

Many fail to heed evacuation orders at Alexis Nihon Fire ignites highrise concerns

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A recent highrise fire that caused an estimated \$100,000 in damage to one apartment has fanned flames of concern by fire officials and at least one tenant.

Many residents did not evacuate the upper levels of the 33-storey Plaza Tower apartments as directed during the supper-time fire July 17, said Fire Prevention Chief Daniel de Vries.

"The evacuation did not go well because people always think it's a false alarm," he explained.

Kitchen gutted

The fire gutted a kitchen on the 17th floor after a stove burner was reportedly turned on under a coffeemaker while the tenant went down to the IGA.

No injuries were reported, he said, but the incident became a good lesson in

never leaving a stove on unattended and in heeding advice to evacuate.

Failure to follow evacuation procedures also happens at other large buildings, he explained.

And longtime Plaza Tower resident John Johnson said he believed such complacency is compounded at his building by a number of short-term tenants – "tourists" – "who don't know the procedures."

Welcome to the "Hotel Alexis Nihon"?

And the latest incident, he said, simply fuels the complaints he has voiced over many years to city council alleging the building operates some units as a hotel.

(Plaza Tower is, in fact, listed in the Yellow Pages in English and French under "hotels", stating in a display ad that unfurnished apartments are "also" available).

Johnson, who lives on the 14th floor, said *continued on page 2*

John Garland moves from Westmount



John Garland, known by hundreds of Westmounters who passed through the recreation programs that he ran or coached for 34 years, stands in front of the York Apartments shortly before his forced move through condo conversion to Pointe Claire August 1. It was his home for 42 years. Johnny's story is this week's profile, Page 13.



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Dispatcher Claudette Gauthier signs off

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

She was on duty for the memorable Alexis Nihon fire in 1986 and for seven days during Ice Storm in 1998.

And now after 22 years on the job, Claudette Gauthier is retiring as senior dispatcher for Westmount's protective services, at the hub of radio and phone communications for Public Security, and the fire department before its move into Montreal's island-wide service.

"We're the nerve centre," she says, juggling calls on her last day, Friday the 13th (of July).

Even as she speaks, she's interrupted by a call from a citizen requesting special attention at his property while out-of-town. At the same time, there's information coming in from a parking inspector on the road, and a patrol car to dispatch. They all require times and other information to be recorded.


Calls never stop

If ever there was a multi-tasking job, this is probably it.

"It's our job to be the eyes and ears of the community," she explains. "We even moni- *continued on page 2*

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Parks master plan to be developed

City council has taken the first steps in launching a master plan for the parks and green spaces in Westmount.

At a special meeting July 11, a selection committee was set up to assess bids for professional services related to developing the master plan.

Those named to the committee were public works director Jacques Lahaie, city horticulturist Claudette Savaria, urban planning director Joanne Poirier and director general Bruce St. Louis.

The committee is part of a system being created to establish rules to evaluate bids, explained Councillor George Bowser.

Asked after the meeting if the master plan happened to be related to citizen requests for a survey of parks and playing fields in connection with the renewal of the soccer fields in Westmount Park, Councillor Bowser said the master plan had already been planned for some time and was not related.



Claudette Gauthier on her last day of duty.

unit.

While the communications centre is staffed 24 hours a day by three dispatchers on 8-hour shifts, Claudette has often been called back from her home in St. Philippe de Laprairie during major emergencies when lines were swamped with calls.

"Sometimes in a snowstorm at night,

I would be the one to open up my road," she says.

"But the most worrisome thing for me was the Ice Storm when I was 'locked-in' here for seven days while my family was in the hardest hit area."

But, she adds, "I've always been proud to work in Westmount. And I leave with a sense of accomplishment."

Digging for gas?



A number of road reconstruction projects are in full swing and gas leaks caused by excavation are not far behind. Among the incidents reported are this July 16 gas leak on Chesterfield Ave., and one July 23 outside 668 Belmont Ave. Firefighters typically evacuate homes until gas crews cap the leak. Residents may return to discover their gas pilot lights need relighting.

Photo by: Robert J. Galbraith

A special thanks

To everyone for making going to work a pleasure over the past 49 years at BMO Claremont/Grosvenor branch. I have met so many nice people and for that I consider myself a very lucky lady. Thanks for all your cards and, most of all, thanks for the memories.

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At Second Glance: Operation Afghanistan: A PR battle?

By Heather Black

With mounting casualties in Afghanistan, many are questioning Canada’s combat role. But isn’t creating dissent a Taliban goal? And don’t international missions require a more aggressive stance? Look at Bosnia or Rwanda!

To get a clearer view, I spoke to Captain Gabriel Granatstein at the Westmount Armory and surveyed the major media outlets for information. The armory is home to the Royal Montreal Regiment and the 712 Communications Squadron, five soldiers from which have served in Afghanistan.

Peace-Support Operations

At the request of the Afghan government, Canada has three “peace-support operations”. These include an advisory team to President Karzai; instructors to the Afghan National Army; and 2,500 troops for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

ISAF’s goal is to secure areas so that aid distribution and rebuilding can take place. In many areas, schools have reopened and democracy has returned.

But in Kandahar province where our troops are located, it’s a different situation. In a televised interview, aid worker Edward McCormick described starving children in refugee camps and called for more troops to secure the area.

But without sufficient personnel on the ground, ISAF relies on air strikes against the Taliban. And since January, with over 1,000 strikes, civilian deaths have increased to over 200 or 300.

Civilian deaths are what the Taliban want

Like Hamas and Hezbollah, jihadists use villagers as shields. Lotfullah Mashal of the Afghan Security Council told Al Jazeera: “Now the Taliban are intentionally trying to increase civilian casualties to increase civilians’ anger at the government.” And at ISAF.

But the Taliban’s use of suicide bombers and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) has increased casualties. While the combat role is considered by many politicians to

be the cause of military deaths, since January only one was combat-related. 19 were caused by IEDs. The Taliban know that military deaths will decrease support in the West.

And their tactics are working. Public support for the mission is down from 2001. The total casualties — now 66 — is unsettling. Yet that number is similar to other high-risk voluntary services: 75 firemen perished across Canada in the same period. Even peacekeeping held risks for our soldiers, 114 Canadians died from 1948 to 2005.

Reality check

The consequences for not doing enough are evident this week as the trial of Bosnian Commander Rasim Delic progresses. Charged by the UN war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, he is accused of allowing his men — including 500 mujahideen — to shoot, torture and behead Bosnian Serb and Croat prisoners.

And last month we were reminded of UN inaction in Rwanda, when Major Bernard Ntuyahaga was convicted of murdering 10 Belgium peacekeepers. That event triggered the pull-out of 2,500 peacekeepers, leaving Canadian General Romeo Dallaire with less than 500 men. His denied request for a force of 5,000 peacekeepers would have prevented the genocide of 500,000 Tutsis.

And in Canada, although jihadists used our Afghan mission as a justification to overthrow parliament and behead our prime minister, terrorism was a goal before 2001. Only a kilometer from Westmount, the Millennium Bomber plotted the murder of many civilians.

Reaching consensus

Recently, Prime Minister Harper spoke of a need for consensus on our Afghan mission. Yet according to a recent poll, only 23 percent of Canadians think that the government has effectively explained Afghanistan.

But it’s important to note that progress is being made in Kandahar. Returning members of the 712 Communication Squadron have told Captain Granatstein, that life is improving for local villagers on many levels. And that’s what we want to hear!

Do you see stars? Westmount’s light problem

By Eve Aspinall

When night falls, can you look up and see the stars? Are they bright and clear? What about the Milky Way, the Big Dipper or the Little Dipper? Maybe not, not anymore. Ten or 15 years ago they shone brightly and were clearly visible.

Light pollution has crept up on us gradually. It has an impact on each of us in many ways. It diminishes the quality and quantity of sleep and increases stress. We can no longer enjoy our astral skies. It disturbs animal life, stopping reproduction when bright lights disturb their habitat and causes migratory birds to fly off

course. In Florida, sea turtles currently are endangered by light pollution. Bats, which help to control the increasingly dangerous mosquito population, are particularly averse to bright light and now are rarely seen locally. Excessive light is costing us a lot of money and wasting a vast amount of power when we should be reducing our consumption.

see clearly and/or hinders people’s activities. Glare can be hazardous to cyclists, drivers and pedestrians. *Urban sky glow* comes from light reflected upward instead of downward where it is needed and results in the orangey glow that has replaced the once inky black, star-studded sky. All three forms waste significant amounts of energy. For every hour a given light is on, additional greenhouse gases plus the by-products of the power generating process are released into the atmosphere.

