

Aberdeen, Lansdowne projects on tap for April 6 city council

INSIDE



INTERVIEW WITH Terry Rigelhof p. 15

Two city council sessions slated for Tuesday, April 6 will hear controversial requests for building permits.

The evening will start at 7 pm with an appeal of the demolition committee's refusal to allow destruction of a house at 20 Aberdeen Ave. to make way for a side garden at the home to the north (see story January 12, p. 1).

Also expected to be discussed, said Mayor Peter Trent, is the request for a permit to build a new house at 493 Lansdowne Ave. attached to a home to the north (see *continued on p. 13*)

Summit's Earth Hour brings out the hardy



Photo: Ralph Thompson

Warm apple cider was served for free for those who brought their own reusable mugs on March 27. From left, volunteers Erin Markusckewsky, Kelsey Simpson, Jeanne Fraser and Eve Aspinall, a member of the Healthy City Project. Pierre Dubé, director of Hydro Westmount, reported that an energy drop of 1.6 megawatts occurred, an approximate decrease of 3 percent.

Citizens make themselves heard on new noise by-law

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A public information meeting to reduce air conditioner noise turned into a sound-

ing board March 23 for complaints ranging from late-night airplanes and barking dogs to leaf blowers and annoying apartment mechanical systems.

But several suggestions for further tightening regulations for A/C units received immediate support from Mayor Peter Trent and Councillor Patrick Martin, who represented the council, accompanied by Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier.

Citizens reacting to a new draft by-law pressed for consistent sound measuring by public safety officers that would accurately reflect noise disruption, even going as far as to request preventive action before the installation of a unit.

"It's interesting to see the level of concern there is regarding noise in general," the mayor said following the meeting.

He also said the success of the meeting

underlined the importance of holding similar "informal" sessions to gain citizen input in the future. Interestingly, of the 11 residents who participated, none had been among a group of eight who had originally asked for the meeting when the draft by-law was introduced (see story, March 9, p. 1).

The proposed by-law aims to further regulate the limitations on and installation of air conditioning units and heat pumps, targeting in particular low frequency sound as well as oversized and defective units.

It would also eliminate acquired rights for all units installed before June 2010 and come into force immediately upon adoption.

Poirier told the *Independent* that owners of all types of units found to be non-conforming *continued on p. 2*

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Council okays two major building projects, Dawson peace garden

City council gave the green light to major building projects at two Category I houses during its mid-month public session March 22. At the same time, it was announced that any similar requests for additions and significant changes would be considered in future at main council sessions, typically the first Monday of the month.

The two projects approved – both with little discussion – involved a two-storey addition at the rear of 729 Upper Lansdowne Ave. as well as number of items at 38 Belvedere Rd. These include a new roof, new garage, two new dormers, changes to a bay window and terrace, and landscaping.

A total of 23 other permits for windows, doors and other work were also allowed to proceed as recommended by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). Among them was a peace garden at Dawson College at the corner of Sherbrooke and Wood.

Noise: no vested rights

continued from p. 1

would be notified to modify or replace them.

The city was taking a conservative approach in line with noise recommendations from Natural Resources Canada.

One citizen who was particularly pleased with the changes was Roger Jay, a sound engineer living “in a sandwich of noise” from vibration of a food outlet ceiling fan below him and the noise of “an improperly installed” rooftop compressor immediately above.

'Irritating' airplanes

The first of the concerns came from Sheila Mason concerning the “irritating” noise from small planes at night. She said she had found out they followed a tourist circuit around St. Joseph's Oratory and over her house at Melville and Sherbrooke.

A resident of Olivier Ave. was next to voice his annoyance with a “smoke stack” operating from 9 am to midnight at a restaurant on Greene Ave. “The noise is incredible ... it's driving us nuts.”

John Fretz of Lansdowne Ave. asked if the council would proscribe the use of leaf blowers in the spring, which he described as a “sociopathic malaise” that created dust and noise. A lot of people are now freelancers working at home, he pointed out.

Trent and Martin claimed leaf blowers to be their pet peeves. The city, Trent explained, could “control” leaf blowers but not outright ban them, though he wasn't “sure why we allow them in the spring.”

Muzzle the dogs

The next questioner asked that dogs likely to bark be muzzled between 8 am and 8 pm. They bark in the backyard, or out on the street while being walked – even on an apartment balcony at 2 am.

All it takes is one isolated “woof” in the

middle of night to be disruptive, interjected Dorothy Lipovenko, of York St., to a ripple of agreement from others.

Christopher Mann of Grosvenor Ave., whose family has been bothered by a neighbour's rooftop A/C, challenged the way noise readings are taken and asked if Urban Planning ever got to see the raw data from Public Security. He suggested the city require acoustical boxes on units placed on the ground, especially between houses and in areas where there was a good chance they would vibrate.

Councillor Martin asked how residents could get to see Public Security reports and was told they could go through access-to-information channels. “Why should they have to do that?” countered the mayor. He later said he would look into it.

A lengthy discussion generated by Mann and Upper Roslyn resident Louis Caouette followed concerning where in a room sound level reading should be taken.

Patrice Choquette, of Decibel Consultants, hired by the city to assist, explained that readings should be an average of those taken at three places in the middle of a room (typically the bedroom).

