

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Volume 3 Number 2d

We are Westmount

February 24-25, 2009

Camp issue, Part 2

We present our second issue on summer camps for kids

Please see p. 7.



Janette Bruce retires after 36 years p. 2

INSIDE

Comin' Up p. 14

Hello, Westmount BY R. GALBRAITH p. 10

What's in Store BY C. PRICE p. 12



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By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The third and last phase of Westmount's curb-side collection of kitchen and garden waste is expected to be launched May 5 for the 2,500 houses remaining in the western half of the city (see map p. 8).

The curbside program applies to dwellings having eight units or less.

The anticipated date was announced by Councillor George Bowser at city council's mid-month meeting February 18 with the approval to purchase the green bins required to complete the composting service introduced last year.

"This will replace the first of the two weekly pickups," he explained. This means the Tuesday one for all the newly affected sectors.

The collection of bluebox recyclables on Wednesday and of regular garbage on Friday will remain unchanged.

Lessons learned from phases 1 and 2 last year are making it possible to launch the third wave to such a large area, said city environmental coordinator Marina Peter. Information packages and green bins will be distributed to all households involved closer to the *continued on p. 8*

Decision to settle \$9 million debt a watershed Paying Montreal for 'gift' of water

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount city council has decided to pay off a \$9 million debt to Montreal related to water distribution over the years, thereby settling one more of the demerger "hangovers."

The debt represents the amount Montreal is said to have spent on major repairs to the water network in Westmount from 1966 – when it owned the system – to December 31, 2005, on the eve of demerger,

at which time it handed over the infrastructure to Westmount.

"Settling this is a turning point," said Councillor Tom Thompson who chairs the Finance & Administration Committee. "I'm calling it a watershed."

Westmount had already made provision over the last three years for paying down some \$2 million of the debt. But in December, he told the *Westmount Independent*, it was given an unexpected option by Mon- *continued on p. 3*

Williams, Lord mark Black History Month



Dorothy Williams and Richard Lord, with her book, Blacks in Montreal (1628-1986): An Urban Demography. February is Black History Month. For story, see p. 3. For the Atwater Library's connection to Montreal's black history, see p. 11.

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Janette Bruce

Library's audio-visual pioneer 'retires' after long career

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After 36 years at Westmount Public Library, Janette Bruce retired January 31 – though most library users wouldn't know it.

She's been back at her post ever since at the audiovisual desk, where she has spent 18 years on the front line of one of the library's most popular and ever changing departments.

Once a replacement is found, she plans to work a reduced work week as needed. "I want to keep my hand in as a part-time worker," she says.

But with her retirement party February 20, the prospect of having time to take courses and spend more time gardening became more and more appealing.

When Janette was first assigned to work with the fledgling collection of cassettes almost two decades ago, she recalls, they were kept behind the adult circulation desk. Soon, as their number grew, they were moved to a larger space – a nook on the main floor under stairs to the staff wash room.

But with the 1995 renovation and addition to the library, Janette moved with the department into spacious new quarters on the ground floor where it has expanded with the burgeoning evolution of A/V technology into videos, CDs, DVDs and audio books including the new Playaways.

And after all these years, she notes: "People are still asking the same types of questions." Can she find them the movie "where the guy meets the gal and there's a dog in it?"

She would love to have time to enjoy the collection herself, she says, but she's usually occupied helping others with their selections, troubleshooting, mending damaged items and processing new material. She also helps with the internet terminal.

Born in England at Horncastle, Lincolnshire, Janette came to Montreal at age 3. She attended the former King's School and Westmount High. She was hired as a clerk at the circulation desk in 1972 and moved to A/V when it was created in 1990.



Janette Bruce (right) with Westmount resident Mari Uchida, a new library member.

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A spectrum of black history

There is more than one "black Montreal" – and it has been changing since Day One.

So explained historian and author Dorothy Williams, who spoke to the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal on February 16 as part of Black History Month. Williams is the author of *Blacks in Montreal (1628-1986): An Urban Demography* and *The Road to Now: A History of Blacks in Montreal*.

Her topic at the noon luncheon series? "Diversity in Black Montreal."

Williams' lecture took place at the Unitarian Church of Montreal (located at de Maisonneuve and Claremont, on the Westmount border) and was introduced by Westmounter Richard Lord, who – among many other accomplishments – was the first black man to play US college hockey.

Institutions important

Lord explained the importance of institutions in his life, including Westmount stalwarts Roslyn and Westmount High. Williams later picked up on this theme and explained the important role that national and religious institutions (e.g. the St. Patrick's Society for the Irish, the United Negro Improvement Association for blacks) had played in the lives of all Montrealers in the 19th century.

Williams' main point, however, was that Montreal's black community was neither monolithic nor static. She explained that – contrary to widely held views – blacks were a part of the French and British colonies as slaves and labourers from the start.

That initial population increased in the 19th century when fugitive American slaves fled to Canada before the US Civil War, and later when American and some West Indian blacks came to work on the railroad. (For a Westmount link to the abolitionist and fugitive slave movement, please see "The Atwater Library's abolitionist connection" on p. II.)

Jazz age

The American connection eventually led to the rise of a vibrant jazz scene in Montreal, aided by Prohibition in the US of the 1920s. Ironically, black performers would often play in white patron-only clubs. In the 1930s and 1940s, Montreal's black population was supplemented by an



Dorothy Williams at her lecture "Diversity in Black Montreal" on February 16.

internal migration of Canadian blacks from Nova Scotia.

The 1950s and 1960s saw the increase in immigration from the West Indies and Africa, as well as the introduction of a new thread toward the end of that period: francophone from Haiti.

Enter the Haitians

And the Haitians weren't uniform either: at first, there was a wave of French-speaking professionals and then one of Creole-speaking refugees. In 2001, the census recorded more francophone blacks than anglophone ones for the first time in the city's history.

The rise in the number of Africans in the community has also been a feature of the post-war period. They now stand at 18 percent of the black population.

Williams concluded with statistics showing a continuing disparity between the black and non-black populations – despite large economic strides over the years. For instance, blacks with university degrees have an unemployment rate three times that of whites and generally make less money with the same qualifications.

Williams will be speaking at the Atwater Library on Friday, February 27. See Comin' Up p. 14 for details.

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'Watershed' decision

continued from p. 1

treal of paying the debt in full by mid-March without three months of interest or locking into paying \$634,000 a year over 36 years. This amount would include interest rates set by Montreal.