Montreal as bright as New York

In satellite photos of the world at night made by NASA, Montreal shines as brightly as all of New York City, although the population of New York is five times that of Montreal! Furthermore, the amount of energy used by North Americans is about twice that of the European average and five times as much as developed Asian countries. Canadians top the scales.

Light pollution covers three main areas: light trespass, glare and urban sky glow. *Light trespass* refers to the spillage outside of its designated area, e.g. light shining onto other people’s property or into their homes. *Glare* is created by blinding or hazardous lighting that impedes the ability to

What we can do

With global warming an imminent threat, it behooves all of us to do our part to lessen our contribution. There are many things that citizens can do.

1. Lower the wattage of bulbs and use environmentally friendly light bulbs. By lowering wattage of outside lights, you gain greater visibility, making it easier to see into the shadowy areas of your garden. Using lower wattages both indoors and outdoors will save money and energy.
2. Turn lights on only when needed. Dawn-to-dusk lights are wasteful and in-

continued on the next page

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Laureen Sweeney

LAYOUT:
Studio Melrose/Ted Sancton

Twice monthly
(1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month),
next issue: August 15

Westmount (H3Y and H3Z):
10,000 copies by Canada Post
200 copies distributed to over
30 waiting-room drops

ADVERTISING SALES:
Sandy Cobrin 514.670.0432
Annika Melanson 514.223.3567
Published by Sherbrooke-Valois Inc.
310 Victoria Ave., Suite 105
Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9
Fax: 514-935.9241

August 13 is Judgement Day



The Communities in Bloom flag was raised July 11 in front of city hall by Mayor Karin Marks (right foreground) and (from left) Councillors John de Castell, Nicole Forbes, George Bowser and Patrick Martin.

Westmount is competing in the national competition against five cities in its population category: Langford and Westbank, BC; Lloydminster, Sask.; Grande Prairie, Alta.; and Charlottetown, PEI.

Participating communities will be judged on a number of criteria involving overall beautification, landscaping, environmental programs and cleanliness.

Residents are being asked to ensure their properties are particularly well groomed and lanes beautified for the arrival of judges August 13.

A special appeal is also being made to merchants to spruce up their store fronts, which will, in turn, make them more inviting to customers.

Retailers fight breast cancer

Westmounter (and son-in-law of Bead Emporium owner Ruth Shine) Lupo Masse Blume is "using water as a vehicle for awareness" by launching the Chain of Hope campaign. Businesses can contribute to breast cancer awareness by pledging that they will raise \$1,000 by selling Hope in Bottle spring water within a one year period.

Many Westmount merchants are participating, including Metro Fletcher, Pom' Canelle, Mademoiselle Pinki, Bertucci Designs, Elite Laser, Movieland and Coral.



Lupo Masse Blume

Reality check

A brush with death after being diagnosed with meningitis in 2005 gave Masse Blume a "reality check." It was then that the charismatic, Peruvian-born dynamo decided to launch Hope in a Bottle.

The founder of Aqua Media, a marketing company that uses the labels on bottled water to promote advertising, has combined his marketing expertise and philanthropic nature.

For each bottle he sells, he donates 10 percent of the wholesale price to the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation. His water is sold in over 200 Metro stores across Quebec. Says Masse Blume: "One can write a cheque and put it towards breast

cancer research, but what is needed is education and awareness."

He goes on to explain that breast cancer is one of the illnesses with the highest survival rate when detected early; hence the need for women to be educated about early detection and lifestyle choices that can help in reducing chances of them succumbing to this devastating disease.

Lupo sums up his efforts by passionately saying "every Chain of Hope member has a chance to join and make a difference."

To become a link in the Chain of Hope, contact Masse Blume at 514.845.2782, lupo@aquamedia.biz, www.hopeinabottle.ca.

Letters to the editor

WHERE HAS GRETA BEEN?

I recently received your July 4, 2007 edition of the *Westmount Independent*, and was not pleased at what I discovered, in fact, did not discover within the pages.

WHERE was Greta von Schmedlapp? WHAT kind of publication is this to let a poor old lady lose her job?! We need her back: a sense of humour and fun information are urgently requested from your publication.

WHERE is she?!!!

MRS. R. TAKEISHI

Frustrated Westmount reader

[Ed.'s note: Greta will return in the next issue of the *Westmount Independent*.]

JE ME SOUVIENS: CONRAD BLACK

Conrad Black always has been a great defender of Quebec's English minority. Westmounters should not forget that. Here is what he told the Toronto Board of Trade 10 years ago:

"The fact is that English Quebec has been subject to a shocking sequence of provocations, has been largely abandoned by its brothers elsewhere in Canada, and yet it is all that has held Canada together in two referenda."

As chairman of Southam, this Montreal-born publisher made sure there was no ambiguity about *The Gazette's* dedication to a united Canada.

EDWARD W. BARRETT, Kensington Ave.

4. Ensure that all lights point downward.

5. When the temperature in winter reaches -18°, make sure to lower your electrical use, particularly from 4 to 8 o'clock at night.

Births, deaths and marriages

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Stars... continued from previous page

effective; sensor lights provide more security. They are a greater deterrent because of the element of surprise to unwanted criminals and vandals. Moreover, they attract both the homeowner's and the neighbours' attention. Power consumption is reduced, as well as the financial cost.

3. Be a good neighbour. Outdoor lighting should be respectful of the rights and privacy of one's neighbours. Avoid lighting up their property. Limit the number of lights. Too much light can be overwhelming. It also reduces its effectiveness and diminishes visibility.

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Totem pole fund reaches \$6,000

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A BC totem pole in a tropical forest? A most unlikely place, you may say. But we're talking about the tropical room in Westmount's greenhouse. And that's the humidity-controlled environment that's considered best suited to prevent further deterioration of the totem pole whose restoration has been the objective of many fundraising projects.

With the fund now reaching some \$6,000 after events this summer, the totem's refurbishing appears imminent.

"We're now looking for restorers," said city horticulturist Claudette Savaria in announcing this year's proceeds to the fund.

A suitable location for its permanent installation also remains to be chosen.

The Secret Garden Tour netted more than \$4,000 to add to the \$700 from the sale of plants at the Plant Exchange and Family Day.

The pole requires cleaning, consolidation of flaking paint, removal of fungus or other types of growth, the matching of colours, repairs and installation.

Virginia Elliott, Assistant Community Relations Coordinator, says this year's mounting of the totem on a base has stemmed some deterioration caused by its contact with the ground.

The 12-foot totem pole was a star feature in the Campbell garden at 21 Edgehill



Virginia Elliott, says she has "fallen in love" with the totem pole in its temporary home in the greenhouse.

Rd. after it was reportedly brought back from BC in 1927 by a family member. Its cultural origins are unknown.

After Westmount acquired the Campbell garden land, the totem was donated to the city and eventually came to stand in the playground of Westmount Park.

Somewhat faded from the elements, its restoration has been taken on as a special project by the city's Horticultural Advisory Committee (HAC).

Tax \$ at work

Water line renewal and garbage pickup lead spending

A breakdown of the tenders and purchases accepted (contractors, and costs with taxes included) at a special meeting of city council July 11 were:

- Renewal of contracts for the collection and disposal of refuse in four sectors (A, C, D, and E) for a 12-month period starting Oct. 1, to Enlèvement de Déchets Bergeron Inc. in the amount of \$1,231,959;
- Renewal of the contract for the collection and disposal of refuse in sector B for a 12-month period starting Oct. 1, to JR

BUILDING PERMITS: *What's Going On?*

The following 52 work permits for new construction, alterations and plumbing were approved by Westmount city council at a special meeting July 11.