“Why not at the window?” Martin asked him. “At a window, of course, you'd hear a lot of noise,” Choquette replied.

“What's wrong with that?” followed a chorus of replies. “It makes a lot of sense,” Trent stated.

Tony Mann thanked the city for its efforts to reduce air conditioning noise, saying, “I don't want other residents to live through the same two years” as his family had. “Think seriously about prior approval,” he stated.

“You mean you want an expert,” to provide a letter attesting to the noise levels of a unit? Poirier asked.

“Effectively, yes,” he said. Indeed, concluded the mayor, “the burden of proof should be put on the person wanting to install the unit.”

Does Your Child Have Difficulty Paying Attention?

Processing Issues Can Be Mislabeled as ADD

Does it seem like your child is easily distracted? Before you label your child as having ADD, consider that a disorder called Central Auditory Processing Deficit (CAPD) has many of the same symptoms:

- Difficulties monitoring the learning environment
- Inability to remember verbal information beyond one item
- Difficulties paying attention or understanding in a noisy environment such as the classroom
- Appearance to be distractible, fidgety, and unable to concentrate

Children with CAPD have perfect hearing, but they have difficulty sorting, identifying and routing sounds. In other words, something goes wrong between the hearing of sounds, and the understanding of them. When a child can hear perfectly, but has difficulty remaining focused, the diagnosis is often ADD, which can lead to unnecessary medication of the child.

In the classroom, CAPD students might be listening to the teacher, when a noise (a pencil dropping or another student coughing) distracts them. They then pay attention to the sound of the cough or pencil, instead of the teacher.

Oxford Learning can help students with CAPD learn how to monitor their environment and actually learn how to focus in noisy surroundings. Like so many other school skills, paying attention is a skill that can be learned. With focus skills in place, grades improve!

For more information about programs that can help your child learn to pay attention, contact Marie-Eve Senecal at Oxford Learning Montreal NDG. 514-481-4441; montreal.ndg@oxfordlearning.com

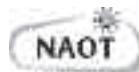
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Two farms signing up members

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount residents will have a choice this year between two farmers who will provide baskets of fresh organic produce weekly to those registered with them in a program facilitated by the Healthy City Project.

Both farms – Arlington Gardens and Ferme Mange-Tout – are located in the Eastern Townships and are certified organic. They belong to Équiterre, a non-profit environmental organization promoting community supported agriculture (CSA).

Last year's launch with Ferme Mange-Tout proved so successful that "we're hoping to double enrollment this year," said Joshua Wolfe, the city's sustainable development coordinator.

"To make it as convenient as possible, arrangements have been made with the two farmers to deliver their produce at different drop-off points and on different days. They have also agreed to have someone from each farm to answer questions on site and enable people to have a connection with the farmer."

Ferme Mange-Tout (www.fermemangetout.ca) will deliver on Wednesday

afternoons for pick-up between 4 and 6:30 pm at the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) on Hillside Ave. near Hillside Lane. Operated by Dave Merson, it is located in Cookshire-Eaton.

Arlington Gardens (www.arlingtongardens.ca) is set to deliver to the Westmount arena on Thursdays for members to collect between 5:30 and 7 pm. Located in Stanbridge East, it is owned by former Westmounter Nasser Boumenna.

CSA is a partnership between farmers and members of the community who register and pay to receive food throughout the growing season – some 16 to 18 weeks. In return, this enables the farmers to plan cash flow, purchase equipment and supplies as required, and reduce their risk.

"Being able to eat fresh produce and knowing where your food comes from is not only healthy but adds security to the food chain," Wolfe explained. It also helps the regional economy and reduces transportation costs, both sustainability measures. Residents interested in participating are encouraged to sign up with the farm of their choice as soon as possible since registration is limited to a first-come, first-served basis. This can be done on their websites.

Welcoming new residents



Community volunteers and new residents were honoured March 24 at a reception at Victoria Hall to open the city's Spring Flower Show. Among the newcomers who had an opportunity to meet the city's director general Duncan Campbell (left) were Maria Ramiriz and Scott Renwick with their son, Owen.

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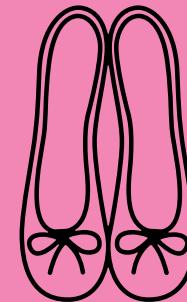
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ASKING FOR TOO MUCH

Peter Naylor should be careful of what he asks for. In his letter “All potential users of arena should speak up” (March 16, p. 4), he challenges Westmount citizens to state their desires with respect to the arena/pool project. Hockey, short track, figure skating (male or female), family skating, are all on his list.

Mr. Naylor, you may end up with a needs assessment that translates into three full-size arenas. What then? Will you become one of the naysayers because you support the construction of only two full-size rinks? It is totally unfair for you to criticize as “naysayers” Westmounters who support a new one and a half rink arena, available year round, with a new outdoor pool for only, let’s say, \$20 million.

I would suggest that we are the rational ones and you are part of a group that just doesn’t know when to say “no”!

Westmount is not obliged to satisfy every need. It must do its best within the framework of what is affordable. It must also consider demographic trends that indicate dramatic changes in age distribution over the next decades.

