

Mayor asks citizens to support latest arena concept

Going underground!

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In a radical new approach to Westmount's arena/pool project, Mayor Peter Trent this week revealed a \$37-million proposal to build the arena underground – a concept believed to be unique in North America.

The plan, still at the conceptual stage, includes two NHL-size rinks, changing rooms and other amenities at the current site in Westmount Park.

All would be buried under grass and tennis courts to create “the ultimate green roof,” the mayor states in an information mailing to all residents this week. Skylights would bring natural lighting into the arena.

In a draft copy obtained by the *Independent*, he says only the new outdoor pools, teen centre and pavilion entrance to the arena would be above ground. Additional parking space for some 40 cars would be

built into the slope of the land, hidden like a carport, under a canopy formed by the tennis courts.

The project would reclaim more than one acre of parkland and targets a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating of silver.

Its estimated cost of \$37 million would be offset by a \$20-million government infrastructure grant and \$5 million in fundraising. The remaining \$12 million would be financed over 10 years.

“Being able to build a \$37-million facility that costs taxpayers as little as \$12 million is an opportunity that does not come along every day,” Trent explained.

This would add about \$200 a year to the tax bill of the average single-family dwelling, he stated.

Civic duty to comment

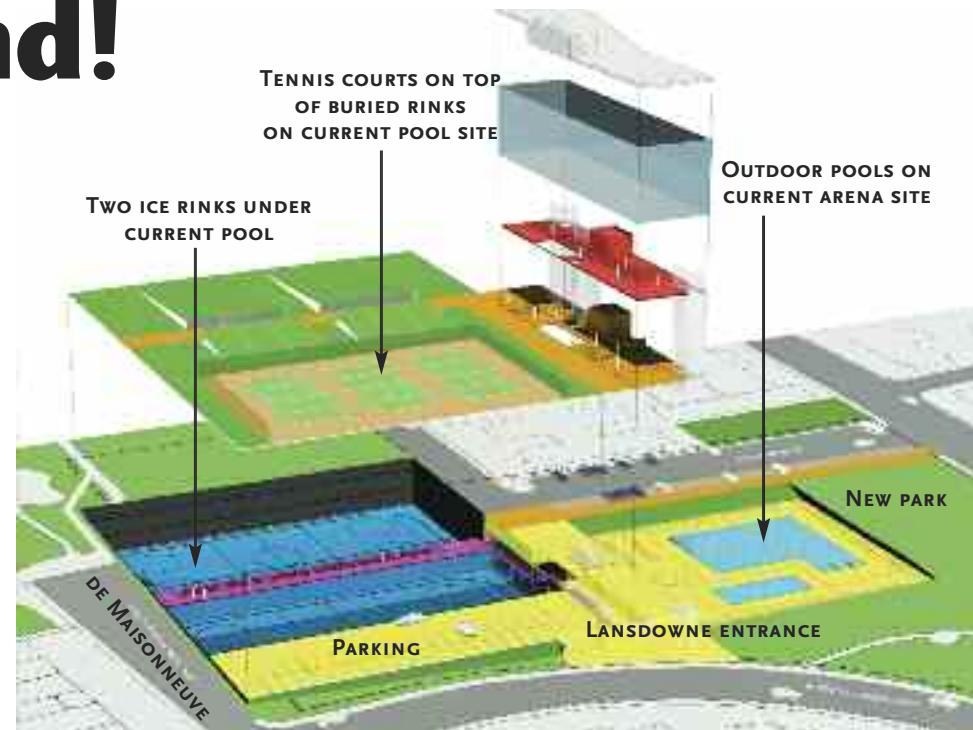
Appealing to citizens' “civic duty,” Trent called the project the most important one in the city's long history. Asking for input, he said, “Council would like to proceed with this project, but only if a majority of taxpayers is behind it.”

Citizens are therefore asked to comment within two weeks by returning the mailing's questionnaire or going to the city website at www.westmount.org.

It is likely that the old arena would remain in use throughout the construction period. This results from the positioning of the two new rinks to the north, approximately where the pool now lies.

Indoor pool needed but too costly

In his message, the mayor acknowl-



edges the probable need in the future “if not now” for an indoor pool, despite the YMCA facility. But at an estimated construction cost of \$8 million plus “inherently high operating costs,” he explained, “we can't afford to add it at this time.”

The building of a second large rink recommended by consultants, however, would allow for the introduction of new programs such as girls' hockey, broomball and ringette as well as more time for hockey practice and general skating.

The complex would include a café, pro shop, locker rooms and a multi-purpose area. There are also plans for an outdoor terrasse.

A small park also would be created along St. Catherine St.
to the west of Arena

Exploded view of proposed arena/pool complex, showing the green roof. For bird's eye views, see p. 21.

Image: lemay associés

See our listings p. 15

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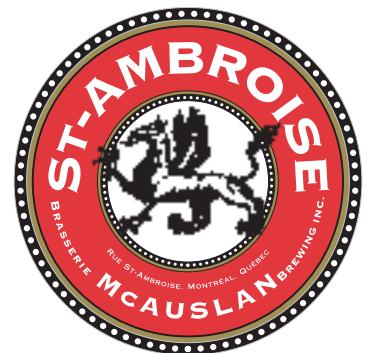
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Cedar permit boils over

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Ten years of attempts to build a large house at 3283 Cedar Ave. were once again thwarted by city council at its meeting April 6, causing a burst of outrage from property owner Shatha Al-Masawi.

After her architect Bruce Anderson asked the council during question period

if they knew about his latest revisions and plans to reduce the impact of the home, no one answered.

But during discussion of the issue, the district's councillor Patrick Martin said, "I don't think anyone on council has seen those plans." He also suggested the item be deferred.

When council members continued to

express concern over the size of house, Al-Masawi, who had sat throughout the lengthy business items, jumped to her feet alleging dictatorial tactics.

Ruled out-of-order by Mayor Peter Trent, she immediately stormed out of the

continued on p. 16

Court asked to force issuing of Cedar permit

The city of Westmount was served April 8 by Shatha Al-Masawi with a motion to obtain from Superior Court a writ of mandamus to force the city to issue a building permit for her proposed house at 3283 Cedar Ave.

The legal action followed the adoption of a resolution by city council two days earlier refusing the permit based on the recommendation of the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

"She had asked us to decide whether or not we were in favour of PAC's latest decision, and we did," said Mayor Peter Trent when asked to comment on the mandamus.

The resolution related to the design revisions made by the architect as submitted February 5 (see story this page). The legal action is the latest in a string of court cases concerning Al-Masawi's bid to build a new home on the property. One is a suit pending against the city for more than \$8 million.



Architect Bruce Anderson and property owner Shatha Al-Masawi wait for city council to discuss the Cedar revisions.

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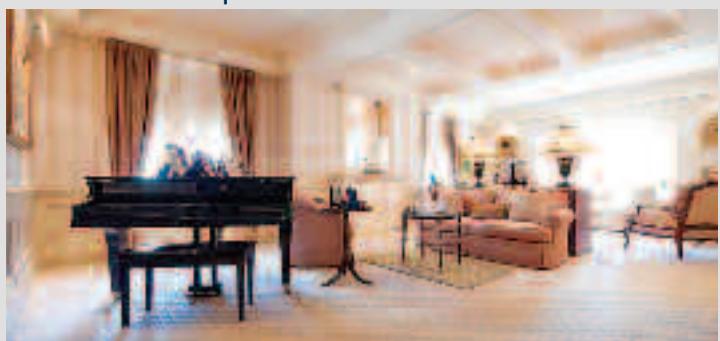
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Council allows demolition but demands no-build servitude

Aberdeen garden wins out

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council has reversed the ruling of its Demolition Committee and will allow the owner of 20 Aberdeen Ave. to knock down the 1932 house to create a side garden for his family home to the north at number 24.

The unanimous decision came at a special meeting of the council April 6 to hear the appeal of homeowner Scott Jones and was based on condition he provide the city with a servitude of non-construction in perpetuity.

“The trouble with a garden,” said Mayor Peter Trent, “is what assurance would we have that someone else might not wish to have a garden?” Would Jones be willing to give the city a servitude to prevent the building of another house, he asked.

“If I were to have a tax break, I’m open to the idea,” Jones replied.

“You’d get your valuation reduced by the servitude,” Trent said. This would provide the same effect.

Resolution of the issue came after a lengthy and well-documented presentation by Jones in which he introduced new information, challenged the home’s Category II heritage rating and contested the Demolition Committee’s ruling as “vague” and “subjective.”

He argued the house was not worth preserving from a historical or architectural aspect. Neither was it very sustainable in its present condition. It also failed to meet a number of the area’s defining characteristics, which he detailed.

“It’s an architectural smorgasbord,” he stated. The house did not comprise a cohesive component of the streetscape as stated by the city’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

Furthermore, he stated, it had not been rated as a Category II heritage house by architects Beaupré & Michaud in their Westmount heritage study in 1988, also as claimed.

“Jamais, jamais!” confirmed Josette Michaud, explaining she had never evaluated the Aberdeen house as part of the comprehensive study.

While the home’s architect, the late H.L. Featherstonhaugh, had designed many noteworthy buildings, such as the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul in downtown Montreal, this was one he would probably not mind having replaced by a garden, said architect Derek Drummond of McGill who had worked for him.

Caroline Gillespie, who lives at 48 Aberdeen, said she “couldn’t agree more” with creating a garden that would give pleasure to people walking up and down the street. It would be “a blessing to the city.”

While recommending against the home’s demolition, the PAC had pre-approved the replacement plan of a small addition to the doorway and a landscaping design by

architect Bruce Anderson.

“This is an example of a house that was dove-tailed into a garden and now we’re trying to reverse what happened,” Anderson explained. He likened the situation to the building of new houses on the historic Braemar property on The Boulevard, considered by many to be a mistake.

Although PAC maintained that removal of the house would disrupt the architectural rhythm of the street by creating a large gap, Jones produced illustrations suggesting there was no such rhythm. Recreating a garden as it once was as part of the house to the south at number 18, would be more in keeping with preservation of the streetscape, he said.

Urban Planning commissioner Cynthia Lulham explained how the city had brought in a by-law last year to prevent the building of mega houses in zone R1, and had to be assured that demolition would not allow this to happen here.

Councillor Kathleen Duncan, one of the three members of the Demolition Committee along with Patrick Martin and Theodora Samiotis, pointed out how she had initially raised the issue of redevelopment during the demolition hearing. Another home could be built in its place, she was told.

Once a resolution was tabled to include the servitude, all councillors endorsed the project.



Scott Jones displays energy bills while pleading his case for demolition of 20 Aberdeen before city council.

