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## Is Westmount sustainable?

# City embarks on comprehensive social and environment development plan

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

What kind of community do you want to live in tomorrow? This question is the first step in an ambitious city plan to identify the social, environmental and economic needs of the future and create an all-encompassing Strategy for Sustainable Development.

The strategy would become a touchstone for decision making in a rapidly changing world and a community of changing demographics.

"We need a comprehensive plan if we are going to work into a sustainable community where citizens can continue to enjoy quality of life," says Councillor Tom Thompson, who chairs the Westmount Healthy City Project.

An initial report from the first public focus group, April 13, is expected later this month, he told the *Westmount Independent*.

This brain-storming session involved 25 selected citizens representing a cross section of the community.

"When looking at sustainable development, ..... most people think of five to 10 years ahead," *continued on page 2*

## Summit Park unleashed



Dogs owners are letting their dogs run loose at Summit Park – and the park may be suffering. See story, p. 12.

## Brickpoint will remain open

BY STUART WOODS

The closure of Brickpoint Studios on Victoria Ave. was averted when a new owner stepped forward at the last minute to take over the business, which has been a Westmount institution since the 1960s.

The knitting and needlepoint supplies store was scheduled to close last weekend when longtime owner Penelope Papineau retired. On the second-to-last day of the business's closing sale, Papineau's daughter, Belinda Fox, decided that she wouldn't preside over the closure.

"It just wasn't resting well with me," said Fox, adding that she has worked closely with her mother in recent years to manage the store and that customers can expect business as usual.

Papineau bought the business in 1983 after moving to Westmount from Ottawa, where she worked as an accountant for the federal government.

She says she will spend her retirement working in the garden of her country home in North Hatley. She will continue to help out at the store on a part-time basis.

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# Best wishes to the WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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**Peter F. Trent**, mayor, 1991-2001

**Sally Aitken**, former city councillor, and **Allan Aitken**, St. Catherine St.

**Peter Duffield**, former city councillor, Clandeboye Ave.

**John Shingler**, former city councillor, Burton Ave.

**Rhoda Vineberg**, former city councillor, and **Robert Vineberg**, Forden Crescent

**Jane Allen**, Victoria Ave.

**Marty Algire and Lindsay Holmgren**,  
Burton Ave.

**Stewart Arbuckle**, Metcalfe Ave.

**Phil Aspler**, Victoria Ave.

**Joe and Marilyn Blankfort**,  
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**Julie Bourne**, Victoria Ave.

**John Bridgman**, Bruce Ave.

**Thane Calder**, Argyle Ave.

**Thea and Bill Calder**, Clarke Ave.

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**Nellie Cedergren**, York St.

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**Pat Donnelly**, York St.

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**Anne Holloway**, Lansdowne Ave.

**Suni Hope-Johnston**, York Ave.

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Metcalf Ave.

**Joan Winsor**, de Maisonneuve Blvd.

**Christina Vroom**, Stanton St.

**Anthony J. Zitzmann**, Anwoth Rd.

## Moving quickly on sustainability

*continued from page 1*

Councillor Thompson said. “We want to see action now.”

If new facilities, such as an arena complex, are built, it is important they are designed in such a way that they fit into a sustainable community, he said as an example.

As well, “We will no longer have a choice of where to dump our garbage. Soon each community will be responsible for its own waste.”

The philosophy of a sustainable community has been introduced elsewhere, he pointed out.

And city council has been using some of the resources from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as a model.

In an effort to move quickly, city council at a retreat February 16 identified certain community values as a springboard for the first public consultation.

Mayor Karin Marks, who is spearheading the overall initiative, has already begun promoting the idea, which she has described as involving the entire social, economic and environmental aspect of the community.

This also involves housing and transportation.

Some of the tough issues to be ad-

ressed will be how to provide quality services for an aging population while encouraging the growth of young families at the same time.

As a result, Councillor Thompson explained, “we have to look at basic principles and have citizens tell us how they see Westmount in the future.”

The values identified so far include respect for others, good schools, preservation of streetscapes, citizen participation, increasing the number of volunteer groups, quality services, and quality of life for all ages.

“We want to promote respect and safety,” he said.

“We also want to be responsible and participate in regional needs as well as island-wide services such as police and fire.

“We want to work toward zero waste. How can we introduce recycling for commercial establishments without having the stuff blow all over the place?”

“We want to look at increasing public transportation north-south. How do we stem the 10 percent increase in the number of cars owned in Westmount?”

This is only the beginning, but an important first step, he said, in moving Westmount into a sustainable community.

## Your tax \$ at work

The June 1 installment of the tax bill came just in time. City council approved a host of tenders and quotations at its meeting May 28. Among them (contractors, and costs with taxes included) were:

- the restoration of sidewalk and street cuts at a variety of locations by TGA Montréal Inc., in the amount of \$275,531;
- six exterior windows at the Westmount arena by Cartier Aluminium & Renovations, \$16,808;
- the supply and installation of 10 dressing room doors at the arena by R. Cortecans & Fils, \$12,995;
- the supply of five Kawllwall fiberglass curtain wall panels for the arena at the side of the dog run, Colico Inc., \$14,045;
- labour and material to replace the HVAC thermal insulation at Westmount Public Library by Les Entreprises de Réfrigération LS, \$31,587;
- repair of the slate roof at the library by Couverture Montréal-Nord, \$6,780;
- labour and material to create a story

garden in the courtyard off the children’s section of the library by Paysagiste Robert Caucci, \$6,256;

- to repair the gutter at the rear of the library by Norman & Collie Inc., \$10,928;
- the supply and installation of new winter carpets at various municipal buildings by Les Spécialistes A.F., \$16,983;
- replacement of the fire escape at Centre Greene by Ornaments St-Michel Inc., \$21,138;
- supply of a hot water holding tank at Victoria Hall by Les Soudures Devil Inc., \$19,857;
- sod repair to some 1,500 square metres at various locations by Cajoli Inc., \$17,482;
- labour and material for refurbishing the upper retaining wall of the Roslyn steps by Les Constructions D’Alesio, \$85,235; and
- to replace a garage door at the municipal garage by Les Portes de Garage Olympique, \$8,384.



# Introducing the *Westmount Independent* team



**David Price**, editor, grew up on Thornhill Ave. and Church Hill in Westmount. He went to St. Andrew's, Roslyn, Selwyn House, Dawson and McGill. He has a BA from McGill, law and MBA degrees from the University of Toronto, and was awarded the CFA designation. He worked as an investment and merchant banker for five years. In 2004, he joined the book publishing company (Price-Patterson) founded by his father, Michael Price. David continues to publish books through Price-Patterson, but founded Sherbrooke-Valois in 2006 to publish calendars and newspapers. He launched his first newspaper, *Vivva Montreal*, in 2006. He lives on Lansdowne Ave.



**Marilynn Vanderstaay** has been published in national and urban papers, but her commitment to the community has led her to write mainly for local publications in both London, ON where she lived for 25 years and Montreal since she returned home ten years ago. Marilynn graduated from Westmount High in the early 1970s. She has organized three reunions and was the first female member of the Westmount High Old Boys' Association. She is a current board member. Marilynn lives on St. Catherine St. across from Westmount High, which she says is penance for having cut so many classes.

**Sandy Cobrin**, advertising sales, has worked in Westmount for twelve years selling ads for two newspapers.

**Ted Sancton**, owner of Studio Melrose, has worked in prepress graphic production for over 35 years, 25 of those with *The Westmount Examiner* and Adcomp when owned by the Sancton family.



For chief reporter **Lauren Sweeney**, covering Westmount comes naturally. A McGill graduate, Lauren was raised in Westmount, has worked at *The Gazette* and *The Montreal Star* and spent many years as chief reporter and photographer for *The Westmount Examiner* and *Westmount Experience*. An award-winning journalist, photographer and longtime volunteer in Westmount, she has served as Girl Guide leader and District Commissioner, and held various Scouting positions. She is also the author of *Polishing the Jewel: A History of the Renewal Project of Westmount Public Library*.

Among career highlights are her national award for investigative journalism, a number of provincial awards and coverage of the visits here of Pope John Paul II and the Queen Mother. She continues as a freelance writer and maintains her own communications business.

**Annika Melanson** grew up on Lansdowne Ave., attended St. Andrew's, Roslyn, St. Léon, Villa Ste. Marcelline and Marianopolis. She then moved to Toronto to become a flight attendant for Air Canada. Now most of her adventures involve exploring Montreal with her four year-old daughter, Amel. She launched her first book, *The Montreal Pocket*

*Parent: A Directory for Pregnant Women, Parents, Babies and Children* in 2005. She is also the author of the French version, *Le bottin des bambins*, and co-author of *Yummy in my Tummy*.

Annika writes the parenting column, "Maternally Yours", for *Vivva Montreal*, covering fun things to do with children and for young families in Montreal.



