

Back to shuffleboard area?

3 sites proposed from 8 assessed in dog run report

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The former shuffleboard site in the centre of Westmount Park appears to have emerged as the one of three “preferred sites” for a new dog run in the southwest sector that meets most of the criteria established in a consultant’s report released last week.

An assessment of eight potential locations is contained in the report as part of the city’s search for a new dog run to replace the one at Lansdowne and St. Catherine. It was closed officially May 15,

2013 for additional pool space at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC).

All eight are located in Westmount Park, where the only available and suitable space could be found without disserving one group of users “to serve another,” according to the report by landscape architect Myke Hodgins.

The so-called shuffleboard site is located in the centre of the park west of the Melville playing field. It was proposed by Councillor Cynthia Lulham in May last year but quickly generated opposition from some park users (see story July 9, 2013 p. 4).

According to the report, its space is big enough to create runs for large and small dogs, has available shade, and is far from resi- continued on p. 8

Zebra on Sherbrooke St. is open. See p. 6.

Residents ticketed as noise complaints abound in ‘party town’

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Three hosts of recent parties that brought repeat complaints were issued \$148 tickets within one week in August as backyard music and loud talking continued to disturb neighbours, according to Public Security reports.

A 23-year-old resident of Roslyn north of Sherbrooke was asked to bring guests inside August 5 following a complaint at 2:58 am. He was informed that having had

previous complaints against him July 28 and August 4, a ticket would be issued this time.

On Friday into Saturday August 8-9, public safety officers were called twice to the apartment building at 4330 Sherbrooke at Redfern, where guests were found outside on the street and later brought down from the roof to the party taking place in one of the apartments. The host was ticketed on the second complaint. continued on p. 18

Westmount climbs the ALPS



Eleven-year-old Westmount Dolphins swim team member Flavie Merkly is seen leaping from position no. 5 during the relay races at the 2014 ALPS finals. See p. 20-21 for more coverage. Photo: Martin C. Barry

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Sports & Rec registration starts Aug. 25

New, expanded programs geared to higher demand, increased capacity

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A 25-percent increase in demand for fall and winter Sports and Recreation activities is being forecast for what will be the first full year for the new Westmount recreation centre (WRC), said sports coordinator Andrew Maislin.

The projected growth is based on a jump in demand to date, increased capacity provided by the WRC, and new and expanded skating programs to be offered at registration starting Monday, August 25. The season will start earlier than usual.

“We expect to be in full-tilt in September with skating starting mid-month,” Maislin said. “We’re going the whole nine yards.”

More than 5,800 facility access cards have already been issued in the last nine months and more had to be re-ordered. This is a 16-percent increase over the 5,000 normally issued over a 12-month period, he explained.

New this season is an instructional men’s hockey program on Wednesday

evenings so fathers “can keep up with their children,” Maislin said. “This is a big thing because so many who grew up playing hockey as kids now feel they don’t have the necessary skills to play with their own kids.”

Increased demand for youth ballet and “a huge jump” in girls’ hockey are fuelling expanded programs in those areas.

The city will be playing “catch-up” in girls’ hockey, which is becoming so popular that it’s expected to overtake the boys in 15 years in Quebec, Maislin said. “We’re building our program from the ground up.” Previously, the city never had the rink time to create a girls’ league.

At least two girls’ private schools that use the WRC are also expecting to expand their hockey programs, he said.

Next month, the city’s recreational “sweat” programs, such as exercise and karate, will start off the season in the WRC, freeing up space in Victoria Hall for other uses, such as meetings of community organizations, he said. “It’s turning the WRC into a true recreation centre.”

Fall/winter rec guide out

The fall and winter Sports and Recreation brochure listing programs and registration information is being delivered to all residences in Westmount this week.

One of the best things about the WRC’s expanded capacity,” he said, “is that we’ve been able to fine-tune our programs rather

than offering cookie-cutter ones.”

Providing more free-skating time on weekends was a priority that will continue, Maislin said. “This is out of context with what is being offered in other communities. We’re trying to provide a slice of activities for everyone.”

Normal pool changes for non-residents kick in August 15

Starting August 15, the date Montreal typically closes its pools, non-residents wishing to use the Westmount pool will be required to be accompanied by a resident, according to sports coordinator Andrew Maislin.

This has been longstanding practice in Westmount aimed to ensure there is suf-

ficient pool capacity for local residents. Because the Westmount pool typically opens earlier and closes later than many other pools, non-resident users also must come as guests before July 1.

The daily fee for a non-resident guest pass remains unchanged at \$5.

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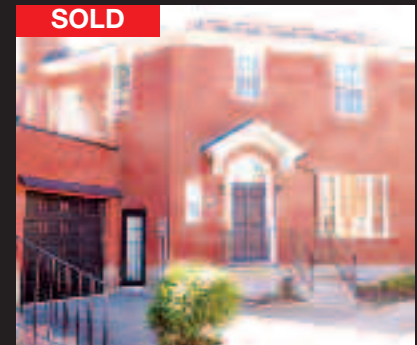
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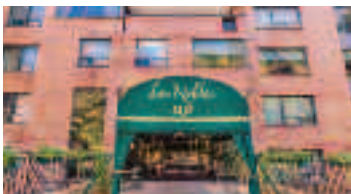


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE

I would like to add my voice to those of the many readers who look forward to and enjoy reading the *Westmount Independent*. The articles are well written, always of interest to Westmounters and cover all the local issues, most of which are not reported by newspapers, TV or radio.

Many thanks.

IRIS BALLON, KENSINGTON AVE.

LOVING WILDLIFE COVERAGE

As resident of Westmount and Quebec for only one year, I commend your paper for its photos of local wildlife in the midst of this sprawling urban area: the shutter-eyed woodpecker, the beautiful sparrow hawk and now, from another correspondent, the rare cinnamon-barked dawn redwood in Westmount Park. Thank you.