Example of ‘collaboration’ between PAC and homeowner

493 Lansdowne approved

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The green light has been given to start building a controversial “in-fill” house at 493 Lansdowne Ave., now that its design has been modified to better reflect the character of the streetscape.

In a 5-2 vote – councillors Kathleen Duncan and Patrick Martin dissenting – city council decided April 6 to grant the permit to build the new home adjoining a detached Victorian-style house to the north.

Council was known to have been divided on the “ultra modern” design. Neighbours had signed a petition opposing the project, and the permit request had been withdrawn from council’s March 1 agenda in the absence of Urban Planning commissioner Cynthia Lulham (see March 9, p. 2).

The city’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) had already recommended the project.

Over the last month, a lot of work had gone into integrating the design into the streetscape to “make it more reflective” of

the neighbourhood, Lulham explained.

She reassured residents concerned by the construction work that the city would impose and enforce various conditions to mitigate construction disruption.

Duncan, who represents the district, said she applauded efforts to modify the design but “in my understanding, it does not comply with the by-laws.” These include the city’s building guidelines that require houses added as “in-fills” to incorporate certain architectural features found in the majority of other houses on the block.

Martin said that in light of the request to demolish the house at 20 Aberdeen to make a garden, “I must admit I’m puzzled by how a house [495 Lansdowne] on a double lot benefiting from a garden to the south” can end up attached to a house on that garden that blocks five of its windows and reduces light to 19 windows of the neighbouring house to the south.

He said he had been wrestling with his conscience over the seemingly paradoxical situation.

Councillor Nicole continued on p. 6



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHERE CAN THE CHILDREN PLAY?

I wish I was making this up as an April Fool's joke, but I'm not. Are we following in Dollard des Ormeaux's footsteps?

On the afternoon of April 4, my son and seven other kids, aged 11 to 13, were playing ball hockey on the cul de sac section of Grenville Ave. There are no cars, and the few cars that do drive up north on Renfrew.

Some unknown anonymous "Good Samaritan" complained to Public Security, who came and ended the kids' hockey. I realize that public security officers are just doing their job and were very courteous. But do we as residents want our kids indoors playing on their Xbox or another animated game instead? Perhaps if we had two arenas the kids could play there.

MARVIN EPSTEIN, SUMMIT CIRCLE

MAKE GREENE AVE. PEDESTRIAN ONLY

As Westmount goes forward with its action plan to become more sustainable, it was surprising that the meeting in March concerning Greene Ave. did not consider the possibility of the avenue becoming a pedestrian way, even just on Sundays. There were no visual presentations of what is intended. Instead, concerned citizens were shown large-scale aerial mon-

tages of the two blocks, basically a street lined with cars.

Greene has architectural facades of character in Westmount Square, the former post office, the Bank of Montreal building and the charming building that wraps the corner of St. Catherine and Greene. It has a pleasant micro climate, good light and an ambiance of cultured ease that could be easily enhanced with imaginative design.

Would it not make sense to enlarge the mandate of the architects to develop ideas for making Greene into a pedestrian way – especially with all the recent discussion concerning pedestrians?

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.

THANKS FOR THE ICE!

As a "passed middle age" resident who has skated at our arena 136 times this year, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the Recreation department and arena staff for the patience and tolerance they have shown me.

I have lived in other communities, and I can say we have the best staff and the best indoor ice. I wanted to bake cookies to thank them but my daughter tells me I am not such a great baker, so please pass this on as a big "thank you"!

PAMELA CYR, ST. CATHERINE ST.

WITH TRANSPARENCY COMES RESPONSIBILITY

Kudos to the new council for opening up certain aspects of business to public scrutiny. It is especially refreshing to see a new openness to the department that is the bane of many a Westmouter, Urban Planning. This new process gives affected parties a chance to make their opinions known and removes some of the fear of the unknown that existed previously due to the somewhat opaque nature of the procedure.

With a greater level of transparency comes a greater responsibility on council members to ensure that due process is followed. We put trust in our elected representatives to make informed decisions on our behalf and part of the due process involved is to avail themselves of all the pertinent facts such that a reasoned decision can be made. This is particularly important where the decision directly affects the lives of the residents involved, and it is a sign of respect that such decision-making is not taken lightly.

It was disappointing, therefore, to witness a decision being rendered at the April 6 council meeting – concerning a controversial planning application for 3283 Cedar, which had had a public meeting in February – where some of the councillors appeared to be not quite up to speed with all the relevant details of the case. It is disrespectful to the residents affected if a decision is made without full knowledge of all the details, and it is disturbing for others who may be in the same position in the future.

I understand this was a somewhat unique circumstance, but I would urge council to consider that they voted [on a different resolution] to have the same ethical standards applied to themselves as their provincial counterparts.

I welcome the new transparency, but there is more responsibility that comes with this.

PAUL MARRIOTT, GROSVENOR AVE.

NOISY ON REDFERN

Let's talk about what is possibly Westmount's worst case of noise pollution.

Residents living close to Sherbrooke St., especially east of Metcalfe, are regularly exposed to the sounds of roaring

diesel engines, squeaky brakes, wailing sirens and jarring klaxons as the Montreal fire trucks attend to emergency and fire calls, mostly outside of Westmount.

There are multiple calls every day, and these heavy, noisy trucks sortie both day and night.

Of course, each mission includes the roar and vibration of these monsters returning to the Stanton St. station. The occasional nocturnal return up Redfern Ave. wakens most cats, dogs and humans, many of whom fail to regain their lost night of sleep.

Before the forced merger of municipal fire services, Westmount's fire trucks went out relatively infrequently by comparison, and drivers often used sirens and horns only when absolutely necessary.

This noise, exhaust, and vibration pollution is severe for many affected citizens, and solutions must be addressed by municipal authorities.

If you do not reside near the route, consider yourself lucky.

ALLEN NUTIK, REDFERN AVE.

\$8.3 million in loan by-laws subject to opening of register

A register will open at city hall April 21 during business hours for signing by anyone opposed to the three loan by-laws adopted by city council April 6 for \$8.3 million in capital works expenditures.

These cover \$7.5 million for roadway reconstruction, refurbishing of water mains and rehabilitation of the sewers, \$650,000 for Hydro Westmount network restoration (updating), and \$80,000 for the landscaping of parks and green spaces.

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**Don Wedge
is working on
his next column.**

Mayor's blood drive turns 25

BY RALPH THOMPSON

The annual Mayor's Blood Donor Clinic, operated by Héma-Québec, took place April 9 at Victoria Hall. The objective was to collect 100 units of blood (one unit equals approximately half a liter).

This was the 25th anniversary of the Westmount blood drive, which was supported by volunteers including Girl Guides from the 66th Montreal Guide Unit.

By 6 pm, Westmounters had donated 70 units of blood, with two hours remaining.

Giving blood is an altruistic gesture. A

single unit of blood can be used for as many as five different life-giving purposes. In fact, the supply of blood to Quebec hospitals is entirely dependent on volunteer blood donors. Without it, many hospital activities and treatments would be limited.

In their educational material, Héma-Québec states there is no risk of getting a disease by donating blood. Supplies are all new, sterile and disposable. There is a long list of qualifying criteria to ensure the highest standards are met for the blood supply system, including restrictions related to acupuncture, age, body piercing, *continued on p. 6*



Girl Guide volunteers Georgia LaPierre, left, and Alessandra Guido offer reassurance to Councillor Victor Drury while Héma-Québec technician Héline Poisson keeps an eye on the flow of blood.

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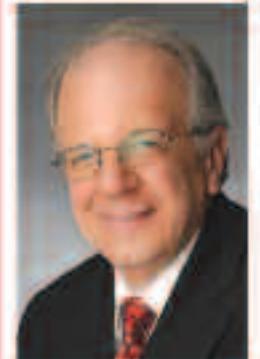
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Citizens call for diagonal crossing possibility

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Citizens at the April 6 city council meeting used the occasion of the current month-long police pedestrian safety campaign to continue the call for legalizing the diagonal crossing advantage provided by traffic lights at Sherbrooke and Victoria.

Police have consistently said that under the Quebec Highway Code crossing an intersection diagonally is not allowed and subject to ticketing – unless otherwise signed.

“I think it’s really ridiculous,” said Maureen Kiely, a resident of The Boulevard, who asked what was being done about the crossing.

“I’m drafting a letter to both the minister of Public Security and the minister of Transport to please provide us with appropriate signage,” said city director general Duncan Campbell.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham related that an experiment in the diagonal crossing of London’s Piccadilly Circus had been “an enormous success.”

Noting that the council had just au-

thorized its annual street line painting, Paul Marriott suggested that diagonal crossing lines be painted on the intersection.

Westmount could also translate a sign used in Toronto at Yonge and Bloor streets to designate the horizontal crosswalk, he suggests.

“Right now, it’s forbidden in Quebec,” stated police Station 12 commander Stéphane Plourde, who had announced the pedestrian safety campaign at the start of the meeting. The annual campaign promotes the need for pedestrians to cross at lights or corners in a right-angle manner and to avoid j-walking.

Building code public consultation slated for April 21

A public consultation meeting to update Westmount’s building by-law will take place April 21 at city hall at 7 pm.

The change involves adopting the latest version of the Quebec Construction Code, Chapter 1 – Building and the 2005 National Building Code of Canada. Both are used as baselines for Westmount’s building code. The city also includes its own regulations when they are more stringent, such as sprinkler requirements.

Public consultation set for April 26

Restaurant changes proposed

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount introduced zoning changes at the city council meeting April 6 to ease its restrictions on small restaurants in the Victoria Village area.

To be presented at a public consultation meeting at city hall, Monday, April 26 at 7 pm, the changes would lift the current freeze on new restaurants as well as retail food outlets with seating – all smaller than 140 square meters, but cap the number at 25.

The new regulations would apply only to those establishments with a total area of 140 square meters or less. The freeze on new larger restaurants such as McDonald’s would remain.

“I think it will bring some vitality to the area,” said Urban Planning commissioner Cynthia Lulham. “We feel we should be a little more open, but not too open.” The idea, she added, was to maintain small community restaurants.

The change would permit existing smaller retail food outlets with seating to apply for restaurant status as long as they are able to meet the required criteria such

as public washrooms and refrigerated garbage rooms.

The new cap provides for a potential of 11 new food-serving establishments, according to Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier. The new regulations govern only the commercial zones along Sherbrooke and Victoria and do not extend into residential ones.

The by-law changes were introduced without prior notice as a new business item at the council meeting. The freeze on new restaurants resulted from a number of noise and garbage complaints generated by nearby residents.

During the freeze, Lulham explained, the city had “created a monster” by allowing retail food outlets to provide up to 10 seats enabling their customers to eat on the premises. When this became difficult to enforce, the city revoked the practice but allowed those in existence to retain vested rights.

