

Police assign crossing guards at 6 local intersections

Familiar faces return to front-line duty in Westmount

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A contingent of Westmount-based crossing guards assigned by police to six busy intersections in the local area provided what was probably the first familiar face to many children returning to school over the last week.

These are the men and women on the front line of school safety – themselves “back to school” for yet another year, al-

ready knowing many of the kids and parents by name and becoming an integral part of the community.

Just ask John Adams how the work has propelled him to become a well known figure at Roslyn School, where he volunteers between his typical split shifts at the corner of Roslyn and Westmount avenues during the early morning, lunch hour and afternoon.

“There’s always something for me to do at the school,” explained the former Pointe Claire firefighter, who travels to Westmount every day from east-end Montreal.

“I dust the computers, pinch-hit in the health room, help in the library, hang picture frames or watch out for the kids. There are 600 running around the school. I know *continued on p. 3*

City names Molson, Saputo as arena fundraisers



Geoff Molson, centre, and the fundraising team he will chair got together last week. From left are Tim Anderson, Tim Price, Joey Saputo, Molson, Neil Wechsler and Laurent Ferreira. All have been associated as coaches or players with Westmount Sports and Recreation. Nicole Forbes and Denis Boucher are also on the team. See p. 4.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney



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Bought & Sold BY A. DODGE p. 17

Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 10

Letters p. 6

Underdog p. 9

Older students go back to school their own way

Local resident escorted home

An 18-year-old Westmount woman described as “very intoxicated” was found lying on the sidewalk on de Maisonneuve near Roslyn at 12:44 am August 23. Public Security officials said officers escorted her home nearby and informed her father.

CEGEP turns off music

Music was shut off on the front lawn of Marianopolis College August 23 after a neighbour complained to Public Security

about the noise at 1:24 pm. The music was described as being part of back-to-school activities.

Belmont sign vanishes

A group of about 10 young men was seen trying to remove the street sign for Belmont at the intersection of The Boulevard August 21, Public Security officials report. The call came in just after 10 pm but when patrollers arrived soon after, the sign had disappeared. The culprits were described as about 17 years old.

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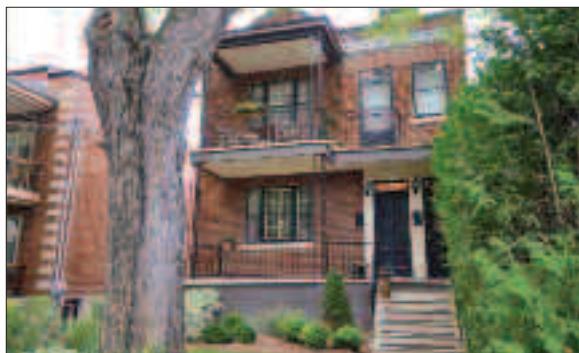
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Crossing guards act as ‘eyes of police’

continued from p. 1

most of them by name, and it helps them listen well on the street,” Adams said.

Adopted by Roslyn

“I think we’ve adopted him,” school secretary Debbie Hanley told the *Independent*. “He does everything, even puts furniture together.” And, she added, Adams came in during August to help the school prepare for the start of the new term.

“It’s all about building relationships,” he explained. “When I work outside, I represent police. If I know the kids and their parents, it helps me connect on the street.”

And what happens on the street is his priority.

“You have to pay a lot of attention. I need eyes in the back, front and sides of my head,” he said. Along with commuter traffic to contend with in the morning, “there’s a bus stop, parking, a no-left turn, parents dropping off their kids,” and the kids who may try to dash unexpectedly to the other side.

As well, the mandate of the crossing guards also extends to the overall protection of the children, according to Station 12 commander Stéphane Plourde. “The crossing guards are the eyes of police.”

They are expected to be on the lookout for anything or anybody appearing out of

the ordinary in the area. And they are only a phone call away from providing police with a licence plate number or calling 911 for assistance. Motorists have an obligation to stop when a crossing guard holds up the stop sign.