ELIZABETH QUANCE, SHERBROOKE ST.

FOND OF PET COVERAGE

I was reading all the positive comments published in your August 5 issue, which I received today and read with avid interest. I thoroughly enjoy your paper every week.

I had long given up on the *Westmount Examiner*, which always came only with the junk mail, which I refuse. I had called

the *Westmount Examiner* several times to get only the paper and not the junk mail but that never happened. I do not have time to go to city hall every week to collect it. I enjoy your paper far more anyway.

As an animal lover I am particularly fond of your sections “The Underdog Club” and “9 Lives” and am very disappointed when they are not present. I really enjoy learning that the animals have found good forever homes.

Keep up the good work!

LOUISE AUGER, CÔTE ST. ANTOINE

PREDICTABLE CEMENT

Recently a young swimmer agitatedly reported to his instructor of a “thing on the bottom” of the new WRC pool. It turned out to be a slab of concrete that had dislodged from the pool wall.

This is predictable with a cement pool. Mould sets in, causing fissures, which then have to be patched. However, what with barely three months from the official WRC pool opening, it’s not surprising that pool officials were stymied by the breach even suggesting duct tape as a temporary bind!

Councillor Rosalind Davis, commissioner for Parks and Recreation, was asked

with whom the administration consulted and allowed that it was the Dolphins. They are the youth swim team that uses the facility in the summer.

Having written to the *Independent* before (July 8, 2014, p. 5) about the obvious deficiencies of the spanking new WRC, I wasn’t surprised that the aforementioned rupture happened so quickly. I suspect a similar heavy duty expertise was consulted by this administration with regards to the somewhat temperamental cooling system plaguing the rinks!

BRONWEN MANTEL, BRUCE AVE.

KERT’S BLUES SONG WAS TOUCHING

I want to tell you how touched I was by Bruce Kert’s blues song/poem published August 12 in the *Independent*.

I am not familiar enough with current songs to know if Mr. Kert was quoting someone else or if this was an original creation, but I want you to know, Mr. Kert, that the song blew me away. I never owned a dog, I never lost a dog, but I will be clipping this and sending it to my son in Toronto, who does have a dog.

Can you put it to music and get a good arranger? This should be a hit in the blues catalogue and become a standard.

SHEILA WHITZMAN,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

Curfew tickets given to pond ‘waxers’

Two Laval residents were ticketed \$76 each for breaking the midnight curfew in Westmount Park August 7, Public Security officials said. They were spotted at 1:20 am rubbing the Melville Pond and nearby benches with wax to improve the sliding of skateboards. The 25-year-old men were described as polite and not intending to inflict damage though the wax could cause the wading pool surface to be dangerous. Had they been skating boarding, they would have been ticketed for that instead, said director Greg McBain.

A three-year-old slipped at the pond on August 9, suffering a serious cut to the head that required medical attention. It is not known if the wax contributed to the fall.

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Abandoned Pomeranian found with note – again?

A Public Security patroller came across a small dog abandoned at the corner of Clarke and Anwoth August 6 just after midnight. The cream-coloured Pomeranian mix was in a cage with food and water and a note reading: “Five years old. Please take care of her.” Her name was written as “Wang Cai.”

The dog was driven to the SPCA, where she was “gladly” taken in, said Public Security officials in relating the incident. The dog was described as very thin and having an injury to the neck.

It was not known whether this was the same “blonde Pomeranian” that patrollers had found running loose August 1 at Surrey Gardens and Devon. Officers took it to the Westmount Animal Hospital to be checked out for a cut before being transported to the SPCA (see story August 12, p. 9).

2 Hollowell residents get dog tickets

A resident of Hollowell who allowed his off-leash dog to wander onto private property August 7 was to be mailed a \$76 ticket, Public Security officials said. The man had received previous warnings in 2010 and 2011. The man was spoken to again about dog regulations after the latest complaint was received at 8:44 pm.

Two days later, a complaint was received about dogs barking on a balcony: same street, different house. Officers attending at 12:35 pm found a door to the balcony had been left open to let the dogs go in and out at will. They were observed barking at passers-by or whenever children screamed. The resident was met later at 6:02 pm on returning home and issued a ticket for \$76.

Correction

Zebra is open

In the August 12, 2014 issue we reported that Zebra, a children’s clothing store, had closed, when, in fact, the owner of the store told the *Independent* on August 15 that she plans to remain open until early next spring.

The *Independent* regrets the error.

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New city website goes live quietly, still in progress

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

If you have been surprised when accessing the city's website recently, you weren't alone.

The city launched its new website August 4 without announcement. Though at the same URL (www.westmount.org), the newly designed and programmed site, however, may not be as easy to access for a couple of weeks through Google until the search engine recognizes the new site.

"It can take up to several weeks for Google to re-index it because they're dealing with millions of websites," said city communications coordinator Maureen Lafrenière. "It's out of our control. The new site has to be legitimized by use so they know it isn't fake."

Until then, one may have to type www.westmount.org into the URL box at the left top of most browsers. Also, one may have to close a box stating the site is under construction. To access the English version of the site, one may have to hover the cursor over "français" to find the English option.

While the site went live the same day as the city council meeting, no mention was made of it, though it has been talked about



The city website as accessed on August 14.

for some time.

One reason for the quiet launch, Lafrenière said, is that the site was still subject to revisions. "It's only going to keep improving so we hope people will enjoy using it."

In the works for several years

A new website had been in the works for several years, started and restarted after technical and legal glitches. The final project, however, was created in house by Sebastian *continued on p. 20*

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Dog run cont'd. from p. 1

dences. Easy to access, the site was also found to be currently underused and neglected, and in an area where visual impact and noise could be mitigated.