- 4560 St. Catherine: to replace doors and windows;
- 624 Belmont: to replace some windows;
- 9 Murray: to modify openings on the south side;
- 4407-4415 St. Catherine: to replace certain doors;
- 398 Roslyn: rear landscaping, including a deck, door and fence;
- 625 Côte St. Antoine: to replace some doors and windows;
- 370 Kensington: to replace some doors and windows, and to block up some existing openings and enlarge others;
- 7 Anwoth: to replace some windows;
- 4868 Sherbrooke: to erect a sign for Bark and Fitz;
- 328 Victoria: alterations to front basement entrance;
- 474 Mount Pleasant: to replace some windows and modify some openings;
- 519 Claremont: front and back landscaping including new planting beds and paving of garage entry;
- 687 Grosvenor: to erect a fence in rear yard;
- 3236 The Boulevard: to replace some windows;
- 80 Belvedere: to replace some windows;
- 3202 The Boulevard: to restore the front porch and replace roofing material;
- 4 Chesterfield: to replace the back door;
- 633 Belmont: to replace a rear door and block and opening;
- 324 Elm: to replace basement windows;
- 406 Côte St. Antoine: to replace front pavement and gate;
- 44 Arlington: to extend rear balcony;
- 331 Redfern: to erect a new fence;
- 15 Willow: to replace some windows and doors;
- 639 Belmont: to replace some windows;
- 468 Strathcona: landscaping, including renovation of front balcony and to redo sidewalk and driveway;

- 4815 de Maisonneuve: to resurface driveway and do rear patio;
- 820 Upper Belmont: to replace some windows;
- 4837 de Maisonneuve: landscaping including a new fence and planting areas, and to redo the walkway and driveway;
- 458 Claremont: to replace some windows and doors;
- 617 Victoria: to enlarge a rear opening;
- 642 Belmont: to replace some windows and doors;
- 362 Grosvenor: landscaping to include new planting areas, and to resurface the driveway and walkway;
- 17 Anwoth: to renovate rear decks;
- 465 Mount Stephen: to erect a wrought iron fence;
- 390 Grosvenor: to replace some windows;
- 4688 Westmount: to replace some windows and a balcony door;
- 481 Victoria: to replace some windows;
- 85 Church Hill: landscaping to include a field stone patio and path in front yard;
- 4464 St. Catherine: to erect a sign for Home Care Assistance;
- 14 Surrey Gardens: to build a rear extension;
- 152-154 Abbott: to install two awnings;
- 131 Clandeboye: to replace front door;
- 5025 Sherbrooke: to install a sign for Unipharm at Westmount Medical Building;
- 745 Upper Belmont: to replace some windows;
- 12 Burton: to replace some windows;
- 627 Lansdowne: to enlarge two rear window openings;
- 807 Lexington: landscaping to include planting beds, hedges, fence and terrace in rear yard;
- 60 Rosemount: rear landscaping to include a new patio, fence and planting beds;
- 20 Sunnyside: to replace some windows;
- 558 Victoria: to replace some windows;
- 525 Mount Pleasant: to repair and modify entry stairs;
- 4827 de Maisonneuve: to cut five unhealthy trees.



The totem pole as it stood in the playground of Westmount Park.

- Services Sanitaires in the amount of \$326,740;
- Insertion of a structural liner in the water line on Belvedere Place, by Aqua Rehab Inc., for \$80,624;
- Replacement of a water service line on Belvedere Place, by Les entreprises Canbec Construction Inc. for \$99,137;
- Insertion of a structural liner in the water line on Wood Ave., by Aqua Rehab Inc. for \$98,498;
- Replacement of a water service line on Wood Ave., by Les Entreprises Canbec

- Construction Inc. for \$89,637;
- Supply of computer hardware equipment, by Dataworld (Canada) Inc. in the amount of \$13,983;
- Supply of two distribution transformers as part of the refurbishing of Block Q212 for Hydro Westmount, by Transformateur Pioneer Ltée for \$27,240; and,
- Labour and material to replace old lamp-post bases and to carry out conduit work on Mount Pleasant Ave. (Sherbrooke to Holton), by Les Entreprises Transelec-Common Inc. in the amount of \$37,212.

Back-to-school trends as hot as summer

Is it really time to be thinking about returning to school?

With CEGEPs opening in two-and-a-half weeks and Westmount's public and private schools following quickly behind, the answer is a surprising "yes."

While savouring the (gulp) last days of summer, parents are half-heartedly planning their children's return to school and beginning the attendant shopping.

In early July, fall clothes started "flying off the shelves" at LMNOP children's boutique, said Shelley Kerman, who, with Sharyn Fagan, owns the 4919A Sherbrooke St. store. In mid-July, snowsuits arrived

Earth tones are out of this world

So what are the hot colours for this autumn?

"Pink is always in for girls," said Kerman, who knows a thing or two about such matters, having run the kids' clothing store for 16 years. "You can't ignore pink. But reds are also big. Burgundy. Olives and earth tones.

"With boys, navy is always big. Brown, too. It took awhile for people to accept it but brown is big, for both boys and girls. Earth tones are big."

Webkinz joins ranks of Cabbage Patch Kids, Elmo and Beanie Babies

At Westmount Stationery, owner Thomas Forestell is fighting to keep up with a latest craze: stuffed animals called Webkinz. "They continue to be our most popular product. We had trouble keeping them in stock this spring, but we are well supplied at the moment."

The back-to-school staple

A must for any child is that back-to-school staple, the all-important backpack.

Disney's brilliantly marketed and ubiquitous Princesses continue to be favoured by the under-10 girl crowd, as does Barbie. Dora is also popular this upcoming fall season.

With the younger boys, Spiderman is edging out SpongeBob SquarePants, as he has for a while now.



Shelley Kerman, co-owner of Sherbrooke St. children's boutique LMNOP, talks snowsuits – yes, snowsuits – with a young customer.

Potter mania hits Westmount

Babar en ville hosted a memorable evening on Friday, July 20 in honour of the launch of J. K. Rowling's last of the Potter series: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. While anxious Potter fans lined up at the entrance to the bookstore, they were entertained by fire spinners and met by

Hagrid and Draco Malfoy and Professors Snape and Trellawny. The party started at 10:30 pm and went on until 1 am. More than 200 people attended and over 100 books were sold. "This was a memorable community event for fellow Potter readers," said Maya Byers, the owner of Babar.



Some of the decorations set up for the Deathly Hallows launch.

Teen cyclists fined

Two teenagers were ticketed July 16 for riding their bicycles in Westmount Park after a previous warning, public safety officials report. The statements of offence carried \$37 fines. Parents of the youths were informed.

On July 19, a man was issued a \$75 fine for carrying a small pocket knife. He came to the attention of officers when asked to leave Westmount Park at 3:15 am because of the parks curfew. Acting nervously, he apparently admitted to carrying a knife.

Two days later, at 2 pm, a man with no known address was reported to have been drinking beer at Sherbrooke and Roslyn. Police were called to help identify him. Intoxicated, the man had no known address. He was also issued a \$75 fine.



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55 Belvedere Circle	\$2,650,000	\$5,250,000	Guy Casgrain	9184-0413 Quebec Inc.	06/27
3306 Cedar Ave.	\$909,000	\$1,035,000	Leslie Martino	Samuel Ramsey	06/27
4380-4382 Côte des Neiges	\$505,300	\$110,000	Benoit Turcotte	Isabelle Therrien	06/28
9 De Casson Rd.	\$753,500	\$1,000,000	James Little & Marie-Josée Castonguay	Bruno Roy & Isabelle Folco	06/29
461 Elm Ave.	\$522,000	\$760,000	Claude Letellier de Saint-Just	Janet MacKinnon & Marie Vegiard	06/29
655 Grosvenor Ave.	\$723,600	\$1,225,000	Mark Chistolini	Paul Levesque & Lucie Jean	06/28
659 Grosvenor Ave.	\$823,300	\$1,090,500	Carl Sigmund Bang	Isabelle Landry & David Perlman	06/29
673 Grosvenor Ave.	\$790,800	\$850,000	Bernice Landry	Frank Gianniosis & Panagiota Kalfantis	06/25
341 Metcalfe Ave.	\$872,000	\$735,000	Succ. de Diana Eveline Norris	Barbara Pollock	06/27
228 Prince Albert Ave.	\$563,300	\$630,000	Patrick Yves Andres	Hubert Savoie & Camille Habel	06/28
339 Prince Albert Ave.	\$784,800	\$840,000	Howard Firestone & Theresa Sheila Hogan	Jean-Luc Isnardi & Marie Isnardi	06/28
17 Severn Ave.	\$633,600	\$1,495,000	Carlo Verrillo & Vanessa Pizzi	Robert Anastasopoulos	06/27
3171 St. Antoine St.	\$235,600	\$250,000	Christian Kier	Osman Izaz & Nazish Hussain	06/28
4700 St. Catherine #504	\$866,300	\$825,000	Rachel Lebel	Nancy Nadler	06/29
617 Victoria Ave.	\$600,000	\$665,000	Claudine Couture-Trudel	Jonathan Tétrault & Elizabeth Camiré	06/28
1 Wood #510	\$708,800	\$635,000	Helen Gross	Alexandre Gliklad	06/26
622 Belmont Ave.	\$1,142,300	\$1,450,000	Linda Jane Shaw	Bernard Anzarouth & Cindy Morantz	07/06
646 Carleton Ave.	\$1,900,000	\$2,650,000	Denis Hennion & Sophie Tscheltzoff	Jamesine McKeever	07/05
24 Forden Ave.	\$1,608,900	\$1,550,000	Nancy Veinish	Antony Kovic & Donna-Lynn McMurray	07/10
435-9 Grosvenor (usufruit, 2.63%)	\$4,600,000	\$162,500	Développement Villa Grosvenor Inc.	Louis Chapelain	07/05
352 Kitchener Ave.	\$741,300	\$819,000	Marguerite Laflamme	James Bowker & Arlene Kipling	07/09
4495 Sherbrooke St.	\$530,000	\$699,000	David Gilmour & Maryse Sauvé	6796311 Canada Inc.	07/10
16 Springfield Ave.	\$423,800	\$580,000	Dietrich Karau & Sylvia Borau	George Peter Vaitkunas & Karla Gruodis	07/11
45 Stayner St.	\$389,300	\$477,500	Susan Anne Hislop	McShane Jones & Elena Postnikova Jones	07/10
4830 St. Catherine St.	\$381,000	\$545,000	Peter Blusanovics & Diana Coviello	Robert Lewandowski & Anne Latour	07/03
465 Strathcona Ave.	\$1,040,700	\$1,000,000	Succ Nancy Carrell	Jean-Christophe Renondin & Laurence Milot	07/03
488 Strathcona Ave.	\$1,015,500	\$1,750,000	Barry Anthony Cohen	Kaplan Family Trust	07/09
24 Willow Ave.	\$685,300	\$1,350,000	Guy Laframboise & Vannessa Benitz	Leslie Martino	07/03