Asked if the same by-law changes might be extended to Greene Ave., she said it might be considered later. St. Catherine St. is governed by different zoning regulations.

Lansdowne

continued from p. 3

Forbes said she had had “a hard time with a modern design” but was supporting the permit request following the efforts made.

“I think it’s a terrific example when PAC and the owner work collaboratively,” said Councillor Victor Drury.

Councillor Theodora Samiotis noted how the architect, Gavin Affleck, had made an effort “in a modern way” to integrate the new house. It was about balancing the rights of the homeowner with the greater good of the community, she said.

Giving blood

continued from p. 5

childbirth, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, diabetes, malaria, sexual habits, medications, sore throat and weight. .

Every day, Héma-Québec must collect a minimum of 1,000 donations to meet Quebecers’ needs, and every year, Quebec’s hospital centres use approximately 400,000 units of blood products to meet the needs of over 75,000 patients.

Sustainable gardening course still open

A new course in sustainable gardening offered this spring by the city’s Sports and Recreation department still has spaces available, according to city officials.

The course explores ways to integrate sustainable practices into gardens in the backyard, on window sills, in containers and even indoors. It takes place at Victoria Hall on Thursdays, 7 to 8:30 pm, between April 18 and June 17. Those interested may register through the Sports and Recreation department.

“We hope this course may be the start of a master sustainable gardening program,” said Joshua Wolfe, the city’s sustainable development coordinator. These programs exist throughout North America whereby volunteers are trained and share their expertise with others.

Further information may be obtained from the instructors: Marci Babineau (514.481.0258) or Steve Raulerson (steveraulerson@hotmail.com).



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Westmount Atom B Preds win regional hockey title



Off-Sidel

NOAH SIDEL

It's not often a team from these parts gets to celebrate a regional title, but this season Westmount featured one amazing team that put everything together and won it all – the Atom B Predators.

After a stunning 17-1-0 regular season during which the Preds outscored their opponents 93-21, it was expected the team would go deep in the playoffs. How deep? That remained to be seen.

"We really didn't know what to expect at first, but after a month of practice, we had two exhibitions in the same weekend, and we won both by a combined score of 20-0. I was shocked by this outcome because during our own team scrimmages, we would never score," said Predators head coach Warren Garfield.

"What I learned was that our team was ready to compete, but to what extent was still up in the air. Once the season got underway, we kept winning and never stopped until we finally lost our first game in January.

"Then the real turning point of our season happened during a tournament quarter-final game in Soulanges. We lost 1-0 in a game that could have gone either way, and our players did not enjoy watching the other team celebrate. They did not want to see that happen to them again."

Defenceman Emily Sarid, 10, captained the Preds to their regional win.

"The team's ultimate moment was winning the regionals – it was an amazing thrill! As the captain, I feel tremendous pride to be part of this great team, and I am grateful to my coaches for their encouragement throughout the season," she said.

Sarid's teammate, 11-year-old forward Elliot Grenier attributed hard work to his team's success.

"We improved a lot on back checking and fore checking, and that became es-

sential for our performance in the play-offs. In our [league] finals, the other team had strong players, but with these skills we were able to stop them most of the time and pressure their defence," he explained.

"It was a great feeling to win the regionals because it felt like a huge accomplishment after we worked so hard, but our league championship was even a bigger accomplishment because we were up against an even tougher opponent."

Garfield agreed.

"We achieved success this year because of balance and work; we had seven players who scored in double digits, whereas most teams had two players carrying their whole squad," the coach said.

"We kept the same lines from Day 1, and I believe this consistency helped the players gel and get to know their line mates better as the season progressed.

"Our defence was also very quick and controlled the play in our zone and limited shots against, while our goaltenders were consistent and made a big save when needed."

In the end, it all paid off.

"The kids faced nine consecutive do-or-die games, and the regional final was the stuff dreams are made of," Garfield said.

"They counted down the last 10 seconds and charged the goalie while throwing their gloves sticks and helmets in jubilation. It was a bitter-sweet vision for me, however, as I knew that would be the last time I would be coaching this same great group of kids."

The 2009-10 regional champion Atom B Westmount Predators are: Maxim Bunimovich, Andrew Cohen, Lucas Clarke, Evan Dimentberg, Elliot Grenier, Alexandre Janson, Vladislav Jones, Keane Kelly-Menard, Samuel Lee-Howes, Luke O'Shea, Vincent Rizzolo, Michael Robb,

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The Atom B Predators after the third and final game of the EHL Finals, celebrating the first of what would be two championship wins, April 1, in the locker room of the Raymond-Bourque Arena in Ville St. Laurent.

Photo: Eada Rubinger

Emily Sarid, Chase Sinclair, Jake Star, Paul Westenberg. They were coached by Warren Garfield, Stephanie Glikzman, Mc-

Shane Jones and Andrew Robb.

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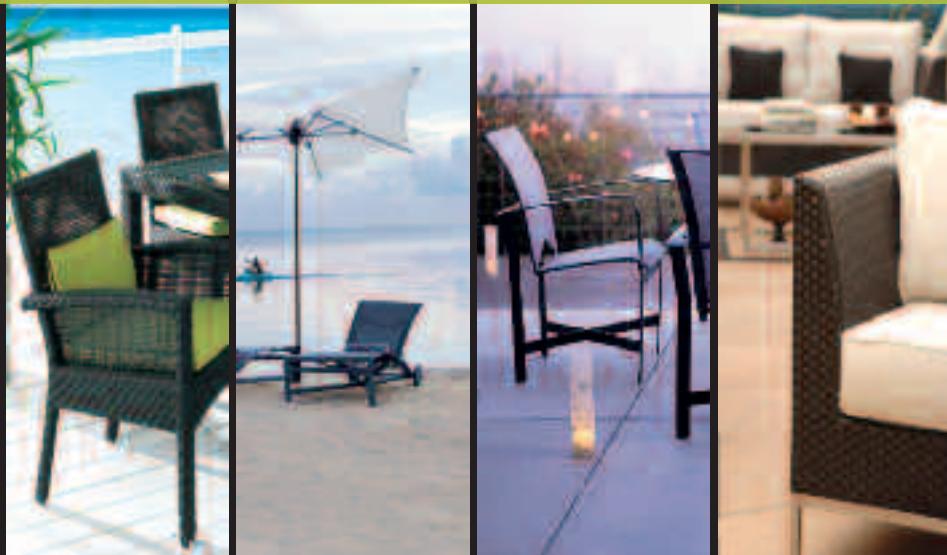
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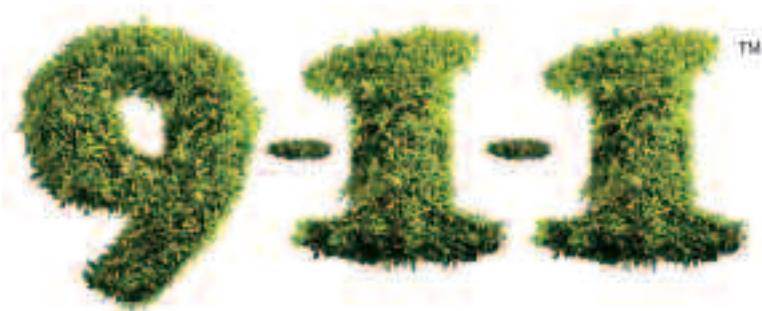
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Westmount Art Scene

Hobbs, Lau and Hopkins: The texture of art

BY HEATHER BLACK

Texture dominates the work of local artists Anthony Hobbs, Manuel Lau and Tom Hopkins currently at Westmount galleries. Providing depth and movement to

light and dark. In contrast, “#11” of the series – a small work – variegated, palette-knife strokes create focus and depth. Here a central slab of white paint dominates the composition and the viewer’s attention.

The largest work, “Ciel et terre #24”, de-



Tom Hopkins “Sentido de la Tierra”

their art, the adept use of texture is one measure of artistic excellence.

Anthony Hobbs at Gallery at Victoria Hall

This Westmounter’s work has evolved from bucolic rural scenes to abstract landscapes. This exhibit entitled “Ciel et terre” features 27 atmospheric or graphic oils. Some recall J.M.W. Turner, others are more geometrical. Inspired by nature in “Ciel et terre #20”, black mountains divide blue water and yellow sky.

In a graphic composition, a jagged land mass dominates, creating the drama of

picts tumultuous clouds. Rich in movement, circular strokes recreate the storm’s energy. A well-known graphic designer, Hobbs’ exhibit continues until April 23 at The Gallery at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St.

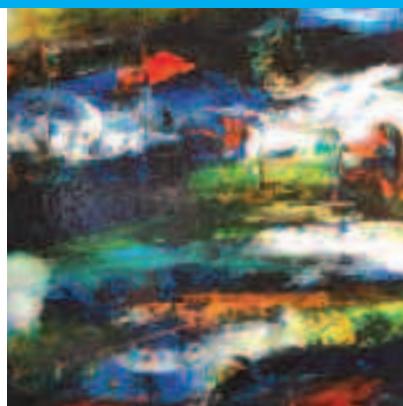
Manuel Lau at Han Art

Montrealer Lau’s folkloric series “Chiens Vagabonds” recreates the spirit of his native Peru. “Campo Abierto”, a scene of fanciful trees and curious-looking animals, is intensified by swirling white patterns. A hand-coloured

print, the colours re-

continued on p. 9

THE ENCHANTING COLORS OF CLÉMENT LEMIEUX



WOOD SCULPTURES AND PAINTINGS BY CLÉMENT LEMIEUX

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More on the art scene in Westmount

.....
continued from p. 8

fect the reds and greens of Mayan Bonampak murals.

In keeping with the storytelling tradition, “Pequeño Zoologico V” is a story-board-like series of printed images. Here the mix of animal shapes and signs suggest the distinctive hieroglyphs of Mayan writing characters. A collagraph of many frames, the printed texture creates an intricate harmony.

The “Grand Masquerade Series” features a masked llama-head figure, not unlike a jackal-head Anubis. Bold and dramatic, these carborundum prints have a unique, pebbled texture. In contrast, the mixed media painting “Llama” features the same figure with a Chinese-checked neck and drinking-straw legs.

Playful and inventive, texture is key to Lau’s graphic works. Of Chinese origin, the artist has given Peru’s imagery a modern, tactile twist. Entitled “Masquerade and Other Episodes”, the exhibit continues until April 25 at Han Art, 4209 St. Catherine St.

Tom Hopkins at Galerie de Bellefeuille

Known for his textured oils, this West-

mouter is also a talented printmaker. In a series of three duotoned etchings of beached dories, “Lifeline (Contata)” is similar in composition to “Lifeline (La Tormenta)”, a large gold and aquamarine oil painting.