One of the biggest challenges, according to Adams, is “taking 500 kids down to Westmount Park for the annual Terry Fox Run.” He also escorts them to activities such as soccer.

And why does he enjoy *continued on p. 23*



Crossing guards shown at a meeting August 22 with Station 12 commander Stéphane Plourde, left, and Cst. Steven Goldberg, right, are from left: Richard Boulianne (Côte St. Antoine and Roslyn), Marie-Thérèse Almanor (Clarke and Sherbrooke), John Adams (Westmount and Roslyn), Roger O’Connell (Clarke and de Maisonneuve), Despina Posbic (Côte des Neiges and Doctor Penfield) and Robert Raymond (The Boulevard and Ramezay). Lilianne Mackay works at the intersection of Stanton and Côte St. Antoine.

Photo courtesy of Station 12

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Joey Saputo, 6 others join fundraising team

Geoff Molson named to lead \$6-M arena/pool campaign

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Geoff Molson, CEO and co-owner of the Montreal Canadiens, was named August 31 to chair the city's \$6-million community fundraising campaign for the Westmount recreation centre (WRC).

Molson, who grew up playing hockey in Westmount and still does, will lead the volunteer team that includes another high-profile business and sports personality, Joey Saputo, president of the Montreal Impact soccer team. Saputo coaches Termite and Atom hockey teams on which his sons play in Westmount.

Six others include city councillors Tim Price, who had overall responsibility for recruiting the team, and Nicole Forbes, as well as four other Westmount residents and business leaders: Tim Anderson, Laurent Ferreira, Neil Wechsler and Denis Boucher.

"It's a special opportunity to be a part of the new WRC," Molson told the *Independent*.

The new facility, he said, would have a positive impact on kids, families and people of all ages and gender "for years to come."

The first phase of fundraising will be to form a base of donors leading up to the official launch, he explained. This, according to city Finance commissioner Price, would probably be in the spring.

Molson's personal involvement in Westmount hockey gives him a special perspective to his new challenge. He began playing on the city's outdoor rinks 37 years ago at age 5 and progressed through the hockey program to become captain of the city's Peewee inter-city team. He also played on LCC school teams and continues to play in a number of leagues, including Westmount's Friday night pick-up games.

He's now repeating his own experience with his three sons in the Westmount program, he said. "I've travelled all over with the kids, and I see the new and good rinks – it's a good investment because it brings families together."

Molson's young daughter had also started skating on the former arena's small rink and he said he hopes the new arena's second full-sized rink will provide more ice time for girls and women.

Does he foresee the campaign to be particularly challenging in today's economic environment.

"I don't know yet," he replied. "We have not assumed it to be difficult. The nice thing is that it will actually improve the value of the community and make it stronger."

While the results of the provincial election September 4 were unknown at press time, Price noted that "uncertainty doesn't help fundraising." While the campaign's objective was quite optimistic, he explained, "there's a lot of enthusiasm in the community for the project."

Molson said the decision to extend the second rink to full size was "the right one," though he did not know what impact it might have on fundraising.

"I haven't solicited anyone yet but I do recall six months ago someone saying 'Why spend so much money when a rink is not full size?'" It will also eliminate any bragging rights from users of the rinks such as "Oh, I'm playing on the real one," he suggested.

Fundraising objective raised

The fundraising's objective – originally reported to target \$5 million – has increased by
continued on p. 5

Who's who on WRC fundraising campaign

The fundraising team for the new Westmount recreation centre was announced by the city August 31 as follows:

Geoff Molson, (campaign chair), CEO and co-owner of the Montreal Canadiens;

Joey Saputo, president, Montreal Impact and Saputo stadium;

Tim Price, chairman, MacDougall, MacDougall & MacTier; city councillor and Finance commissioner;

Laurent Ferreira, executive vice president and managing director, Derivatives, National Bank of Canada;

Nicole Forbes, city councillor and commissioner of Cultural and Community Services;

Tim Anderson, senior vice president Anderson, Laurin Investment Management, BMO Nesbitt Burns;

Neil Wechsler, principal, Optimal Group and president, OMSI (Canada) Inc.;

Denis Boucher, partner, National Public Relations.