The other two preferred sites are the space along Sherbrooke St. west of the Melville pond, and the site of a former unfenced dog run on raised land between the comfort station and children's playground.

Both, however, were evaluated as posing potential conflicts with other users (children and other dogs) while meeting degrees of acceptability to other criteria.

The other five sites were eliminated as being "too weak on too many points to be considered."

These are: near the "adult" tennis courts; next to the watercourse; on the roof of the new WRC; and at the site of the former putting green, just north of the bike path near the Shakespeare site.

The fifth is the former site at Lansdowne and St. Catherine. It was ruled out, however, as being "too close to homes, proximity to streets a risk, incompatible with city entrance." The report earlier noted this space was "no longer compatible" with the new arena complex.

A full copy of the report was to be posted on the city's website August 15 with the aim of receiving comments, as announced by Councillor Cynthia Lulham at the council meeting August 4.

The report is to be discussed by council members before selected sites are to be put to a poll next month of residents most affected, likely "everyone south of Sherbrooke," Mayor Peter Trent suggested at the meeting.

The eight sites were evaluated according to studies "from all over North America to determine the criteria for a successful dog run."

These include size, accessibility, distance from residences (at least 100 meters), shape, potential conflict with other

users, shade, slope, access to water, drainage, ability to install fencing and lighting, and ease of snow removal.

Typical design elements were also outlined (see story below).



Key as per report: 1. Sherbrooke near Melville; 2. Across from playground, site of an old run; 3. Shuffleboard courts; 4. Near tennis courts; 5. Next to pond (watercourse); 6. Roof of arena; 7. Lansdowne/St. Catherine; 8. Putting green.

Report lists typical dog run design elements

Using information from a study of dog runs in North America, the consultant's report commissioned by the city lists a number of typical design elements as follows:

- A dog run is normally enclosed within a 4' or 5' fence. The height of the fence may be adjusted for particular circumstances (proximity to roads, snow accumulation etc.)

- A low hedge is usually planted along the outside of the fence to limit the views in and out of the dog run. The hedge keeps the dogs focused on what's happening inside the run versus getting distracted by passers-by or adjacent activities.
- A double entry system is used to prevent escapes.
- The entrance should be universally accessible.
- Appropriate signage will be posted to advise users of the rules etc.
- Benches and/or tables should be installed for dog owners.
- Garbage cans, a pooper scooper or bag station are often provided.
- Appropriate lighting may need to be added for safety and security.
- Access to drinking water is important.
- Shade is necessary.
- Surfacing materials will depend on the site conditions – size, very sunny, very shady, poorly drained etc. Different surfaces may be used within one site.
- The dog run should be divided into sections for small dogs and large dogs.



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Young scientists at work



For the children who attended Westmount Science Camp since early July, their last day on August 15 at Victoria Hall offered a chance to demonstrate to parents and guests what they learned over the summer. Here, some of the 480 participants who took part in the open house are seen experimenting with principles of liquid viscosity. Some 40 other scientific demonstrations also took place. Seen in the photo were, from the left, Aileen Sun, camp director Nigel Penney, Martina Velez, Toni Menear and Samantha Padisak.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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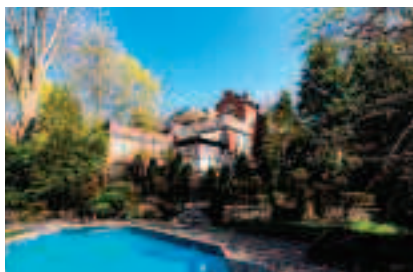
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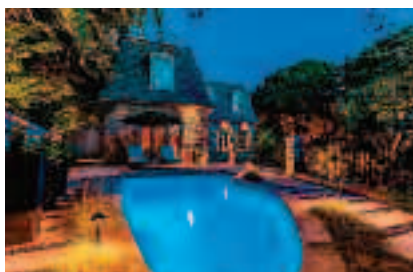
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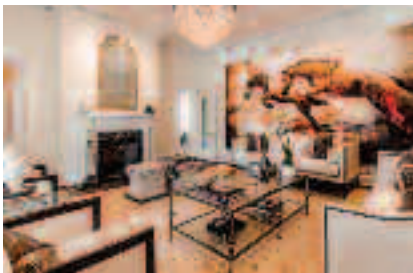
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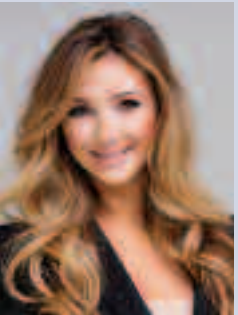
Mavridakis, supporters



Emmanuel ("Manny") Mavridakis receives walking therapy on the new Lokomat August 11 with his mother Sandra Grant at his side, as Marie Enfant Rehabilitation Centre physiotherapists Monique Émond, far left, and Geneviève Girardin, to her right, make adjustments on the \$650,000 machine.



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realize Lokomat purchase

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Emmanuel Mavridakis, an LCC student and former Westmouter, was one of the first people in Montreal last week to receive treatment on a Lokomat, a robot-assisted walking therapy machine acquired by St. Justine Hospital's Marie Enfant rehabilitation centre.

Costing \$650,000, it is the first device of its kind in Quebec, and was officially unveiled at the rehabilitation centre on July 29.

Mavridakis was in a near-fatal motor vehicle accident in July last year that caused him severe physical and neurological in-

juries that left him with almost no feeling below the waist.

With the help of the hospital foundation, as well as from his family, friends and classmates, he succeeded in raising \$157,000 for the purchase of the Lokomat. According to a foundation spokesperson, a large part of the amount came from donors in Westmount.

While he still needs the assistance of a wheelchair to get around, Mavridakis' physiotherapists, Geneviève Girardin and Monique Émond, say he has made tremendous progress thanks to the Lokomat, without which the therapy would have to be manually-assisted by therapists.