Your contention that the arena will provide “inexpensive winter exercise” is ludicrous. It would be difficult to imagine a more expensive vehicle to provide exercise on a cost-per-person basis than this planned arena, even one with a modest

configuration that I would support.

One hopes that council will agree that Westmount deserves a new, modern arena/pool facility, but one as envisaged by the “NaySayErs”... one that only costs between \$20 million and \$25 million.

DAVID SCHACHTER, ST. CATHERINE ST.

CRACK DOWN ON CYCLISTS, NOT PEDESTRIANS

In reference to “Traffic focus doubles ticket count” (March 16, p. 7) about the fact that police are undertaking a pedestrian safety campaign and in particular are cracking down on diagonal intersection walking, I fail to see why this is an issue. Yes, there may be old legislation that needs changing, but do the pedestrians who cross diagonally put their lives or anyone else’s in danger at an intersection that is protected in both directions? No.

So why is this practice such an anathema to the police, particularly when they do not station a single officer on the bike path to catch all the cyclists who blithely sail through the stop signs. This is dangerous, particularly in the area where I cross near the arena and in the park. When I suggested last year to our city councillors that the cyclists should be fined, I was told that the police were cracking down on motorists and that next year they would take on the cyclists.

With the limited number of police we

have, I assume two issues at once would be too much to expect. Well, we are now in “next year,” and it appears that the police have decided to take on the pedestrians who are not threatening anyone.

I suggest that [Station 12 commander] Stéphane Plourde turn his attention to the racing cyclists that endanger us all and leave the diagonal crossers alone.

MARJORIE GAWLEY, ST. CATHERINE ST.

DANCING THROUGH THE INTERSECTIONS

I would like to congratulate the city of Westmount for introducing the “Barnes Dance” at some of our crossroads. This is a street-crossing system that stops all traffic and allows pedestrians to cross intersections at the same time. The system was

first used in the 1940s in Kansas City and Vancouver.

Henry Barnes was an American traffic engineer who came to New York in 1962 as traffic commissioner and was responsible for many new ideas, such as allowing pedestrians to control the traffic lights by semi-activated buttons at crossings.

He endorsed the use of seat belts and brought in parking meters. He didn’t invent the Barnes Dance, but promoted its use. The name was given by a city hall reporter, John Buchanan who wrote “Barnes is making people so happy that they are dancing in the streets.”

As a driver and a pedestrian, I continually notice how efficient and safe the Barnes crossings are and advocate their use wherever possible.

MAGGIE SHADDICK, CLARKE AVE.

From the Pub

Reader: ‘You have made a huge mistake making enemies and false facts’

There are good days and bad days in the local newspaper business. For a glance at what a portion of a bad day looks like, please read the email that I received on March 25. It is minimally edited to preserve its original tone. Many questions and rebuttal points leap to mind, including: Is this a real Westmount anglophone (as he identifies himself) or an agent provocateur? More prosaically, if our newspaper is so “crappy,” why does the writer want it available to more people via translation? Etc.

– David Price, Publisher

Good morning sir,

I was shocked to see in my morning newspaper that a newspaper like yours was making false propaganda about English and French representation in Westmount. Since I live there myself, I can tell you that you got it all wrong.

Neither French nor English newspapers should be distributed in SAQ or any other commercial stores. They all have a vocation already and it’s not to promote crappy newspapers like yours.

The fact is, they are doing it because customers enjoy it. If *24 heures* and you guys are too ignorant to speak both languages, then neither of you should be distributed in governmental establishments.

The fact is that Québec is a multicultural province and you should, as a matter of respect, provide services (including free newspapers) in both languages. I really think you got it all wrong and next time I see a pile of *24 heures* or the *Westmount In-*

dependent, I will gladly throw all of them in the garbage where they belong, because all you are doing, guys, is feeding a fire that destroys relations between francophone and anglophone.

We are all brothers, my friend, from the same province, from the same country. I think this debate you started is only serving your cause. You’re not working to promote the use of English in Westmount: you’re just manipulating people to get attention for what you call your newspaper. Since you’ve already got a lot of racist people thinking English newspapers should be king in Westmount, I will militate for a bilingual option, the right option and the only one for a multicultural province.

People like you feed on those kind of crappy stories that you make. You should be ashamed to give francophones such a bad reputation and making us, the anglophones, appear intolerant, when in fact the only problem is that you’re not making enough money with your small newspaper to give a good translation in French of your articles.

You will find my group on Facebook in the store where you distribute your newspaper and I will make sure that in three or four years everybody will have forgotten about that mistake you call a newspaper.

You have made a huge mistake making enemies and false facts like you did.

I only hope that it’s not going to affect innocent people working for you.

CHRISTOPHER CHAMPS

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Chagnon supports Neuro, CP airport line, revised Turcot plan



Civic Alert

DON WEDGE

Despite Jacques Gagnon's high-profile role as deputy speaker of the provincial legislature and its limitations on his political activities, Westmount's MNA still deals with constituency needs, as he showed when negotiating alongside former Mayor Karin Marks for the \$20-million arena/pool grant.

Such a sizeable grant is probably a once-in-a-lifetime event, but life goes on. "I did the best I could," he reflected, "and now it's up to Mayor Peter Trent and the new council to make their decision." (We are now promised their proposals next week.)