**Carola Price** is David Price's third cousin and an accomplished food and wine expert. She and her brother Phil Price shared a childhood full of adventure and culinary delights while traveling the globe *en famille*. Finding their way back to Montreal (including some time on Hollowell), she studied Hospitality Management at Concordia University and Leisure Studies at University of Ottawa. She moved up in the kitchens of several establishments only to decide that Nova Scotia was a great place to begin a new adventure. Carola owned a bistro and managed the posh Upper Deck Restaurant, all the while becoming a sommelier, which brought about a definite longing for the food and wine culture of home. Now settled in NDG, Carola operates a catering and sommelier consulting service, In Vino Veritas Montreal, writes the wine columns for *Vivva Montreal* and the *Westmount Independent*, and can be heard regularly gabbing about wine on 940 Montreal's Table Talk with Orla Johannes.



**Phil Price** is a filmmaker and owner of Philms Pictures. His next feature film, *Prom Wars*, is about a war started by the girls of ACS, who force two boys' schools, Selby and Lancaster, into battle, the winner of which gets exclusive rights to the girls as prom dates. This private school-inspired film is Phil's principal Westmount pedigree, although he did spend some of his time growing up on Hollowell. When not writing and directing TV and film, he and his sister, Carola, write about all things food for third cousin and editor-in-chief David Price – for very little money or positive reinforcement, simply because he is prone to the trap-pings of familial guilt.



**Aurélien Guillory** is from Louisiana and opened Atelier Aurélien in Montreal over 25 years ago, after completing his university studies in fine arts and clinical psychology. His specialty is colour composition and the custom design of residential spaces, boutiques, restaurants and executive suites, many of which have won international awards. His designs in lighting and décor have been admired at charity gala balls such as Château Ramezay's centennial, for which he served as the consultant during the museum's renovation in 18th century colours.



**Anthea Dawson**, grew up in Westmount on Kitchener Ave. She started at Westmount Pre-School, then The Priory, ECS, Dawson College, and finally the University of Toronto to study film and history. She moved to Boston in 2002 to study food at the Cambridge School of Culinary Arts, and went on to work at a popular high-end Boston restaurant, Sel de la Terre. Since 2005, she has been executive chef at Simply Wonderful, Westmount's local catering establishment on Abbott St.



**Heather Black** is a communications designer who lives and works in Westmount. A member of the Junior League since 1989, she has initiated projects in the area, most recently a career mentoring program for girls at Westmount High School. She has a BA and a BEd from Dalhousie University and a BDesign from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design.

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*At Second Glance*

## Westmount's democratic deficit

HEATHER BLACK

Recently, Justin Trudeau became the Liberal candidate for Papineau. And, by being nominated and elected by party members, he won his candidacy fair and square. So why are the citizens of Westmount-Ville Marie denied this grass-roots process? Are our votes being taken for granted?

**Reserved ridings**

Although reserving ridings for “star candidates” are counter to democratic ideals, they are not new. In 1994, following the PQ win, MP David Berger was asked – in the name of Canadian unity – to resign in favour of parachute candidate Lucienne Robillard.

However this practice – once the exception – appears to be increasing. The neighbouring ridings of LaSalle-Émard and Outremount are also reserved.

That means that 225,000 prospective voters in centre-west Montreal will not have the opportunity to choose their own Liberal candidate, at a time when local party membership is below the two per cent average. But just how “Liberal-safe” is Westmount-Ville Marie?

**Liberalism or the Liberals**

Although the Liberal record of only one loss since 1940 is impressive, it deserves a second glance. In the 1988 free trade election, the Conservative candidate

lost by only 900 votes.

So would constituents who care about liberalism make community consent an election issue? And would members of the community with liberal inclinations extend candidate choice by running as independent liberals?

**Increasing influence**

Although sitting as an independent is not prevalent in this country, on May 19, 2005, Canadians saw the effect of three independents – Chuck Cadman, Carolyn Parrish and David Kilgour – on the budget vote and the future of Paul Martin's Liberal government. But in some countries, sitting as an independent is becoming a new norm.

In the Republic of Ireland's Dáil, there are fifteen independent members, or 9 percent of all seats. At Westminster, running as an independent is a long-standing tradition and has been practised by politicians of all stripes including the revered Winston Churchill (Independent Anti-Socialist), David Lloyd George (Independent Liberal) and Keir Hardie (Independent Labour).

Would this be an option for Westmount residents? Would you vote for an independent candidate?

*Heather Black is a Westmount communications designer. If you have new topics for this column, please contact her at: atcitizen@gmail.*

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*The Contrarian*

## Recycling Redux

I was going to complain about something completely different this issue, but I recently left my house at 8 am to put out my recycling – and the collectors had already come and gone! My neighbour's empty bins provided silent but decisive testimony to their early arrival.

I don't care when they come, but it would be so much better if they came at the *same time of day* for each side of a street. On the morning in question, I was beaten to the punch by the collectors (a little less work for them to do?), but sometimes the opposite happens. I arrive home late in the day and the recycling has been out all day: being snowed on, rained on and subject to the harsh winds of Westmount. It would have been better for everyone if I had brought it out at the end of the day. Blowing garbage may only disturb residents, but it is in the interest of the City's contractor to have dry recyclables. They are lighter and easier to sort.

**Dream the dream**

Imagine for a moment a city where everyone knew when the collectors came. Some people are home during the day or get back in time for a late pick-up. They could put out their recycling at the best time, thereby minimizing precipitation on the recyclables and the amount of time that they have to blow around. Early birds would know they have to be on their toes to avoid double loads the next week.

In my particular case, the collectors added injury to their randomness by pulling one of their other tricks: throwing the emptied recycling bins into the driveway. They love doing this. Is it a game? Or a hidden message? Or another instance of randomness: sometimes they do it; sometimes they don't?

They didn't get one over on me totally, though. A pleasant across-the-street neighbour allowed me to place my bin on his lawn. They still had to haul that recycling!

**FOLLOW-UP:** On the subject of last issue's column (blowing garbage and recyclables), kudos to the Ville Marie borough. It has instituted fines for dirty yards and sidewalks, and increased surveillance.

Bike patrols to provide  
more break-in protection

Two police bicycle patrollers are taking to the streets in Westmount along with officers walking the beat in commercial areas.

The greater police presence should help enforce bicycle regulations as well as serve as a crime deterrent, said Cst. Caroline Gauthier, community relation officer at local Station 12 on Stanton Street.

Three commercial establishments were reported broken into two weeks ago at 4421, 4435 and 4441 St. Catherine Street.

Police said entry was gained in all cases by prying locks off doors. The three are believed related.

As well, an office in the building at 310 Victoria was broken into at night May 19. Computer equipment was reported stolen. The building was entered by breaking a window in the back door. The same place has been hit before on recent occasions.

Smoking causes  
small balcony fire

A small fire at 19 Stayner Street caused only minor damage May 11, fire officials said, but aroused the neighbourhood at 3:15 am.

The fire broke out in a flower pot on a

*Letters to the Editor*

I was very pleased to see the first issue of the *Westmount Independent*. Congratulations to all involved on a great effort to provide another voice for what will always be a vibrant and active community with lots of news and activities to share. If you keep up the standards of the inaugural issue I'm sure the new paper will be well received and a great success. Best of luck.  
DON SANCTON,  
Beaconsfield, Quebec

balcony caused by smoker's material. It was quickly doused by firefighters using a portable extinguisher. Damage was reported at \$200.

## Proofing Contest

Proofing winner **Sheila Usher** was too modest to be photographed with her cheque, but she is our first winner. We hereby offer a prize of \$25 to the reader who finds the most typos in this issue by June 13. A typo is an obvious error or misspelling rather than a deviation in usage. To collect the prize, the winner must be photographed for the next issue. In the event of a tie, all winners will be credited, but only one prize will be awarded (by coin toss). Please send your entry as to stu.art.woods@pricepatterson.com.



# Beneath the turf

## Interview with Westmount Director General Bruce St. Louis

At the *Westmount Independent*, we feel that a lot of specific questions were not asked or answered at the May 16 public meeting, so we spoke with the city's director general, Bruce St. Louis, and tried to ask precise questions about the artificial turf issue.

### Preliminaries

WI: *In the event that artificial turf is installed, has a supplier been chosen? If so, who? What would the proposed artificial turf be made from? Does the city's targeted supplier (or any potential supplier) have a turf product made entirely out of virgin fibre?*

BSL: Not only has a supplier not been chosen, but we do not yet have a *project* with specifications (such as virgin fibre or not) that a supplier could bid on. For a project of this size, we would decide on specifications and then put the project out to tender.

What is on the table at the moment are three *proposals* (new natural turf, artificial turf and a combination of the two) for the Westmount Park fields south of the bike path. Nothing has been decided yet on which, if any, will proceed. Nor are any of the proposals provided for in the existing budget, so a new loan funding resolution would also be needed before proceeding.