Goodfriend wins national student arts competition



A detail from "Benoit et Suzanne," "Reynald et Marylda," the winning work from Mika Goodfriend's "Snowbirds" series of photographs. The work is a 35-inch high by 100-inch wide diptych and was submitted as one piece.

Westmounter Mika Goodfriend was the national winner of the BMO 1st Art! Invitational Student Art Competition, for which he received \$10,000 for his series of photographs "Snowbirds." "His work highlights the dream of many retired Quebecers," according to the Bank of Montreal press release.

Goodfriend's artwork will be exhibited

at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art in October and added to a collection of artworks from BMO.

The competition, which "honours visual arts excellence in post-secondary institutions from coast to coast" had one national and 12 regional winners. This year's winners were selected from 235 entries.



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WMA for 'Westmount' in federal riding name

The Westmount Municipal Association is asking the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission to reconsider dropping "Westmount" from the name of a proposed new federal riding, which includes Westmount, NDG and Montreal West. The commission wants the name to be Wilder Penfield. The municipal issues group has no objections to the proposed boundaries. Westmounters currently vote federally in Westmount-Ville Marie, which includes Westmount, downtown and Old Montreal.

The WMA voted unanimously to support the resolution and is asking to appear before the commission in October. According to the WMA's press release, the commission is required to "select names that act to immediately recall the province, ideally geographical names." The WMA contends that the proposed name satisfies neither requirement, nor does it reflect the bilingual and multicultural nature of the riding. In addition, it points out that "Westmount" has been associated with federal ridings since 1914 and this year the Historical Sites and Monuments Board of Canada declared Westmount as a national historic site.

Molson

continued from p. 4

\$1 million to help pay for the additional cost of extending the second rink to 200 feet over-and-above the \$325,000 already pledged by two donors (see May 15, p. 1).

The overall project cost of \$38.3 million is being offset by a \$20-million Canada/Quebec government grant and the fundraising campaign, leaving some \$12 million to be paid by the city.

Recycling out too early

A resident of Cedar Ave. called Public Security August 21 at 5:17 pm to say that cardboard boxes had been put out for recycling before the permitted 8 pm time, officials said. Officers visited ECS to explain to school authorities the provision in the city's new waste management by-law, and the boxes were taken in.

What do you think the new riding should be called? Please submit your ideas to us at indie@westmountindependent.com. Ideas, their authors and their authors' street names will be published.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

REDFERN CONSTRUCTION WORK IS IRRITATING ON SATURDAYS

Thanks to a special permit from the city of Westmount, the worksite at 215 Redfern continued its noisy and disruptive demolition work on Saturday, August 25, a day which normally should have been reserved for giving residents some much needed peace and quiet.

The permit allowed for the use of heavy machinery during normally prohibited hours. This project has been a problem for several months. Workers frequently start work before 7 am and continue after 6 pm, despite the time limits set out in By-law 1387.

At a meeting in April, residents, the developers and representatives of the city all agreed that communication was key to improving relations. Residents have known for a long time that the developers had no intention of keeping their promise to inform their neighbours about the progress of the work. It is extremely disappointing, however, that the city of Westmount saw fit to grant this special permit without consulting or even informing the residents who are directly affected. The residents of Redfern should not be deprived of the right to live peacefully in their own homes on account of the developer's poor planning.

TIMOTHY SLONOSKY, REDFERN AVE.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Claremont Ave. between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve is fascinating. On the Westmount side of the street, you find nice houses with manicured lawns, tidy sidewalks and a clean street. On the Montreal side, you find a lot of garbage every day of the week – on the lawns, on the sidewalks and on the street!

There are either garbage bags put out despite the regulations, trash discarded by pedestrians or left from the garbage/recycling collection.

What is the CDN-NDG borough doing about this situation that has been going on for years? Why is Westmount accepting this odious spectacle at its doors?

When will it finally change to the benefit of all Westmounters who must endure this terrible sight?

PAUL COBEN, SHERBROOKE ST.