Hopkins’ painted scenes seem legendary as well as futuristic. In “Mission”, a lone tree set against an industrial background suggests the fragility of nature. The environmental theme also continues in the large canvas “Sentido de la Tierra”.

Here a male figure – his eyes closed – sits at a table with one hand on a globe, another grasping a glass of water. In the background next to a geometry compass, a monkey with hands on another globe stares at the viewer. The title, from Nietzsche, suggests that science – and man – are blind to nature’s wholeness.

Hopkins’ themes are timeless. And by creating a rich multicoloured texture on rough canvas, the artist simultaneously conveys antiquity and modernity. This exhibit continues until April 21 at Galerie de Bellefeuille, 1367 Greene Ave.

Graphic designer Edwin Schlossberg wrote: “Indifference is isolation. In difference is texture and wonder.” Certainly Hobbs, Lau and Hopkins – through vari-

ous and varying textural techniques – prove the latter.

Creating mood and movement with palette knife, canvas or print, these works reflect personal vision combined with the wonder of creativity.

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Council presented with cycle safety concerns

A new organization, Westmount Citizens for Safe Cycling, presented a letter to city council on April 6, laying out safety issues with the de Maisonneuve bike path from Claremont to Wood.

Citing the connection to Montreal’s bike path system as the culprit, the letter states the bike path has turned from a recreational facility to a high-traffic cyclist thoroughfare. The letter goes on to say many bike path users ignore the rules and disregard other path users. The group describes the bike path between Wood and Claremont as “the Wild West...mount.”

Claiming more than 70 residents support these concerns, the letter, among four requests, demands the city take a more active role in monitoring the bike path while assessing means to make it safer.

The group said they “received a call from the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association [previously the Westmount Cycling Association] and will probably have an informal meeting with them in the coming weeks. We share many of the objectives, especially as regards sustainable development and safety for all.”

Westmount Citizens for Safe Cycling can be reached at wpsc@gmail.com.

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Tenants may sue 4300 for second time

BY ISAAC OLSON

Residents of Westmount's 4300 de-Maisonneuve, led by the tenants' association and a legal firm, are readying to sue their landlord for a second time.

The apartment complex, which has 317 units and an estimated 600 residents, is owned by British Columbia Investment Management Corporation (BCIMC) under the numbered company 3630005 Canada Inc. Friday calls to BCIMC were not returned.

An "Important Notice" was sent to all residents urging attendance of an April 7 meeting in St. Léon Church. The notice states, in response to numerous complaints and a discussion with "our lawyers," the tenants' association's board of directors would like to "set our course with you" on loss of peaceable enjoyment due to construction, quality of life and rental increases without adequate compensation.

At the meeting, attended by around 200 people, Ralph Lipper, a lawyer with De Grandpré Chait, outlined the steps needed to pursue a joint case against the property's owner, according to an inside source who requested anonymity. A call to Lipper's office on Friday afternoon was not returned.

Lipper represented approximately 120 tenants of the building in a similar rent reduction case that ended in settlement a few years ago, though details about the case are scarce because residents and board members have been instructed not to speak to the press.

The association's board of directors is currently without a president. Two board members and several tenants refused to comment for this article.

The source said complaints will be collected from tenants and, among other inspections, the building's air quality and noise levels will be tested. That information will then be used to determine the case's direction and whether complainants will be seeking damage compensation or rent reduction.

During the meeting, residents wishing to join the lawsuit were asked to submit \$300 to cover both the legal firm's retainer fee and disbursements, according to the source.

Should the case fully materialize, it will go before the Régie du logement. Jean-Pierre Le Blanc, Régie spokesperson, said, when many residents file individual claims with a common complaint, it is dealt with in a single ruling.

Le Blanc said the building's proprietor has recently filed 12 different claims to raise the rent. Landlords can file rent raise claims with the Régie when tenants refuse the notice. While there is no cap on how much a landlord can raise the rent, the increase must be justified by cost increases, such as renovations or heating oil price hikes, he said.

Tenants cannot use loss of peaceable enjoyment to combat rent increases, he ex-

plained, because it all comes down to numbers. Those types of complaints need to be filed separately in order to win compensation or rent reduction, he said.

The building is managed by Toronto-based Realstar Management. When contacted, the company's district manager directed calls to the building's asset manager, Toronto-based Great West Life Realty Advisors.

Michele Walkau, the company's vice president of corporate resources, said, "A lot of the work that we are doing now has been accelerated in response to tenants' concerns." She also noted tenant services ranging from making quiet rooms available to offering white noise machines to block out the sounds of construction. "We are trying to work with residents to minimize the inconvenience as much as we can."

Marie-Laure Guillard

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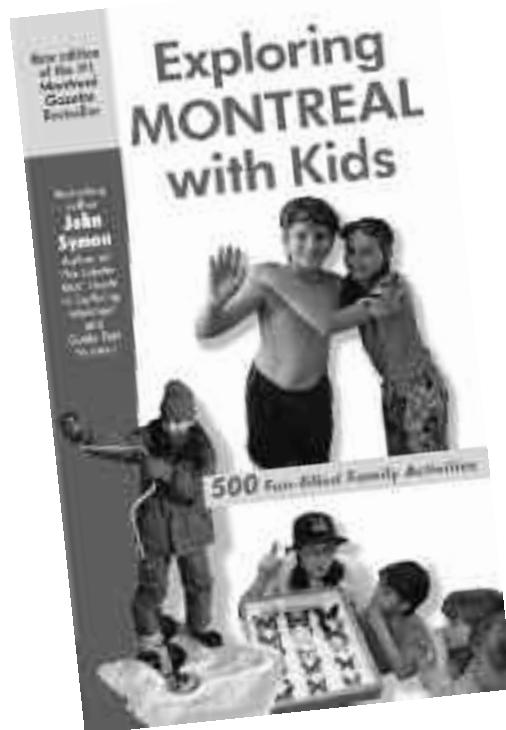
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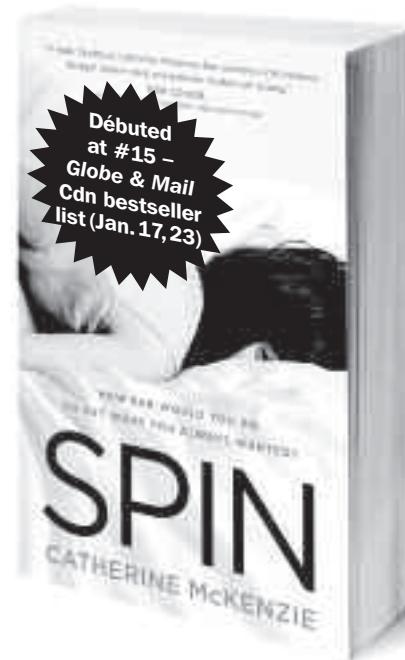
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Divorce diplomacy



Parenthood Uncensored

SOPHIE TARNOWSKA

The day before I left for India, I bought a pair of sandals for my trip, and forgot them in a shop. Then I left my credit card behind at another store. And I rammed into the rear of some poor woman's car at a traffic light a few hours before my departure. Finally, while the taxi waited outside, I realized I had lost my house keys when I went to lock the front door so I could leave for the airport.

To think I'd wanted to bring my six-year-old with me.

The plan was to bring my iPod-toting toddler along to fill her eyes, ears and mind with the indescribable other-ness of India, as an antidote to the "gimme, gimme" life that I'm afraid she is becoming used to. I wanted India to open a door in her mind that she might want to run through one day, when she is older. I wanted her to realize that some people not only sleep in the street, but wash, work and play there.

I planned this trip to work with an NGO called Calcutta Rescue. They needed a photographer to capture images for their website and annual report, and I needed to try a life I've dreamed of for too long: being a photographer, being creative. My sister would fly over from England to meet us and the three of us would spend 10 days relaxing on the beaches of Goa, followed by just over a week in Calcutta, where I'd spend part of each day shooting schools and leprosy clinics. My sister and daughter would hang out by the hotel pool.

It was perfect. Until I asked my ex-husband for permission to whisk our child 12,000 km away. It was the most tense negotiation we've been through since the Big One.

"Soph, nobody I know thinks it's a good idea." (Nobody in New Jersey, you mean. And yet acid-washed denim remains a good idea. Please explain.)

"Won't she need shots?" (Yes, but she needs shots to live in Canada too.)

"My mother thinks it's a war zone – is it?" (Not unless we visit a rebel camp in the mountains of Kashmir.)

"What if something happens – it's so far away, I'd never get there to help!" (He got me there.)

We've disagreed on many things in the five years since we split up. Whether or not to pierce her ears, allow her to wear

bikinis, put her picture on Facebook, let her fly alone between Canada and the US (I'd rather light my hair on fire). You win some, you lose some. And some you think you've won...until you see photos of your child wearing a bikini on a New Jersey beach.

It's divorce diplomacy, the everyday stuff of divorced parents. My ex and I live in different worlds, and want different things, but because we are still parents we remain partners. Ironically, we care more about each other's opinions now than ever before. If I ignore his feelings on this topic, he can ignore mine next time. If I'd forced the India issue, I'd have to stay silent if he ever decided to take her to an NRA weekend retreat, or a Sarah Palin fundraiser. Which he wouldn't.

So it's Disney: 1, India: 0. I had to go without her. I have to accept that for now, my child is learning more about Cinderella than she is about Krishna, but there'll be time for trips to India later. Because what she's also learning is that her parents love her enough to remain kind and respectful toward one another, no matter how differently they see the world.

If you want to travel India through my eyes, check out my blog at www.countessdiaries.com

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Get over his name!

BY: JESSICA GHERSI



As if it weren't enough that his owner had to name him "Tit-Gallop," this tiny lit-



Tit-Gallop

Photo: Nicole Leger

tle ball of fur has been in foster care for over nine months. We should consider changing his name, maybe then we'll find out why such a cute and perfect Pomeranian has been overlooked for so long.

T-Gallop (let's stick with that for now) is friendly and full of energy, which he exerts in the form of cuddling. The guy turns spooning into a hobby. Maybe it's all the love he has left over from his earlier happy life. Rollover love.

T-Gallop lived the good life for eight full years, then suddenly became homeless when his owner got sick and had to move into an old folks home. Of course, he couldn't take the pup with him, so out went T-Gallop in search of his new humble abode.

It's the same old story; another old, used dog in the world, pathetically trying to compete with fresh new puppies. The old guys are obviously not going to win in the cuteness category. And most of the time, they're also not

going to live as long,
but in T-Gallop's case, *continued on p. 20*

Sustainability, over breakfast



Joshua Wolfe, left, and Doug Leahey of Scouts Westmount discuss ways to get the scouts involved with sustainability initiatives.