WI: *What is the target length of playing field grass? Is it being overcut? Has the City looked at letting it grow longer?*

BSL: The target length would be about 3 inches, but at their current state of repair, the grass is so abused that it barely grows at all.

### Health

WI: *Inevitably, intrudants (e.g. animal feces, human blood) find their way onto field surfaces. What is the City's current process for removing them and how would it differ for artificial turf? Are any cleansers used? Would they be used on artificial turf?*

BSL: Coaches and city personnel check fields before use. If a problem is found, it is removed. No cleansers are currently used.

For artificial turf, the same process would be used. We do not anticipate using cleansers on artificial turf. Many communities don't. If we did, however, we would not use any product that leaves a residue, or would be harmful to human or animal health.

WI: *It seems likely that artificial turf would sometimes become hot and unsafe. Would the City cancel games at these times? How often would the field be tested for temperature?*

BSL: The two municipalities that were consulted in the Golder report (Kirkland and Dollard) have not cancelled games because of the heat. There are a number of ways to ensure that future Westmount fields would also be useable in hot weather. Firstly, fields can be equipped with sensors so that they are monitored continuously. At a given heat threshold, sprinklers go on automatically. Also, not all fields have tire crumbs as the infill. Some have lighter colour substances or sand. These absorb less heat.

WI: *Is the air next to recycled rubber tires dangerous to breathe?*

BSL: We don't have an official answer, but the Golder toxicologist has verbally told us 'no.' On the broader issue of environmental safety, an extract from the Golder report's conclusion reads as follows: "... the information currently available indicates that the risks for the human health and the environment are negligible associated with the planned installation of an artificial outdoor soccer surface in Westmount."

WI: *What is the story on physical injuries? Some people seem to say that artificial turf is safer than natural turf. Others say the reverse. What is the City's view? On what basis was this view formed?*

BSL: As you say, it depends on whom you talk to. What is needed is a peer reviewed study comparing new natural to new artificial turf, which we have not found. What is clear is that either a new natural turf field or an artificial turf field would be safer than what is there now.

### Urban planning

WI: *Residents are worried about future councils adding lighting or further fencing off the artificial fields. A current city council cannot bind future councils with a resolution, but can the City grant a legally binding right of "non lighting" to residents of Melville Ave. and Academy Rd.? Can the City grant a legally binding right of "non fencing"? Would the City do so?*

BSL: Councils work in four-year mandates. From a legal point of view, what you propose is possible, but this could become a very involved, complicated and expensive legal process.

WI: *What does the City foresee regarding traffic patterns around the artificial fields? Has a study been done?*

BSL: Under all three proposals, there is no plan for any increase in the volume of Westmount's sports programming, so there is no foreseen change in the area's traffic patterns.

### Practicalities

WI: *If an artificial field were being disposed of today, is there a site that would accept it?*

BSL: Given that we haven't set a field's specifications, I don't know, but there are landfills in Quebec that accept residue that normal landfills can't, so I think any synthetic field would most probably be disposable, but hopefully it could be recycled in some fashion.

WI: *There are many artificial turf fields in Montreal right now that have been subject to the same weather that Westmount fields*

*would be. Has the city or its agents inspected actual fields to see how much wear they have experienced? If so, is a 20-year lifespan realistic in light of these inspections?*

BSL: None of the existing Montreal fields are older than four to five years. The warranties currently offered by manufacturers range from eight to ten years, with some looking to increase this to fifteen years. In the United States, some fields are still in use after ten to fifteen years – and that is under harsher conditions, because our fields would be protected from the sun by snow for several months of the year.

## Westmount Park kids



Everyone's got an opinion on turf these days. Clockwise from top left: Bronwyn Farkas, Tessa Kemerer, Paul Setrakian, Marguerite Setrakian, Ella Csürös and Katalina Toth.

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## Beautify lanes and pull ragweed for Communities in Bloom



Councillors Cynthia Lulham and George Bowser launch Communities in Bloom by displaying a bag promoting the competition.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount residents and merchants are urged to beautify their properties and back lanes, and pull out ragweed to help the city achieve its goals for this year's Communities in Bloom competition.

The challenge was launched at the May 28 city council meeting by Councillors George Bowser and Cynthia Lulham.

This is the first year since demerger that Westmount has entered the national

event, in which the city previously reached the highest level of recognition.

The city last participated in 2003, having advanced into the international section of the competition.

A number of residents whose homes back onto lanes have already beautified them, explains city horticulturist Claudette Savaria.

She singles out the lane by Barat Road and Holton as an example as well as one near Centre Greene where a rock garden was created.

"We're trying to raise awareness in the community that our lanes need attention," she says. "Planting is one way to stop the growth of ragweed, which thrives in poor soil and can't compete with other plants."

The city is specially targeting ragweed this year, and is putting out a pamphlet available at city hall.

Westmount's business sector is also being encouraged to join the beautification bandwagon by planting flowers and keeping their front and back properties clean and tidy.

This year, judges will visit Westmount August 13.

## Council deals quickly with turf issue

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A wide range of business characterized the May 28 meeting of Westmount City council from a parks curfew to traffic restrictions.

But the feistiest issue in some time, the controversial resurfacing of playing fields in Westmount Park, consumed a shorter than usual share of attention.

Among other items raised by citizens during the two question periods were the length of time taken to make public the minutes of committee meetings, dog excrement in parks, the absence of the cannon from Westmount Park, loose soccer goal posts, and the lack of bus service at certain times.

### Back to turf

A report opposing the use of artificial turf was presented to the council by Gillian O'Driscoll, a parent from the CPE Narnia, on behalf of the daycare, Westmount Park School Council and Save Westmount Park!

Patrick Barnard, president of the latter organization, also submitted a separate petition of 1,050 names rejecting "any proposals which will damage the natural greenspace within the present area" and rejecting the installation of artificial turf.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who chaired the session as pro-mayor, told those assembled that the council would not be making a decision until later in June.

Melville resident Mavis Young asked that "in the interests of transparency" any vote concerning artificial turf be taken in public.

### Who was, and will be, where

Mayor Karin Marks was absent from the chair prior to leaving for the annual conference of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in Calgary.

Councillors Guy Charette and John de Castell also missed the meeting, though Councillor de Castell had returned to the table for a special council session May 8 following a lengthy illness.

No member of council would represent Mayor Marks at the May 31 meeting of the island-wide Agglomeration Council, Councillor Lulham said in answer to a question by Henry Olders, president of the Westmount Municipal Association.

Instead, the council would submit a report opposing a number of items on the agenda.

None of the other 14 demerged cities would be represented either because of the FCM meeting, she said.

Westmount's participation in this year's national Communities in Bloom competition was officially launched (see separate story).

Reports of key items adopted by council are contained in separate stories in this edition of the *Westmount Independent*.



Katalina Toth, left, and Ella Csürös present Councillor Cynthia Lulham with a painting of how they see life in a park.

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# Parks curfew coming again – 20 years later

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Escalating problems in local parks are causing Westmount city council to impose a midnight curfew. The council, at its meeting May 28, served notice of its intention to modify the parks bylaw at a subsequent session to close all parks between midnight and 5 am.

“We are experiencing unprecedented levels of vandalism, graffiti, substance abuse, and unruly behaviour especially in our larger parks,” Councillor George Bowser explained.

The idea of enshrining a curfew in the bylaw comes two decades after a similar curfew regulation in parks was adopted by council in general committee to much public opposition.

It would also clarify a sometimes confusing situation stemming from the curfew regulation announced at the council meeting May 5, 1986.

Initially enacted on a one-year trial basis, the curfew has remained in force in Summit Park. Over the years, however, it has been interpreted in different ways.

Interestingly in 1986, as now, the curfew was explained as a tool requested by police for clearing parks of noisy or unruly groups of youths. It could be applied at the discretion of enforcement officers.

## Curfew opposed

The original regulation was, however, strongly opposed by the Westmount Municipal Association and editorialists on

## 13 fined for drinking

Over the Victoria Day weekend, 13 persons were fined for drinking in Westmount parks, public safety official report. Four were adults. In the seven separate incidents, three took place in Westmount Park, another three in King George Park and one in Summit Park. Four extra patrol cars were added for the May 24 holiday.

With the start of the summer, eight public safety cadets will patrol the parks – four during the day and four in the evening, explains Public Security Director Richard Blondin.

As well, two auxiliary officers will be assigned to parks patrol, “so we’ll have the parks covered seven days a week.”

Westmount is experiencing a rash of unruly behaviour in the parks this year, leading Dir. Blondin, in conjunction with police, to request a parks curfew.

grounds it deprived all citizens of the right to walk through the park on a summer night.

At the time, then Councillor Joan Rothman stated she had voted against the curfew. She was against “passing a regulation that is very difficult to enforce.”

The mayor, Brian Gallery, and the parks commissioner, Councillor John Shingler, expressed their distaste for a curfew and reiterated comments by police that common sense would be used in applying it.