Comin' Up

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

"Caps of Courage – Nursing's Journey" at The Gallery at Victoria Hall. An exhibition in collaboration with the Art & Heritage Centre of the MUHC. Runs until September 11.

"Expression of Pluralism: Comedy to Heavy Metal: a video screening and conversation," 6 pm at the Atwater Library. An evening of videos and conversations on the project themes. Free.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

"Mr. Peabody and Sherman" screened outdoors in Westmount Park. Free.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22-SUNDAY, AUGUST 24
Victoria village August sidewalk sale.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

Sunday concerts: Spirit of the Music, with members Roger Walls, Chris Hunter and Jean Cyr, 2 to 4 pm at the Westmount Park gazebo.

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

Montreal West Operatic Society is holding open auditions for *La Chauve Souris* (Die Fledermaus) at Victoria Hall. Also August 27 and September 3. Info: casting@mwos.org or 514.990.8813.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

Marc Garneau presents "My experience in space and how it changes one's perspective," 7 pm at Victoria Hall. Free. *Please send your events in the above format by Friday at 2 pm to cu@westmountindependent.com.*



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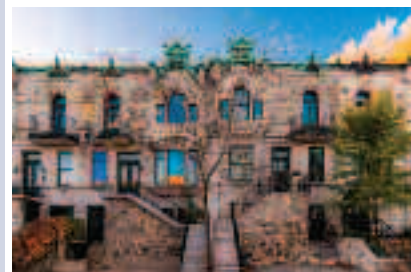
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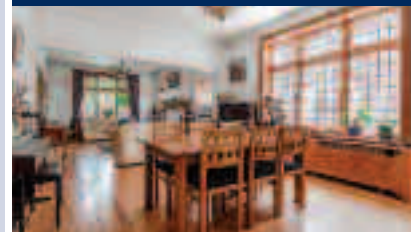


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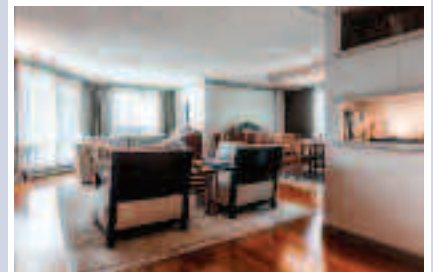
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Social Notes
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VERONICA REDGRAVE

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Stéphan Crétier, left, and Marcel Aubut.

Event supports Vimy Foundation

nual Grande Soirée Fondation Vimy was a great success.

The foundation was founded by the late **Andrew Powell**, a Westmounter. While working in the UK and driving from London to Paris, he noticed that signs indicating the Vimy memorial had been removed. As a result, and to increase awareness of Canada’s role in world events, he founded the Vimy Foundation. His widow **Lise Powell** welcomed guests, including Westmount res **Hugh Cowans**, treasurer Beaverbrook Canadian Foundation, and former Westmounter **Jonathan Birks**, president, Nontarakay Consulting, as well as **Marcel Aubut**, partner and vice-chair of BCF Business Law; **David Houghton**, vice president of RBC Dominion Securities and president Vimy Foundation; **Chris Shannon**, headmaster of LCC and president of the organizing committee for the evening; **Lt. Col. Bruce Bolton**, executive director, Macdonald Stewart Foundation; **Anne Grace**, curator modern art, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts; **Christopher Sweeney**, chair of the Vimy 2017 committee and foundation board

continued on p. 19



From left, Maxwell Wiltzer, Margaret Somerville, Hugh Cowans and David Houghton.

Photos courtesy of Vimy Foundation



From left, Chris Shannon, Lise Powell and Luc Ouellet.



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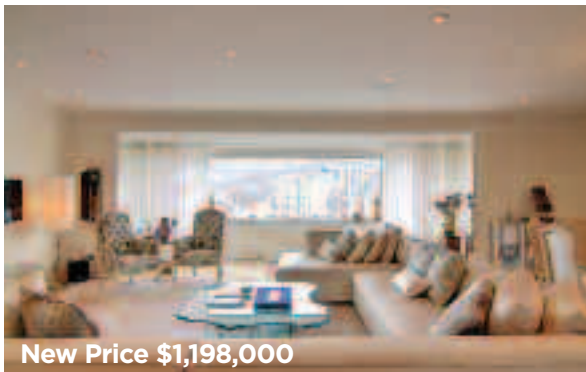
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Westmount Art Scene

De Francesca's: Opposites attract

BY HEATHER BLACK

This month Galerie de Bellefeuille features married couple Sophie De Francesca's stunning wire sculptures and Franco De Francesca's luminous computer-generated abstract images. Exhibited together at the gallery's new showroom, the combined magic of their work is both delightful and unexpected.

Sophie De Francesca

Elegant evening gowns constructed from wire mesh recall the refined sophistication of 1960s fashion. Decorated with cloth flowers, ribbons and pearls, "Pink Paradise" evokes opulent, grand galas. Another, a lacy, long-sleeve evening gown adorned with black and white butterflies, "Towards the Light," conveys a fairytale kingdom of future possibilities.

In "Anticipation," a lime cocktail dress with high-heeled, crossed legs suggests costume and an assumed identity. The role of coquette and passivity are both implied. "Breathless," a black wire bustier with red crystals, continues this thought. While beautiful, physical constraint as well as that era's social restriction is conveyed.

Yet there is also light-hearted humour within De Francesca's creations. A series of molded brassieres decorated with beaded crystals and flowers are entitled "Control of the Masses." A sense of fun also prevails in the various coloured, mounted, mesh deer heads, "Blondes Have More Fun" or "Fire Within."