Three 100-year birthday celebrations

A very special birthday party took place at Place Kensington on July 18 to celebrate the birthdays of three resident centenarians: Evelyn Alexander (born in Montreal June 29, 1907), Harriet Cohen (born in Brooklyn, NY June 30, 1907) and Hedwig (Heddy) Unterberg (born in Vienna, Austria July 3, 1907).

All three have spent most of their adult lives in Montreal. To honour these ladies

who have lived through almost the entire 20th century as well as the beginning of the 21st, a luncheon was served. “Centenarian and Plus Club” certificates and white teddy bears were given to each one.

An exhibit made from newspaper excerpts looking back at our world over the last 100 years was on display, highlighting events that these ladies have experienced during their lifetime.



Heddy Unterberg, Harriet Cohen and Evelyn Alexander

LISA PARKER HYATT EHRLICH

A painting titled "Bocour Blue" by Lisa Parker Hyatt Ehrlich. It depicts a doorway with a red curtain and a blue wall. The painting is on a yellow background.

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Westmount Elegant, spacious 4+1 bdr century-old home a block from Westmount playing fields. 10-ft ceilings, moldings, lovely banister. 4 baths+powder room, parking for 3 cars, large fin. bsmt. Minimal gardening. **Asking \$999,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/571081



Westmount Beautifully renovated stone townhouse across from Westmount Park. Fin. bsmt. has a playroom, bedroom and bath. Central air, 2 car pkg, great neighbourhood... who could ask for more! **Asking \$799,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/571643



Westmount Victoria Village beauty! Lrg 3-bedroom+den w/fp. Woodwork, architectural treasures. Exposed brick and decorative fireplace in living room. Planned kitchen, pantry, adj. mudroom. Deck, garage. **Asking \$695,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/571575



Old Montreal Spectacular, bright, loft-style penthouse in Old Montreal – “Caverhill” building. Two bedroom, two bath, spacious entertaining area, large terrace. Sold with expensive, avant-garde furniture and artwork. 2 garages. **Asking \$875,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/322



Downtown Imposing stone mini castle in historic Shaughnessy Village. Spacious entry, etched & stained glass, open plan. Pleasant outdoor space, soundproof basement for musicians. **Asking \$690,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/317



Westmount adj. Well-maintained and updated detached duplex with bachelor apartment on tree-lined street. Two exterior parking spots, 2 revenues and occupancy in upper for a new owner. **Asking \$699,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/128



NDG Architect planned and designed, this successful duplex to cottage conversion boasts 5 bedrooms, including a ground-level master bedroom ensuite, peaceful back garden, ample storage. **\$395,000**



Downtown Prestigious Sir Robert Peel. Sophisticated downtown living next to McGill and all amenities. Well-designed 1 bdr condo, lrg windows, marble floors, ample closets, balcony with mountain view. **\$310,000**

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The Westmount Gardener Cleaning up

BY STUART ROBERTSON

A few garden chores can make all the difference between an ordinary garden and a well-kept, smart-looking one: things like trimming and weeding – particularly since Westmount will soon be visited by the judges of the Communities in Bloom organization.

Getting rid of weeds is not just for the sake of aesthetics. They rob the soil of water and nutrients and compete heavily with your own plants.

■ A simple operation which makes the lawn and garden look 100 percent neater is to trim all the edges of the lawn where they meet garden beds. Over the season, the grass creeps in towards the soil and makes the edges look sloppy. Use an edging spade (the one with the half-circle blade) or a sharp garden spade to re-cut the edges about half an inch back. Slope the handle of the spade about 20 degrees back towards you, so the edge slopes gently down to the soil. Throw the trimmed bits into your compost.



Trimming edges can make a big difference.

■ Look around your garden carefully for any weeds that have escaped your attention so far. By now they will be getting quite tall, and hiding in among your deco-

orative plants. Pull them out, roots and all, as soon as possible before any of them flower and spread their seeds in your garden. They can be thrown onto the compost as long as they don't have any seeds yet.

■ One sure way to combat more weeds growing is to use a thick layer of mulch to cover any exposed soil.

■ Any lawn weeds that you missed in the spring could be getting large by now. Even if you've been mowing the tops off the dandelions and plantain, the roots are still there, getting stronger by the day, so they must be removed. Dig them out, roots and all.

Dandelion roots have a single long and deep taproot that must be cut deeply with a special tool about four to six inches below the surface.

Plantain has many short roots which are quite tenacious, but the same tool will remove them too. When you remove a large weed, fill the remaining bare spot with some soil and then grass seed so more weeds won't grow.

Manure tea

A lot of people have asked me how to make manure tea as a fertilizer. You have to soak a bag of manure in a bucket of water overnight, which is not always easy for the city gardener. There is an easier way to brew it nowadays. A Canadian business called The Barnyard Tea Company makes easy-to-use "tea bags" filled with composted manure. You pop one of them into two litres of hot water and let it sit for 24 hours. (You can make larger quantities with more bags.) Then water all your flowers, vegetables and container plants with the odourless 2-3-2 mixture for a gentle, organic fertilizer boost. Throw the used "tea bags" into the compost.

Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before Origins of Westmount Park

BY DOREEN LINDSAY

Question: Who wanted to create Westmount Park? For answer see p. 12.



Westmount Park, established in 1898 to provide a large central park for recreation, relaxation and contemplation with nature.

Wearing Westmount to raise money

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) will be hosting its 17th annual gala dinner and fashion show on August 20 at 6 pm at Centre Mont-Royal (2200 Mansfield). The theme is "Wearing Westmount".

Many Westmount fashion retailers are participating: Bloom Maternity, Mimi & Coco, Lululemon, Boutique Emma, Georges Rech, LMNOP, James, Bella, Colange, Rivet Laundry, M2 and Trink.

CHW is the biggest non-political women's volunteer organization in Canada providing support for women and children in Israel through schools, shelters, counseling and youth centres. This year's goal is to raise \$100,000.

To contribute to this cause or to purchase tickets to the event contact CHW, 1310 Greene Ave., suite 910, 514.933.8461. Tickets start at \$100.



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Vol. 1/5
Publié par Westmount • Published by Westmount



SPORTS ET LOISIRS
Répertoire de loisirs

Le répertoire des activités de loisirs automne/hiver sera distribué aux résidents de Westmount à compter du lundi 6 août. Ce répertoire sera également disponible dans les immeubles municipaux et sur notre site Web dès le 9 août. Info : 514 989-5353. 🍀



TRAVAUX PUBLICS
Collectivités en fleurs

La Ville de Westmount encourage tous les résidents et propriétaires d'entreprises à accorder une attention particulière à l'herbe à poux au cours des prochaines semaines, alors qu'elle se prépare à recevoir la visite des juges nationaux dans le cadre du concours Collectivités en fleurs.