## Back to the present

Fast forward 21 years, and this is the same rationale expressed by Councillor Bowser in his statement as follows:

“Our current legislation requires that an individual must be ‘caught in the act’ before action can be taken... .

“Council is being asked by our law enforcement personnel, both police and Public Security, to give them the tools to help do a better job in keeping our parks safe.”

He stated that council felt very few citizens would use the parks during the proposed hours of curfew; and that, “in the interests of safety, felt committed to adopting a curfew regulation.”

# Keeping the cannon out of the line of fire

The absence of the two bronze cannon from Westmount Park raised a question at the May 28 council meeting.

When the 1811 cannon are removed for winter hibernation and repair, they are normally returned by this time.

“Where are the cannon?” local resident Gerald Glass asked, noting that the gun carriages remained in place.

Councillor George Bowser, the parks commissioner, confirmed that the cannon had indeed been removed for repair.

## Empty carriages

He suggested, however, that “they could be a target” while the park is experiencing so much graffiti and vandalism, and suggested it might be better to leave the carriages empty.

Crafted in England, the cannon have delighted children since being placed in Westmount Park in 1897.

Weighing two tons each,

one can scarcely imagine how students managed to remove one from the park to a Université de Montréal building one evening in 1989 as a carnival prank.

The cannon was safely brought back by the city soon after.



The cannon in Westmount Park, 1967

# One-hour parking adopted for streets near new Marianopolis site

A one-hour parking limit has been placed on eight streets near the site to which Marianopolis College has relocated on Westmount Avenue near Victoria.

The weekday parking restrictions, from 8 am to 6 pm, form part of a series of traffic changes being put in place before the start of the fall school season.

They will not apply to Westmount residents with parking stickers.

“We’re making these adjustments to discourage parking in the area by students and staff,” said Councillor Tom Thompson in moving the adoption of the changes.

The aim is to encourage the 1,900 student/staff population to use public transportation, he explained.

The council also agreed to make an official request to the Montreal transit commission to double the number of buses on the 124 and 138 lines between 7:30 am and 9 am.

As well, 30-km/h speed limits were established on Claremont north of Sher-



Councillor Tom Thompson

brooke, on Westmount Avenue (Claremont to Victoria) and Victoria (Westmount to Côte St. Antoine).

These and other traffic calming measures regarding access to and from the site were outlined to residents in a comprehensive booklet dated May 18.

Among them are the reconfiguration of the entry to the college, the installation of traffic lights, and parental drop-off and pick-up points.

A permanent joint Marianopolis/Villa Maria/City safety committee will also be established to study and implement other measures.

Streets affected by the one-hour parking are:

**Westmount Avenue** north side to the chute;

**Victoria**, west side from The Boulevard to Côte St. Antoine;

**Claremont**, east and west north of Chesterfield;

**Chesterfield**, north side throughout;

**Windsor**, north side, Victoria to Prince Albert, and south side from Prince Albert to city limits;

**Parkman Place**, north side;

**Willow**, both sides throughout; and

**Côte St. Antoine**, north side, Victoria to west city limits.

## Kensington Ave. impassable

Kensington Ave. between Sherbrooke and St. Catherine will remain closed to through traffic until the end of June as roadwork on the street continues.

Crews are planning to excavate the street below de Maisonneuve this week and to begin reconstructing the road's stone and reinforced concrete base. They are on schedule to lay down a new asphalt

surface by June 23.

The City has issued parking passes to residents denied access to their driveways.

Road reconstruction scheduled this summer and fall includes work on Aberdeen Ave. (north of The Boulevard), Chesterfield Ave., Carleton Ave., Olivier Ave. (between de Maisonneuve and Sherbrooke) and Belvedere Pl.

## What's Going On?

The following work permits for new construction, alterations and plumbing were approved by Westmount city council at its last meeting May 28.

**632 Clarke:** to create two new openings at the attic level at the front and side and add new dormers on the back;

**52 St. Sulpice:** alterations to building including restoration of original window openings and modification of some; replacement of some windows; to reconfigure sunroom;

**478 Grosvenor:** to build a deck and erect a fence in rear yard;

**655 Roslyn:** landscaping in the rear yard including a ground level patio, new

planting areas and a new fence;

**12 Rosemount:** landscaping in front and side yards including a new planting area, sidewalk and fence;

**671 Roslyn:** to replace windows;

**1 Grenville:** to replace solarium windows;

**638 Victoria:** to replace front door;

**4 Parkman Place:** to replace some windows and doors;

**586 Lansdowne:** to rebuild front balcony, and replace garage and basements doors;

**35 Côte St. Antoine:** to replace some windows;

**584 Lansdowne:** to build new deck in back yard.

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*Meet fire inspectors Philippe Therrien and Jean-François Fontaine who may be calling at your door this summer.*

## Summer fire inspections bring new buzz

Westmount's summer blitz of home fire inspections began in earnest two weeks ago with a number of changes aimed at raising safety levels.

This year, the two fire prevention students hired by the city for the task will work from 1 to 9 pm in the hopes of finding more residents at home than the earlier period of 9 am to 5 pm.

At those homes where there is still no answer, they will leave a check list for residents to conduct their own inspection.

As well, says Fire Prevention Chief Daniel de Vries, inspectors will replace the batteries in smoke detectors where needed.

This is the first time they are "armed" with batteries.

"Our aim is to make more homes conform to the bylaw," Chief de Vries explained.

This year, the inspectors will be calling on homes in the sector north of Sherbrooke Street that has not yet been covered

in the two-year inspection cycle.

Some homes in the western pocket between Grosvenor and Claremont south of Côte St. Antoine have already been visited by firefighters between calls.

Student inspectors have been hired by the city since the municipal demerger to supplement the in-service inspections by Montreal firefighters.

Last year, 1,800 doors were knocked on in the south sector between 9 am and 5 pm when, typically, entry was gained to only 40 percent of addresses.

At those 646 homes, 169 were found to have missing smoke detector batteries, which rendered the warning devices non-functional, Chief de Vries said.

The inspectors will also check the electrical panel, ensure that chimneys have been inspected and look for the presence of combustibles close to ignition sources.

They will also be checking construction permits if renovations are under way as well as dog licences.





Westmount vous informe...

# Westmount Page

www.westmount.org  
info : 514 989-5200



Vol. 1/2

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## DATEBOOK

### June 12 - 7 p.m.

Westmount Horticultural Society  
*A personal landscape: Glen Villa and its gardens*  
Speaker: Pat Webster  
Library

### June 14 & 28 - 7 p.m.

The Westmount Quilters Guild  
Victoria Hall

### June 18 - 8 p.m.

Council Meeting  
City Hall

## Words & Music

For the 7th consecutive year, Words & Music will be taking place at The Gallery at Victoria Hall on Thursday, June 14 at 7 p.m. This free event presented by the Friends of the Library celebrates the spoken word and song and includes performances by Ian Ferrier, Hélène Pedneault, *Deux filles et un piano* and *Les Blaireaux*. Come and enjoy our local talent!

## Cultural Lecture Series

### Elsie Meighen Reford and the Reford Gardens

Join author Hélène Jasmin on Wednesday, June 20 at 7 p.m. as she examines the life of Elsie Meighen Reford and the passion for gardening that ruled her life. Please register for this event at the circulation desk. (Event in French) Info: 514 989-5386



## PUBLIC WORKS

### Pesticides

Public Works would like to remind all residents that the application of pesticides is prohibited between June 15 and September 1, except in cases of infestation that present a threat to public health. Please note that even in cases of infestation, a valid permit is always required before using pesticides. Info: 514 989-5268.



## ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

### La galerie du Victoria Hall

La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter *Pays de rêves*, un projet artistique d'œuvres créées par les jeunes de Westmount. L'exposition se poursuit jusqu'au 12 juin. Info : 514 989-5226.

### Visite des jardins secrets - le 14 juin

La quatrième édition de cet événement populaire vous permettra de découvrir et d'explorer onze des plus beaux jardins cachés de notre communauté. Cette visite autoguidée des jardins secrets de Westmount comprend le déjeuner et les rafraîchissements. Le nombre de billets est très limité, et sont présentement en vente au Victoria Hall au coût de 35 \$ chacun. Le comité consultatif d'horticulture tient à remercier Simply Wonderful, Metro Fletcher, Les 5 saisons et bistrot Café Gourmet pour leur généreuse commandite. Info : 514 989-5265.



## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

### Conférences de 14 heures

#### Brave New Words avec Howard Richler

Depuis l'an 2000, le dictionnaire Oxford de langue anglaise ajoute de nombreux nouveaux mots à son répertoire et ce à une vitesse alarmante. Joignez-vous à Howard Richler le mercredi 13 juin à 14 h pour comprendre l'impact de ces « nouveaux mots ». Veuillez préalablement vous inscrire au comptoir de prêt. (En anglais) Info : 514 989-5386.