BY ERIN STROPES

Some 20 people attended the opening lecture of the Westmount Healthy City Project's breakfast speaker series at Victoria Hall on April 8. Over coffee, pastries and fruit, participants listened to Joshua Wolfe, Westmount's sustainable development coordinator, discuss the ways in which Westmount will strive to become greener in 2010.

In 2009, city council generated a list of suggestions for community sustainability. A public meeting in September and an online survey of residents allowed residents to participate in the process of selecting ten "priority actions" from that list. The final "10 for 2010" list, which is available in full on the city's website, was set by city council in March. It includes planned actions from the promotion of cycling to speeding up the energy retrofitting of municipal buildings.

According to Wolfe, the council chose items that would have a high impact on sustainability, as well as be visible and relevant to Westmounters. Budgetary considerations and the one-year timeframe were also taken into consideration.

The list includes some actions that will be taken by the city, and others that will rely on the participation of residents.

Among other initiatives, the city will draft sustainable architecture guidelines, unroll pilot programs for natural landscaping projects, and expand recycling to include businesses, stores, parks and public places. It will also work with the city of Montreal to bring the Bixi public bicycle stations into Westmount.

Westmount residents will be able to participate in information sessions about

energy efficiency and the possibility of removing the asphalted portion of Summit Circle within Summit Park. There will also be a "safety walk" down St. Catherine between Atwater and Greene to identify safety issues for pedestrians and bikers.

Participants showed an interest in expanding Westmount's composting program, and also expressed some concern that environmental thinking isn't spreading fast enough among Westmounters. One resident was especially concerned about the insufficient availability of bicycle racks at Victoria Hall and the Westmount Public Library. Wolfe confirmed that this issue would be addressed as part of the "promote cycling" goal.

The three remaining lectures take place Thursday mornings at 8:15 am (doors open at 8) at Victoria Hall. The next lecture, on April 15, is "Permaculture: What it is and why it is important to cities," and will deal with gardening sustainably in the city. Admission is free and open to all.

Tipline

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.

See story "\$1,000 donated for crime-fighting fund," March 30, p. 6, for details.

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

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Annual Maskarade event attracts Westmounters



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The annual Maskarade event, which raises money for people living with HIV/AIDS, was held mid-February at the Marché Bonsecours in Old Montreal.

Fabulous masks ranged from basic black to dynamic designs. The sold-out gala was chaired by Westmounter **Simon Tooley** and **Dominic Tremblay**.

Westmounters noted in the chic crowd included **Colleen and Mirko Wicha**, **Cheryl Besner-Cohen**, **Sookhee Park Taylor**, **Carolyn Farha**, **Susan and Manilo Del Negro**, **Randa Ghari**, **Linda Smith**, **Barry Richards** and **Yves Hébert**.

Presidents of honour were Torontonians **Joe Mimran** (the genius behind Joe Fresh) and the president of Pink Tartan, his wife **Kimberley Newport-Mimran**, Milan-chic in a LBD (little black dress) and a lustrous array of pearls.

Noted guests included
Dynamite's CEO **Andrew** *continued on p. 20*



Westmounters Rosemary and Frank Niro with friends John and Anna Broccolini.



Westmounter Linda Smith with singing star Martha Wash and Bram Garber.



Sam Pelc, Fernand Labrie, Westmounter Karen Etingin and Sivan Rotemberg.



Kimberly Newport-Mimran, Joe Mimran and Gazette fashion editor Eva Friede.

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Hello, Westmount

EUROPEAN AND DOMESTIC CAR LTD.



From left: mechanics Peter Narkezian, his father George Narkezian and George Chehmalian inside the Victoria Ave. garage, European and Domestic Car Ltd.

BY ROBERT J. GALBRAITH

Nowadays, being a car mechanic is not only about changing spark plugs and performing those other needed repairs. More and more, computer components are being incorporated into modern automotive systems, so that in the not-so-distant future, the average mechanic will not be able to conduct the most simple of repairs without lots of non-mechanical training.

“You always have to be taking courses to complete the new certificates to keep you updated on the changing technology. Two months ago, I finished a course on all makes of hybrids,” explained 23-year-old Peter Narkezian, who along with his father, George, owns and operates European and Domestic Car Limited, located at 221 Victoria Ave.

The garage, which has been at the present location for over 60 years, has been owned by Narkezian for the last 15. Though they specialize in repairs to BMWs, Mercedes and Volvos, their services include work on all makes of Japanese and American cars. “We do all types of

repairs, from A-Z, on all cars and are open for appointments or walk-ins,” explained George.

Son Peter may be considered from the “new school” of modern car mechanics, but he enjoys working shoulder-to-shoulder with his father and the third member of their team, mechanic George Chehmalian. “It’s good to be working with my dad. Sometimes there is some tension, but I get great work experience from being around someone like my father. This computer era is my generation, and my dad doesn’t have the time to take courses as he’s always needed and busy at the shop.”

Both Peter and George live in Cartierville-St. Laurent but love having their business in Westmount. “Everyone is close in Westmount, and when you build a good reputation, people respect you for it.”

Peter described how in the next twenty years, perhaps less, all cars will be completely computerized. “It’s not that there won’t be mechanical pieces, but the future car will be very heavily computerized. People

continued on p. 20

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Cedar: 'Impact still too great'

continued from p. 2

council chamber.

Earlier in the evening, Al-Masawi told the *Independent* she and Anderson had only learned at the last moment from the city website that her latest permit request was to be discussed.

In fact, it was a resolution to refuse the permit on grounds "the impact on the adjacent existing buildings is too great considering the architectural elevations of the main body of the house and side wings."

Anderson brought plans and models to the meeting, which he produced during the question period. The models showed differences in the size of the home between 2004 and 2010.

His latest revisions submitted to the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) February 5 had lowered the house even more, up to five feet for the wings (see February 9, p. 1).

Urban Planning commissioner Cynthia Lulham, explained that the PAC felt the latest modifications still did not lessen the home's impact on neighbours enough. But they were in the middle of "a process," she explained, reiterating: "It's a process."

When Councillor Tim Price asked what the next step would be, she answered, "Come back with another project."

When Lulham said that no further changes had come back to the PAC (after February 5), Anderson interjected, telling the council, "We have jumped through hoops. I don't think you're getting the right information. We've answered their minutes. [The change] is very substantial."

The vote was taken. All agreed that the changes were not significant enough to grant a permit.

Martin, however, said the design revisions were going in the right direction.



House plan as proposed in 2004 (left) compared with a 2010 plan (right), which has since been lowered three to five feet. The 2010 plan also shows neighbouring houses on The Boulevard.

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The Montreal thinkers' conference



Our Man in Ottawa

MARC GARNEAU, MP
FOR WESTMOUNT-
VILLE MARIE

On the weekend of March 26-28, the Liberal Party of Canada held a “thinkers” conference in downtown Montreal. It was part of an ongoing series of consultations aimed at preparing our election platform.

It was a remarkable event for a number of reasons, not the least of which was the excellent list of speakers from all stripes who took us off the straight-and-narrow of conventional thinking that required some courage and perhaps a little audacity to embrace.

Also remarkable was the “e-forum” approach to the conference with one main venue and about 60 satellite sites across the country receiving a streaming webcast and individual commentary allowing interaction with the speakers. This was a first, and the overwhelming reaction was positive.

My party has been praised for holding this conference, something the other parties would never do. The Montreal speakers challenged our current thinking. They challenged the direction this country is taking. They challenged us to think boldly rather than playing it safe. That's what made it so refreshing.

I believe that the 32 round tables that we convened during prorogation, along with the Montreal conference itself and the five regional conferences scheduled for this June are definitely shaping the Liberal platform scheduled for completion by the end of the summer.

Politicians are sometimes accused of lacking the courage to do what needs to be done. The reality is that politicians may know what needs to be done for the good

of the country, but also know that it must be supported by voters. Otherwise, it won't happen.

Let's look at an example: the environment. Most Canadians say they want to take action on global warming even if it means personal sacrifice. However, there may be a disconnect between what people say and what they are prepared to do. Politicians recognize this and are left with two choices: not to do anything, or grab the bull by the horns and do what needs to be done.

The latter approach requires courage and leadership and a vision that will inspire confidence. That is the politician's challenge. This is certainly a time for leadership when Canadians are worried about their pensions, rising health care costs, a deteriorating environment and other issues.

Ultimately, I am convinced that Canadians will be presented with a clear choice in their selection of the next government. In that sense, like the Kingston and Aylmer conferences, the Montreal conference will be viewed as an important moment when new thinking was brought to the table.

'Good' used books requested for library sale

Friends of the Westmount Public Library request donations for their upcoming used book sale, April 24 and 25, 10 am to 5 pm.

Books in good condition on all topics may be dropped off at the front desk of the library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. Pick-ups are available. Proceeds go towards purchasing new books. Info: 514.483.5604.

Comin' Up

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

• Westmount Historical Association presents “**Metro Grocery Store** on Victoria” with speaker Graham Fletcher, Westmount Library, from 7 pm to 9 pm. Admission free for members; \$5 at door for others. Info: 514.989.5510.

• “**Sustainable Gardening Practices**” course” begins today at Victoria Hall, 7 to 8:30 pm, including Q&A. Cost: \$50. Runs from April 15 to June 17. Info: Marci Babineau 514.481.0258.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

• Westmount Library's Children's Department invites **Sheree Fitch** for an evening of stories by the fireplace, 7 to 8 pm in the Westmount Room. Bring a stuffed animal and wear your pajamas. For ages 5 and up. Register: 514.989.5357 or wwayling@westmount.org.

• Last day to nominate a Westmount citizen for this year's **WMA Volunteer Citizen of the Year Award**. Volunteer.award@wma-amw.org, or by phone 514.846.8464.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

• **Empty Bowls** fundraiser at the Unitarian Church of Montreal, 5035 de Maisonneuve, 11 am to 2 pm. Tickets at door: \$20 includes soup, bread, fruit and pottery bowl; \$5 for children under 12. Info: www.emptybowlsmontreal.org or 514.485.7674.

• **Temple Torah School Open House** (395 Elm Ave.). Families with children from 5 to 15 years old invited; become a student for a day. RSVP: Ilana Kuska, 514.937.3575, ext 210.

• Children's art workshop at Centre Greene: **the art of mask making**. This starts a four-week course for children 6 to 13, from 10:30 am to 12 pm. Cost: \$99. Info: Andru John 514.932.9900.