RENÉ LÉVESQUE A DECENT OPTION FOR WESTMOUNT/DOWNTOWN COMMUTE BY BIKE

And now for something completely different ... or how to ride a bike from downtown to Westmount in a private, reserved lane free of bicycles and cars.

A few days ago at about 4:30 pm, I embarked on a trip by bike from Place Ville Marie to Atwater via René Lévesque Blvd.,

which has one westbound lane (the one next to the sidewalk) reserved for buses and taxis from 3:30 to 6:30 pm. The trip, at my average speed of 15 km per hour, took me about 15 minutes.

During the trip, neither a taxi nor a bus (delayed by stops) passed me. On the contrary, I passed three illegally parked cars just waiting to be ticketed.

The riding surface is perfectly smooth because René Lévesque Blvd. was recently repaved. What a difference from the de Maisonneuve bike path where people step off the sidewalk right in front of me without looking, the odd driver cuts me off when making a left turn and racing cyclists taking themselves for Lance Armstrong pass me by mere inches without any warning.

By contrast, while riding the reserved bus and taxi lane, I have not seen a single cyclist. They must have been on the de Maisonneuve bike path.

[On René Lévesque,] I passed one police cruiser ticketing a parked car, but because I was riding close to the curb I guess I was permitted to use the lane.

Although I have not tried it, I presume the same [situation] applies from 7:30 am to 9:30 am in the opposite (eastbound) direction, with one lane reserved for buses and taxis.

The readers of *Independent* are invited to use the above described alternate route to the bike path but please do not advertise it too much outside of Westmount!

JAN SPANIEL, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

WHY AREN'T CYCLING LAWS ENFORCED?

We all know that cycling is good. The more cyclists on our streets, the better; the fewer automobiles, the less air pollution. The thing is that many cyclists don't care for stop signs and traffic lights, believing the rules of the road don't apply to them.

Some don't like the roads, preferring to roar down our sidewalks. Not only is this not good, it is against the law – as is cycling on the walk ways of Westmount Park.

A couple of Montreal police I tried to talk to about the sidewalk riders assured me they never have nor did they ever intend to enforce the Quebec transport act, making sidewalk cycling illegal.

When I pointed this out in 2007 to the former police chief, Yvan Delorme, I was advised by a subordinate that sidewalk cyclists were in fact regularly ticketed, and fines in substantial numbers were issued: 1,800 in 2006.

As for the regulation telling cyclists to keep off the walkways of Westmount Park, the former mayor advised that this, like the cyclists on the sidewalks, was the responsibility of the Montreal police. Last summer, Duncan Campbell, director general of Westmount, responded to my letter to Mayor Trent about the problem of walking a park path only to experience a cyclist whizzing by passing as close as they could get, with offenders of all ages and genders. The message was the same: "...enforcement is up to the Montreal police and not the city of Westmount employees since cycling is covered by the Highway Safety Code. SPVM biker patrols have been patrolling throughout the summer..."

Can anyone out there tell me if they've ever seen such a sight?

I've been told the explanation for the failure to enforce the laws and regulations here in Westmount is a powerful lobby of cycling ayatollahs who control city hall. True?

DAVID LEVY, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

CYCLISTS FOLLOW DIFFERENT SIGNS THAN PEDESTRIANS

On August 16, the lights at the corner of de *continued on p. 18*

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Cyclelogically speaking

A sense of community – and its support enabled the 401 challenge

BY ROB CALLARD

For two years in a row now, I have participated in charity bike rides to raise much-needed funds for cancer research. Being a survivor myself, it is my way of giving back to those who helped in my recovery.



Rob Callard at the end of the CIBC 401 Bike Challenge on August 10.

I couldn't have done this on my own. It's a team effort to raise money, and recently, I witnessed just how incredible the Westmount community has been in contributing to my fundraising efforts.

I was part of the 401Bike Challenge, a grueling two-and-a-half day 576-km ride between Toronto and Montreal to raise money for Sarah's Floor at the Montreal Children's Hospital.

What I mean by community is the inter-web of involvement that came from our wonderful city.