What is on Chagnon's constituency agenda these days? I got an update last week as he drove the long commute from his Boucherville home to work in Quebec City. It's a routine journey, but this one was made complicated when heavy rain suddenly changed to a snow storm.

"They are expecting between six inches and a foot in Quebec City," Chagnon reported from the road. But he had to press on. "I have to chair the assembly this afternoon," he continued. As we spoke, the conditions worsened. Two trucks were off the road at one point, then two cars plus a police car with lights flashing were stalled in the autoroute's centre lane!

This seemed the tougher side to being an MNA, in contrast to the applause for speeches or nice lunches in the parliamentary restaurant.

He made it safely and in the afternoon I watched him on cable TV as he conducted the assembly through its business.

But what of the issues in his Westmount-St. Louis riding, which embraces much of downtown, including the hospi-

tals and universities? "Frankly, I'm in a rush to see both university superhospitals move forward." He was referring to the oft-delayed McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) and the University of Montreal's Centre hospitalier universitaire de Montréal (CHUM).

He has also become involved in the future of the Montreal Neurological Hospital. "Most of the people want to stay where they are," he pointed out. "Failing that, they would rather go to the General. But the Royal Vic wants the Neuro on the Glen Yards site. Whichever way is chosen will cost nearly \$400 million, and I think there are better things to do with the money," the MNA added.

"The Neuro people are right. It would not be very wise to move them. There has been a lot of modernization of their building on University St. We should be developing the hospital's specialty along the lines of the Heart Institute. Ontario has decided to do this, and we are already doing it. We shouldn't give it up."

Rail project's big bucks

Chagnon had more positive news on the proposed fast train to the airport. "I expect there will be a decision before the summer," he stated. "It will be for the CP tracks through Westmount – it's quicker and cheaper!"

Big Montreal wanted another route so "Ville LaSalle could be served. That would be fine if they were paying, but they want the Quebec government to pay – so it will be our decision. In any case, it means big bucks."

Then, remembering the history of the fast airport train, he promised "not to jump off a bridge" if his forecast turns out to be wrong!

We were talking before last week's *Independent* was on the streets with my column about the idea of running streetcars on the CP line. He was not immediately enthusiastic. The station is already built at the airport," he reminded me. "What we

need now is the fast train from downtown."

On the allied subject of the Turcot rebuild, the MNA also holds strong views. "There won't be any early decision," he said. "After the views expressed at the public hearing, the Transport ministry has to come up with a new design that listens to the objections and finds space for public transportation.

"My suggestion to the engineers is to go and look at what we did with the old intersection of Pine and Park avenues in Montreal. That's a huge success. Now it's much more user-friendly and you can see the mountain. The scale is quite different, of course, but the idea is worth considering."

Representing Quebec

Chagnon's third job is to represent Quebec on the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA), of which he is also vice president. However, Premier Jean Charest stopped Chagnon from attending a January meeting in Caracas after the Venezuelan currency was suddenly devalued.

Nevertheless, he will be part of COPA meetings in Brazil and Mexico this summer. He has become functional in Spanish since his appointment as the Quebec

delegate a few years ago, and has been chosen to succeed to the presidency next fall.

Chagnon will continue his assembly activities. "All parties are pleased to have one of their own in the job and support my COPA work," Chagnon added.

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Tipline

\$1,000 donated for crime-fighting fund

An anonymous resident interested in “retaining Westmount as an exemplary and safe community” has established a fund for being vigilant and deterring or solving crimes. The donor has committed a seed amount of \$1,000 to be deposited with the *Westmount Independent*. He is “hopeful that other residents and business owners will follow.”

“Westmount is one of the safest cities, but we still have unacceptable levels of

crime. The police cannot work in a vacuum – they must get more cooperation from all of us. We must get involved,” stated the benefactor.

Tipsters have the option of being recognized or remaining anonymous.

Rewards of \$250 will be awarded for tips regarding crime, mischief or intended crimes in Westmount that lead to arrests, until the fund is exhausted. Please contact the *Independent* with your information.

In future instalments of Tipline, we will run any reward-for-information notices being offered by residents, whether as part of the fund mentioned above or directly.

In Plain View

Racial graffiti on York



This speed-bump sign on York St. was vandalized early in the week of March 22 and photographed around noon March 24. It was removed by 4 pm.

If you have a photograph or incident of NEW graffiti, vandalism or similar crimes for In Plain View, please write to indie@westmountindependent.com or call 514.223.3578. If you provide the photo, please remember to provide the date of it and any information that may date the offence.

Senator Cutler

Westmounter Phil Cutler won a seat on the McGill University senate for 2010-11 on March 11. The 21-year-old, who came within 42 votes of winning District 2's seat on Westmount city council in November, beat one other candidate to become a senator – with 70 percent of the vote. Cutler is scheduled to graduate in 2012 with B. Ed. elementary education.

He told the *Independent* that “My primary goal is to make sure that the education undergrads are represented by someone who is involved in the faculty. It has been four years since an Education undergrad had a vote on senate. I also want to use my environmental background to help improve campus sustainability.” The first official meeting for the new senator is in September.