### Mots et musique

Pour une 7e année consécutive, l'événement Mots et musique, offert gracieusement par les Amis de la bibliothèque, aura lieu à la galerie du Victoria Hall le 14 juin à 19 h. Cette année, les artistes et groupes suivants seront en vedette : Ian Ferrier, Hélène Pedneault, Deux filles et un piano et Les Blaireaux. Venez apprécier nos talents locaux!

## Conférences culturelles

### Elsie Meighen Reford et les Jardins de Métis

Joignez-vous à l'auteure Hélène Jasmin le mercredi 20 juin à 19 h pour un captivant diaporama consacré à Elsie Reford et son inassouissable passion pour le jardinage. Veuillez préalablement vous inscrire au comptoir de prêt. Info : 514 989-5386.

## DATES À RETENIR

### Le 12 juin - 19 h

Société d'horticulture de Westmount  
*A personal landscape: Glen Villa and its gardens*  
Conférencière : Pat Webster  
Bibliothèque

### Les 14 et 28 juin - 19 h

Guilde de Westmount Quilters  
Victoria Hall

### Le 18 juin - 20 h

Séance du conseil  
Hôtel de ville



## HYDRO WESTMOUNT

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## TRAVAUX PUBLICS

### Pesticides

Veuillez noter que l'application de pesticides est interdite entre le 15 juin et le 1er septembre à l'exception de situations dangereuses pour la santé publique. En tout temps, l'émission d'un permis est nécessaire avant de procéder à une application de pesticides. Info : 514 989-5268.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Gallery at Victoria Hall

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present *Dreamscapes*, a Westmount community youth art project. The exhibition will run until June 12. Info: 514 989-5226

### Secret Garden Tour - June 14

The fourth edition of this popular event gives you the opportunity to discover and explore eleven of the most exceptional hidden gardens in our community. This self-guided tour of Westmount secret gardens includes lunch and refreshments. Tickets are extremely limited, and are now on sale at Victoria Hall for \$35 each. The Horticultural Advisory Committee would like to thank Simply Wonderful, Metro Fletcher, Les 5-saisons and Coffee Gourmet for their generous sponsorship. Info: 514 989-5265



## HYDRO WESTMOUNT

### Moving?

Please call us at 514 925-1414 at least 7 days prior to your move. That way you won't have to pay for electricity used in your old residence after you leave. Do you pay your account through the bank? Don't forget to advise them that your account number has been changed. This will avoid any unpleasant surprises. Pre-authorized payments? Take advantage of a new simple and convenient way to pay your bills. The amount owing is automatically deducted from your bank account on the due date. Info: 514 925-1414.



## LIBRARY

### 2 o'clock series

#### Brave New Words with Howard Richler

Since the year 2000, the Oxford English Dictionary has been adding new words to our language at a feverish pace from "aliyah" to "zombified". Join Howard Richler on Wednesday, June 13 at 2 p.m. to see how these additions are transforming the English language. Please register for this event at the circulation desk. Info: 514 989-5386

# Well-known officer retires, asks citizens to show compassion and respect

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Few people, perhaps, have been in such a pivotal position as retiring Public Safety Officer James Novak to observe the demographic and social changes that have taken place in Westmount.

As Community Relations Officer for the past 10 years of his 26-year career here, he has experienced firsthand the aging of the community, a change of attitudes and the evolution of a more transient population.

He attributes the stress under which so many now live and work, and the general lack of respect for people and property to a reflection of society in general.

"I think it's very important that citizens at large try to be more sensitive to their neighbours," he said in a parting interview.

"Be a little more compassionate. Put yourself in the position of your neighbour."

## Best place to live in Canada

Nevertheless, he adds, "There's no doubt, Westmount is probably still the best place to live in Canada. People are very nice here, which has made it easier to stay so long."

Councillor Tom Thompson thanked PSO Novak during the May 28 council meeting for his contribution to the community. "We're very appreciative of his efforts."

Among the many highlights of PSO Novak's work have been addressing neighbourhood groups on safety and visiting schools.

He also coordinated and planned such programs as the Halloween decorating competition, the holiday food collection, and the Junior PSO program (cancelled this year).

It was probably fitting that his last day on the job happened to be May 26, Family Day in Westmount Park.

It has been part of PSO Novak's work to deal on the front line with people upset over receiving statements of office for violating municipal by-laws, for helping them with a variety of needs and for trying to initiate more community programs with fewer and fewer resources at his disposal.

## Life since the merger

Since the merger with Montreal five years ago, and the subsequent demerger, Westmount has been run more like a business, he says. Out of necessity, "there's been a tremendous change since 2002



*James Novak at Family Day, 2007, his last day on the job.*

when so much now has to be dictated by the bottom line."

His role has evolved from the original job description of promoting community safety to a more administrative one and "a bit of an ombudsman."

Latterly, since Westmount lost its own municipal court in the island-wide merger, PSO Novak has acted in a liaison role between the city and municipal court in Montreal.

He has also assumed responsibility for maintaining the Public Security Unit's statistics and managing the city's lost and found department, formerly handled by police.

PSO Novak, a longtime Montreal West resident, spent 10 years in the hotel business before joining the PSU in 1981.

He spent 15 years on patrol in Westmount and has always enjoyed being "out on the street" with citizens. He welcomed the opportunity to become Community Relations Officer, able to do more PR and deal more directly with people than working the various shifts.

His wife, Annette, is coordinator in oncology at the Jewish General Hospital. Their son, Jason, a law student, is currently working at Victoria Hall for the summer. Cory attended Dawson College.

"I've enjoyed my years tremendously," he says. "It's been particularly interesting and challenging given the changes in demographics and focus of the city."

Now, he's refocusing his own life. And while retired, he doesn't plan to stop working at age 53, he says.

## Summit chimney fire raises inspection alert

A chimney fire at 46 Summit Circle is a reminder to all Westmount residents of the need to have chimneys inspected at least once a year, fire officials said recently.

The fire was caused by a build up of creosote in the chimney that almost completely blocked the flue, causing oil to leak on the furnace room floor and soot to back up in the home.

Damage was estimated at some \$15,000.

Firefighters found black smoke billowing from the chimney when responding to the call May 5 shortly after 7:15 pm, said Fire Prevention Chief Daniel de Vries. They were able to unblock the chimney from the roof using a ball and chain.

Under the National Fire Code of Canada adopted by Westmount as its part of its fire prevention bylaw, chimneys must be cleaned when needed but inspected at least every 12 months, he said. This applies to all furnaces, wood, oil or gas.

Now is a good time to check the chimney before the start of the heating season in the fall, he said.

"Even if the chimney is clean, it could be blocked by a bird or squirrel nest that could cause carbon monoxide to back up into the home."

Names of certified chimney cleaners and inspectors may be obtained from the Association des professionnels de chauffage à combustible solide at 514.270.4944.

## Fashion for funds



*Models from the Sisterhood Shaar Hashomayim and guests have a good time at the 2nd annual Pirouette fashion show that raised funds for youth and education programs on May 29.*



## Westmount Profile: Marie Aminata Khan

# Furthering global biodiversity

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

When a broken water main on Grosvenor left Marie Aminata Khan without water service one winter day this year, she was completely unfazed.

“My neighbours were so amazed that I was going outside to collect snow and boiling it to wash in,” she recalls with a smile.

“But this is reality in Africa, where you try to keep a couple of buckets of water in reserve.”

And for this resourceful mother of two, who has lived and worked in many lands, it was Marie’s turn to be surprised when Westmount began distributing bottled drinking water to the anxious residents.

After 15 years in various UN positions, Marie is now settling into life in Westmount and her newest posting with the United Nations as Information Officer for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, located in Montreal.

“For me, Montreal is just an ideal choice,” she says. “Its lifestyle is midway between European and North American.”

“I love my home here and feel very safe. The people are extremely nice and my family is adapting well.”

### *Citizen of the world*

And Marie can truly be called a citizen of world – a lifestyle she has inherited.

As the daughter of parents working for the UN, she spent her first 20 years travelling between New York and England, Sierra Leone, Cameroon and Niger.

So where does she call home?

“That’s a problem,” she says. “But everywhere I go, I make it home because I have no clue where I’m going next or where I will end up.”

Marie is proud of her second name Aminata. “It comes from the name of Mohammed’s mother, which is Amna,” she explains. “Aminata is also my grandmother’s name.”

Born in Manchester, England, Marie lived there for seven months until she moved to Sierra Leone, where she was raised by her grandparents until age 7 when her parents settled in New York City.

Her father was working with the UN. Her mother was then an information officer with the African Union.

Marie attended boarding school on the Isle of Wight in England.

“It taught me responsibility and independence,” she recalls. “I learned to count

on me, myself and I. When I reached university, I was well able to handle my own finances.

“In my turn, I’m trying to instill this part of my growing up in my own sons.” They are Frederick and Charles, both attending St. George’s School.

Marie also swam and played on school field hockey and netball teams, “always just for fun.” She also excelled at tennis, which she still plays. “Nowadays,” she muses, “the fun seems to have gone out of competitive sport.”