• Rummage sale at **St. Matthias Church**, 131 Côte St. Antoine, 10 am to 1 pm. Household goods, clothes, toys, books, appliances. Info: 514.933.4295.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

• Shaar Hashomayim (425 Metcalfe) presents **James Mennie** on “Optimist, Pessimist? A Commentary of the World around Us,” 12 pm. Cost: \$5, includes lunch and lecture. Reserve before Thursday, April 15, noon: 514.937.9471, ext. 139

• The Choir of **Mountainside United Church** and the FACE School Chamber Orchestra presents a concert of Vivaldi, Haydn, Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Dvorak, 3 pm, 4000 The Boulevard. Tickets on sale at door: \$15; students and seniors \$12.

MONDAY, APRIL 19

ArtsFest at Marianopolis, free week-long showcase from April 19 to 23. A concert takes place 7:30 pm on Wednesday, April 21, featuring graduate musicians of Marianopolis' Professional Music Program. Info: www.marianopolis.edu/artsfest.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

• A **public consultation meeting** to update Westmount's building by-law, city hall at 7 pm. See story, p. 6.

• A register is open at city hall during business hours for signing by anyone opposed to the three **loan by-laws** adopted by city council April 6. See story, p. 4.

• “Whatever Happened to Heroes” dinner and class at **Temple Emanu-El Beth-Sholom**, 5:45 pm for dinner, 6:15 to 7:15 pm for study class. 395 Elm. Reserve one week in advance: Rosie, 514.937.3575.

• Children's author **Bonnie Farmer** reads her book “ABC in the Library” for 5 to 7 year olds. Children will be invited to make their own alphabet pages. 10:30 to 11:30 am in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Library.

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Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount



PROCÉDURES D'ENREGISTREMENT
RÈGLEMENTS N^{OS} 1388, 1389 ET 1390
LE 21 AVRIL 2010

À TOUTES LES PERSONNES HABLES À VOTER AYANT LE DROIT D'ÊTRE INSCRITES
SUR LA LISTE RÉFÉRENDAIRE DE LA VILLE DE WESTMOUNT

AVIS PUBLIC EST PAR LA PRÉSENTE DONNÉ PAR LE SOUSSIGNÉ, GREFFIER DE LA VILLE DE WESTMOUNT, DE CE QUI SUIT :

Lors de sa séance ordinaire tenue le 6 avril 2010, le conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount a adopté les règlements suivants :

Règlement n° 1388 intitulé « RÈGLEMENT AUTORISANT UN EMPRUNT DE 7 540 500 \$ POUR L'EXÉCUTION DE TRAVAUX DE RÉFECTION ROUTIÈRE, DE RESTAURATION DE CONDUITES D'AQUEDUC ET DE RÉHABILITATION DE CONDUITES D'ÉGOUTS », dont l'objet vise à autoriser un emprunt de 7 540 500 \$ relativement à l'exécution de travaux de réfection routière, de restauration de conduites d'aqueduc et de réhabilitation de conduites d'égouts.

Règlement n° 1389 intitulé « RÈGLEMENT AUTORISANT UN EMPRUNT DE 650 000 \$ POUR LES TRAVAUX DE RÉALISATION DU PROGRAMME DE RESTAURATION DES RÉSEAUX AÉRIEN ET SOUTERRAIN DE DISTRIBUTION ÉLECTRIQUE D'HYDRO WESTMOUNT », dont l'objet vise à autoriser un emprunt de 650 000 \$ relativement à l'exécution de travaux de réalisation du programme de restauration des réseaux aérien et souterrain de distribution électrique d'Hydro Westmount.

Règlement n° 1390 intitulé « RÈGLEMENT AUTORISANT UN EMPRUNT DE 80 000 \$ POUR DES TRAVAUX D'AMÉNAGEMENT PAYSAGER DANS LES PARCS ET ESPACES VERTS DE LA VILLE », dont l'objet vise à autoriser un emprunt de 80 000 \$ relativement à l'exécution de travaux d'aménagement paysager dans les parcs et espaces verts de la ville.

REGISTRE

Les personnes habiles à voter ayant le droit d'être inscrites sur la liste référendaire de la Ville de Westmount peuvent demander que l'un ou plusieurs des règlements **1388, 1389 et 1390** fassent l'objet d'un scrutin référendaire en inscrivant leur nom, adresse et qualité et en apposant leur signature dans les registres ouverts à cette fin.

Pour signer les registres, les personnes habiles à voter devront établir leur identité en présentant une des pièces suivantes :

- carte d'assurance maladie délivrée par la Régie de l'assurance-maladie du Québec;
- permis de conduire ou permis de conduire probatoire délivrés sur support plastique par la Société de l'assurance-automobile du Québec;
- passeport canadien;
- certificat de statut d'Indien délivré aux personnes inscrites au Registre des Indiens en vertu de la Loi sur les indiens; ou
- carte d'identité des Forces canadiennes délivrée par le ministère de la Défense nationale.

Les registres seront accessibles de **9 h à 19 h le mercredi 21 avril 2010** dans la salle du conseil de l'hôtel de ville de Westmount, située au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest.

Le nombre requis de demandes pour que chacun des règlements **1388, 1389 et 1390** fassent l'objet d'un scrutin référendaire est de **500**. Si ce nombre n'est pas atteint, les règlements **1388, 1389 et 1390** seront réputés approuvés par les personnes habiles à voter.

Les résultats des procédures d'enregistrement seront annoncés à 19 h 05 le 21 avril 2010, dans la salle du conseil de l'hôtel de ville de Westmount.

Toute personne intéressée peut consulter les règlements **1388, 1389 et 1390** et en obtenir copie au bureau du greffier situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à

Westmount, du lundi au vendredi, de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30 et pendant les heures d'enregistrement.

CONDITIONS POUR ÊTRE UNE PERSONNE HABLE À VOTER AYANT LE DROIT D'ÊTRE INSCRITE SUR LA LISTE RÉFÉRENDAIRE DE LA VILLE DE WESTMOUNT

Est une personne habile à voter selon l'ordre de priorité suivant :

- 1° Toute personne qui n'est frappée d'aucune incapacité de voter et qui remplit les conditions suivantes **le 6 avril 2010** :
 - être domiciliée sur le territoire de la ville de Westmount;
 - être domiciliée depuis au moins six mois au Québec;
- 2° Tout propriétaire unique d'un immeuble ou occupant unique d'un établissement d'entreprise qui n'est frappé d'aucune incapacité de voter et qui remplit les conditions suivantes **le 6 avril 2010** :
 - être propriétaire d'un immeuble ou occupant d'un établissement d'entreprise situé sur le territoire de la ville de Westmount depuis au moins 12 mois;
 - avoir produit ou produire au moment de la signature des registres un écrit signé par le propriétaire ou l'occupant demandant l'inscription sur la liste référendaire, le cas échéant;
- 3° Tout copropriétaire indivis d'un immeuble ou cooccupant d'un établissement d'entreprise qui n'est frappé d'aucune incapacité de voter et qui remplit les conditions suivantes **le 6 avril 2010** :
 - être copropriétaire indivis d'un immeuble ou cooccupant d'un établissement d'entreprise situé sur le territoire la ville de Westmount depuis au moins 12 mois;
 - être désigné, au moyen d'une procuration signée par la majorité des personnes qui sont copropriétaires ou cooccupants depuis au moins 12 mois, comme celui qui a le droit de signer les registres en leur nom et d'être inscrit sur la liste référendaire, le cas échéant. La procuration doit avoir été produite ou être produite pour être admis à s'enregistrer.

Dans le cas d'une personne physique, il faut qu'elle soit majeure, de citoyenneté canadienne et ne pas être en curatelle.

Dans le cas d'une personne morale, il faut :

- avoir désigné parmi ses membres, administrateurs ou employés, par résolution, une personne qui, **le 6 avril 2010** est majeure, de citoyenneté canadienne, qui n'est pas en curatelle et qui n'est frappée d'aucune incapacité de voter prévue par la loi;
- avoir produit ou produire au moment de la signature des registres une résolution désignant la personne autorisée à signer les registres et à être inscrite sur la liste référendaire, le cas échéant.

Sauf dans le cas d'une personne désignée à titre de représentant d'une personne morale, nul ne peut être considéré comme personne intéressée à plus d'un titre conformément à l'article 531 de la *Loi sur les élections et les référendums dans les municipalités*.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 13 avril 2010.

Mario Gerbeau
Greffier de la ville



Ville de Westmount
City of Westmount



REGISTRATION PROCEDURES
BY-LAWS NOS. 1388, 1389 and 1390
APRIL 21, 2010

TO ALL QUALIFIED VOTERS ENTITLED TO HAVE THEIR NAME ENTERED
ON THE REFERENDUM LIST OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED, CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT, OF THE FOLLOWING:

At its regular sitting held on April 6, 2010, the municipal Council of the City of Westmount adopted the following by-laws:

By-law 1388 entitled "BY-LAW TO PROVIDE A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,540,500 FOR THE ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME, THE REFURBISHING OF WATER MAINS AND THE REHABILITATION OF SEWERS" the object of which is to authorize a loan in the amount of \$7,540,500 to carry out work for the roadway reconstruction programme, the refurbishing of water mains and the rehabilitation of sewers.

By-law 1389 entitled "BY-LAW TO PROVIDE A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$650,000 TO CARRY OUT WORK FOR THE HYDRO WESTMOUNT AERIAL AND UNDERGROUND NETWORK RESTORATION PROGRAMS" the object of which is to authorize a loan in the amount of \$650,000 to carry out work for the Hydro Westmount aerial and underground network restoration programs.

By-law 1390 entitled "BY-LAW TO PROVIDE A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,000 FOR LANDSCAPING OF PARKS AND GREEN SPACES IN THE CITY", the object of which is to authorize a loan in the amount of \$80,000 to carry out work for the landscaping of parks and green spaces in the city.

REGISTER

All qualified voters entitled to have their name entered on the referendum list of the City of Westmount may demand that one or many of the by-laws **1388**, **1389** and **1390** be submitted to a referendum poll by entering their name, address and capacity and by apposing their signature in the registers open for that purpose.

To sign the registers, the qualified voters will be required to produce one of the following identification, namely:

- Health insurance card (Medicare) issued by the *Régie de l'assurance-maladie du Québec*;
- Driver's license or probationary licence issued in plastic form by the *Société de l'assurance-automobile du Québec*;
- Canadian passport;
- Certificate of Indian Status issued to persons registered in the Indian Register under the Indian Act; or
- Canadian Armed Forces identification card issued under Order of the Department of National Defence.

The registers will be open for registration from **9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, 2010**, in the Council Chamber of Westmount City Hall located at 4333 Sherbrooke West.

The number of applications needed to require that each of the by-laws **1388**, **1389** and **1390** be submitted to a poll is **500**. Failing such number, by-laws **1388**, **1389** and **1390** shall be deemed to have been approved by the qualified voters.

The results of the registration procedures will be announced at 7:05 p.m. on April 21, 2010, in the Council Chamber of Westmount City Hall.