For starters, Sarah's Floor is heavily funded by the money raised through the Sarah Cook Fund and the Cook family,

who are Westmount residents. The 401 Challenge, founded by visionary and CIBC exec. Gene Piccoli eight years ago, featured many Westmount riders, and those like myself who have worked in the community for years. The much appreciated tech support was provided by our very own Steve Dennis and Martin Swiss on Victoria, and many of our sponsors have close ties to the community. Food at the finish line was provided by Catering By George.

And the list goes on.

In the end, 38 riders and their sponsors were able to raise over \$275,000 for Sarah's Fund. I myself had 95 individual donations, 95 percent of which came from Westmounters. How about that for a community rising to the challenge!

The support I have received these past two years has been humbling, to say the least. Not only has this community taken interest in my cause, but it has embraced the importance of giving back. Only 38 of us rode the distance, but we did it with our donors at our side, pushing us along and reminding us of the end result when we questioned if we could ride this insane distance in such a short period of time.

I have received a ton of email since getting back, mostly from my donors who were interested in how I did. That's what I mean by community – the interest doesn't stop once the donation is made. Everyone wants to know

how we did because they feel a part of it.

I remember thinking on the second day of our ride, while facing strong headwinds and heavy rain, that the pain I was experiencing at that moment was nothing compared to the pain those go through with a cancer diagnosis. That alone made me want to face the wind head-on and not let it beat me down.

I'll be back next year, because that's what I do. Just like my supporters, who have hitched a ride with me with their sense of community and involvement.

Rob Callard is an avid cyclist and owner of Chez Nick on Greene Ave.

One break-in, one attempt, one night

Phone scammers target apartment dwellers, jaywalker hit

BY ISAAC OLSON

In the early morning hours of August 23, police suspect the same burglar or burglars attempted to break into the Dairy Queen on Sherbrooke before successfully entering Westmount Stationery across the street to steal an undisclosed amount of money from the cash register.

Station 12's constable Julie Côté said police first responded to the stationery store's tripped security alarm at around 2 am and officers discovered the suspects had completely removed an exterior door's lock. The cash register was cleaned out and, upon searching the premises, police determine the suspects had already fled the scene.

At 10 that morning, Côté continued, the Dairy Queen's owner called police to report an attempted break-in. There, police discovered the lock had been damaged in what was likely an attempt to remove it, but the suspects were not able to open the door.

Nothing was stolen from the ice cream

shop, the constable said, but, because the method and timing was similar to that found at Westmount Stationery, police suspect the same burglars started at the Dairy Queen and, unsuccessful, went on to the nearby stationery store.

There have been no arrests, she said, and officers are still investigating the matter.

Police warning about phone scams

Côté said there has been a recent string of phone scams targeting entire apartment complexes in Montreal just east of Westmount and, she continued, officers are reminding area residents not to give out any personal information to unsolicited callers.

Many residents in three different residential buildings on Sherbrooke, she explained, have been targeted by alleged scammers who called to verify some information, often claiming they are with organizations like the Canada Revenue Agency. The callers are asking for details, such as

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- Vernissage of "Avius," curated by Andrew Lui, 6 to 9 pm at Han Art, 4209 St. Catherine St. Features a group exhibit of works by photographers Edward Burzynsky, Nils Udo, Chen Jiagang, Michael Flomen, He Chongyue and John Archer. RSVP: 514.876.9278. Exhibition goes until Sunday, September 16.
- Exhibition "Art Souterrain Déclit 70" with photographers Claire Beaugrand-Champagne, Marik Boudreau, Michel

Campeau, Alain Chagnon, Roger Charbonneau, Pierre Gaudard, Clara Gutsche, Jean Lauzon, David Miller, Normand Rajotte and Gabor Szilasi at The Gallery at Victoria Hall (4626 Sherbrooke St., 514.989.5521) until Sunday, September 23.