After age 12, Marie spent a year in school in Sierra Leone, before completing high school at the International School in New York City.

A people person and humanitarian, Marie always wanted to be a doctor. “But that changed when I got to university,” she says.

And a year at Plattsburgh University turned out to be a cultural shock. “For the first time, I was coming out a multi-cultural environment into a totally American one.”

So, when Marie’s father was transferred to Cameroon, she accompanied him, studying linguistics, and obtaining a BA in translation in 1985.

Immediately after, she went to Senegal to do her masters studies in English literature at the University of Dakar. “The student strikes were so disruptive that I returned to New York.”

### *The Nouvelle Frontière and the UN*

There, she began working for a French charter tour organization called Nouvelle Frontière.

Interestingly, it was that experience as a tour guide that led her to apply at the UN in 1989.

“I had always said I wouldn’t join the UN because my father was there,” she says. “So I applied using a different family name. Actually, it was very funny. The recruiter – who happened to know my mother from the African Union before she joined the UN – recognized the resemblance.”

(Marie’s mother joined the UN to work as a civilian peacekeeper in Somalia. In the midst of the 1990s conflict, she was the director of one of the zones under fire.)

Marie was subsequently hired at the



Marie Aminata Khan at home

UN where she guided hundreds of people through the headquarters.

She resigned in 1994 when her husband, also with the UN, was transferred to Niger in the Development Program.

For the next three years, she freelanced for Etruscan, a Canadian mining company, doing translation and data entry, and later worked as a librarian for the American School of Niamey, capital of Niger.

### *Back to the UN*

Returning to NYC in 1997, Marie re-joined the UN, “starting again at the bottom!”

This time she worked in the Water Division of the Sustainable Energy & Environmental Division, progressing through several positions to become the program assistant to countries in development.

Increasingly, Marie became involved in different areas of the program’s work, latterly as Knowledge Facilitator for Knowledge Management & Information Outreach for the Small Grants Program of the Global Environment Facility.

She arrived in Canada last October on her current posting, moving to Westmount at the suggestion of a relocation consultant.

“For me, the most important thing was finding schools for the boys within walking distance – and, living close to public transit.”

Marie lives the role she works. Car-free, she enjoys being close to the YMCA where she swims and jazz dances.

Also, she adds, she’s not far from New York where she visits her brother, a personal fitness trainer to VIPs, and to Washington, where her sister works with US government’s Millennium Program.

### *Work and home*

Marie tries not to bring work home from office, she says.

Among her responsibilities as Information Officer are preparing press releases as well as statements for the agency’s Executive Secretary.

Recently, she has been involved in the UN’s International Day for Biological Diversity, May 22, celebrated in Montreal at the Botanical Garden.

While members of her team participated locally, Marie was at UN headquarters in New York for the occasion.

“Now, with all the scientific studies,” she says, “the evidence is that the changes in climate are affecting life on Earth – tough on plants and humans.”

And for Marie, her work is perhaps a reflection of her own upbringing that included an instinctive desire to care for the world environment and biodiversity.

“I think if you just live in one society, you tend to take things for granted,” she says.

“But when you see firsthand the conditions many people live in, you have to thank God every day and say, ‘I really don’t have anything to complain about’.”

# Summit Park birds threatened by dogs

By ROBERT J. GALBRAITH

Certain species of ground-dwelling birds are being seen less frequently gracing the forest floors of Summit Park, according to local bird watchers and biologists. Some people are pointing a finger at



Kyra Emo

unconcerned dog owners who continue to break municipal law by letting their dogs off the leash at the 57-acre park during the migration period.

According to Westmount law, dogs are to be leashed at all times from April 15 to June 15. This is the peak period of migration, when

dozens of unique species of birds visit the park during their flight to their breeding grounds in central and northern Quebec. The ground-dwellers include reclusive species such as Fox and White-Throated Sparrows, Hermit and Wood Thrush, the

Oven Bird and the Junco.

The leash law is primarily aimed at protecting ground-dwelling birds. And though very few ground-dwelling birds actually nest in the sanctuary, this green 'truck stop' for birds is a vital link in their voyage to reproduce.

"The sanctuary is of major importance to migratory birds," says bird watcher Christine Murphy, who for the past 18 years has been the director of the conservation group Bird Protection Quebec (BPQ).

"Dogs will definitely have a negative effect on ground-dwelling birds if they are off the leash and wander away from the pathways. The birds will be harassed and won't be able to feed and rest from their migration. People can be a disturbance as

well, but you have to strike a compromise as so many people use the park, some to bird watch, some to walk their dogs and some for both. But dog walkers should stick to keeping their dogs on the leash, definitely."

### Habits vary

Murphy, who has been bird watching at Summit Park for twenty years, takes part in the BPQ bird walks on the sanctuary every Tuesday morning during the migration. She says that in the morning, when there are a lot of birdwatchers, people tend to keep their dogs on the leash. "But later in the afternoon, when there are less birdwatchers present, some people flout the regulations. They let the dogs off the leash."

In fact, in a recent survey of the late afternoon, over a two week period, upwards of 50 percent of dogs roamed the park unleashed.

James Novak, Westmount Public Security community relations officer, says, "We are doing the best we can under the circumstances, but we can't stay up there all the time."

He said that the only real way to stop continued abuses at the park would be by "installing an attendee during the migration period... Maybe we could have volunteers from the public alerting us. We really need public help.

"Perhaps installing a phone at the park so the public could alert us would be a partial solution. And if we are near the park we could react quicker."

## Westmount makes it to Facebook

Former Westmounter and current New Yorker, Stephen Lunny recently created a group on the popular networking website Facebook ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)) called "YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM WESTMOUNT WHEN".

It already has 90 members. (To check out what Stephen's been up to, go to [www.dreamwick.ca](http://www.dreamwick.ca).) Attached to the Facebook group is the following list.

### You know you're from Westmount when... (Part 1 of 2)

...you got your first skateboard from Footloose.

... "sticking it to the man" meant going to Dawson instead of Marianopolis.

...you rented your videos from Westmount Video.

...your first piece of ID was your laminated Westmount pass.

...you've never seen the Westmount flower clock working.

...you still have trouble finding the Westmount lookout.

...you used to get your haircut at Jean John....

...you've been startled on Greene Ave. by 60-year-old women with 30-year-old faces.

...you remember the Westmount Park climbing tree when it was vertical.

...you used to live at Calories.

... you have fond memories of sledding at Murray Hill Park.

...you remember getting candy at Heaven's on Greene Ave., then going upstairs for tea with your mom at Heaven's Above, and having ice cream with Selwyn House boys at Macdoherty's on Sherbrooke St. All that and you still love Oink Oink on Greene.

... you have lunch at Chez Nick's after having your hair done at Salon Olivier and buying a pair of shoes at Tony's.

...you went to daycamp at the Westmount Y at some point in your life.

...you've jumped off the high-dive board at the Westmount pool.

...as a child you were perturbed by the seemingly random filled/empty status of the ponds and lakes in Westmount Park.

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## Bought & Sold: Real estate since May 1

Amount	Evaluation	Address	Buyer(s)	Seller(s)	Date of sale
\$6,650,000	\$4,900,000	370-382 Victoria	6758762 Canada Inc.	Canpro Investments Ltd.	May 15
\$1,555,000	\$935,000	669 Belmont	Gerry Stefanatos & Shelly Kohut	Margarita Xistris & Christopher Gardiner	May 15
\$1,165,000	\$1,076,000	68 Belmont Crescent	Saroli Palumbo Family Trust	Alberto Mare-Scotti	May 9
\$1,100,000	\$895,300	419 Landsdowne	Bradford Ryan	Margot Wayman & J.-M. Ravon	May 18
\$825,000	\$900,000	725 Upper Belmont	Barry Nashen	Caroline Gauthier	May 7
\$815,000	\$725,400	507 Claremont	Nadia Nabavi	Maison Majestueuse Inc.	May 15
\$789,500	\$714,700	448 Landsdowne	Richard Bond & Catherine McDougall	Ramesh Mirchandani & Catherine Graber	May 9
\$745,000	\$550,400	1 St. George's Place	Eric Sibli	Mark Elkin & Erin Hurley	May 15
\$687,000	\$612,000	55 Windsor	Christopher Devito & Josy Forget	Sian Rowley	May 29
\$419,000	\$350,200	331 Grosvenor	Milan Jelaca & Rebecca Grant	Roland Jonasch & Ivana Gavrilovic	May 25
\$331,000	\$347,900	414 Grosvenor	Raymonde Chalhoub & Charles Ghoche	Mathilde Flament & Samuel Duprieu	May 15



## McEntyre winners

This year the annual writing competition that is open to all students from grades one to eleven who live or go to school in Westmount, received a record breaking 1,286 entries. Students wrote up to a maximum of 2,000 words on the topic of dreams, but had to weave the concept of community into their story or poem. Each winner received a certificate and a grade appropriate book was donated on their behalf to the Westmount Public Library.