An interested person may consult by-laws **1388**, **1389** and **1390** at the office of the City Clerk, 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and during the registration hours.

CONDITIONS TO BE A QUALIFIED VOTER ENTITLED TO HAVE ONE'S NAME ENTERED ON THE REFERENDUM LIST OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT

Is a qualified voter according to the following order of preference:

1. Any person not disqualified from voting and who meets the following requirements on **April 6, 2010**:

- is domiciled in the territory of the City of Westmount;
- has been domiciled for at least six months in Quebec;

2. Any sole owner of an immoveable or sole occupant of a business establishment not disqualified from voting and who meets the following requirements on **April 6, 2010**:

- has been, for at least 12 months, the owner of an immoveable or the occupant of a business establishment situated in the territory of the City of Westmount;
- has filed, or file when signing the registers, a writing signed by the owner or the occupant requesting that his or her name be entered on the referendum list, as the case may be;

3. Any undivided co-owner of an immoveable or co-occupant of a business establishment not disqualified from voting and who meets the following conditions on **April 6, 2010**:

- has been for at least 12 months, undivided co-owner of an immoveable or co-occupant of a business establishment situated in the territory of the City of Westmount;
- be designated, by means of a power of attorney signed by the majority of the persons who have been co-owners or co-occupants for at least 12 months, as being the one having the right to sign the registers in their name and to have the right to be entered on the referendum list, as the case may be. The power of attorney must have been filed, or must be filed to be entitled to register.

In the case of a natural person, he or she must be of full age and a Canadian citizen, and must not be under curatorship.

In the case of a legal person, one must:

- have designated by resolution one of its members, directors or employees who, on **April 6, 2010**, is of full age, a Canadian citizen, not under curatorship, nor disqualified from voting;
- have filed, or file the resolution when signing the registers, designating the person authorized to sign the registers and to be entered on the referendum list, as the case may be.

Except in the case of a person designated to represent a legal person, a person shall have his or her name entered on the list in only one capacity, as per section 531 of *An Act respecting elections and referendums in municipalities*.

GIVEN at Westmount, this April 13, 2010.

Mario Gerbeau
City Clerk

Social Notes

continued from p. 13

Lufty and Samantha Gumenick, Erik Péladeau, president and owner of Group Lelys, and Julie Paquet, Dale and Nick Tedeschi, artist Zilon, Dick Walsh (who designed the futuristic decor), Tali and Philip Hazan, Quebec designers Denis Gagnon and Andy Thé Anh, ALDO Group's creative director Douglas Bensadoun and Debra Margles and Pino Forgione.

Noted amidst the revelers were agent *extraordinaire* Bram Garber, Orla Johannes, Anna Bachour, ELLE Québec's Denis Desro and Farha Foundation honorary president Evelyn Farha.

The food was über delicious, with cocktail hors d'oeuvres by Buonanotte, Globe & Rosalie, and dinner dished up by Bice. Music legend Martha Wash had everyone dancing up a storm.

The Farha Foundation is Quebec's leading AIDS fundraising organization and helps men, women and children living with HIV and AIDS. The gala raised \$280,000. Since 1992, the foundation has distributed close to \$8 million to some 48 AIDS organizations throughout Quebec.

Hello Westmount

continued from p. 14

won't be able to do their own tune-ups or repairs; it will be all reliant on the computer. Even now, on some new models of Audis, the technology doesn't allow you to change the brakes without being hooked-up to the computer system."

European and Domestic Car Ltd. is located at 221 Victoria. They are open weekdays 7 am to 5 pm, and Saturday 8 am to 2 pm.

Hello, Westmount's content is provided by the Independent. Businesses that appear do not pay for or approve what is written.

Underdog

continued from p. 12

it's a different story. Remember, he's a Pomeranian. And they live to be up to 112 dog years! T-Gallop's only 56. He's practically a baby. He still has half his life to look forward to. That's like 5,840 more walks, at least 43 new toys to rip to shreds and a good 378 more fire hydrants to pee on. Not to mention the countless number of kisses this sweet, loving boy is ready to give.

If you're interested in adopting Tit-Gallop (and can get over his name), call Erika at 514.938.8114 or visit underdogclub.org.

Proposed arena/pool project avoiding a

continued from p. 1

Drive. This would provide a buffer between the main street and the pool area at the site of the existing arena. Three pools are planned: a small one for toddlers, one for older children and a larger L-shaped adult pool with swimming lanes and a special diving section.

Addressing objections

The proposal of the new council, Trent said, addresses the main objections voiced by citizens to the previous council's proposals (see September 22, 2009, p. 1).

One of these was the "massive intrusion" into the park of a 500-foot long arena structure. Another was positioning the pool area across from apartments on Academy Rd. with no provision for relocation of the junior tennis courts.

"We do not wish to plunk a massive piece of architecture down in an established green space," Trent explained.

Other options were investigated and rejected in proposing the current concept. These included renovating or retrofitting the existing 1958 arena and 1962 pool at a cost of some \$12 million or rebuilding the status quo for at least \$18 million. Neither, according to the mayor, would have been eligible for an infrastructure grant.

The council also studied the building of stacked rinks with parking between, as well as going to the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) or other venues.

Consultants' reports on user needs, traffic and operating costs are expected to be posted on the city's website.

Looking at layout, traffic

Details of the new layout show the recreation centre's main entrance and address to be on Lansdowne with vehicle ac-

cess from both Lansdowne and St. Catherine. This was recommended by traffic consultants to reduce traffic impact.

A traffic study found that the project could generate an increase of 52 cars per hour during rush hour with little effect against a background of the 1,600 per hour now using St. Catherine and Lansdowne.

There is also parking allocation for 86 spots, an increase of some 40.

The two underground ice rinks would run approximately north-south beside each other and be separated by changing rooms under what is now part of the pool area and the north-south portion of Academy Rd. They would be covered by grass and the relocated junior tennis courts.

The pool area and new park would take

Two weeks to return your vote

Residents have two weeks to weigh in on the new arena/pool proposal and vote Yes or No to being "generally in favour of the city proceeding" with the project as outlined in the accompanying mailing.

While no specific date is given for the deadline, two weeks would bring the date to the end of April when questionnaire information will be tabulated by the polling firm Ipsos Canada. Personal identification numbers have been assigned to ensure that only one vote per household is recorded.

Residents are asked to state the number of persons in the household, general age groups, how often – if ever – they use the arena and pool, and whether or not they are the homeowner. They are also asked to comment on the project.

A similar process was used in polling residents for their input on the library renewal project in 1992.

up the site of the existing arena.

A user-needs analysis study stated the need for a second large ice rink to accommodate Westmount's high participation rate in kids' skating and hockey of 27 percent compared with 10 percent of "most cities." This stems from the fact the city provides hockey programs for all, not only those in competition leagues.

Not enough practice time?

But the study by Sodem consultants also found that Westmount's available ice time does not provide the amount of practice time recommended by Hockey Canada.

As well, children aged 5 to 14 are predicted to be one of the fastest growing age groups in Westmount by the year 2031, increasing at a rate of 39.7 percent. This compares with those aged 65 and over, whose numbers will rise by 40.4 percent.

One of the two rinks would remain open as an ice surface year round while the other would provide space for general recreational activities in the summer as are now available.

Continued use of the current arena during the construction period would be possible under the new plan. This was a major stumbling block in previous proposals when no adequate solution could be found for transferring the winter programs elsewhere.

Fundraising

Hoping to generate some \$5 million through fundraising, Trent says the council expects half the amount to come from individuals and foundations. "We are also quite confident to get funding from the schools that use our arena," which would make up the remainder.

Local schools running hockey programs benefit from having ice rinks close to them, he points out. "It's only fair they chip in." School use typically occurs during the daytime when the city's requirements are fewer.

Timing important

By asking citizens to respond within two weeks, Trent concluded that "we need to get a shovel in the ground pretty quickly." Interest rates are on the rise. Construction costs also could increase with the building of the two hospital complexes.

In addition, the city must soon formally accept the \$20-million infrastructure grant, "the crowning achievement" of former mayor Karin Marks, Trent stated, obtained with the help of Westmount MNA Jacques Chagnon.



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‘massive intrusion’ into park – mayor



A bird's eye view of the proposed arena/pool complex with "east" (geographic northeast) on top shows the main entrance off Lansdowne Ave. with (in white) the pavilion entry and teen centre above ground. At left is a new parking area and arena beneath three tennis courts. At right is the pool area and a new park off St. Catherine St.

Image: lemay associés.



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Your turn to comment!

The city of Westmount is not the only party interested in what you think of the current arena/pool proposal. We welcome your views for publication, especially if we haven't heard from you yet!

Please limit your letter to 320 words – or 100 in order to be included in our special arena section. Write to us at indie@westmountindependent.com.

Free the Children founder Kielburger visits The Study

BY ERIN STROPES

When members of The Study's chapter of children's rights organization Free the Children (FTC) learned that founder Craig Kielburger was going to pay their school a personal visit, they were thrilled. "For all of us, he's been a hero," said grade 11 student Natalia Vilanova. "We were all so excited."

On March 25, Kielburger ran a workshop with more than a dozen students, posed for photos and recorded a video that was posted on FTC's Facebook page.

An Ontario native, Kielburger founded FTC in 1995 at the age of 12 after seeing a news story about the murder of a Pakistani boy who had been vocal against child labour. He has spent the 15 years since travelling the world, encouraging students in Canada and the United States to creatively support children in third world countries.

In the Facebook video, Kielburger states that The Study has been "amazing in their involvement in social activism." He was referring, in part, to the chapter's March break visit to a rural Nicaraguan high school they are sponsoring.

"The school was missing basic infrastructure," said Sofia Essayan-Perez, 16,

who recently won a 2009 "Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy" award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals for her years of work with the Nicaraguan village. The delegation brought teaching manuals, books, a microscope and sports equipment to the school, which it has also supplied with a water tank to provide running water.

Other Study activities for Free the Children include an annual "Halloween for Hunger" collection of food and participating in the cross-Canada "Vow of Silence" day. "It makes you really feel for children who don't have a voice," said Essayan-Perez. "It's a challenge, but we had amazing support from our teachers and community."

In October 2009, the chapter travelled to Toronto to join the 16,000 students at "We Day," an annual FTC fundraiser with speakers including former prime minister Paul Martin and a performance by the Jonas Brothers.

"It was really inspirational," said Vilanova, who is in her second year with the FTC chapter. "There were so many people there, and the speakers and performers were amazing."

The group might not have to travel so far this year – according to a representa-



Craig Kielburger with head of school Elizabeth Falco (far right) and The Study's "meet and greet" team of students from grades 6 to 11.