"That would have cost us close \$12 million more," Thompson explained. Instead, the city plans to finance the debt on a shorter term through a bank and at currently low interest rates.

The decision to settle the debt was re-

vealed at the city council meeting February 2 with notice of motion to adopt a financing loan by-law March 2.

The debt was another example of "Montreal bearing gifts," Mayor Karin Marks told the meeting. "When we demerged they 'gave' us our water network." It did, however, provide Westmount with the opportunity to upgrade the infrastructure to help prevent major water breaks such as those being experienced in Montreal, she pointed out.



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Earth Hour now!

BY EVE ASPINALL
MEMBER OF THE HEALTHY CITY PROJECT

A subcommittee of the Healthy City Project met recently to look at Earth Hour. It was attended by me, Patricia Dumais, Paul Marriott and Tony Moffat.

The group was looking at ways to make Earth Hour (Saturday, March 28 at 8:30 pm) a more successful event than it was last year. During Earth Hour, people are encouraged to avoid using electrical appliances in order to put a spotlight environmental and energy issues.

Recommendations to residents

1. Turn off all indoor and outdoor lights with special emphasis on the latter.
2. Eat a vegetarian dinner – the process of providing meat is detrimental for the environment.
3. This is the time to replace those incandescent bulbs with CFLs.
4. Turn off all appliances such as stoves and clothes dryers that use a lot of electricity.

While your house is in darkness:

5. Use the time to visit old or sick people.
6. Go for a walk.
7. Play an instrument or have a sing-song.
8. Play games with your family.
9. Go to bed early and catch up on your sleep.
10. Join in with the Westmount Earth Hour activities.

What we would like from the city

1. Turn out all non-essential lights in every civic building, particularly those outside.
2. Ask Hydro Westmount what it can do to

reduce the light from the street lights. These lamps are the dominating source of light and markedly decrease the effect of Earth Hour.

3. Turn off the lights at the Summit, particularly around the Lookout.
4. Organize a bus to shuttle citizens from Victoria Hall to the Summit to view, weather permitting, Saturn and other celestial delights through a telescope.
5. Organize a walking tour that encourages people to consider which street lights are unnecessary. The tour should end up at the Summit for an astronomy talk.
6. After the event at the Lookout, it would be nice if the city would arrange to have a final end to Earth Hour at the clock tower building in Murray Hill Park (King George Park), and serve hot chocolate and cookies, or earth-friendly and locally produced apple juice. The city should provide some pamphlets on environmental practices and ask a local hardware store to sell CFL light bulbs.
7. All the churches in Westmount should be asked to ring their bells at 8 pm to remind Westmounters of the approaching Earth Hour.

Why city council should act:

1. To set an example,
2. Turning off street lights would have high impact and the global effect would be noticed by all, not just those living near municipal buildings. With darker skies, we will see more stars,
3. More and more people are becoming environmentally conscious and we believe citizens would welcome the support of council's leadership in this

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We're Westmount, we're weekly, and we like it

We have been weekly since August and we plan to continue, excluding the traditional breaks for weekly papers (Christmas and the construction holiday).

Readers, advertisers and contributors are all happy with the new state of affairs. There have been several expected and unexpected benefits to being weekly. They include readers knowing when to look for us (all the time) and advertisers knowing when they can book ads (all the time).

We're pleased to be here every week with local news prepared by a team with many decades of collective Westmount knowledge and experience. We hope you're happy too!

DAVID PRICE, EDITOR

endeavour.

Post-meeting suggestions

Citizens can download posters (www.wwf.ca/earthhour/toolkits/) and put them in their windows to show their participation.

At Victoria Hall, incandescent bulbs

could be exchanged for CFLs with a limit of two.

Also at Victoria Hall, it would be interesting to have someone from the provincial energy efficiency office present to give information on the energy efficiency grant programmes that are in place.

Letters to the Editor

PICKING YOUR BATTLES: PET WASTE OR AIR POLLUTION?

Thank you, Alix Chodkowski, for the necessary indignation in your recent letter concerning dog excrement lying foul in parts of upper Westmount. ("Don't do dog-doo", February 17, p. 5).

I wonder if residents similarly concerned ever ask themselves how Westmount can be so committed to saving the planet while letting standards related to appearance and cleanliness lapse.

That said, I don't own a dog but I see the majority of dog owners behave responsibly and do pick up after their pets in public. That, however, is cold comfort when you're standing on one foot trying to scrape a dog's breakfast off the other.

But don't feel bad smearing dog excrement from your shoe on the sidewalk. It's not a carbon footprint you're leaving, and isn't that what matters these days in Westmount?

DOROTHY LIPOVENKO
YORK ST.

LORRAINE IS AN AVE. NOT A ST.

In the article "Maurice Podbrey back in town with Tshepang" (February 10, p. 6), you refer to Lorraine St. This should of course be Lorraine Ave.

For the record Westmount has approximately 70 avenues and only about a dozen streets including the obvious St.

Catherine, Sherbrooke and St. Antoine as well as the less known Bethune, Prospect, Stayner and Selby.

Yours truly,

DUNCAN SHADDICK
CLARKE AVE.

AGREE ON OPENNESS, DISAGREE ON SIZE

Gary Ikeman's response ("Westmounters not about 'to vote with feet'", Feb. 17, p. 5) to my opinion piece ("Make phase 1 report public, larger arena benefits city", Feb. 10, p. 6) questions the logic of my arguments against the approach that Westmount city council appears to be following in the project to renew the arena and pool.

Unfortunately, my words have been taken out of context.

I believe we have the same goal: that city council respond to the needs and aspirations of the citizens of Westmount. Both of us, I think, have the opinion that our elected officials need to be more open and transparent in their deliberations.

I trust that Mr. Ikeman and I can agree to disagree on the desired size and scope of the arena/pool renewal project, and still find common ground on the need for city council to make decisions that are respectful of Westmounters' wishes. Any deviations from those wishes need to be based on feasibility and design studies properly conducted and openly reported.

HENRY OLDERS
LANSDOWNE AVE.

Opinion

Troubled times call for financial prudence

BY PATRICK BARNARD

Turmoil in global markets contains a cautionary warning for all economic actors, especially municipalities. Macro-economic conditions can change in an instant in this electronic age. In an unpredictable era, municipal officials should act with great prudence and not pretend that they can anticipate economic fundamentals.

For Westmount, this means that council should truly implement the "Sustainable Westmount" goal of "prudent and socially responsible use of natural and human resources" ("Sustainable Westmount vision draft," *Westmount Independent*, February 3, p. 4).