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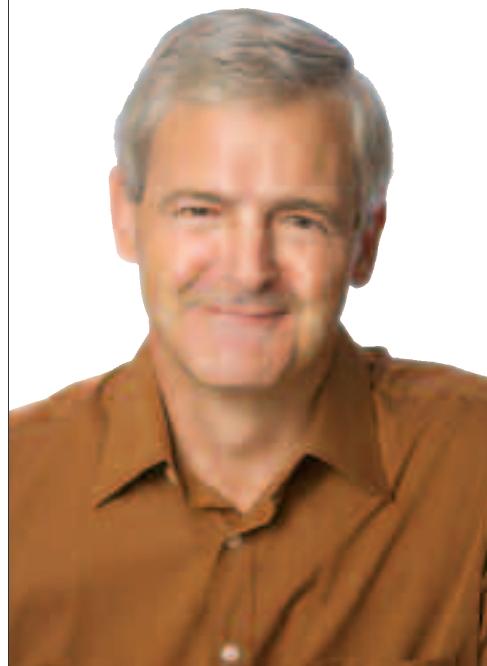
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Greene area to get a facelift

A greener and pedestrian-friendly Greene Ave. appeared to be what most people wanted in the redesign of the street. This was the message taken home from a public consultation meeting March 16 by city Urban Planning commissioner Cynthia Lulham. Residents attended the evening meeting on March 16 at Centre Greene.

Merchants had been invited to a similar breakfast session on February 17.

The goal of both events was to explain and get input on the upcoming refurbishment of Greene Ave. and concept development for St. Catherine between Atwater and Clarke.

Greene Ave. has not been redone since 1980, and recent road work has worsened things, explained Councillor Cynthia Lulham after the event.

The city has now allocated a \$2-million budget for the job. The electrical and lighting aspects of the renovation will absorb \$400,000, leaving the rest for sidewalks, roads and street furniture. The work is slated to take place from June to September.

The meeting showed consensus, according to Lulham. “Everybody wants it to be greener and pedestrian friendly – that was a big one. And nobody likes the interlocking brick. It doesn’t weather well and causes people to trip.”

“Usual” concerns like support of the 5 Seasons grocery store and its public terrace also came up.

St. Catherine’s ‘new concept’

The work for the St. Catherine area is a separate project, explained city Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier after the

meeting. Its \$40,000 budget was allocated to Westmount by Montreal’s PR@M (Programme réussir @ Montréal), which aims to redevelop select commercial streets. It will be used to “define an image” for the street, said Poirier.

The first work group met the following day, March 17, and started on scenarios for presentation to the public in early May. The plan then needs to be approved by council. It will not begin this year.

Affleck and de la Riva Architects has been chosen as the architectural consultant for both projects. The firm has been in the news recently as the architects of a controversial house on Lansdowne (see “Permit for new Lansdowne house pulled from council agenda”, March 9, p. 2.)

Ways to save energy, fight climate change

Tips on saving energy in the home are among a range of environmental topics being offered by the Westmount Healthy City Project in its 2010 Breakfast Series of events announced recently.

All four events take place on Thursdays in April at Victoria Hall at 8:15 am, with doors opening at 8 am.

The series kicks off on April 8 when Joshua Wolfe, the city’s sustainable development coordinator, will discuss “Community Actions for Sustainability”.

The subject of “Permaculture: What it is and why it is important to cities” will be treated April 15 by Marci Babineau, who teaches a course in sustainable gardening

practices, and Clarisse Thomasset of the Montreal Permaculture Guild.

What Westmount can do to fight climate change in the aftermath of the Copenhagen Cities conference will be addressed April 22 by Professor Nigel Roulet, director of the McGill School of Environment. Roulet is also a contributing author to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report on the world’s climate.

The series concludes April 29 with “Energy conservation advice for Westmount homes: do’s and don’ts” with architect Paul Grenier, a member of Westmount’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

WMA seeks volunteer of the year

The Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) is seeking nominations for this year’s Volunteer Citizen of the Year Award.

Now in its 13th year, the award honours a Westmount citizen who has dedicated many years to volunteering in the community, be it through libraries, schools, clubs, churches, synagogues, nursing homes or other areas. This year’s recipient will be honoured during the WMA’s Annual General Meeting on May 17 at Victoria Hall.

Those wishing to nominate someone should send a name and brief description of the volunteer work to Rosalind Davis, Marilyn Gillies or Helen Rainville by April 16 to volunteer.award@wma-amw.org, or by phone 514.846.8464.

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Date: Saturday, April 17, 2010

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Tickets: \$250 (Open bar & parking included)
Cocktails: 6:30 p.m. - Dinner: 8:00 p.m.
Attire: Cocktail Chic

RSVP:
Mimi Charissakis (514) 591-8613, Lia Tsoukalas (514) 262-8887
or by email at ilios@hlbs.ca

Wright at Rotary on renting

BY RALPH THOMPSON

The guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Westmount lunch, March 17, could have been mistaken for a St. Patrick's Day leprechaun.

Ted Wright, coordinator of the Westmount Legal Clinic that deals with the rights of tenants and landlords, was dressed appropriately in green, and with his white beard, jovial smile and light-hearted mood, portrayed a little mischief. But the topic of conversation was anything but light.