Une nuisance à ne pas sous-estimer, l'herbe à poux est l'une des principales causes du rhume des foins et autres allergies respiratoires saisonnières dans la région de Montréal. Une description complète des effets de l'herbe à poux, des photos de la plante et des conseils pratiques sur la façon d'atténuer les symptômes du rhume des foins sont disponibles sur notre site Web à www.westmount.org. 🍀



SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE
Couvre-feu dans les parcs

En raison de l'augmentation spectaculaire des rapports de vandalisme, de graffiti et d'infraction relative à la toxicomanie dans les parcs municipaux, la Ville de Westmount instaure un couvre-feu dans tous ses parcs. Les parcs sont maintenant fermés au public tous les soirs, de minuit à 5 h. Les contrevenants sont passibles d'une amende minimum de 37 \$. 🍀



BIBLIOTHÈQUE
Club de lecture vacances 2007

Jusqu'au 24 août ! Décollez vers les confins de l'univers en participant au club de lecture vacances. Le thème de cette année est *Lire au-delà du réel !* Inscription au comptoir des enfants de la Bibliothèque. Info : 514 989-5229. 🍀

DATES À RETENIR

Jusqu'au 18 août

Proche de nous
La galerie du Victoria Hall

Le 13 août

Concours Collectivités en fleurs
Arrivée des juges

Le 18 et 19 août - 19 h

Théâtre en plein air
Scapin the Schemer!
Parc Westmount

Le 21 et 22 août - 18 h

Inscriptions pour les activités de loisirs
Victoria Hall



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES
La galerie du Victoria Hall

La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter l'exposition de groupe *Proche de nous* jusqu'au 18 août. Dix artistes westmountais participent à cette exposition. Info : 514 989-5226

Concerts d'été au parc Westmount

Jusqu'au 12 août à 14 h
Venez assister à des concerts professionnels près de l'étang du parc Westmount les dimanches à 14 h. En cas de pluie, les concerts auront lieu au Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5226

Le 5 août L'Esprit de la Nouvelle-Orléans
Le 12 août Trio Jon Geary

Théâtre en plein air

La troupe Repercussion Theatre présentera la pièce *Scapin the Schemer!* de Molière les samedi 18 août et dimanche 19 août à 19 h au parc Westmount. Entrée gratuite. N'oubliez pas d'apporter vos chaises. Info : 514 989-5226 ou www.repercussiontheatre.com. 🍀



SPORTS & RECREATION
Recreation Activities Guide

The fall/winter edition of the Recreation Activities Guide will be delivered to all households in Westmount beginning Monday, August 6. The Guide will also be available in municipal buildings and on the City's Web site as of August 9. Info: 514 989-5353. 🍀



PUBLIC WORKS
Communities in Bloom

The City of Westmount is encouraging all residents and business owners to pay special attention to ragweed over the next several weeks, as the City moves closer to judging in the Communities in Bloom competition.

A nuisance that's nothing to sneeze at, ragweed is one of the leading causes of hay fever and other seasonal respiratory allergies in the Montreal area. A full description of the effects of ragweed, photographs of the plant and tips for minimizing hay fever symptoms is available on our Web site at www.westmount.org. 🍀



PUBLIC SECURITY
Park Curfew

Due to a dramatic increase in reports of vandalism, graffiti and substance abuse infractions in municipal parks, the City of Westmount is instituting a curfew in all parks. All parks in Westmount are now closed to the public nightly from 12 a.m. to 5 a.m. Violators will be subject to a minimum fine of \$37. 🍀



LIBRARY
Summer Reading Club 2007

Until August 24! Blast off to the outer reaches of the universe in this annual summer reading club. The theme this year is *To the Library and Beyond!* You can still register for this activity in the children's section of the Library. Info: 514 989-5229. 🍀

DATEBOOK

Until August 18

Close to Home
Gallery at Victoria Hall

August 13

Communities in Bloom Competition
Arrival of Judges

August 18 & 19 - 7 p.m.

Theatre in the Park
Scapin the Schemer!
Westmount Park

August 21 & 22 - 6 p.m.

Registration for Recreation Activities
Victoria Hall



COMMUNITY EVENTS
Gallery at Victoria Hall

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is proud to present *Close to Home*, a group exhibition featuring ten Westmount artists. The exhibition will run until August 18. Info: 514 989-5226.

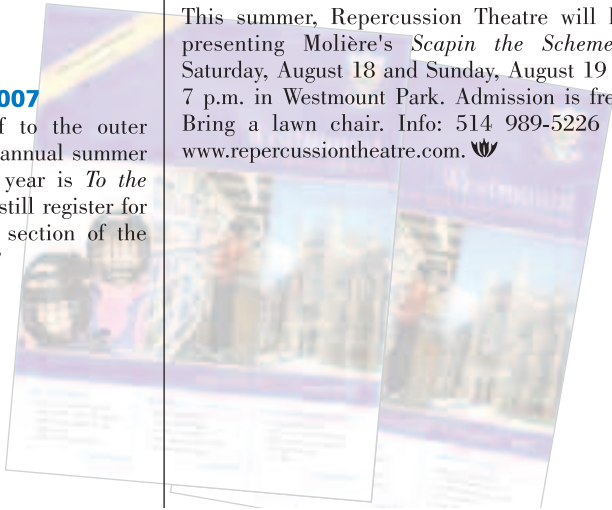
Summer Concerts in the Park

Until August 12, 2 p.m.
Join us on Sundays at 2 p.m. at the lagoon in Westmount Park for free concerts by professional musicians. Rain location: Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5226

August 5 L'esprit de la Nouvelle-Orléans
August 12 Jon Geary Trio

Theatre in the Park

This summer, Repercussion Theatre will be presenting Molière's *Scapin the Schemer!* Saturday, August 18 and Sunday, August 19 at 7 p.m. in Westmount Park. Admission is free. Bring a lawn chair. Info: 514 989-5226 or www.repercussiontheatre.com. 🍀



THE WESTMOUNTERS

New Rec Activities Guide coming to a mailbox near you

Canada Post will be distributing the Fall/Winter 2007-08 **Culture, Sports and Recreation Activities Guide** to all Westmount households beginning Wednesday, August 8. The guide provides all kinds of useful information on Westmount Rec programs as well as on upcoming activities and events at the arena, library and Victoria Hall.

Molière in the park

Free theatre in the park? Sign us up. Actually there is no need to sign up or register. Just show up at Westmount Park for the Repercussion Theatre's production of Molière's play *Scapin* in English on Saturday, August 18, and in French, as the original *Les fourberies de Scapin*, on Sunday, August 19. Both performances are to begin at 7 pm. The rain venue is the Lodge Room inside Victoria Hall. For more information, please call 514.989.5226 or see www.westmount.org. The Repercussion Theatre's website is www.repercussiontheatre.com and the telephone number is 514.931.2644.

Free Sunday concerts by the lagoon

The free summer **Sunday concerts by the lagoon** continue at Westmount Park. L'esprit de la Nouvelle-Orléans will play jazz from 2 pm to 4 pm on Sunday, August 5. Jazz is also on tap when the Jon Geary Trio play, also from 2 pm to 4 pm, on Sunday August 12. The rain venue is the Lodge Room inside Victoria Hall. For more information, please call 514.989.5226 or see www.westmount.org.

Rotarians' new president sets course

Members of the **Westmount Rotary** heard from their new president, Heather Borrelli, at their July 4 meeting. The Ro-



Rotary President
Heather Borrelli

tary year begins July 1 and Borrelli gave an overview of the year ahead. The Westmount Rotary meets every at 12:30 pm every Wednesday at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. W. For information, contact 514.935.3344 or info@rotarywestmount.org

AffiliationQuebec leader at Rotary

Westmounter Allen Nutik, well known to Westmounters for his mayoral and city council campaigns, addressed the Westmount Rotary on July 25 in his capacity as leader of the newly formed provincial political party, AffiliationQuebec.

The new party is focused on restoring and protecting minority rights in Quebec and is also critical of the province's municipal demerger legislation for not going far enough.

In his remarks, Nutik praised the efforts of Keith Henderson's Equality Party, of Bill Johnson and of Howard Galganov and excoriated the federal Liberals and Conservatives, as well as the provincial Liberals, Parti Québécois and ADQ for abuse and non-defence of rights.

He also singled out the Montreal *Gazette* for stern criticism as a member of Quebec's anglo "lamb lobby."

Nutik went on to characterize Jean Charest as "the emperor with no clothes", but many broken promises in areas such as tax cuts, demergers, medical wait times and the English superhospital.

Nutik was nothing if not impassioned, comparing students' forced attendance at French-language schools to "madrassas" and the plight of federalists in Quebec to a lion's den.

He ended with a plea for members and support, "The time to join us is now."

History quiz: Westmount Park the result of many people's efforts

Question from page 10: Who wanted to create Westmount Park?

Answer: The Côte St. Antoine Improvement Committee in 1890.

In my last article ("Who owned WEST MOUNT?"), I mentioned that William Murray sold 10 acres of his land for a park below Sherbrooke St., which had just been extended this far west. Land was also bought from J. H. Shearer, Thomas Badenack, H. L. Penny and Smith & Watson for a total of 20 acres. The land extended from Sherbrooke St. to Western Ave. (now de Maisonneuve Blvd., this section of which is now closed to traffic) and from Melville Ave. to the rear of the properties on Lansdowne Ave.