Green spending?

Unfortunately, a number of Westmounters feel the current city administration has already been imprudent in expenditures for projects involving public spaces and green areas. Of course, this opinion involves qualitative judgments on which there can, and should be, debate.

Let's look at what a fiscally prudent citizen might see as the unnecessary expenditures already incurred:

- The Lemay consulting firm is slated to be paid \$408,000 to advise the city that a prestige, two-NHL rink arena cannot be accommodated in the proposed space where the old arena stands. Yet that fact was already clear in the Julia Bourke feasibility study of November 2007.
- A landscape consultant will be paid \$200,000 over the next two years to

make a park inventory. By the tangible evidence so far, it seems that Westmounters are paying this money to be informed that they have parks.

- Save The Park! has estimated that the equivalent of \$250,000 in consultants' fees and employee time was spent on the artificial turf option for Westmount Park's playing fields – a choice practically no one wanted.
- Money and wood was wasted to unwisely "develop" Sunnyside Park by cutting 120 trees and bushes. Approximate cost: \$30,000.

Total cost of superfluous spending: Approximately \$880,000.

Future spending

What about future expenditure? In one of his last columns for *The Examiner* before switching to the *Independent*, activist Don Wedge predicted that a new arena of a major kind would entail a \$1,000 surcharge per household over ten years, or a tax increase of \$100 a year. The more likely projection now is double that.

Here is the evolution of the estimated costs for the arena project: 1995 – \$5 million; 2005 – \$10 million; 2007 – \$26 million (Westmount grant application to Quebec of December 2007; a virtual amount, hastily improvised).

Now, within a few months, the city says a new and different internal figure of \$21.7 million is being used, a 10 percent increase from an earlier in-house benchmark of \$19.6 million, apparently so the consultants will receive an up-front in-

crease of \$65,000 in their fee. Confusing? You bet.

Such erratic planning is troubling.

In an unstable macro-economic environment, the costs of a "prestige" arena could move well beyond \$30 million. Even if Westmount gets two thirds of the expenditure from other governments, the striking fact is this: *A charge of \$10 million to the city budget would represent a more than 25 percent increase in Westmount's debt of \$37 million.*

Westmount does need a renewed arena facility, but it is unfortunate that irrational

exuberance has excluded a whole series of neglected options for ice surfaces (alternative spaces, a first-class renovation, sharing facilities).

Don Wedge has said that the arena project is the most important Westmount expenditure in a generation. It is time that citizens demand transparency and clear numbers – only then can they make an informed choice about what they really want, economically, socially, and environmentally.

Patrick Barnard is a Melville Ave. resident and frequent spokesman for Save the Park!



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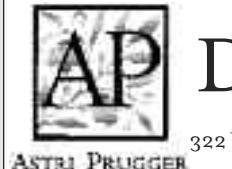
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Ian W. Campbell (1929-2009)

Third generation of Campbells to keep on framing Westmounters

BY KRISTIN MCNEILL

A longstanding member of the community, Ian W. Campbell, whose framing shop, Campbell Gallery, has served Westmount for almost 80 years, died on February 10. His sons Glenn and John are the



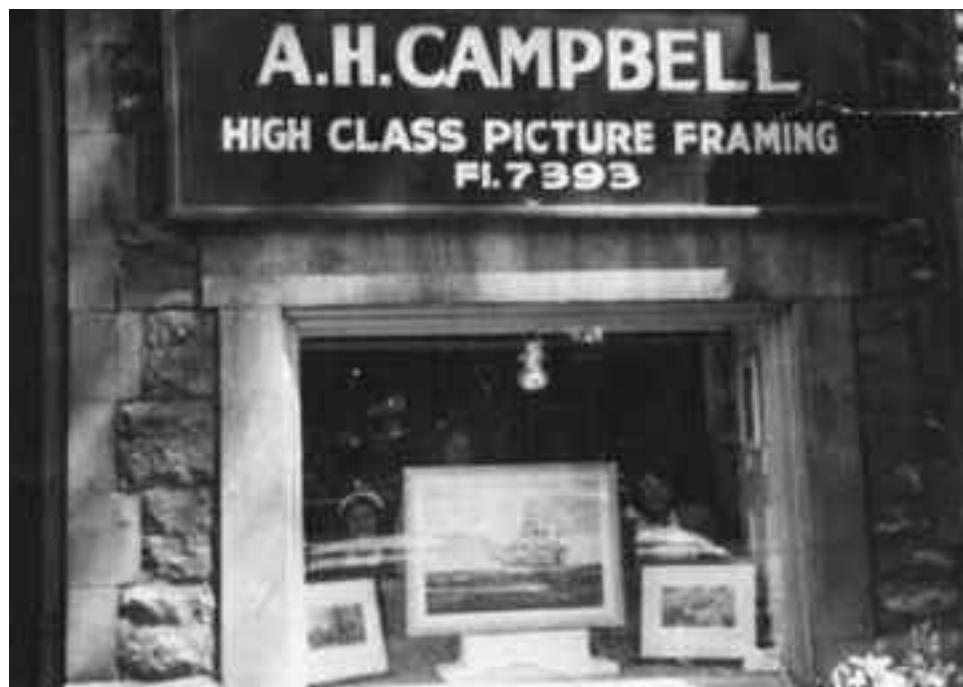
A peaceful tribute to Ian Campbell in his shop's front window on February 19.

current owners of the business. Their brother Stephen works there part time.

They are the third generation to operate the Campbell family business in custom picture framing and art restoration. Their grandfather, Alexander Harvey Campbell, first opened a carpentry and carved frame shop in Verdun in 1924. In the 1930s, the store was moved to St. Catherine St. near Greene Ave. Campbell Gallery has been at its current location at 4916 Sherbrooke (at Prince Albert Ave.) since 1974.

Ian retired at 65 in 1994, but continued to be a presence in the shop. He was called in to do special restoration projects and was known for his skills. Just recently, a customer who originally brought in some prints in 1975 came to the store looking for Ian to work on another set. "We must be doing something right," said Glenn.

Like Ian, who apprenticed under his



The original A.H. Campbell store opened by Ian Campbell's father, Alexander Harvey Campbell, in Verdun in the early 1920s.

own father, Glenn joined the family business and started learning the trade at the age of 18. He later became a partner. He described his father as a person of deeds



The Campbell store today.

and not words. In the spirit of true apprenticeship, the novice was encouraged to learn by watching closely, but was expected to jump in at the moment his skills could meet the mandatory quality.