Franco De Francesca

In this exhibition, Franco De Francesca's distinctive and colourful computer-generated abstract images line the gallery walls like windows into the future. One series of multicoloured rings in a bulls-eye pattern evokes the colour-field and geometric op-art of the 1960s. Yet the biological titles and luminosity of the range "Enviromod" or lime "Immunus" suggests liquid crystal screens and future discoveries.

The composition "Aerostrat" is a linear kaleidoscope of colour. Multiple vertical lime lines vibrate against purple, pink and yellow blocks of colour. Abstract, yet atmospheric, the contrast of sharp green lines against diffused colour suggest the reflections of car headlights on wet streets.

In contrast, "Teknis" is a series of in-

terlocking shapes with mesmerizing complexity. Here, hot pink, orange and lime-green blocks tumble and recombine like an Escher staircase. Although the forms vary, within De Francesca's oeuvre of plasma gels, there is a consistency of movement and vibrant colour that suggests life, evolution and discovery.

Visual magic

This exhibition is an attractive marriage of two very different but contemporary art forms. Sophie De Francesca's detailed hand-crafted sculptures and Franco De Francesca's glossy digital images are portals of past eras and future transformations. Together their work creates a magical ambiance of opulence and geometry, and illustrates the range of subjects, skills and techniques in Canada's contemporary art.

Galerie de Bellefeuille's new showroom is located opposite the main gallery at 1366 Greene Ave.

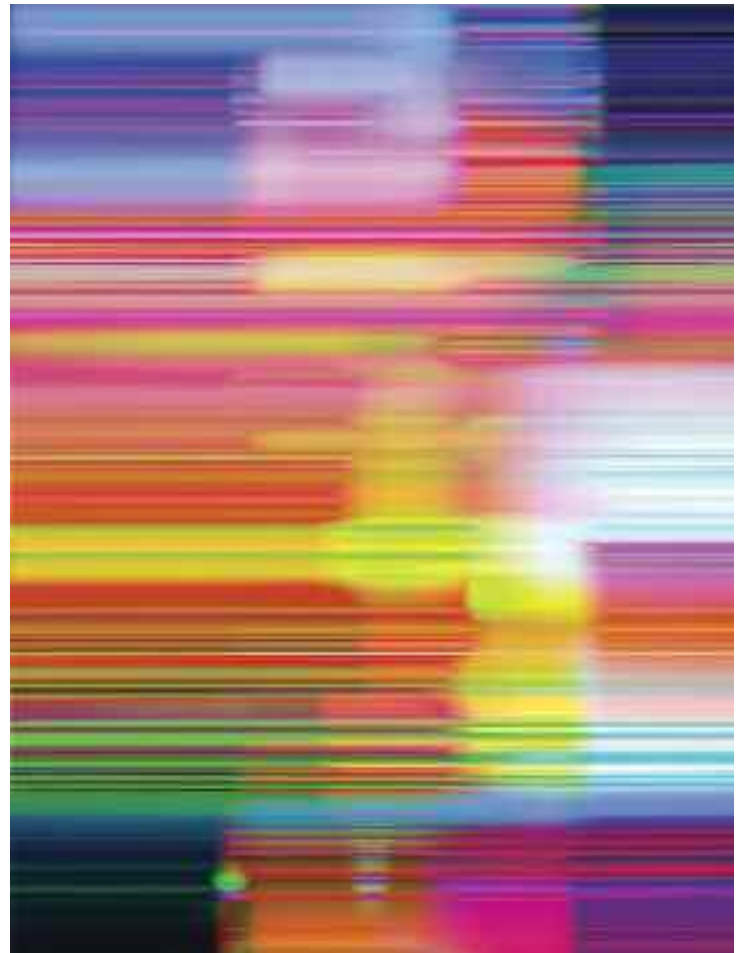
Heather Black is a Westmount communication designer. Contact her at blackheajea@gmail.com.



Franco De Francesca's "Enviromod."

After-hours work brings \$269 ticket

A neighbour's complaint about work on a roof on Lansdowne after hours at 6:15 pm August 5 led to the contractor receiving a ticket for \$269, according to Public Security officials. Saying he had only 20 to 30 minutes left to finish and refusing to stop, the contractor was reported to have finally said, "Give me the ticket," after which he stopped anyway and left.



Franco De Francesca's "Aerostrat."



Sophie De Francesca's "Anticipation."

July sales: Heading for new highs



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 July 2014. 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 offers a picture of these trends over time.

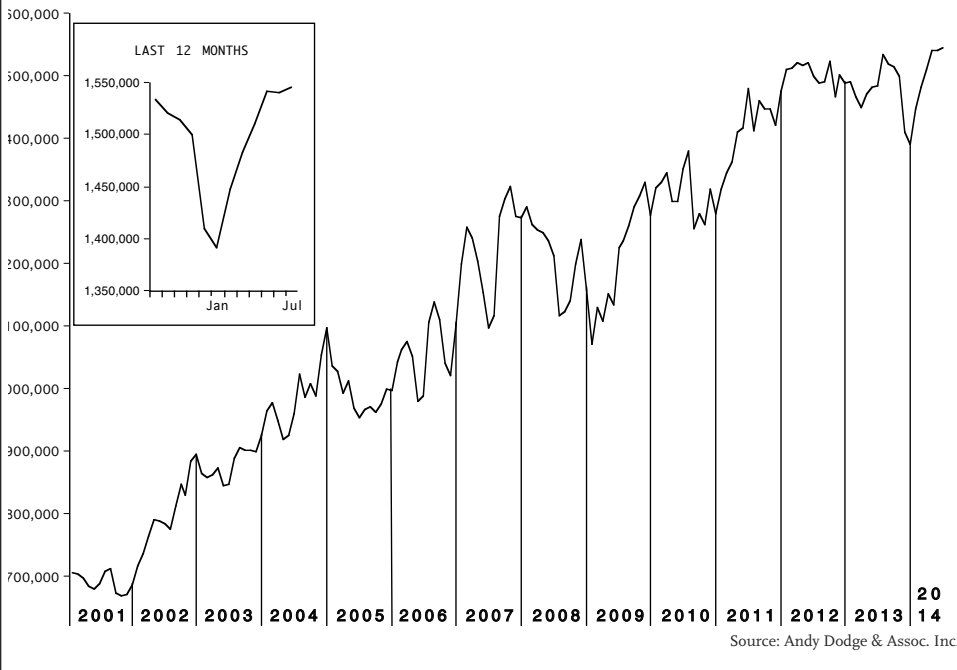
Westmount appears ready to shrug off the worries, exhaustion and doubt that have marked the real estate market in recent months. In what is usually considered the summer doldrums, buyers were cleaning up what was left of the long lingering 2013 inventory and starting to snap up some of the newer listings.