Addressing some 30 Rotarians, Wright gave several viewpoints of both tenants and landlords, which he says he defends equally. He explained that tenants often wish to avoid rent increases and refuse any additional costs, even those that are reasonable and legally allowed, such as heating, maintenance and taxes.

Landlords often think that the law unfairly protects tenants.

"Both sides are advised to first understand the law and consider their legal entitlement. Landlords are entitled to pass along legitimate operating cost increases, including maintenance and even improvement. Generally, landlords do not



Ted Wright explains the finer points of rental issues, March 17.

keep up with real cost increases. Tenants, on the other hand, are entitled to see the details of any increased costs and if all costs decrease, are entitled to a rent reduction."

For those who question a rent increase, Wright suggested visiting Régie du logement website (www.rdl.gouv.qc.ca/en/accueil/accueil.asp), available in English and

French. It makes available the online version of the "Calculation 2010" form that can be completed electronically. The user enters the revenues and expenses of the building in the appropriate boxes, and the rent change result is generated.

Wright stressed that it is important to remember that rent increases proposed by the Régie are suggestions and not absolute, and that every situation is different. For example, a landlord who is planning a major renovation can include the project's preparation costs into the year's rental calculations even if the work hasn't been started.

Tenants can refuse increases. They can

ask their landlord for supporting documents and can remain in their apartment during negotiations. They can deal with the landlord directly or file an application with the Régie to have their case heard. However, Wright explained, landlords can recoup all expenses and legal costs from such action. If in the end increases are deemed legitimate, their only recourse may be to move out.

For more information, Wright can be found at the Westmount Y (4585 Sherbrooke St.) on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. He can also be reached at westmountlegalclinic@hotmail.com or 514.277.8403.



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Comin' Up

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

The Bimetallic Question, comprising **Sherlock Homes** enthusiasts, meets at the Westmount Library, 6:30 pm. Voluntary quiz on "A Case of Identity". All welcome. Info: 514.931.8690.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

- Special council meeting: Appeal of a decision of the demolition committee re: **20 Aberdeen Ave.**, 7 pm, city hall.
- Regular **council meeting** at city hall, 8 pm.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

- **Mayor's Blood Donor Clinic** at Victoria Hall from 2 pm to 8 pm.
- **Quality used book sale** at Centre Greene (1090 Greene), 10 am to 6:30 pm, and Saturday April 10, 10 am to 3:00pm. Books of all types and for all ages. Proceeds are contributed to the centre's summer camp

fund. Info: 514.931.6202, or www.centre-greene.org.

- **Contactivity** (4695 de Maisonneuve) offers workshops for seniors on **safety, self-defense and self-confidence**, 9:30 am to 12 pm, April 9, 16 and 23. Free. Register: 514.932.2326.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

Julie Keith and Alice Zorn discuss *Ruins & Relics*, Alice Zorn's first collection of short stories. Westmount Library, 7:30 pm. Free. Register: 514.989.5386 or dlach@westmount.org.

- **A Judeo-Christian dialogue:** "*Quelle place l'éthique occupe-t-elle dans le rapport à Dieu?*" presented by Rabbi Lerner and Denise Couture at Temple Emanu-El, 395 Elm Ave. 7 pm. Cost: \$7. Info: Thérèse Klein 514.739.2103 or Louis Charbonneau 514.484.7762.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

- Storyteller **Oro Anahory-Librowicz** travels the Jewish world of stories from east to west. Westmount Library, 7 pm. Free. Register: 514.989.5386 or email dlach@westmount.org.

In Other Words: Indie's SAQ story has legs

La Presse

La Presse took its own look at the Victoria SAQ's newspaper policy. Handfield's research unearthed that Maryse Lavallée, the new manager of the store, was the Bloc Québécois candidate for the Mount Royal riding in 2008 and quotes Westmounter Marc Felgar as saying, "*Tout s'explique maintenant.*"

Lavallée denied to *La Presse* that there was a linguistic component to the removal of newspapers decision.

The Suburban

The Suburban's P. A. Sévigny wrote a story that firmly endorsed the SAQ headquarters' view of the affair. Executive Isabelle Merizzi was quoted as saying "That article is totally ridicu-

lous. This is far more a logistical issue than linguistic issue because we don't want all these local papers taking up space when we're trying to distribute our own material."

According to the story, store manager Maryse Lavallée emphatically denied "passing any kind of judgment about language in her store."

Timeline

Independent: "Anglo papers banned from local SAQ", March 16, p. 1.

Independent: "SAQ: Limit of 1 local paper, Westmount 'allowed' English one", March 23, p. 1

The Suburban "Westmount SAQ language discrimination story ... 'totally ridiculous'", by P. A. Sévigny, March 24, p. 9.

La Presse "Polémique linguistique à Westmount", by Catherine Handfield, March 25, p. A13.

The Gazette "Allow both papers at SAQ outlet: shoppers", by Irwin Block, March 26, p. A6.

The Gazette

The Gazette's Irwin Block's approach to questions of one English paper being favoured over another was to interview passers-by, who came down for choice. For instance, Simon Davies was quoted as saying "They should have equal access to the clientele."

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Westmount fares well at Montreal science fair



Gold medal winners of the Bell Science Fair 2010 – Montreal Regional Science and Technology Fair, who will move forward to the Quebec finals. At right, Agostino Porchetta, with the Educational Alliance for Science and Technology.