### Grade 1

- |   |               |           |
|---|---------------|-----------|
| 1 | Julia Johnson | The Study |
| 2 | Grace Hogg    | Roslyn    |

### Grade 2

- |   |                  |              |
|---|------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Ryan Khanna      | Selwyn House |
| 2 | Matthew Behr     | Selwyn House |
| 3 | William Bouchard | Selwyn House |

### Grade 3

- |    |                    |            |
|----|--------------------|------------|
| 1  | Francesca Scardera | The Study  |
| 2  | Harriet Cowell     | Saint-Léon |
| 3  | Ann O'Brien        | Roslyn     |
| HM | Charlotte Scott    | Roslyn     |

### Grade 4

- |    |                    |            |
|----|--------------------|------------|
| 1  | Caitlin Heiligmann | Roslyn     |
| 2  | Alex Zaccour       | Saint-Léon |
| 3  | Emilie Hess        | ECS        |
| HM | Melissa Anber      | ECS        |

### Grade 5

- |    |                  |              |
|----|------------------|--------------|
| 1  | Alissar Karam    | The Study    |
| 2  | Tannya Cai       | ECS          |
| 3  | Ulysses Pamel    | Selwyn House |
| HM | George Loutochin | Selwyn House |

### Grade 6

- |    |                   |              |
|----|-------------------|--------------|
| 1  | Qing Yin Wang     | Roslyn       |
| 2  | Sterling Mitchell | Selwyn House |
| 3  | Samantha Backman  | The Study    |
| HM | Rebecca Dadouche  | Akiva School |

### Grade 7

- |   |                 |              |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Alexandr Magder | Selwyn House |
| 2 | Brandon DiPerno | Selwyn House |
| 3 | Jake Levy       | Selwyn House |

### Grade 8

- |    |                           |              |
|----|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1  | Malcolm Pinnell           | Selwyn House |
| 2  | Kirsten Crandall          | The Study    |
| 3  | Asli Buyukkurt            | The Study    |
| HM | Susanna Beaudin           | ECS          |
| HM | Marcos Ardila-Archambault | Selwyn House |

### Grade 9

- |    |               |                |
|----|---------------|----------------|
| 1  | Anna Cybulsky | The Study      |
| 2  | Kelly Donovan | The Study      |
| 3  | Helene Bauer  | Westmount High |
| HM | Amanda Ip     | The Study      |

### Grade 10

- |    |                     |                |
|----|---------------------|----------------|
| 1  | Kelly Sheehan-Heath | Westmount High |
| 2  | Danielle Hum        | The Study      |
| 3  | Julia Deutsch       | The Study      |
| HM | Jerome Ramcharitar  | Westmount High |

### Grade 11

- |    |                              |                |
|----|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1  | Patricia Bright              | The Study      |
| 2  | Patricia Dempsey             | Westmount High |
| 3  | Ashley Stanford-Toohen       | The Study      |
| HM | Melissa Angélica Berman Ross | Westmount High |

## Westmount Spring Soirée Celebrates Westmount

BY MARILYNN VANDERSTAAY

The fifth annual Westmount Spring Soirée, formerly the Spring Ball, was held May 24 with the sold-out participation of 180 guests.

While the who's who of Westmount were there, many dressed in black tie and long gowns, the event was not about who was there but about the event itself. In her brief welcome, Mayor **Karin Marks** called the soirée a celebration of living in Westmount. That celebration comprised both residents and former residents, and included the twenty-somethings and great-grandparents.

This year the featured artist was accomplished Westmount painter Roxanne Dyer whose red and blue theme of her floral paintings inspired the colour theme for the soiree and the invitation.

The Spring Soirée committee of seven chaired by **Rosalind Davis** and a team of volunteers created a unique dining experience. The fun was enhanced by serenading at the tables by members of the **Joseph Segreti Band** – until 10 pm when the band

### Tickets for Secret Garden Tour

Ever wonder what lies behind that back gate?

Well, June 14 is the time to find out. That's when Westmount's daylong Secret Garden Tour takes place.

"It's an opportunity to visit gardens that are otherwise inaccessible," said city horticulturist Claudette Savaria.

Eleven gardens have been selected on this year's tour for which 125 tickets have been made available on a first come, first served basis at Victoria Hall.

These are spaced throughout Westmount and chosen for particular characteristics such as: a rock garden, a vertical garden, a mix of sun and shade, an eclectic mix of colour, plants and sculpture, a narrow garden, a romantic retreat and a terraced garden. There is also an example of one divided into separate garden rooms as an extension of the house.

A cost of \$35 per ticket includes the list of gardens, a boxed lunch from Simply Wonderful and access throughout the day to refreshments at La Galerie in Victoria Hall.

Coffee will be provided by Café Gourmet, bottled water by the Metro Fletcher store and juice by Les 5 Saisons.

The event is a fundraiser for restoring the greenhouse totem pole, whose fund now stands at \$2,000, about half the estimated budget.



Westmounters Stan Grossman, Kathryn Stephenson, former mayor Peter Trent and Anne Dixon-Grossman enjoying the preamble cocktail hour of the Spring Soiree in The Gallery at Victoria Hall.

stopped playing, the lights were dimmed, the recorded music was cranked up and Victoria Hall started to rock as young and old took to the dance floor.

"The soirée was an excuse to have a

party and have a good time in a beautiful hall in our own city," said Davis. "The evening was a great success. When the music stopped the guests were loathe to leave and the party continued on."

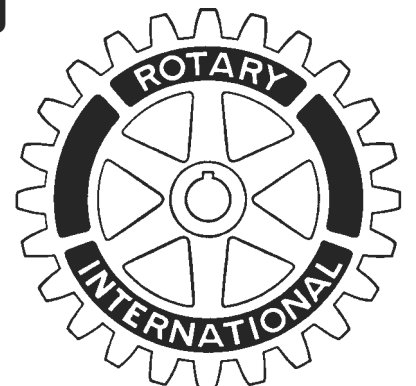
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### The Rotary Club of Westmount



# THE WESTMOUNTERS

BY MARILYNN VANDERSTAAY



## Celebrate 150 at Manoir Westmount

Residents at The Manoir participated in Celebrate 150, a national consultation project to prepare for Canada's 150th anniversary in 2017. MP **Mauril Bélanger**, visited the residence to hear their memories, vision, ideas and suggestions. Canadians can participate in the project by going to [www.celebrater150.ca](http://www.celebrater150.ca). All submissions will be summarized and collated in a report that will be made public on July 1.

## Art at Home

Local artists, including Westmounters, hosted an *Art at Home* weekend exhibition recently. Guests viewed the art and met the artists: water colourist **Jennifer Blachford**, photographer **Kate Fellerath**, art glass specialist **Cathy Strokowsky**, quilter **Ilyse Segal** and oil painter **Flora-Lee Wagner**.

## Climate Project messenger at the Atwater Library

Former Westmounter **Désirée McGraw**, is one of twenty of Al Gore's *Climate Project* messengers. She gave her first presentation of an adaptation of Gore's Academy award-winning documentary *An Inconvenient Truth* at the Atwater Library in conjunction with the Peter McGill Community Council recently.

## Richard Lord presented with Community Services Award in Toronto

Westmount's own **Richard Lord** and former Citizen of Westmount awardee was the recipient of the Community Services Award at the 25th annual Black Busi-

ness and Professional Association's Harry Jerome Awards held at Centennial College in Toronto last month. Lord, who is part of the landscape in Westmount, is well known for both his professional and volunteer work. At 76, he is presently on the boards of the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club, the Royal Commonwealth Society, The Atwater Library, the St. Leonard Society and is president emeritus of the Westmount High Old Boys' Association. He was most recently made the vice president of the Montreal Press Club.

## Lily Lam's quilt takes grand prize at Grand National Quilt Show

Westmount Quilters Guild president Lily Lam's storyteller cape *Cloak of Imagining* she stitched for the Westmount Public Library took grand prize at the Grand National Quilt Show *Fantasy* at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery last month. The quilt will be exhibited until July 1. For more information go to [www.kwag.on.ca](http://www.kwag.on.ca).

## Westmount Quilters Guild aligns with Sports and Recreation

The Westmount Quilters Guild tightened its relationship with the Westmount Sports and Recreation Department recently. The guild will meet every Thursday evening throughout the year except July and August at Victoria Hall. While continuing to be autonomous, the program that includes show and tell, ongoing group projects, and special workshops will now be included in the sports and recreation guide book.

## Other news from the Guild

The guild displayed its balloon quilt *Up, Up and Away*, at Family Day. Created as a group project, it will be donated to the Lighthouse, a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide support to parents with children suffering from degenerative terminal illnesses and whose condition requires complex medical care.

## Science is Everywhere launch

Hosted by Montreal Children's Library in collaboration with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the Pepsi Forum, the *Science is Everywhere* program for 5- to 12-year-olds will be launched Saturday, June 9 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Pepsi Forum. The day will consist of displays and hands-on activities. For more information call 514.931.2304.

