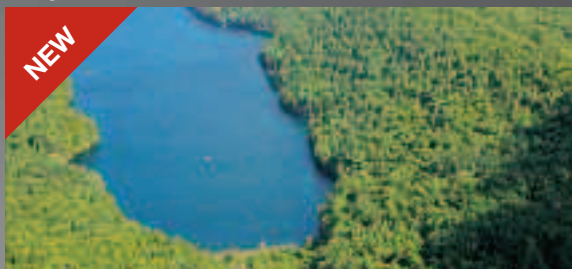
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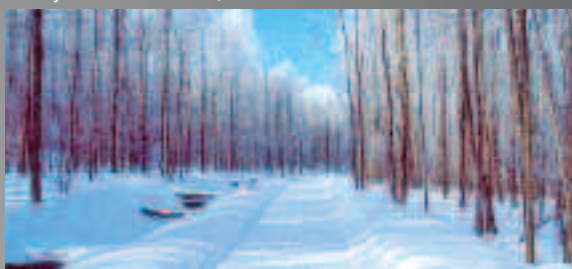
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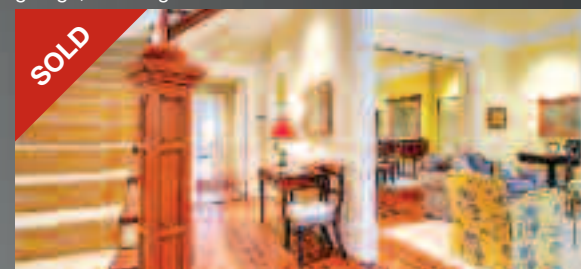
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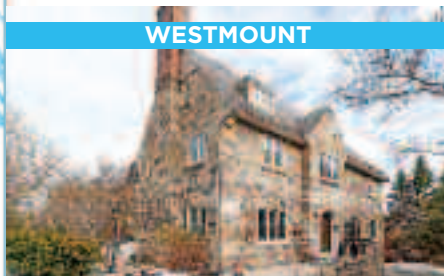


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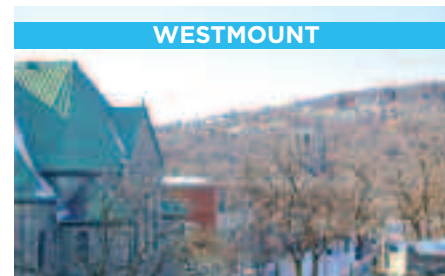
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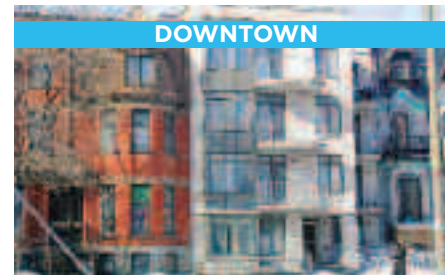


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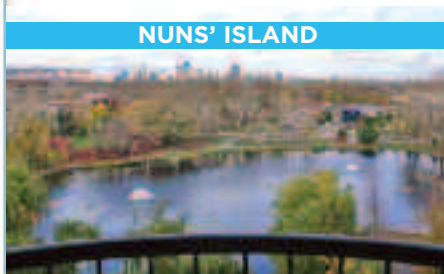
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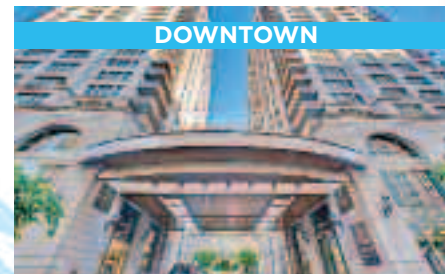
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