- Filmmaker Maryam Henein leads a discussion on bees following the screening of the 30-minute version of her film *Vanishing of the Bees*, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library (1200 Atwater Ave.). Free admission; donations invited.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Thomas More Institute holds an open house and café with live music, refreshments, art exhibit and presentations about upcoming courses, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Also Saturday, September 8 from 10 am to 4 pm. 3405 Atwater. Info: 514.935.9585.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

- **City council meeting**, 8 pm at city hall. A paper copy of the agenda is available at the Westmount Public Library and an electronic version at www.westmount.org, according to the city website, one working day before the council meeting.
- **Montreal Camera Club's** opening night, 7:30 pm at Westmount Park Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. (rear entrance), with guest speaker Yves Beaulieu, editorial and corporate photographer. Info: johnzimmerman@videotron.ca or www.montrealcameraclub.com

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

The **Westmount Horticultural Society's** first meeting of the fall "In a Canadian Garden" with Connie Lavallée, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Cost: \$5 for

guests.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

The **University Women's Club of Montreal** holds its first dinner meeting of the season at the Atwater Club, 3505 Atwater Ave. Dinner costs \$30.76, plus \$10 for non-members. Reserve: 514.932.3922. New-comers welcome.

Choir seeks chorists

The choir of Ascension of Our Lord Parish is seeking new members. The session runs from mid-September through mid-June, and provides music for Sunday mass throughout the year, including the Christmas and Easter liturgies. Rehearsals take place Thursday nights from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. A varied repertoire of "sacred music with a focus on polyphony of the Renaissance through the modern era is offered," according to David Szanto, director of music, and organist. Being Catholic is not a pre-requisite. For information, contact Szanto at 514.899.0548 or david-szant@hotmail.com.



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Kelly-Spazuk takes on Montreal's dog euthanasia by-law

BY KRISTIN MCNEILL

Stayner Ave. resident Sigrid Kelly Spazuk wouldn't take no for an answer.

The dog owner in her early 20's was inspired to take action against what she considered an illogical and unfair proposed by-law on animal control by the city of Montreal.

The by-law would put in motion an "automatic and mandatory euthanasia in cases where a dog causes a skin laceration regardless of the context or the severity of the injury," according to a press release issued by the Montreal SPCA on July 26.

After downloading and printing 150 pre-written model letters, provided on the SPCA's website and destined for Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay, she had friends,

family and co-workers sign them. A stack of letters was also available at Victoria Ave.'s Café Crème, where the majority of the letters were signed, she said.

With 125 signed letters in hand, Kelly Spazuk headed to Montreal city hall on August 20, where she was hoping she could officially hand them in, with the assurance they would reach the mayor's office.

Instead, she said, she spent the day in contact with city hall officials, who told her she would not be able to submit the letters. She said one woman told her she could mail them in, but there would be "no guarantee that the letters would be received by the mayor."

Kelly Spazuk said she was told she could present herself that night at the

council meeting. When she returned at 5:30 pm, she was told she would not need a queuing number, but took one in case, and was told to come back. When she returned at 6:30 pm, she was told that all the numbers had been called, and it was too late. Without a number, she was not allowed in to the session. Kelly Spazuk was finally able to convince a council attendee to bring in her letters to submit. She recalled "it was as if nobody wanted to have anything to do with it [the letters]."

Despite the hurdles of submitting the letters to the mayor's office, she "got them through," and was happy about the amount of people who signed the letter and for the support from Nastasia De Paoli, manager of Café Crème. "It's nice for her to have used the [space for the letters.] It made a difference. Her café is like a diffusion centre."

When asked what are her main objections to the proposed by-law, Kelly Spazuk said she "objects to the limited time" a dog owner would have to appeal the euthanasia sentence and the city's ability to make

the euthanasia decision without a proper evaluation and context. She said she felt there were other ways to prevent injuries to people from dogs.

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Not that he doesn't like his current digs. He loves to play with his toys – especially the squeaky ones, you know the kind that

make you want to run out of the house screaming?

Buddy was brought to Frontier when his owners got divorced. Strangely neither wanted to keep him. He is a very calm and sweet dog, and about knee-high – great size for the city.