John Campbell said his "dad was a quiet guy, but he knew everyone."

A collection of photographs and a painting of Ian Campbell are on display in the shop's storefront window.



Ian Campbell with a grandchild. A member of the fourth generation of the Campbell family is currently apprenticing in the trade of framing and art restoration.

You and the Law

BY BARBARA NOETZEL, LAWYER

Child custody and under the table cash

John and Rebecca, who have two young children, are in the process of getting a divorce. They both agree that Rebecca should have the custody of the children, but they cannot agree on the amount of child custody John should pay.

In Quebec, child custody is calculated according to the provincial child support determination guidelines, which take both parents' incomes into account. This rule applies for both divorcing and separating parents; in the case of divorce, however, the federal child support determination guidelines would apply if either parent lives in another province.

Rebecca works as a nurse and earns \$30,000 a year. John, on the other hand, is a self-employed construction entrepreneur. He has been in the business for twenty years and his company seems to be doing well; however, according to his income tax returns for last year, John's

declared income was only \$20,000.

That's impossible, says Rebecca, noting the couple's affluent lifestyle during their years together. According to her, most of John's income comes from cash which he doesn't declare, and she wants the court to take this into account when it determines the child support. Is she right?

Yes, according to a decision by the Quebec Court of Appeal, which upheld a lower-court ruling to increase a non-custodial father's declared income by adding an amount for under-the-table cash and personal expenses which were paid by his company.

However, the court refused to grant the mother's request that the father pay child care expenses. Why? Because the children's baby-sitter refuses to issue receipts - and in the court's reasoning, granting the request would be tantamount to approving an illegal activity, namely, the fact that the baby-sitter works "under the table".

Barbara Noetzel can be reached at 450-671-3305, or barbaranoetzel@yahoo.ca

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Summer camps, Part 2

Administrators eye economic future with caution, optimism

By ISAAC OLSON

As the economic downturn creates a ripple effect felt around the world, industries and institutions of every sort are starting to feel the pinch and, while the financial situation continues to worsen, the seemingly sacred summer camp tradition may start to see changes.

Summer camps, especially nonprofits that rely on donations, have been cautiously eyeing the future as a new age of careful spending and financial insecurity casts an uncertain shadow.

So far, however, most camps aren't suffering any drastic shift in enrolment numbers, but there has been a widely felt slowdown as parents wait to see where their finances are headed before signing their children up, reports Aruna Ogale, executive director of the Ontario Camps Association – an organization that provides information on and accredits camps around the province.

While many popular camps are already filling their rosters, directors anticipate registration will, as in years past, get into full swing this March. For the most part, there is an underlying confidence that enrolment numbers won't take too hard a hit this year but, as she looks to the future, Ogale predicts a strong need to rely on the internet to promote camps while also working to attract campers from diverse backgrounds.

"In Ontario we certainly have to look beyond our traditional camp population," said Ogale, taking a break from Orlando's annual mega summer camp conference to conduct the interview via cell phone. "Children are now coming from non-traditional camp backgrounds – from countries where camp may not be such a tradition. If we can't figure out a way to reach this population, in the long run, we could face a difficult situation. The reality is more and more children are coming from different backgrounds."

The American Camp Association reports an unflinching enrolment trend over the last five years and, according to their spokesperson, who was also participating in the Florida conference, they are predicting, in general, a solid summer across the United States. As the numbers trickle in, it is clear that people are continuing to register their children in summer camps.

Even with the disheartening economic news, summer camps like Quebec's Stukely-based Anglofun, an English immersion program that attracts campers both locally and from abroad, aren't despondent. So far, however, they are holding steady with the same number of applicants as this time last year.

"For us, summer camp is going to be open regardless of numbers or the economic crisis," said Jen Lee, director of Anglofun. "We will be running a camp whether we have five kids or 100."

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Animals a threat to tidy composting

continued from p. 1

date.

It is also important to note, she adds, that the market for composting the kitchen waste and garden debris remains strong and is unaffected by the decreased demand in the recycling of paper, glass and plastics.

During the meeting, Councillor Cynthia Lulham brought up complaints she

had received about wild animals chewing through the lids of the green bins. Councillor Nicole Forbes said she had first-hand experience of this happening. Mayor Karin Marks referred the matter to city director general Duncan Campbell to determine how widespread the problem might be.

The curbside collection of kitchen waste also includes garden debris.

Garbage sectors in Westmount



Kitchen waste pick-up history

Blue: Phase 1 (since May 12, 2008)

Green: Phase 2 (since November 3, 2008)

White: Phase 3 (coming May 5, 2009)



Westmount vous informe...

Westmount Page



FINANCES

Date d'échéance - taxes foncières

Le premier versement de vos taxes foncières municipales 2009 est exigible le lundi 2 mars. Vous pouvez effectuer votre paiement par Internet via votre institution financière préférée, par la poste (chèque à l'ordre de la Ville de Westmount) ou à l'hôtel de ville (argent comptant, chèque ou Interac).

Contributions payables à l'Agglomération

Veuillez noter qu'à compter de 2009, les contribuables westmountais ne recevront qu'un seul compte de taxes foncières, soit celui émis par la Ville de Westmount, qui comprend les contributions payables à l'Agglomération.

En raison de ce changement, les comptes de taxes d'agglomération des années antérieures, incluant l'année 2008, NE POURRONT PLUS être acquittés à l'hôtel de ville de Westmount. Vous devrez vous présenter à un comptoir de service de la Ville de Montréal, ou payer par Internet via votre institution financière préférée.



TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Déneigement

Westmount demande votre collaboration pour assurer l'entretien sécuritaire de nos rues et trottoirs en hiver. Il est interdit d'entasser sur les voies et trottoirs publics la neige retirée des entrées privées. Il est toutefois permis d'ajouter de la neige aux amas avant leur enlèvement.



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Galerie : appel de propositions

Rappel aux artistes : la date limite pour soumettre sa candidature pour la saison d'exposition 2009-2010 de la galerie du Victoria Hall est le lundi 2 mars 2009. Pour de plus amples renseignements, consultez le site Web de la Ville ou procurez-vous le dépliant au Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5226.