## Solo show at Avenue Art gallery

Avenue Art gallery owner **Marina Cut-**

ler and artist **Anthony Hobbs** celebrated the opening of Studio 10 King, located at 10 King Street, last month with a vernissage of *Horizons*, Hobbs' most recent landscape series. The gallery's first solo exhibition at its new location continues until June 16. For more information phone 514.867.3745.

## Water colour classes' art vernissages

Participants of watercolour classes at sister senior residences Westmount One and Place Kensington hosted vernissages of paintings they created under the tutelage of Westmount artist **Marcia Roszier**. Over 30 paintings were exhibited at Westmount One with proceeds of sales donated to the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation. Once again this year the proceeds from the annual exhibition and sale at Place Kensington went to the Montreal Association for the Blind.

## Longing for a new home



This friendly 8-year-old ginger cat is a longtime Westmounter whose owner, sadly, is no longer able to look after him. He was taken to the Westmount Animal Hospital, 349 Victoria Ave., where he is up for adoption. "He's just longing to get out of a cage," says attendant **Krystyna Bruce**, also a lifelong Westmounter.

## ON THE SHELVES

The Westmount Public Library staff singled out these books this week:

### Magazines

"My chosen landscape" by Canadian poet P.K. Page in *Poetry* magazine, May 2007, p. 100. *Poetry* magazine has been publishing poems since 1912.

"Surviving your new CEO" in *Harvard Business Review*, May 2007, p. 62.

### Fiction:

*Up from Orchard Street* by Eleanor Widmer. An immigrant family story in New York's legendary Lower East Side.

*Essence (Les extravagantes enquêtes d'Otto et Watson)* by Grzegorz Janusz, a humorous detective story, winner at the first *Concours européen de la bande dessinée* 2003.

### Non-fiction

Exhibit catalogue for the *Bodyworld 2* show now at the Montreal Science Centre. *Le guide complet du véhicule récréatif*

### Children's

*Thelonius Monster's Sky-High Fly Pie: a Revolting Rhyme* by Judy Sierra with delicious drawings by Edward Koren.

*Cendrillon d'après Charles Perrault* retold by Anique Poitras and illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard.

### Books on CD

*Rabbit Ears – Treasury of World Tales* A collection of mystical stories read by popular actors and featuring original music by some of today's greatest artists.

*Clémence presque intégrale* by Clémence Derochers A compilation of monologues by this popular Quebec actress and Félix award winner.

### Reference

*Consumer Reports: Best Baby Products*, 9th edition.

*Annuaire des subventions au Québec : Subventions, Prêts, Bourses, Financement.*



The Montreal police show off their park vehicle at Family Day, 2007.



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## Trend Watch

## Salads and dresses

ANNIKA MELANSON



Have you ever been to a dinner party wearing a \$600 dress only to be greeted by that very same dress worn by another guest? This is the inspiration behind M2, the new boutique that opened at the beginning of May on Victoria Ave. Formerly Candlewax Studio, which has since moved, the new dress shop features only two or three frocks in each style. Marcus Mosgrove is the owner of the new boutique and does all of his buying in Italy and China, where the dresses are designed.

Marcus chooses silk and cotton (or a blend) and an array of styles from sundresses to cocktail dresses. I have my eye on a gorgeous peach silk tunic... Prices range from \$225 to \$375. Dress registries will be offered to M2's clients, keeping a record of which dress they have selected for a specific event. This way, other clients can be warned a possible "dress dupe". M2, 346A Victoria Ave., 514.510.9778.



M2 dresses – ready for clients.

## Going Green

I recently discovered a hidden treasure nestled at the back of Mimi & Coco Boutique: Greens & Co salad bar. My reaction after tasting my first bite: "Why don't I know about this place?" Judging by the long line of women, it's obvious that many neighborhood regulars have heard about this hot lunch spot.

Greens & Co. is a New York-inspired lifestyle salad bar that opened in June 2004. The concept is to create your own salad with the freshest ingredients and homemade dressings. Mandy, who runs the show, prepares all of the salad dressings and cooks any ingredients that are needed the night before at her home. Nightly, she cooks up to 40 chicken breasts. When the demand is higher, she uses her barbeque.

## From sandwiches to salads

Originally opened as Coco Café where sandwiches and prepared salads were served, Mandy quickly realized that her clientele is a very health and body-conscious group. All of the salads come in 32 oz. containers, which you can take with you for a bite-on-the-go or enjoy on the spot. For those in a rush, you have the option of calling Mandy, pre-ordering your salad and having it delivered right to your car. Mandy also keeps a Rolodex with all of her regular customers' names and their favourite salad.

Ingredients include organic greens, nuts, hearts of palm, avocado, mango, crunchy noodles, brown rice crisps, goat cheese, feta, mozzarella, tofu, tuna and chicken. The dressings include Asian sesame, cilantro (my favourite), zesty Caesar, Japanese, honey mustard and balsamic.

Salads range from \$7 to \$13. Pricey, but well worth it in my view. By the way, Greens & Co. gives a 10% discount to anyone holding the Mummy card ([www.mummies-list.com](http://www.mummies-list.com)). Coming soon: a garden terrasse with free wi-fi. Stay tuned. Greens & Co., 4927 Sherbrooke St. West (at the back of Mimi & Coco boutique), 514.227.1640.

What's Cooking in Westmount?  
Dandelions

BY ANTHEA DAWSON

Westmount's Healthy City Project is working hard to promote dandelions. They were once regarded as pesky weeds, but dandelion flowers and greens are now popping up on gourmet menus all over the place. This new trend may sound odd, but there are a lot of interesting dishes that can be made with dandelions, and early summer is the best time to do it.

The dandelion is the most persistent of weeds, can grow under the most adverse conditions and is very hard to exterminate. There are no poisonous look-alikes so they are a good plant to experiment with it in cooking. (With all the fertilizers and pesticides out there, pay attention to which lawn you pick them from.) The long, deeply toothed green leaves, which gave the dandelion its name ("dent-de-lion" means "lion's tooth" in French), has long been regarded as a versatile bitter green that can turn up in salads or sautéed like spinach.

They are at their very best when they have just emerged from the ground, before their flowers have appeared. When you are picking your leaves, choose the

youngest looking plants that you can find as they are the least bitter. As the summer goes on, the bitterness becomes stronger. Some people really enjoy the complex flavour, but if it is not your thing, you can always boil away the bitterness in two changes of water. Unfortunately, that also boils away the vitamins. In fact, the leaves are more nutritious than any green you can buy in the grocery store – they are rich with beta-carotene, iron and calcium and packed with vitamins.

Not only are the greens packed with flavour but the flower as well – and like the leaves, mid-spring is the best time to try them out. You only want to use the yellow part of the flower as the green sepals at its base are very strong and bitter. They will add the most beautiful colours to your salads and also a very different bittersweet flavour. They can also be steamed or stir-fried with other veggies, and some people even go so far as to pickle their dandelion flowers.

This is the best time of year to experiment with them, so give dandelions a shot. We might as well put them to good use!

## Adventures next door:

Movie Review *Once*

★★★★☆

BY MATTHEW BRETT

Like Vincent Gallo's controversial Cannes winner *The Brown Bunny*, Sundance World Cinema Award winner *Once* is a fairly static film carried more by the emotive weight of its music than the film itself. But unlike Gallo's film, which uses John Frusciante's longing guitar to complement the scenes, *Once* makes music its subject matter and has been described as a musical for the modern age.

17-year-old pianist Markéta Irglová plays an unnamed Czech immigrant who sells flowers on the streets of Dublin and lives with her mother and daughter in a drab apartment. She introduces, some would say imposes, herself upon an unnamed street-busker strumming wistful tunes on a withered guitar (played by The Frames' guitarist, Glen Hansard) who helps his father at a vacuum cleaner repair shop. The two quickly end up producing songs together, and the film traces their recording process and their brief flirtatious relationship.

A love of music is found within this film. For example, when Hansard and Ir-

glová play their first duo, the whole audience is part of the session. The handheld, granular quality of *Once* make it a surprisingly honest film. And by making it feel like a home video, viewers are invited into life's most private moments with a sincerity that verges on voyeurism.

The same can be said for the music. It's not the dialogue or the acting that reveals the characters' emotive states so much as their songs. The songs themselves are slightly too wistful and full of regret, and there is little variation in tone. In fact, it was so weepy and irritating that my girlfriend left the film with a headache.

Most of the film's dry spells are brought on by this wistful stupor, but there are enough comedic moments and clever quips to lift the viewers through the dull parts.

The characters' naïveté, the stunning coastlines and Dublin's Irish charm will please adults, while the film's quirky bohemianism will have young adults in innocent rapture. There is a bit of swearing, but buy your teenager a pair of tickets – this is one for the lovers, even if one of them does get a headache.



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