Westmount Park is our oldest park

The Côte St. Antoine Improvement Committee's recommendation that the town purchase 16 acres of still undeveloped land finally became a reality in 1898. The Town of Côte St. Antoine had become the Town of Westmount in 1895 and two years later people were looking for ways to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. In 1898 they named the newly created parkland Victoria Jubilee Park.

When Westmount created parkland out of woodlands and deep ravines, it was following the ideal of the times. There was a feeling all across North America that a city needed a place for recreation, a place for communication with nature and a focus for civic life.

To fulfill the third ideal and also to celebrate Queen Victoria, Westmount citizens decided to build a public library and a cultural centre in the park. The cultural centre was named Victoria Hall.

In 1874 Montreal hired Frederick Law Olmsted (who had designed New York's Central Park in the 1850's) to come to Montreal and design Mount Royal Park. It opened on Victoria Day, 1876. Some councillors wanted to ask Olmsted to work out a plan to convert our wooded ravines into parkland for residents, but other councillors thought his fee of \$1,000 too high. Although he did not design our park, it had many of the features that Olmsted established in Central Park: a variety of trees, separate areas for relaxation, reading, walking paths, even twig bridges to surround the ravines similar to those built in The Rambles in Central Park.

Growth and repair

Later, the Glen stream and some ravines were filled in and other ravines had cobblestone retaining walls built to stop erosion. Additional land was added, landscape architects were called in to tidy up the original forested land, a bandstand was designed and flowerbeds created. Then, after a period of neglect, a major facelift was undertaken in 1964.

Today Westmount Park consists of 26 acres and is the second largest park in Westmount. The largest is the Summit and Belvedere Park consisting of 57 acres.

ON THE SHELVES

Among the new arrivals at Westmount Public Library singled out by the library staff are:

Magazines

Atlantic Monthly, July/August (China issue)
Harvard Health Letter, July/August, "In search of a safe suntan"
Arthur Frommer Budget Travel, July/August, "My Montreal is better than yours", p. 53, recommendations from the foodblog endless-banquet.blogspot.com

Fiction

The Black Quarto – An Imogen Quoy (College Nurse) Mystery by Jill Paton Walsh

Non-fiction

The World Without Us by Alan Weisman, what would endure without us?
Peeling the Onion by Gunther Grass, an autobiography by this Nobel prizewinner and German politician
Elizabeth II – la dernière reine by Marc Roch, the first biography of the queen in French

101 idées d'activités estivales au Québec, tips on what to do and where to stay when you go bicycling, hiking, starwatching, birding, kayaking etc. in our province

Children's

Romeo's Ex, Rosaline's Story by Lisa Fiedler, Rosaline is given a different destiny
Atelier Filles – 100 bricolages créatifs et rigolos, contains wonderful ideas for crafts.

Books on CD

A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini, another story of Afghanistan by the author of the bestselling and popular bookclub choice, *The Kite-Runner*
The Secret Order of the Gumm Street Girls by Elise Primavera, a tale girls will love of the dependable everyday magic of family and friendship

Reference

Canadian Older Car/Truck Red Book for the 1992-1999 models.

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For as little as the cost of one coffee a day, you can impact the future of a child.

A gift of \$15 can help finance one child's school bag. A gift of \$30 will support the back-to-school needs of two children, while a gift of \$60 will help provide a school bag filled with new supplies to four very happy children.

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Westmount Profile: John Garland

Still cheering for the kids

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount is losing one of its mostly widely known citizens, not by choice but by the ongoing conversion of apartment buildings to condominiums.

Lifelong resident John Garland, who headed Westmount's Parks and Recreation Department before retiring in 1987 after 34 years, is now in the throes of unpacking boxes of memorabilia in Pointe Claire.

He had been fighting eviction from his home of 42 years at the York Apartments on Sherbrooke near Grosvenor for many months.

But to no avail. And with long waiting lists at other affordable buildings in Westmount, he made the decision he never could have believed possible.

Reluctant West Islander

"I'm going because I have no choice," he said, pulling the peak of his Westmount cap even further over his brow.

"And I'm going to wear this cap everywhere in Pointe Claire," he declared.

The man known as "Johnny" to countless Westmount children and their parents from the '50s through the '80s, has since become somewhat of an institution at hockey and soccer games near and far.

After coaching Westmount's peewee hockey team for 34 years, and running the local programs, he was already known in other communities, he explains. "So when I retired in 1987, I was asked if I would come in as an independent evaluator. And it's become my pastime.

"My record is attending 539 games in one year. I kept a record of every player I watched, and quite a few went on to pro leagues."

NHL dreams come true

One was 8-year-old Vincent Lecavalier, now with Tampa Bay Lightning and one of the stars of the NHL. "When I first went to see him play he was pre-novice. Well, it didn't take a genius to spot that talent."

During the hockey season, Johnny spends afternoons at school games involving Selwyn House, John Rennie, Loyola and LCC. Then in the evenings, he's off to

inter-city games "from Valleyfield to Repentigny and Laval to the south shore."

He's been a familiar figure in the neighbourhood rushing out to clean off his car in a blinding snowstorm so he won't miss the start of a game. He wouldn't want to let the players down. "I always try to say something positive to encourage them," he says.

In spring and summer, "soccer keeps me active," he says. I follow the Lac St. Louis league. Soccer's an entirely different game to hockey because you have to be so entirely unselfish. It's why I enjoy soccer so much. Also, you don't have parents going nuts," he adds.

But Johnny's Westmount days are special.

"We had 40 hockey teams and 600 kids. Any success I enjoyed was because of the volunteers. I was just some guy who worked in Westmount, who was privileged to meet hundreds of kids and enjoyed every second of the job."

There were times when things didn't go as smoothly as he would have liked, he adds, but that's normal.

Arena opening

Johnny remembers the opening of the Westmount arena in November 1958. "It was primitive in those days. The open sides were brutal. It was like cold storage. But it was designed that way so it wouldn't become commercialized. It was always supposed to be just for the kids."

And Johnny keeps tabs on many of the players he coached, remembering them all by name. Today, many are doctors and lawyers, including one Nicholas Kasirer, now the dean of law at McGill. Now, Johnny enjoys meeting many of their sons.

Being the best at a game isn't all that makes an impression on him.

When he speaks about the young players, he's often quick to add: "and what a polite boy he is." Or, "I'm so impressed with him that I've recommended him..." for such-and-such a job.

First Family Day

Among the highlights of his career is putting together the first Family Day in 1976 – "along with my team, of course."



John Garland at his retirement party in 1987 with members of his family: From left are Johnny's nephew Gary Jackson, niece Wendy Jackson, John, his niece Gail Jackson and sister Ruth Jackson. All but Wendy worked for Westmount.

"Family Day was all Brian Gallery's idea. That was one of the best things that ever happened to Westmount." But at Johnny's retirement at Family Day in 1987 then-Mayor Gallery described Johnny as "the backbone" of the event, in what was the first public retirement sendoff off a city worker in many years. The reason, Gallery explained, "Because everybody knows Johnny Garland."

Another milestone was the city's creation of the John Garland Trophy, a sportsmanship award for first year peewee.

"When I was invited to the first presentation, I remember saying that I was overwhelmed and honoured but not looking forward to the day it becomes a memorial trophy!"

He makes a point of writing a letter of congratulations to each recipient, and treasures the letters he receives in reply. "They're always so beautifully written."

Westmounter through and through

After growing up in Westmount as a boy and going all through the school system here, he actually began working at Westmount for six years before the start of his official 34-year career, but couldn't get credit for it, he says.

"That's because my sister (Ruth Jackson) worked in the assessor's department before it was taken over by the MUC. In those days, they said they didn't want two people from the same family working for the city."

When Johnny took over as Parks and Recreation director (initially the title was superintendent), the department was combined. As a result, he was not only in charge of sports and recreation programs, but also of parks maintenance and the tree

gang, totalling more than 100 employees. Much of this work is now outsourced.

"I had real pros looking after everything," he says. "People like Buddy Selby (parks), Leo McGregor (tree gang) and Howard Neill (gardener). I was only the administrator," he adds modestly. "When I left, they took the Parks away from Recreation."

Artificial turf

"If anybody were to ask my opinion on artificial turf, I would tell them we don't need it. The size of our program doesn't warrant the cost."

And with that statement, the man who used to run Westmount's Parks and Recreation Department weighed in on the debate for renewing the soccer fields in Westmount Park.

"I can take you out to fields of artificial turf in other communities," he says, "but they're very heavily used seven days a week by children and adults for soccer and football."