Agents report 11 home sales in Westmount during July, slightly above the average volume of 10.5, and a price range between \$700,000 and \$3,600,000, the latter for a house that had been on the market more than two years. There were three sales under \$1 million, two over \$2 million and the average price was just under \$1.5 million. The price/valuation ratio was at virtual parity, with six of the 11 sales less than their 2014 assessment.

This year's market got off to a very slow start, with only 17 sales in the first two months compared to 23 in 2013 and 29 in 2012, but actually has been rebounding ever since, now up to 97 sales in the first seven months compared with 89 for the same time period last year and 104 in 2012.

At last count there were 135 single-family homes listed for sale in Westmount, compared to 142 in mid-July, almost half of them asking upwards of \$2 million. Only two of the 11 sales were for prices over \$2 million, so that category of homes still has not found a firm footing in Westmount. Still, 18 sales over \$2 million and five of those over \$3 million is not a bad record.

Average adjusted price of 'typical' Westmount home, by month, Jan. 2001 to July 2014, based on accepted offer dates



Three of the new apartments at 11 Hillside Ave. sold in July, along with two others on Clarke Ave., giving some signs of life to a limping condo market. Prices were five percent less than the municipal evaluation, on average. Only one month into the third quarter, the number of condo sales so far equals the number sold in the previous three months.

In adjacent-Westmount areas, four

home sales were recorded including one downtown townhouse for \$1,820,000. So far this year almost all the homes in the downtown area have sold for prices over \$1 million, as have five of 12 homes just north of Westmount but only two of 12 between Decarie Blvd. and the western city limits.

Diluted sealer spilled on street, in sewer

A small amount of a black sealant used by painters at a house on Melville spilled into the sewer at the corner of St. Catherine August 6, Public Security officials said.

It appeared to have been diluted before being accidentally dropped on the street and sidewalk around 9:24 am. The street was flushed.

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Heartfelt goodbye to founder Pamela Price

Record attendance at Westmount Park School's Bouncing Boys Back to Books

The students and staff of Bouncing Boys Back to Books and their family members gave a warm farewell to the day camp's founder, Pamela Price, on August 15 at Westmount Park School. She is a teacher at the elementary school, where the camp is held each year, and will continue in that job until the end of the upcoming school year, when she plans to return to the United States to be closer to family.

The two-week, pre-term reading program was founded by Price five years ago and enrolled a record number of attendees – 30 – this year, its sixth.

Participants come from all grades of the

nent and lessons on healthy food, which included having students pitch in during food preparation.

At the camp's traditional ending ceremony, students presented skits, but the goodbye to Price was the centrepiece.

She was lured out of the auditorium on a pretext so students could record the room's applause to add to a video. When she returned, the whole video was presented.

"She is the foundation of this camp," said one staff member being interviewed on camera. "It will be hard to run it without her."

"It was hard to hide [the thank-you

preparations] from you," said Harris to the group. "There is nothing wrong with the grill for today's barbecue."

"I'm going to need water because I am so dehydrated," said Price as she teared up. "I have the best job in the world. It is a privilege to teach your children."



Holding her farewell gift of flowers, Pamela Price shares a lighter moment with Dwayne Harris (holding mic).
Photo: Independent

school and this session also included former Westmount Park students. "They were no longer students here and we had expected fewer, but their parents called and we couldn't turn them away," said organizer Dwayne Harris, a teacher at Westmount High. "We made it work."

New this year were a French compo-



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Poetry and music fill park

BY RALPH THOMPSON

On the afternoon of August 17 in Westmount Park, a gentle breeze rustled the leaves, the sun flickered between the branches and poetic verse drifted over an audience of about 60 people and a parrot.

Quiet strains of calm new age music from The Heart Marshalls added a romantic feel to the mix of sad, funny and poignant poetry. Even the parrot perched passively on a person's shoulder throughout almost two-and-a-half hours of performance.

The entertainment was MC'd by Westmounter Wanda Potrykus who said " we felt the mix of poetry and music best suited an afternoon in the park."

Readers included Denise Duguay, David Kabeya, Westmounter Virginia Elliott, Hannah Franklin, Margie Golick, Kristina Lipari, Jeffrey Mackie, Dale Matthews Satorsky, Wanda Potrykus, Charles Petrie, Gina Roitman and Cora Sire.



A parrot, sitting on the shoulder of a listener at left, is part of audience during Dale Mathews' reading.

Parties cont'd. from p. 1


Two days later, another ticket was issued after three complaints were received about a loud party on Victoria near Windsor at 2:40 am. When guests and people answering the door were described as uncooperative, a ticket was sent to the resident by mail.

Among other parties that generated complaints were those on Mountain, Dorchester and Columbia, as well as another on Roslyn. No tickets were issued, however, when residents had not been previously warned and cooperated with requests to quieten guests or bring them inside.



David Kabeya from Quebec City spoke in French and sang in his native language, Lingala from The Democratic Republic of Congo.