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Westmount schools took part in the Bell Science Fair 2010 – Montreal Regional Science and Technology Fair (MRSTF) hosted by Concordia University from March 21 to March 23. The awards ceremony took place at Concordia University March 23.

The science fair, in its 50th year, attracted some 200 student projects from more than 40 high schools and CEGEPs

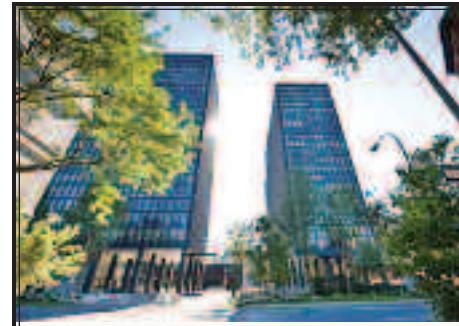
in Montreal and outlying areas, including Westmount High School, ECS, Selwyn House, Villa Ste. Marcelline, The Study, St. George's School and Marianopolis College.

Wilson Wong, coordinator of the MRSTF for 17 years, explained that a selection of the gold medal winners from all levels will move forward to the provincial finals and potentially to the national competition. "Winners from these competitions have gone on to win international

science competitions," he explained. "They win significant financial support and receive bursaries to attend university. Imagine how inspirational that is to youngsters in school learning the sciences," he said.

Prizes for this year's winning entries include close to 100 cash prizes, and 10 winners are also be awarded an entrance scholarship to Concordia University.

Marc Garneau, MP for Westmount-Ville-Marie, spoke at the opening ceremony on March 21.



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Gold medal winners from Westmount

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St. George's

What's in Your Diaper

Demo Kioussis
and Adrian Vaktor

The Study

Bad Viruses Doing Good Work

Sabrina Nolan

Global UNwarming

Chloe Anassis

Green Fluorescent Proteins

Jessica Lu

and Francesca Masella

iCar

Ashley Stendel

and Margot Hadaya

Polarization: Ray Ray Go Away

Sarah Battat

Sizing Up Your Pup

Sophie Bérubé

and Patricia Johnsson

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Caroline Najjar

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Ville de Westmount
 City of Westmount

Heures d'affaires et services municipaux : Pâques

Veillez noter que tous les bureaux administratifs de la Ville de Westmount, soit l'Hôtel de ville, le Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, et les Services de la sécurité publique, des sports et loisirs et des travaux publics seront fermés le vendredi 2 avril et le lundi 5 avril en raison de Pâques.

De plus, la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée les vendredi 2 avril, dimanche 4 avril et lundi 5 avril.

Prenez note également qu'il n'y a aucun changement quant aux collectes des ordures et des résidus alimentaires qui s'effectueront selon l'horaire normal.

Business Hours and Municipal Services: Easter

Please be advised that all administrative offices of the City of Westmount (City Hall, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security and Recreation) will be closed on Friday, April 2 and Monday, April 5 for the Easter holiday.

Westmount Public Library will also be closed on Friday, April 2, Sunday, April 4 and Monday, April 5 for the Easter holiday.

Please note that garbage/kitchen waste collection is unaffected, and will take place according to the regular schedule.

Hogg Hardware is open!

In order to get our new Westmount location ready, we have moved to the corner of Vendome Ave. and Sherbrooke St. (5128 Sherbrooke St. W., near À Votre Santé)

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No change to our Nuns' Island location: 7 Place du Commerce – (514) 761 4441

When the Bell Rings: Westmount Students Speak Up

PRESENTED BY PHILIP CUTLER
AND MICHELLE WARNER

We asked students who live or go to school in Westmount to answer the question, "What are the Canadiens' chances of making the playoffs?" Here is what some students had to say:

"I think that the Montreal Canadiens will make the playoffs because of two simple reasons. First, we have drive. With drive comes momentum from a bunch of wins under our belt. Second, we can only get better with players coming back from injury. I think it is clear that the Habs are going to make the playoffs. It seems like every year (except last), we come back near the end of the season to make [the playoffs]."

Simon A., grade 11, Selwyn House

"I think that the Habs will make a run for it because they have been playing strong. They know that there are only five weeks until the playoffs, and they must work hard to keep their spot."

Sarah K., grade 11, ECS

"The Habs have a whole city that eats,

sleeps and drinks Canadiens. They must work hard to fulfill the fans' hopes and dreams."

Ali B., grade 11, ECS

Send your answers to this week's question, along with your name, grade and school to whenthebellrings@ymail.com. The deadline is Saturday, April 3 at noon.

This week's question: What is your favourite way to enjoy the spring weather?

Mountainside United Church
4000 The Boulevard, Westmount
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Holy Week Services
Maundy Thursday, April 1st
7:30 p.m. Communion Service / Tenebrae

Good Friday, April 2nd
11:00 a.m. Service

Easter Sunday, April 4th
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Minister: The Rev. John R. Forster
Director of Music: Margaret de Castro

  www.mountainsideunited.ca

Navy's 100th

continued from p. 1

story March 9, p. 2).

Later in the month, the city will mark the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Navy, including a commemoration of the minesweeper, HMCS *City of Westmount* commissioned for World War II, for which naval personnel from Halifax will be present.