"Here in Westmount, we have a youth program. All you have to do is maintain the fields regularly. Send the staff out to plug the divots (holes) and replace the worn areas with sod, not seed."

Johnny plans to keep on attending Westmount games, he says, it's simply that now he'll be commuting in an opposite direction.

He enjoys being included by current Sports and Recreation Director Mike Deegan in many of the department's events, he says.

After all, Westmount runs in his blood, and moving a few miles away isn't about to change that.

THE WESTMOUNT TOWNSHIPPER

Something to please every taste

With dozens of festivals, five-star lodging, 80 tourist attractions – from the Granby Zoo to Bleu Lavande, Canada's largest lavender producer – 500 kilometers of roads out of a cyclist's dream, four national parks and more, is it any wonder the Eastern Townships has been a beloved summer destination for generations of Westmounters?

"We have more than 150 festivals in the Townships, mostly during the summer. There is one to please every taste," said Danie Béliveau of the Eastern Townships Tourism Association.

Regional and provincial competitions, horse pulls, concerts, exhibitors and children's games take place during the **Weedon Dalton Horse Show and Professional Rodeo**, August 3 to 5 and 9 to 12. For more information, please call 1.866.259.2786 or 819.877.3102.

Compton will offer a taste of local chefs' offerings during its **Weekend with a Country Flavour**. This unique gastronomic experience takes place 11 am to 7 pm, Saturday, August 4 and 10 am to 4 pm, Sunday, August 5 at the Louis St. Laurent National Historic Site of Canada. For more information, please call 819.835.5448.

Swimmers will go the length of Lake Memphremagog (among other less ambitious events) during the 29th edition of **Memphremagog International Swim Competition**, which ends on August 5. This internationally renowned swimming event includes many professional and amateur sporting activities open to the public, including animation, performances, fireworks, a children's village and exhibitors. For more information, please see www.tilm.net or call 1.800.267.2744 or 819.847.3007.

Got milk? The **Milk Fair** takes place

through August 5 in Coaticook. A family event, it features animal exhibits and judging, tractor pulls, samplings of dairy and regional products, farm visits, concerts, rides, crafts and a parade. For more information, please call 819.849.6010.

Come and meet artists at work in downtown Granby during the **Painters' Symposium**, through August 5. For more information, please call 1.866.472.6292 or 450.375.8338.

North Hatley hosts **Band Concerts** at Dreamland Park on Sundays August 5 and August 12 at 2 pm. For more information, please call 819.842.1091.

Le P'tit Bonheur de Saint-Camille runs August 6 to 10 and features a painting workshop with professional artist Seymour Segal. At 162 Miquelon St. in St. Camille. For more information, please call 819.828.2664.

What better place to catch a Perseid meteor shower than ASTROLab? From August 9 to 13 there will be shuttle service to the summit, observation workshops, lectures and thematic concerts. At Notre Dame des Bois. For more information, please call 1.800.665.6527 or 819. 888. 2941.

Indoor and outdoor concerts, many of them free, will be performed as part of the **Orford Festival** through August 12. Dinner/show packages are available. For a full listing, please see www.arts-orford.org or call 1.800.567.6155 or 819.843.3981.

The **Arnak Shriners Country & Western Rodeo Festival** runs August 10 to 12 in Brome. It features a rodeo, country music bands and other family activities, including tent and RV camping at the Brome fairgrounds. For more information, please call 1.866.617.6336.

Musical mornings take place 11:15 to 12:15 Sunday through August 26 at an old marble quarry in Dudswell. A heritage

church is the rain location. For more information, please call 819.887.6093.

Do you believe in lake monsters? Then check out the **Legend of Memphre**, an exhibit of artwork inspired by Lake Memphremagog's legendary creature. Running until August 30, the show also includes artifacts found in the lake as well as documents and photographs relating to the lake's history. For more information, please call 819.868.1881.

And last but not least: **Brome Fair** from August 31 to September 3. The fair is an annual fall agricultural fair and exhibition that takes place in the tiny village of Brome. It is the third largest agricultural fair in Quebec.

Underdog

Underdog is a small organization headed by former Westmounter Fern Breslaw that aims to find special owners for dogs with special needs. These are often older, handicapped or simply uglier dogs that can't compete with purebreds or puppies. As a result, they often go unnoticed at local shelters.



Shiloh

Shiloh is one such dog: an eight-year-old cocker spaniel who narrowly avoided death row at the pound and is now in desperate need of a good home. Because he is older, Shiloh is calmer than many young dogs and has already been through the headache of toilet training. He is an absolute lovebug and will make a wonderful pet for someone who can see beyond his graying face and bad teeth. To find out more about adopting Shiloh write to sophies-dogadoption@hotmail.com.

Retail Watch: The Victoria Village

Pom'Cannelle moves back

Pom'Cannelle is home sweet home (4860 Sherbrooke St. W., 514.483.1787). The high-end children's clothing boutique moved back to its old location after a short stay on Victoria Ave. during extensive renovations. The store has undergone a complete facelift and even has a wheelchair access button so that doors open automatically. Translation for parents: stroller access.

Summer punch

Enjoy a glass of summer punch on Thursday, August 2 from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm at Studio Trink and M2 (344A and 346A Victoria Ave., 514.223.7688 and 514.510.9778). The two boutiques will be open and offering cocktails as well as 20 percent off merchandise.

Hunting for vintage

Hunting for groovy vintage clothing and collectibles? Veteran vintage shop owner Lynn Majdell, who has owned The



Hunt in TMR for 15 years, is opening her second boutique on August 10 (316 Victoria Ave., 514.461.0388). From Christian Dior suede fringed ponchos to Yves Saint Laurent men's ties and croquet sets, The Hunt is a place to find antiques, estate jewelry and vintage clothing, accessories and collectibles. "Everything here is one of a kind," says Lynn, "the boutique will be a groovy New York Soho kind of vintage store."

TOWNSHIPS TREASURES



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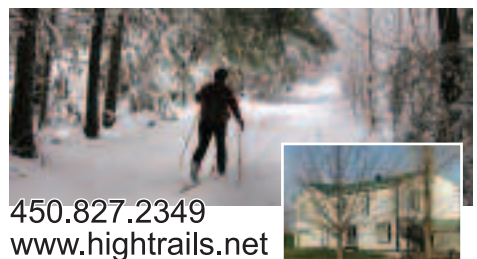
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The Westmount Parent Swimming, dancing and gardening

ANNIKA MELANSON



My daughter Amel and I are enjoying every moment of sunshine at the Westmount pool this summer. I recently discovered that private swimming lessons are offered by the Westmount pool lifeguards, who are certified by the Canadian Red Cross as instructors and are qualified to administer first aid and CPR. A half-hour lesson is \$15 to \$20. For the lucky few who have their own swimming pool, the instructors are available to teach at your home. You can speak to the lifeguards or call 514.989.5200 and ask to be connected with the pool desk.

New adult swim rules

Speaking of the pool, apart from the new “no mandatory bathing caps” ruling, there is another change this year: no children allowed *at all* in the pool during adult swim. For as far as I can remember, children under the age of six were permitted in the shallow end, accompanied by an adult.

Marc-André Delorme, the pool manager, and upper management have decided to disallow kids in the pool during adult swim because of “past complaints from adults” and “parents lying about their children’s age.”

Funky Feet

Funky Feet dance classes encourage children of all ages to experience the joy of dance by exploring space, rhythm, moods and music through fun activities and games. Classes will be offered at Westmount Preschool (4350 St. Catherine St. W. 514.934.5636) starting mid-September for kids ages two to five. Each session lasts 30 minutes and all types of music will be introduced from disco and salsa to jazz and hip-hop. Funky Feet is also available for special events and private parties. For more information about the fall session, contact Jennifer Jones at the above-mentioned telephone number or visit www.funkyfeet.ca or www.mummieslist.com.

Blooming book of motherhood

Pregnancy and motherhood are both very special experiences. Bloom Maternity (4937 Sherbrooke St. W., 514.481.5151, www.bloommaternity.ca) is asking mums-to-be, mummies and grandmothers to share their experiences, stories, anecdotes and favourite quotes or sayings about motherhood. These valuable keepsakes will be compiled in a book, *Blooming: Stories for Delivery*, which will be published and sold to mums “as a fun distraction while waiting to push.” All proceeds will be donated to the Montreal Children’s Hospital. E-mail your quotes or stories to info@bloommaternity.ca or drop by the store and make an entry in the “store collection book”. The deadline is March 2008.