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Pension cont'd. from p. 10

officials have been “hamstrung” in establishing employee remuneration by “very weak legal powers” as well as provincial government fiscal constraints and the Montreal mergers.

“If the overall remuneration of municipal employees is 38 percent higher,” states Trent, “it is not, as the unions would have us believe, because their members accepted low salary increases in the past in exchange for more generous pension benefits. Even their base salaries are 18 percent higher than those of Quebec civil servants.”

The 38-percent difference, based on a study by the Institut de la statistique du Québec, results from a number of factors,

the ASM explains.

These began with legislated cuts of 20 percent in Quebec civil servants’ salaries in 1982. The spread was widened between 1991 and 2001 when government appointed arbitrators settled disputes in collective agreements by being “overly generous” to municipal employees.

This was topped by the merger years in Montreal when standardization of salaries and benefits brought them up to the highest common denominator.

Aside from the stock market meltdown in 2008, pension fund deficits themselves were worsened by government decisions. Municipal pension fund contribution holidays “were permitted and even encouraged by the government” between 1998 and 2001 as a way for municipalities to contribute 6 percent of payroll to Quebec

to help reduce budgetary deficits.

At the same time, a federal law required that pension fund reserves could not exceed 10 percent. Since most funds were running surpluses at the time, the solution was for municipalities to take further contribution holidays while increasing pension benefits to employees.

Trent first began sounding the alarm in 2010 over the impact that pension fund deficits were having on tax levels within the Montreal agglomeration as island-wide municipalities were required also to pay their share of costs required to cover Montreal’s pension fund obligations (see story July 1, p. 1).

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Vimy cont'd. from p. 14

member; **Margaret Somerville**, founding director, McGill University Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law, and trustee of the Beaverbrook Canadian Foundation; **Claude Thibault**, member of the board of trustees of the Canadian War Museum and the Canadian Museum of History; and **Maxwell Wiltzer**, student winner of the Vimy Beaverbrook Prize 2013, awarded to young Canadians for their positive contri-

butions and leadership.

The annual fundraising event supports the foundation’s goals of further developing support for youth education programs, reaching 18,000 youth across Canada annually. The organization will play a leading role in building an education centre to be unveiled on April 9, 2017 on grounds adjacent to the Vimy Memorial in France. The government of Canada has committed \$5 million to the project, and the foundation aims to raise an additional \$10 to \$15 million.

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Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount

AVIS D'ADOPTION
RÈGLEMENT 1470

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné que le règlement n° 1470 intitulé « *RÈGLEMENT VISANT À MODIFIER DE NOUVEAU LE RÈGLEMENT 1318 SUR LES TARIFS* » a été adopté par le conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount, lors d’une séance extraordinaire tenue à l’hôtel de ville le 18 août 2014.

L’objet de ce règlement vise à rajuster les tarifs résultant du règlement n° 69 intitulé « *Règlement concernant les parcs* » (tel que modifié par le règlement 1469) et d’appliquer les nouveaux tarifs pour des cartes de membre, l’utilisation de l’aréna, des terrains de jeux, des piscines et des courts de tennis, ainsi que les cours offerts par la Ville (saisons printemps-été et automne-hiver).

Ce règlement entre en vigueur conformément à la loi.

Toute personne peut consulter ce règlement sur le site Web de la Ville, au **www.westmount.org**, et en obtenir copie au bureau du greffe situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, du lundi au jeudi de 8 h à 16 h 30, et le vendredi de 8 h à 13 h.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 19 août 2014.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION
BY-LAW 1470

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that By-law No. 1470 entitled “*BY-LAW TO FURTHER AMEND BY-LAW 1318 CONCERNING TARIFFS*” was adopted by the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount during its special sitting held at City Hall on August 18, 2014.

The object of this by-law is to adjust the tariffs stemming from By-law No. 69 entitled “*By-law concerning Parks*” (as amended by By-law 1469) and to implement the new tariffs for facility membership cards, the use of the arena, sporting fields, pools and tennis courts, as well as the courses offered by the City (Spring-Summer and Fall-Winter sessions).

This by-law comes into force in accordance with the law.

Any person may consult said by-law on the City’s Website, at **www.westmount.org**, and obtain copies thereof at the Office of the City Clerk located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, from Monday to Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

GIVEN at Westmount, this 19th day of August, 2014.

Me Viviana Iturriaga Espinoza
Greffière de la Ville / City Clerk

Swimmers from 22 clubs descend on WRC pool



Twenty-two Montreal-area swimming clubs competed in the ALPS finals in individual and team relay events.

Photos: Martin C. Barry

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

During the Association of Lakeshore

Pools 2014 swimming finals held at the Westmount Recreation Centre pool on August 16, the Westmount Dolphins swam to a third place finish in finals and finished first in the consolations.

The ALPS finals saw 22 Montreal-area swimming clubs competing. There were approximately 350 swimmers in 40 individual events and 10 relay events, according to Helen Campbell, chair of the Westmount Dolphins parents' committee.

This is the third year in a row that the Dolphins finished first in the consolation category.

The team has also seen significant improvement in their finals performance, having finished 7th in that category for the past two years.

While the weather was cool and drizzly, it wasn't a problem for the hardy swim-



Swimmers take part in the relay segment of August 16's ALPS finals held at the Westmount Recreation Centre swimming pool.

mers. "We're used to getting our butts wet," said Nancy Nelson, a longtime Dolphins supporter and volunteer.

For more photos, see p. 1 and 21.

Website cont'd. from p. 7

Samuel of Communications in conjunction with a programmer hired to "make it work," Lafrenière said. She was also a significant collaborator.

One of the new site's special features, is "something we've been wanting for so long," she said. It's a searchable A-to-Z index at the top of the home page. This is designed to take the user directly to a desired subject through a prepared menu or by entering a single search word at lower right next to the magnifying glass.