Défilé de la Saint-Patrick

Joignez-vous à nous le dimanche 22 mars à midi pour le 185^e défilé de la Saint-Patrick. Les laissez-

DATES À RETENIR

Jusqu'au 14 mars

Exposition : *Sara Peck Colby*
La galerie du Victoria Hall

Le 2 mars – 20 h

Séance du conseil
Hôtel de ville

Le 22 mars – midi

Défilé de la Saint-Patrick

Les 25 et 26 mars – 18 h à 20 h

Période d'inscription
Activités de loisirs printemps/été 2009
Victoria Hall

passer pour monter à bord du char de Westmount seront disponibles à compter du 2 mars au Victoria Hall seulement. Vous pouvez aussi vous joindre à notre groupe de marcheurs. Info : 514 989-5265.



SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Répertoire des activités de loisirs

Édition printemps-été 2009

Le nouveau répertoire des activités sera distribué par la poste aux résidents de Westmount à compter du 6 mars. Info : 514 989-5353.



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Rencontre d'auteur

Venez rencontrer Barbara Meadowcroft le mercredi 25 février de 19 h à 21 h alors qu'elle parlera de la vie de l'auteure canadienne Gwethalyn Graham. Info : 514 989-5299.

Les vendredis du cinéma

Venez visionner le film *Unbreakable* de M. Night Shyamalan le vendredi 27 février à 19 h et participer à une discussion de groupe par la suite. Veuillez préalablement vous inscrire au comptoir de prêt. Info: 514 989-5299.



FINANCE

Installment Deadline

Municipal Property Taxes

The first installment of your 2009 municipal taxes is due on Monday, March 2. Please note that payments can be made by Internet through your preferred financial institution, by mail (by cheque made to the order of City of Westmount) or at City Hall (by cash, cheque or Interac payments).

Amounts payable to the Agglomeration

Please note that as of 2009, Westmount taxpayers will only receive one property tax bill, that issued by the City of Westmount, which will include the amounts that are payable to the Agglomeration.

Because of this change, agglomeration tax bills from 2008 and previous years can NO LONGER be paid at Westmount City Hall. To pay these older bills, please visit a City of Montreal service counter, or pay by Internet through your preferred financial institution.



PUBLIC WORKS

Snow Removal

Westmount relies on your cooperation to help keep our streets and sidewalks safe during the winter. Snow from private driveways and walkways must NOT be placed on public sidewalks, lanes or streets. During snow loading, snow may be added to the existing snowbanks prior to removal.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Gallery Call for Submissions

Reminder to artists: the deadline for applications for the 2009-2010 exhibition season of the Gallery at Victoria Hall is Monday, March 2, 2009. Visit our Web site for details or pick up a brochure at Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5226.

St. Patrick's Parade

Join us for the 185th St. Patrick's Parade on Sunday, March 22! Board the Westmount Float or join the walking contingent. Passes will be available as of March 2 only at Victoria Hall. Info: 514 989-5265.



Vol. 3/04

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DATEBOOK

Until March 14

Exhibition: *Sara Peck Colby*
The Gallery at Victoria Hall

March 2 – 8 p.m.

Council Meeting
City Hall

March 22 – noon

St. Patrick's Parade

March 25 & 26 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Registration Period
Spring/Summer 2009 Recreation Activities
Victoria Hall



SPORTS & RECREATION

Recreation Activities Guide

Spring/Summer 2009 Edition

The new Recreation Activities Guide will be delivered by mail to all residences in Westmount starting March 6. Info: 514 989-5353.



LIBRARY

Author Event

Join Barbara Meadowcroft as she explores the life and times of Canadian author Gwethalyn Graham on Wednesday, February 25 at 7 p.m. Info: 514 989-5299.

Film Fridays

Join us as we meet on Friday, February 27 at 7 p.m. to watch the film *Unbreakable* by M. Night Shyamalan and discuss it afterward. Please register at the circulation desk. Info: 514 989-5299.

Hello, Westmount

BANA KABBANI, COPPAROMA



CoppAroma co-owner Bana Kabbani places a tray full of sandwiches and pannini in her store's display counter window on February 12.

PHOTO & STORY BY ROBERT GALBRAITH

CoppAroma opened on February 9. The new café-deli-patisserie offers a variety of sandwiches, soups, salads and freshly baked goods.

Bana Kabbani and her husband Rudy, who have operated the neighbouring Cantors for two years, decided to expand. "We're trying to have everything homemade, with quality our signature."

Even Bana's mom, Souraya, helps out in the kitchen, so it is a real family affair.

"We live in Westmount and love it here. We found that the area was lacking some-

thing like CoppAroma and wanted to provide high-quality food, but not at a high price. We even get a lot of students from Westmount High. We ran out of bagels and cream cheese today because the kids bought them all."

Cantors and CoppAroma employ 11 people. They will open an outdoor terrace when weather permits. It is located at 4419 St Catherine St., at Kensington Ave.

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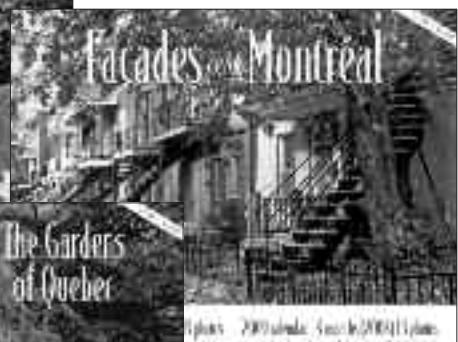
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ON THE SHELVES

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

Magazines

"Gen Y in the Workforce: How I Learned to Love Millennials (And Stop Worrying About What They Were Doing with their iPhones)" by Tamara J. Erickson in *Harvard Business Review*, Feb. 2009, p. 43.

"White hot: snowboarding and skateboarding icon Shaun White has pulled off his most amazing stunt yet; acting as creative muse for companies such as HP and Target in their quest to reach the elusive, mega-lucrative youth market", by Mark Borden in *Fast Company*, Feb. 2009, p. 56.

"Faut-il abolir l'adolescence? Les jeunes devraient-ils obtenir plus rapidement les droits et les responsabilités des adultes? Aux États-Unis, des voix s'élèvent pour dénoncer la sous-culture stupide et infantilisante dans laquelle ils marinrent", by Isabelle Grégoire in *L'actualité*, Mar. 1, 2009, p. 22.

February is Black History Month

Le rêve de Martin Luther King by Jean Marzollo. This beautifully illustrated biography outlining the accomplishments of Martin Luther King is told in simple language for younger readers.

Heroes for Civil Rights by David A. Adler. This book is perfect for younger kids looking for an introduction to those heroes who helped change the world during the civil rights movement.