"We hope veterans and others associated with the navy will be on hand to help mark the anniversary," Trent said.

The ship's bell is displayed at city hall.



Westmount Park United Church

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**Good Friday Service –
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**Easter Service –
Saturday, April 3rd,
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Holy Week & Easter at St. Matthias'

Maundy Thursday April 1

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Good Friday April 2

12pm (Noon) Good Friday Liturgy
with reading of the Passion
& Chamber Choir

7:30pm Tenebrae (Service
of Shadows) with full Choir

Easter Day

8:00am Holy Eucharist, Book
of Common Prayer
10:30am Festive Choral Eucharist
with Chamber Orchestra

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Good Friday, April 2: Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 3: Sacrament of Reconciliation from 3 to 4 p.m.
Easter Vigil at 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 4: Celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord 10:30 a.m.

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Mayor nominates Bercovitz, Sancton, Wedge for seniors' volunteer medal

Three Westmounters have been nominated as candidates by Mayor Peter Trent to receive the lieutenant governor of Quebec's Seniors Medal (*Médaille pour les aînés*) awarded for volunteer service.

They are: civic activist Don Wedge (and a columnist with the *Independent*); sculptor and former city councillor Herbert Bercovitz; and the late John Sancton, former *Examiner* publisher and local volunteer. The medal ceremony for Montreal is

May 1.

This is the first year the city has submitted nominations for the award and did so on short notice, Trent explained. The goal of the medal, which may be awarded posthumously, is to provide an opportunity for community organizations to recognize the volunteer contributions made by persons aged 65 and over which have had a positive influence on the community.



John Sancton



Herbert Bercovitz



Don Wedge

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Rigelhof 'hooked' on Canada's modern fiction

BY ERIN STROPE

Terry Rigelhof wants to “open up a new conversation” about modern Canadian literature. And as a *Globe and Mail* book critic, a judge for literary prizes including the Governor General's Literary Award and the Amazon First Novel Award, and a voracious reader of modern Canadian fiction, he is uniquely qualified to do so.

Rigelhof's new book, *Hooked on Canadian Books: The Good, the Better, and the Best Canadian Novels Since 1984*, looks with a connoisseur's eye at some of the best contemporary literature the country has produced. The selection criteria were informal – Rigelhof chose books that he “would buy again, at full price.” The classics are well represented – Douglas Coupland, Margaret Atwood and Mordecai Richler all get their due – but the big names are only a small piece.

The book is dedicated in part to Westmount's defunct Double Hook Bookstore, a Greene Ave. institution from 1974 until its closing in 2005. The way the book is organized is, in many ways, a tribute to the browsing that physical bookstores like the Double Hook allow. Sections are ordered according to an almost stream-of-consciousness progression of themes and styles, rather than alphabetically or chronologically.

“I originally intended to organize the book by geography, as a literary atlas,” said Rigelhof, who wrote the majority of *Hooked on Canadian Books* in the two-year span between suffering a stroke and undergoing neurosurgery. After his stroke,

however, he decided to eschew traditional categories for groupings such as “Reading and coming to terms with the past,” “Novels of knowledge,” and “The talented women who write today.”

A frequent theme is the desire to separate “the reputation of ‘CanLit’ from the reality of what Canadian writers are doing,” and the selections reflect a more modern, urban and international range of themes than are often associated with Canadian writing.

Rigelhof's personal views on each book are rounded out with citations from literary critics, fellow writers and the authors themselves, beginning the “conversation” that Rigelhof hopes will be continued by his readers as they discuss their own favourites and discover new ones.

As a critic, judge and member of the Canadian literary community, Rigelhof has a great deal of material to draw from

in putting together the dossiers of the over 100 books profiled in *Hooked*. Personal anecdotes abound, adding an additional dimension to many of the entries. Rigelhof has taught some of these authors, hung out with others after awards ceremonies and played a role in helping others get published.

When asked if all of these associations make objectivity in criticism difficult, Rigelhof laughed, explaining that after so many years of reading fiction, “the quality of what you're reading matters much more than the writer.”

When he isn't writing *Globe* reviews or helping others as a freelance editor, Rigelhof is working on his next book, a biography of Montreal painter Philip Surrey.

Hooked on Canadian Books will be released April 10. A book signing will be held at Paragraphe Bookstore Tuesday, April 13.



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Ville de Westmount
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Parking Reminder: Street Maintenance

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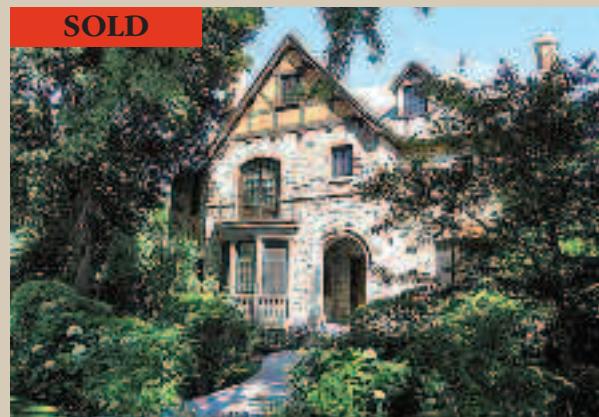


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