Low battery causes house alarm to ring

An alarm sounding at a house on Redfern August 7 at 9:29 pm was left sounding after the security company was contacted and reported it had a low battery, Public Security officials said. The resident was apparently away, and the beeping could only be heard by someone directly in front of the door. It was not considered disruptive and was allowed to beep.

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Dolphins volunteer Leah Trineer prepares trophies for winners of the morning's individual swimming events.



Westmounters Mark Iarrera, left, and Jim Bowker work the BBQs at lunch hour.

Truck splashes cement on 2 cars

Cement splashed onto the right-hand side of two cars August 5 as all headed north on Greene from St. Antoine St., Public Security officials said. The mishap occurred around 8:21 am when the top of

the truck hit the railway overpass. The driver used a hose to wash off the cars and no damage was reported. The city's mechanical sweeper was called to clean the street.



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Featuring Craig Morisson & friends.



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*Some programs take place at the Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. All other programs take place at 5700 Westbury Ave.

City TV films Schacter on breakfast show

King George (Murray) Park saw some television action August 5 when City TV’s breakfast television crew arrived to interview local resident Jordan Schacter, who gave some tips for dog lovers.

A certified behaviour analyst from the Companion Science and Technology Institute, dog trainer Schacter suggested to



From left, City TV’s Catherine Verdun-Diamond with Jordan Schacter as tv crews film.

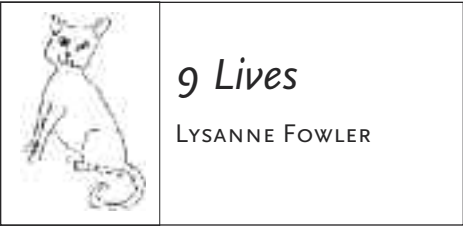
viewers that they “invite’ their dogs to take a walk.” The reason, he explained, is to establish a balance. “It is all about a state of mind. Your dog wants to lead and investigate, and you want to lead. You should lead.”

Schacter showed City TV’s Catherine Verdun-Diamond how. At the front door, the owner should first train the dog to sit before it rushes out. He also suggested walking pets on a loose leash. Dog owners know how challenging that can be given the presence of squirrels, cats and other dogs – but Schacter said he has trained many local residents’ dogs to do just that. “It is important to communicate,” he said. “And to reward, to reinforce good behaviour.”

The TV show received so many calls that the producer has booked another Westmount session with the dog trainer to be aired on October 8.

– VR

Two brothers have radial dysplasia



Brothers Monty and Milo were found along a country road when they were only a few weeks old. They are now in a foster home for Moustache Cat Rescue, where they are good companions to the foster family’s cat.

These sweet young fellows are in excellent health, neutered and up to date with their inoculations.

Even though each has a unique look,



Parking meter head vandalized, found on ground with pole

A parking meter pole and head was discovered on the ground at 5:41 pm August 10 at Greene and Prospect, Public Security officials said. It was found to have been broken off its base in front of 4175 St. Catherine at Greene.

they share a family trait that makes them just a bit special. They were born with radial dysplasia, a congenital malformation which means they have two consecutive elbows on the front legs. This does not prevent them from walking or jumping on a bed, it just makes them less apt to get out of range speedily if required.

Monty and Milo are very sociable and affectionate, quite bonded as brothers, and so would be happiest being adopted together.

If you would like more information on

them, please contact Annie Primeau at 514.254.4926 or primeann@aol.com. You can also refer to the Moustache Cat Rescue website at www.moustacheadoptions.webs.com.

And if you would be interested in getting involved with the rescue, they are always looking for new volunteers to help with fundraising, adoption events, transportation or fostering temporarily (they provide litter and food).

Your neighbour, Lysanne

The hog, the Beetle and the buffet



This wily groundhog was spotted in the parking lot next to city hall August 4. After city councillors had walked past its hide-out under a Volkswagen Beetle, and after a good stretch on its belly, it then sauntered out over to the garden that lines the parking lot and started to feast on the vegetables that were growing there. A city hall employee, also an avid naturalist, later found the groundhog’s den, freshly dug in amongst the hedges lining city hall. It is yet unknown if the hairy rodent had the necessary permits required for building its home on city property or authority to eat the locally grown produce.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

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Ian's ride – from start to finish



Participants in the fifth annual Ian's Ride set off on August 15 in cars and vans from outside the Martin Swiss bicycle shop on Victoria Ave. towards Kingston, Ontario, the starting point of a two-day 270-kilometre bike trek back to Montreal. They were raising money for student internships in cancer research. Of the 30 riders this year, more than half were from Westmount, according to the ride's founder John Van Toch, whose fundraiser is named after his son Ian, who was involved in cancer research and who died seven years ago.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



Team Ian riders, helpers and supporters at their final destination, participant and Westmounter Greg Dunning's house in Hudson on August 17. The riders raised over \$77,000 in pledges this year

Photo courtesy of Willem Westenberg.



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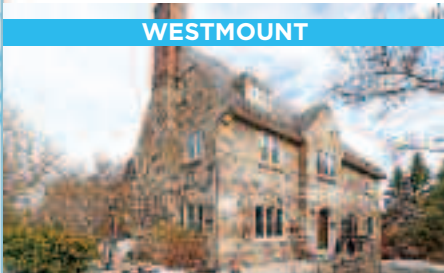


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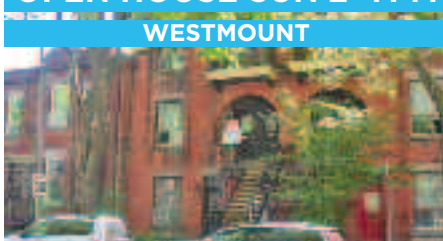
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