Birmingham, 1963 by Carole Boston Weatherford. Using sparse text and archival photographs, this book provides a powerful look back at a tragic day in US history.

Becoming Billie Holiday by Carole Boston Weatherford. Eleanora Fagan, known to the world as Billie Holiday, the great jazz singer who sang as if she had lived each lyric is beautifully represented here in raw and poignant poems. This fictional memoir tells of her childhood in Baltimore up to her early adulthood, when she became the first African American vocalist to tour with an all-white band. The beautiful illustrations by Floyd Cooper add

greatly to the appeal of this book. It will have you borrowing CDs of Holiday's music too.

The Freedom Business: Including a Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture, a Native of Africa by Marilyn Nelson. In an extraordinary slave narrative recorded in 1798, Venture Smith remembers his capture in Guinea as a child; the horrific journey on the slave ship to Rhode Island; 30 years of hard labour; being sold and separated from his wife; and his years of work to buy his freedom, his family's and his own land. Smith's original, first-person account, published in 1798, appears opposite Nelson's stirring poems which are written in Smith's voice. This title is recommended to teens and adults.

Art in fiction

La fille du Prado by Michel Leclerc. A young student's life is shattered after a visit to the Prado museum. Obsessed by the famous painting "Las meninas", she will start coming to the museum every day to pore over its details. A fortuitous encounter with the British painter Francis Bacon will help her exorcise her demons.

Les pélicans de Géorgie by Jacques Folch-Ribas. A French art merchant travels to the state of Georgia to meet a rich collector. Once in Savannah, he will unexpectedly meet a woman whom he had deeply loved when they were both architecture students in Paris. An impressionistic novel about the beauty of women and the lascivious charms of the Deep South.

Reference

The Gale Encyclopedia of Surgery and Medical Tests: Guide for Patients and Caregivers.

The Encyclopedia of Drugs, Alcohol, and Addictive Behavior.

Library reviews

Share your opinion on a book, a movie or anything you find in the library by adding a review to the catalogue. If enough members do this, everyone will get great recommendations. Details at www.westlib.org or in the library.

The Atwater Library's abolitionist connection

BY SUSAN MCGUIRE

Dorothy Williams, author of Blacks in Montreal (1628-1986): An Urban Demography and The Road to Now: A History of Blacks in Montreal recently spoke at the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal (see story on p. 3).

In his introduction to her talk, Westmounter Richard Lord mentioned a link between Westmount's Atwater Library and Montreal's black history.

Susan McGuire, a former executive director of the library, was also at Williams' speech and agreed to expand on the connection for the Independent.

February is Black History Month and Westmount's Atwater Library (in its previous incarnation as the Mechanics' Institute) had an early role in defending the rights of Montreal's black community.

As described by Edgar Andrew Collard in his book *Montreal Yesterdays*, the plight of fugitive slaves from the US South was one that moved many members of Montreal society.

John Anderson was an American-owned slave who, during his escape to Canada, had killed a man who tried to seize him. The Americans demanded his extradition to be tried for murder. Slavery had been abolished in Canada in 1834, so the question was, since slavery did not exist here, how could the alleged crime be recognized? The initial court in Toronto decided that Anderson must be handed over to the US. There was outrage in Toronto, Hamilton and Montreal.

Montreal meeting

In January 1861, a meeting was held in Montreal at the Mechanics' Hall, with an overflow audience of more than 800. Leading citizens spoke, including Mayor Charles-Séraphim Rodier (an early Mechanics' Institute member), lawyer Antoine Aimé Dorion, the Rev. William Bond of St. George's Anglican Church, William Taylor of Erskine Presbyterian Church, the

Rev. John Cordner of the Unitarian Church and Dr. William Hingston, who later founded St. Mary's Hospital and became mayor of Montreal.

There was a move to have the Anderson issue decided by the courts of England, but there was resistance to the idea of a British judge deciding a distinctly Canadian issue.

The question was eventually settled by a technicality, in that the warrant for Anderson's arrest had not been legally worded. He was released, left Toronto, passed through Montreal on his way to Africa, and was apparently never heard from again.

Site of black cemetery

It was one of those coincidences of history that the site of the Mechanics' Institute building of the time (at the corner of St. James and St. Peter streets) had been the site of the Cimetière des Pauvres where, during the French regime, black slaves had been buried.

The Anderson affair was only one of the instances in the anti-slavery movement where people belonging to the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal were involved. Its founder in 1828, the Rev. Henry Esson, was in Toronto in the 1840s as a professor at the Presbyterian Knox College when he became known as an abolitionist.

Prominent Presbyterian John Redpath, who rejuvenated the Mechanics' Institute in Montreal in 1840, interceded in 1849 with Governor-General Lord Elgin to permit the Elgin Settlement near Chatham, Ontario to be set up to receive black refugees from the US.

In 1860, H. L. Gordon delivered a lecture at the Mechanics' Institute on the "Harper's Ferry Tragedy," the story of an American abolitionist who was found guilty of treason and conspiracy with slaves, and hanged in 1859, an event that some consider a prelude to the American Civil War.

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For consideration, letters to the editor must identify them as "for publication" and have authors' customary first and last names, and street names, all of which will be published. Please also include contact information (for follow-up purposes only). We do not publish letters regarding consumer complaints or inter-neighbour disputes. Letters will be edited for length, content and style.

BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The first of the new year

The following permits for exterior construction were approved by city council at meetings on February 2 and 18. They include those that typically would have been approved at the January session but were inadvertently omitted from the agenda.

625 Victoria: to replace a front parking space with one at the side;

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- 3262 Cedar:** to build a rear extension on the category 1 house to accommodate a basement garage and a family room at main floor level;
- 425 Roslyn:** to modify and enlarge the rear extension;
- 629 Murray Hill:** to replace windows and a rear door;
- 4376 de Maisonneuve:** to replace the second storey front balcony door;
- 4350 Westmount Ave.:** to replace windows and two doors;
- 60-62 Columbia:** to replace some windows and a door;
- 589 Lansdowne:** to replace some windows;
- 646 Lansdowne:** to modify a window and a door opening at the rear;
- 399 Clarke, 2B:** to replace three windows;
- 68 Sunnyside:** to build a rear extension, make interior modifications and replace a side door and a garage door;
- 4419-4421 St. Catherine:** to install signs for Copparoma;
- 326 Victoria:** to install a sign for Toile sur rendez-vous;
- 1336 Greene:** a sign for Ongles Ty;
- 512 Clarke:** to replace a door;
- 1325 Greene:** to install signs for Birkenstock Naturino;
- 549 Grosvenor:** to replace a window and create a new window opening at the rear;
- 399 Clarke, 2D:** to replace two sets of patio doors;
- 425 Mount Stephen:** to replace the roof deck and railing;
- 582 Lansdowne:** to rebuild the front balconies;
- 584 Lansdowne:** to rebuild the front balconies;
- 39 Aberdeen:** to build a rear extension and install a swimming pool with landscaping;
- 3730 The Boulevard:** to build a new front retaining wall below the natural grade and to do some interior renovations including installation of an elevator;
- 65 Forde Ave.:** to replace sliding doors with new French doors;
- 4278 Sherbrooke:** to install a real estate sign.