Photo: Susan Orr Mongeau

tive for Kielburger, his visit to the city was part of a planning session for this year's We Day celebration. "We Day Montreal" is tentatively scheduled for November 12, 2010.

The Study's FTC branch has been active since 2002. There are 50 high school

and approximately 40 elementary school members. During 2010, they plan to participate an FTC initiative "10 by '10," where students make ten resolutions of actions for a better world that they plan to complete during the year.

Men save dog

BY ISAAC OLSON

It started out as an Easter Sunday jog in hotter-than-normal April weather for two Westmounters, but it turned into the heroic rescue of a dog stranded in the Lachine Canal.

Robert Gordon, on his way back from a 10-km run with his jogging partner, Barry Goldsman, noticed a woman and a cyclist standing at the edge of the canal looking down. The woman signalled for them to come over and, when they did, she frantically indicated in French that her dog was below.

"I looked down and there he was – a 60-pound boxer just hanging on to a little bit of outcropping, looking totally docile," recounted Gordon, explaining none of them had cell phones, and there was no way to climb down the nearly 10-foot wall. "It dawned on me pretty fast that, in order to get him out, someone was going in the water."

Gordon, a 37-year-old computer game designer with summer lifeguard experience, was just the man for the job. He stripped off his shoes and flopped in as shallow as he could, hoping to avoid any unseen hazards.

"It was awesomely cold," said Gordon. "It chokes the breath out of you. It scrambles your brain. You have to really fight hard to not panic and stay focused."

Gordon managed to get to the dog, and it remained calm. Goldsman, holding onto a scrap of rope, hung himself down with one arm and reached out with the other. Gordon, treading water, pushed the dog



From left: Robert Gordon and Barry Goldsman on the Lachine Canal at the location where they rescued the dog from the water.

up in the air just enough for his jogging partner to grab its collar and pull the boxer up to land.

The unidentified woman thanked them both and, after climbing out of the canal and resting for a moment, Gordon said, "I stuck my shoes on, and we finished our run."

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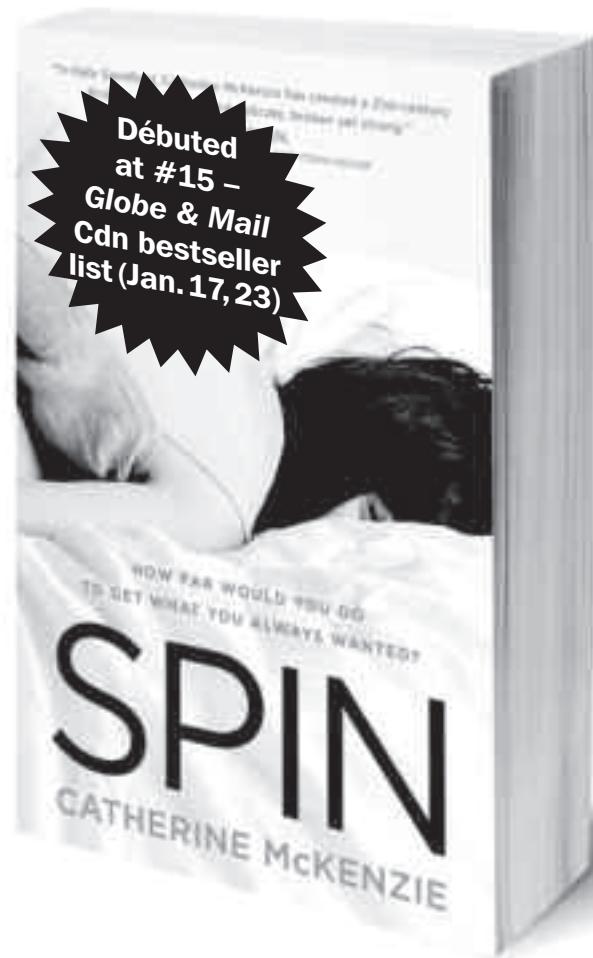
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“The tag line is: ‘How far would you go to get what you always wanted?’ and Kate Sandford, protagonist of Catherine McKenzie’s first novel, *Spin*, goes so far she makes you cringe. ... *Where A Million Little Pieces* ... was tortured and powerful, *Spin* is more about entertainment and fun. ... Full of pop-culture allusions, some really funny ones. ... *Spin* is a compelling, fast-paced read.

– **The Globe and Mail**

“McKenzie successfully portrays a group of young friends as they struggle to figure out who they are and what they want ... [and] steers the novel to a satisfying conclusion.”

– **The Gazette** (Montreal)



“*Spin* is intelligent, poignant, and a bit of rollicking, good fun.” – Cathy Marie Buchanan, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Day the Falls Stood Still*

“Kate Sandford is someone you know: she’s snarky and a little bit fragile, and when she has the chance to make up for blowing the opportunity of a lifetime, you can’t help but root for her even when she’s not rooting for herself. Catherine McKenzie has written a winning first novel – *Spin* is funny, touching, and impossible to put down.” – Shawn Klomprens, author of *Jessica Z.* and *Two Years, No Rain*

“[...] in Katie, we have a refreshingly believable female protagonist who, while being ambitious, isn’t

afraid to dream. [...] You will laugh with this book. [...] Catherine McKenzie’s *SPIN* is a remarkable book for a debut novelist.”

– Sean Cummings, author of *Shade Fright*

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Rugby and wine – for the kids



The Montreal Irish Rugby Football Club (MIRFC) held a wine tasting held March 4 at L'oeufrier, which allowed the club to donate \$2,500 to the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation (MCHF). From left: Stephanie Normandin, with MCHF; Erin Benzekein, MIRFC club captain; Jennifer Bridgeman, EVP/secretary; Tim Ross, VP men's rugby; writer Jim Kellett, VP Old Boys; Mark Gallagher, president; Stephane Boucher, VP social; Chrissie Annette, VP women's rugby.

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If you are planning on applying for a mortgage this spring, you will want to pay attention to a few new rules about to come into effect in Canada. As of April 19th, it will be more difficult to borrow in certain cases; after this date, potential borrowers must be able to afford a five-year, fixed-rate mortgage, even if they plan to take a variable-rate mortgage.

Right now, mortgage rates are at a historic low, and many Canadians are taking advantage of these low rates to buy or refinance for renovation.

However, experts predict that rates may soon rise, so locking in to a fixed term mortgage is ideal, and the sooner the better.

What is important to remember is that mortgage rates can change at any time without notice. If you are looking to borrow, you should keep in regular contact with a mortgage specialist or broker to receive the most up-to-date information. If you would like to read more about this, visit canadianmortgagetrends.com.

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TRENDSETTER

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

PETER STARR

Peter Starr is a business consultant and an avid gardener in his spare time. His wife, Laurie Normand-Starr, who passed away a year ago, spearheaded the Taste of the Nation annual event. The culinary fundraiser helped homeless and starving children, and featured the city's top restaurants, coupled with media personalities and Quebec celebrities.

The event continues this spring, and is called Table of Hope. Westmounter Mila Mulrone and Julie Snyder are co-presidents of the event.

I chatted with Peter, who has created a humanitarian award in memory of Laurie. The Laurie Starr Humanitarian Award will be presented at the Table of Hope whose proceeds go to Share the Warmth.

STYLE

How would you describe your personal style?

It's a mix of classic and contemporary. In suits, Aquascutum and Boss are my favourites. They have a great fit and feel. On a little more relaxed front, a Harris Tweed jacket and cords works for me.

On weekends, how do you dress?

Robert Graham shirts or Lacoste polo's with a nice fitting pair of jeans.

LIVING

If you had a choice, where would you live in the world (money no object!)

The south of France is my home away from home. I'd live in the hills in between Eze and Menton. The living is relaxed and the people are "sympa." To be able to eat a Plateau fruits de mer year round, and pick your own mushrooms and truffles would make me very happy. A nice bottle of Bandol Rose with that Plateau wouldn't hurt either.

Who would you invite to a dinner party if you could have anyone in the world, and from any era time.

Jamie Oliver, Steve Jobs, Morgan Freeman, Levon Helm, Marcus Garvey and Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Tell us about the Laurie Starr Award.

The Laurie Normand-Starr Award will



Peter Starr

be given away annually at the Table of Hope event. The award recognizes an individual who is deeply involved in hunger relief.

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We asked students who live or go to school in Westmount to answer the question: What is your favourite way to enjoy the spring weather? Here is what some students had to say.

Enjoying nature

“When spring finally comes, I like to play in the park in front of my house, and what I do is I go on the swings and do cart-wheels downhill. I enjoy going hiking in Mont Tremblant because I see flowers and plants and, at the peak, you have a won-



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derful view of the village. I love to swim in a heated outdoor pool because the temperature of the water is perfect, and I like to go outdoors because of the fresh air. I love having a picnic at Beaver Lake because it's peaceful there.”

Maya D'A., grade 4, Roslyn School

“My favourite way to enjoy the spring weather is by going up to my country house and sitting on the roof with all my brothers at night and just listening to that peace and quiet when you hear nothing at all. It is just so relaxing to hear nothing. Also going down to the dock and sitting with friends and watching people drive their boats and just lie there with a bag of Tostitos chips and salsa!”

Malich A., grade 7, Lower Canada College

Spring cleaning

“In the spring, I help out my parents and friend with lots of odd jobs. They pay me, and I clean anything that needs to be cleaned, do repair work on cars and wash the cars.”

Vincent R., grade 8, Vanguard Intercultural High School.

This week's question: What makes a better pet: cat or dog? Send your answers to this week's question, along with your name, grade and school to whenthebellrings@gmail.com. The deadline is Saturday, April 24 at noon.



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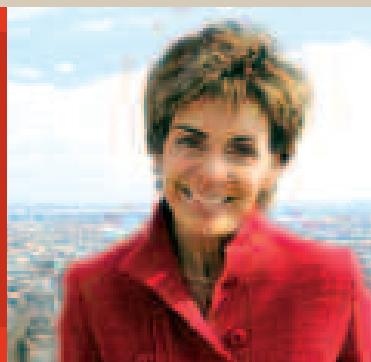
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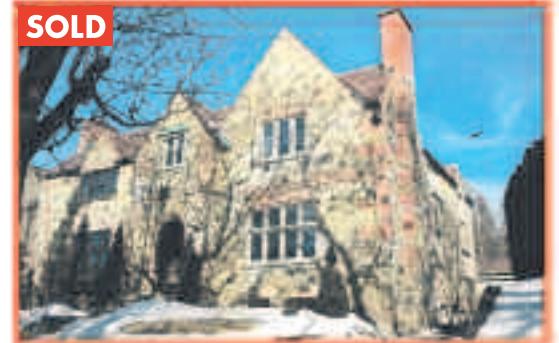
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