Retail therapy

Bloom Maternity has always offered a jeans conversion service, where pregnant mummies bring their favourite designer jeans to Bloom and have them converted into maternity jeans...then converted back to their svelte shape after delivery. Bloom is now carrying Mavi jeans, which are more affordable than other high-end jeans (\$140) and stretchier than other name brands. Other new maternity items include the Delicious line of maternity t-shirts, all priced under \$45 and Raz Baby pacifiers, such as the “Keep It Clean” model, which when dropped on the floor, has wings that fold inwards protecting the nipple. This ingenious item is only \$6.

For those of you who like a good tidbit of gossip, Brad Pitt was in Bloom recently and purchased a Belli Cream gift set, which included a body exfoliator, belly oil, body lotion and body wash for \$85.

A little beyond Westmount: Little green thumbs

The Canadian Centre for Architecture (1920 Baile St., 514.939.7026, www.cca.qc.ca) is offering roof garden workshops

Westmounter exhibits his Normand Hudon collection

Westmounter Denis Lépine first encountered the art of Normand Hudon in 1986 and made his initial purchase of the artist’s work the following year. That started the ball rolling: Lépine now has over 100 books containing Hudon’s work and nearly 100 original pieces by him, including lithographs, paintings, cartoons, record covers and card games.

“I purchased *Portrait de famille* in 1987. Several months later, it appeared in an art book with the description, ‘Collection of Denis Lépine.’ It felt funny to already have a collection,” said Lépine.

Normand Hudon was a versatile artist best known for his caricatures and cartoons in *La Presse*, *Le Petit Journal* and *Le Devoir*. He was born in Montreal in 1929 and died in 1997.

Hudon’s work struck Lépine like a thunderbolt: “The subjects interested me right away. Hudon was a visionary. He commented

on politics and criticized Union Nationale politicians in a way that was ahead of his time. In addition, he worked quickly and often used just one line when composing a new work.”

Lépine’s works are on exhibition at the Maison de la culture Mercier until August 26. They will also form part of a larger retrospective being done in Sherbrooke at the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Sherbrooke from October 20 to mid-February 2008.



Three portraits by Normand Hudon of his friend, Père Ambroise Lafortune, a Quebec priest who travelled extensively in Africa doing missionary work.



for children ages 5 to 12 accompanied by their parents. Junior landscape architects will learn all about green roofs, roof gardens and their benefits.

My daughter and I attended the workshop a few weeks ago. We were asked to bring an empty two-litre milk or juice container (great for recycling), which served as the “pot” in which we planted our garden. From poking drainage holes into the bottom of our containers to layering rocks and soil separated by a textile membrane (a j-cloth), each step was explained in a thorough way easily understood by the children. Of course, we took our creation home with us where it is living happily on our balcony. The Green Roof workshops are offered every Sunday in August as well as September 9 and 16 at 10:15 am and at 2 pm. The duration is two hours and reservations are necessary. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children. If it rains, an indoor activity will be offered.

Follow-up

As a follow-up to last month’s column, it has come to my attention that LMNOP (4919A Sherbrooke St. W., 514.486.4572) carries flotation bathing suits similar to the ones I mentioned. They are about \$50 and come in an assortment of colours. The boutique also has NoZone bathing suits, which are UV resistant, come in sizes 0 to 14 and cost \$54 and up.

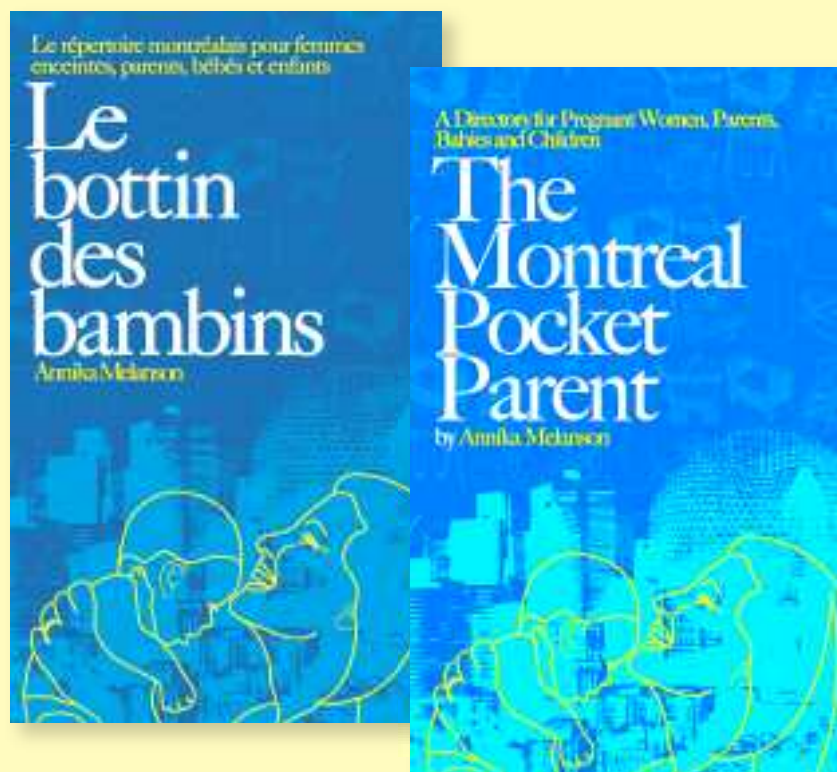
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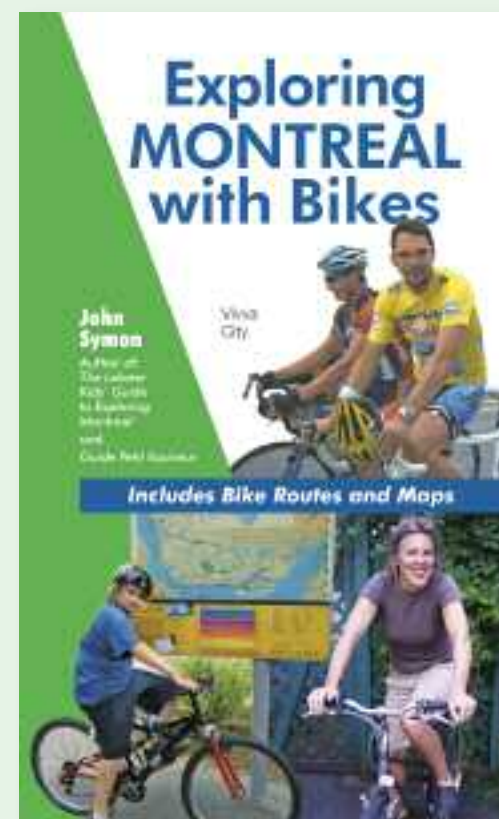
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WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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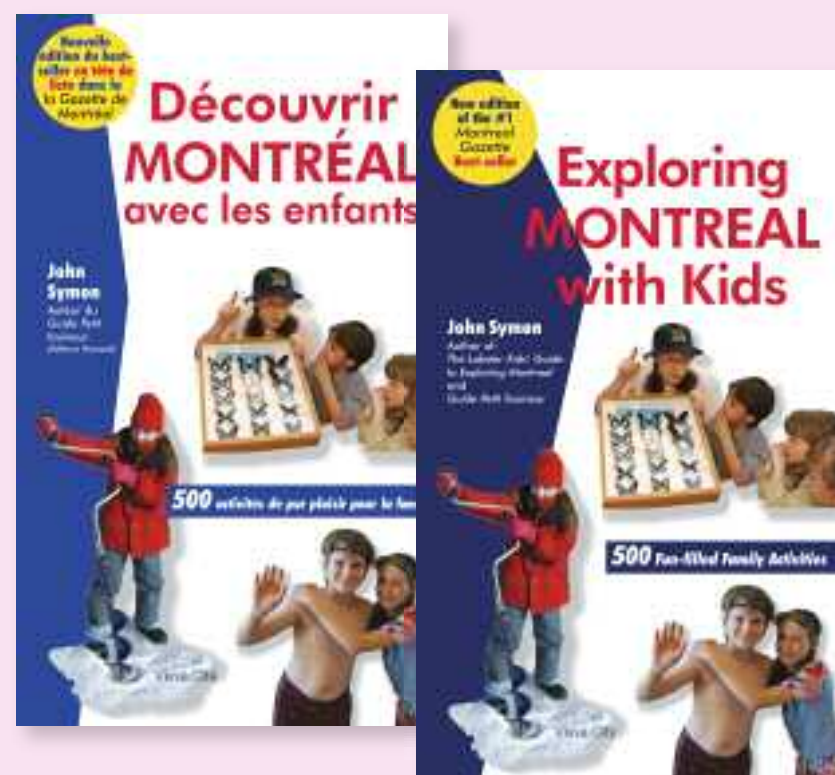
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Many thanks to everyone for their encouragement and contributions.

David Price, Editor
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