Wine: What's In Store...

Quebecers are loving the Australian wines

By CAROLA PRICE



How is it that a country that is so hot makes such divine wines for winter dining?

It looks as if Quebecers have jumped into the Aussie barrel whole hog, and seeing the new push at the SAQ, it was really as if this article would write itself.

Shiraz is not the only grape produced in Australia, yet it is the most widely known in our market. For years, good Australian wine was not available to anyone outside Australia or Britain, but with massive marketing and developing wine tastes across the globe, the better wineries started to export their goodies.

There are excellent labels at the SAQ and the varied ranges help wine lovers find the style that is right for them.

So what to try on a chilly evening after a long day? Open a sparkling Shiraz while prepping dinner and have it with a few almonds, Prosciutto or Rosette de Lyon and some Tomme de Savoie.

For those of you who don't like the wood then un-oaked Chardonnay from Western Australia can be just the thing. It

goes well with fleshy fish and pork roast and leans towards acidic flavouring or any Asian spice.

If you want something with more bang in the mouth then try a GSM. My all time favourite, GSM stands for Grenache, Syrah (Shiraz) and Mouvedre. The richness of this wine shines with roast lamb, grilled steak and heavy soups and stews. I paired some with a rich and gooey four cheese and grilled tomato pasta casserole.

Experiment with dishes and all the wine styles but put away the high alcohol wines in the summer, as they tend not to shine as well as in the colder months.

Let's taste!

Element Classic White, Sandalford, Western Australia
SAQ#10340842. \$16.20

A delicious blend that pairs well with all

For those of you who are in the mood for learning about wine this winter, we at IVV are holding a wine "Mini Series", an informative one night food and wine tasting that focuses on a particular region or style. Next up is the Pacific Northwest. Log onto www.localwineevents.com for details or email me directly at carola@ivvmontréal.com

seafood, avocado and grapefruit salad. This is all fruit as it sees no wood, which is a nice change from the oaked Chardonnays.

Available at press time: Across from Atwater Market

GSM, Miss Harry, Hewitson, McLaren Vale
SAQ#10256093. \$21.95

This red has very ripe flavours including cherry, fresh berry, leather with some licorice. Good body overall and a bit of baking spice in the finish. Pair it with grilled meat and stewed lamb.

Available at press time: Across from Atwater Market, Victoria, Pepsi Forum.

Shiraz, Filsell, Grant Burge, Barossa
SAQ#10257601. \$28.15

From one of the top vineyards in the Barossa that produces the fruit for the Burge flagship wine. This heavy and rich Shiraz has chocolate, cherries, plum and blackberry with some cinnamon and toasted oak in the finish. It will pair well with roasted lamb, beef stew or mushroom risotto.

Available at press time: Across from Atwater Market.

Carola Price is a sommelier and principal in IVV Montreal and IVV Catering

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Looking for retail space?



These two stores on Victoria Ave. below Somerville are empty.



If you're looking to open a shop in the Victoria Village, there are a few options out there. Is this a sign of the economic downturn, a trend in Westmount retail or just the usual ebb and flow of tenants?



Bead Emporium on Victoria Ave. has been closed since September.



Three stores for rent on the south side of Sherbrooke St. between Prince Albert and Claremont.



Two more stores for rent on the south side of Sherbrooke St. between Prince Albert and Claremont. As previously reported, Collins Lefebvre Stoneberger (now Fine Art of the Americas) has relocated to 3944 St. Denis.

This site is for rent on the north side of Sherbrooke between Claremont and Prince Albert.

Comin' Up...

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25: Barbara Meadowcroft will explore the life and times of Canadian author Gwethalyn Graham at the **Westmount Library** at 7 pm. Free. 514.989.5386.

FRIDAY, FEB. 27: Dorothy Williams reads from and discusses her book *Blacks in Montreal 1628-1986: An Urban Demography* at 12:30 pm at Atwater Library and Computer Centre (1200 Atwater). Free.

FRIDAY FEB. 27: Centre Greene invites you to a Mexican Fiesta themed TGIF dinner and games evening from 6 to 8:30 pm at the Centre. \$10/child. Ages 5 to 12 years. www.centregrrene.org or 514.931.6202.

MONDAY, MARCH 2: Pre-register for **March Break Camp** at Centre Greene. Registration ends March 6. \$25/day or \$100/week. www.centregrrene.org or 514.931.6202.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3: ART NOW at the Westmount Library at 7 pm. Speakers

include photographer John Hill. 514.989.5091.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4: New date. The **Atwater book club**, led by author Mary Soderstrom discusses *Moral Disorder* by Margaret Atwood at 7:30 pm at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre (1200 Atwater). 514.935.7344.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5: For International Women's Day, a talk on the charitable foundation **60 million girls/ 60 millions de filles** by founder and president, Wanda Bedard at 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre (1200 Atwater). Free. 514.935.7344.

SATURDAY MARCH 7: Sophie Lukacs will be giving a **free soccer clinic** for girls (ages 7 to 11) at Centre Greene from 4 to 5:30 pm. She is asking for donations of team soccer uniforms that will go to a co-ed soccer league in Burkina Faso. Money donations can also be made at www.justgiving.com/

sophielukacs.

UNTIL SATURDAY, MARCH 7: Westmounter **Shelley Freeman** exhibits her artwork as part of "Passages" at the Galerie l'Envol (372 St. Catherine W., #522). 514.489.0356.

MONDAY, MARCH 9: Temple Emanu-El Beth Shalom invites the community to its annual **Purim Shpiel**, an evening of the greatest hits from "Middle East Side Story" and other musicals at 7:30, free. Hot dog dinner starts at 6 pm, \$5. Purim Service at 6:45 pm. 514.937.3575.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10: 7 pm, the **Westmount Horticultural Society** presents guest speaker Karen Runnels, a chartered herbalist from the Dominion Herbal College of Canada, natural health consultant and garden designer. Westmount Library. 514.932.9349. Non-members \$5.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12: Art Focus presents

"Painting Montreal: The city seen through artists' eyes" an illustrated lecture by **Sandra Paikowsky** at the Westmount Library at 1:30 pm. Reservations 514.937.6391.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12: **Henry Mietkiewicz** speaks on "Superman's Canadian Co-creator: The Triumph and Tragedy of Joe Shuster" at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre (1200 Atwater) at 12:30 pm.

"I actually received two calls before I realized my Westmount Independent ad was out!"

– David, Fitness David www.fitnessdavid.com

"After a tough start in December, I paid for my Westmount Independent advertisement the first day after its publication."

– Wayne, Art Rebel – Custom Framing 318A Victoria Ave.

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Colourfully Yours: 2009 is all about style editing

BY GRETA VON SCHMEDLAPP,
MUSE TO AURELIEN GUILLORY



Well, well, my dears. What a bad, bad, old girl I have been! Here it is almost the end of the second month of the year of Change, and I haven't written to my devoted design friends yet. Please do forgive me, as it's been a whirlwind lately.

Dear readers, you might imagine that as a designer's shadow, yours truly has encountered lots of money as manifested in elaborate houses and furnishings.

Ideas matter

Well, we are not really impressed with dollars, so much as impressed with *ideas*. Ideas are what last, long after the bills are paid. When I see a well thought-out living room, a beautifully proportioned staircase that allows an elegant entrance, and centres the hall and main rooms, I am thrilled!

When I feel the proportions and movement of my hand on the well-wrought railing, this far eclipses many a grandiose *faux château* out in the 'burbs.

So, now's the time to introduce the

major word of the new year, *editing*. Several of Aurelien's francophone clients are reminding us anglos of the pun on the word "neuf" and the numeral 9. So please remind yourself that we must change with the year 2009 to re-neuf.

Keep the best

Our friend's carriage house was a re-editing of the best "bones" of the old space, with modern additions, a heated floor in honed stone, good insulation and sensible lighting.

I do remember Aurel's old dowager Aunt Dinah, who wore too many pins and broaches scattered across her ample bosom. When she mentioned her newest addition at the dinner table, Aurel's younger brother remarked that he couldn't see which one was the new one because of all the competition. There was a silence!

Not editing your home display of family heirlooms, and objects from travels, often obscures the elegance of the room. Removing a quarter of the elements carefully will often result in a fresher look (as well as a room easier to dust!).

Recently, when we were asked to do a short three-hour freshening up of a grand house, our first job was to collect all the



In the February 10 Independent, Mayor Karin Marks responded to questions about the weak market for recycled materials by saying, "It would be wrong to stop [recycling]." This residence on Roslyn Ave. has taken her message to heart. Have you ever seen so many blue boxes?

items with a bird motif and theme, and arrange them in a glorious grouping over the sofa in the study.

It had been "hide the Easter egg" all over the house. We had noticed the bird theme during our first tour, and when we commented that the lady of the house must like birds, she was surprised by the comment.

Her friends remarked that they had never seen such a nice display – she really had not noticed how many she had collected. Mounted on one wall that was freshly painted a lovely robin's egg blue, the result was smashing, and the cost was minimal.

Ideas over dollars

Ideas over dollars made a big impact and resulted in the dreary study getting a fresh look.

The business of downsizing doesn't have to be a let-down to the family, but a new beginning, and a fresh way to re-think the usefulness of a room's elements.

Calgary beckons

I must stop now, as I must pack my carpet bags to hop a flight to Calgary with Aurel. He is giving a seminar there at the House of Persian Rugs on "How to Select the Perfect Persian Rug for Your Home". We will be giving some colour consultations for two days after the presentation, so I will get an idea about Calgarian taste.

So, remember my word of the *neuf* year, edit, Edit, EDIT – anything but my therapeutic martinis.

À bientôt, your design sleuth, Greta von Schmedlapp.

Please do keep your comments coming to aurelien@colorsbyaurelien.com

Announcement from Chelsea Lax

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**ROSEMOUNT CRES.**

Wake-up with energy and vitality! There's nothing dreary about this gorgeous sun-filled detached stone home with lovely views. Exquisitely renovated, superbly located. Central air, new windows, garden, level garage + 2 parking. The perfect house designed for today's needs. No wasted space! A must see! **Asking \$1,395,000**

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**WATERMAN ST.**

Close to Old St Lambert , shops, mid-size 2 storey penthouse, 2 bdrms ++, fireplace, wood floors, central air, elevator, locker, garage, large terrace with views. Great first buy or downsize. Also for rent \$2,000/mo. **Asking \$465,000**

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**REDPATH ST.**

Bargain priced Land-lease condo, in top location above Sherbrooke and the Musée. Bright, spacious (3) bedroom, a/c, with balcony, garage. Downtown living at its best, steps to bistros, shops, universities and hospitals. **Asking \$375,000**
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**DU CANAL ST.**

Loft at a great price/value in the area. Walk to downtown, Old Montreal, Griffintown, Atwater Market, bikers paradise – Views, tremendous light from corner unit. Contemporary design – exposed beams, brick, open kitchen. Garage, spring occupancy. **Asking \$295,000** – Motivated Vendor

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**CÔTE-DES-NEIGES CH.**

Unique former Coach House on 3 levels, wood flrs, skylight. Charming bed-sitting room on top flr., ensuite, open main flr, kitchen in bsmt. Well-situated singles pad or cozy couples – steps to Sherbrooke, metro, hospitals, bistros. Also for rent \$2,200/mo. **Asking \$325,000**

LE SUD OUEST

**DU CANAL ST.**

Loft studio, in the Corticelli, close to Downtown & Old Montreal, next to canal and bicycle path. Perfect pied à terre – wood floors, big windows, renovated bath, large kitchen overlooking interior garden, open living/dining/bedroom area and Murphy bed, soundproof. Easy parking. **Asking below municipal evaluation.**

WESTMOUNT

**LANSDOWNE AVE.**

Unique 3-BDR apartment with 2180 sq.ft. of private garden, accessed from the 3 bedrooms (only 2 apartments in the bldg with gardens!) + S.E. facing balcony. Pool, exercise room, 24-hour security. **Asking \$785,000**