His heritage? We're not so sure. Maybe a corgi mixed with a little shepherd? Whatever the mix, he is really cute, though he could stand to lose a few pounds.

Buddy is good with cats and although he spends a lot of time out and about with the other shelter dogs, he doesn't really dig them and can be a little picky about whom he likes. Which makes him more of a people dog.

Despite his pickiness, he is not pushy. Whenever anyone enters the shelter's dog run, there is a flurry of activity, like at all dog runs, as all the other dogs come running over, shoving each other out of the way, barking like crazy.

But not Buddy. He just waits patiently to be noticed. Kind of like he doesn't expect to ever be the chosen one, so he doesn't even try. This isn't to say he is indifferent, just a little resigned – probably due to the fact that he has been there so long. When things settle down, he will usually come over to you and drop the toy so you can throw it for him.

He is also very responsive on the leash. This older guy has been in the shadows too long. Won't you come and meet him?

Please contact Frontier Animal Society at frontieranimalsociety@gmail.com or 819.876.7747.



Solution found to barking dogs on York?

After two more complaints were received a week ago about a recurring problem of barking dogs at a home on York St., Public Security officials said they managed to find the resident on the premises August 26 and hoped a resolution had been reached.

After the dog owner explained that the dogs sit at the window and bark at passersby, she was reported to have agreed to bar them from the window. Several tickets had been issued on previous late-night complaints (see August 28, p. 17).

The dog owner was also given 15 days to obtain the required dog licence.

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Goodman Cancer Research Centre gala raises record \$1.5 million



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Many Westmounters walked the red carpet at the fabulous fundraiser for the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Research Centre of McGill University on June 10. Tickets were \$500 per person, and table sponsorships were \$10,000, \$15,000 and \$25,000.

Honorary co-chairs **Morris and Rosalind Goodman**, stand-out elegant in glamorous satin, greeted guests along with event chairs Westmounters **Douglas and Joanne Cohen**, looking Palm Beach-chic, and vice-chair **Sandy Martz**, wearing an amazing Anzie necklace. She was with husband **David**.

The sold-out soirée was addressed by McGill University's chancellor **Arnold Steinberg** (there with **Blema**, wearing a lovely feathered pink creation); principal/vice chancellor emeritus and dinner

chair **Bernard Shapiro** (with his wife **Lois**); honorary principal and vice chancellor, Westmount res **Heather Munroe-Blum**, (with husband **Len**); and the university's dean of Medicine and vice principal of Health Affairs **David Eidelman** (with wife **Brigitte**).

Griffintown's Arsenal was totally transformed for the event. In the "cocktail lounge," sparkling chandeliers brought the ceiling down to size. In the dining room, low midnight-blue lights twinkled amidst huge hanging floral images.

The neon-bright colour scheme – fuchsia, lime green and turquoise – was created by décor chair **Farla Grover** and her team. Java U's dinner was divine. Couture craftsmanship was in evidence as the *eleganza* arrived.

Noted were Westmounters **Tom and Gwen Nacos** (in an Alexander McQueen draped creation), **Paul and Jewel Lowenstein** (hers was a sherbet-toned short dress paired with a Vuitton shawl), **Gordon and Penny Echenberg** (in beautiful beaded black), **Marlene and Joel King**, **Bill and Dana Bell** (in Chanel), **Reg and Charlene Weiser**, **Diane and Morrie Cohen**, **Tina and Stanley Leibner**, and **Joelle and Bruce**

Kent.

Other guests included MP **Irwin Cotler**, Health minister **Yves Bolduc** and his wife **Chantal Trépanier**, **Stephanie and David Azrieli**, **Alice and Joel Raby**, **Judy and Mark Caplan**, and the Goodman family: daughters **Debbie Goodman-Davis** with husband **Gerald**; and **Shawna Goodman-Sone** with **Todd Sone** and sons; **Jonathan Goodman** and his wife **Dana Caplan**, and **David Goodman** with **Mia Melmed-Goodman**.

The gala raised a record \$1.15 million for the research centre.

On the look-out for fall social events

Westmount Independent's fall social calendar will be published in mid-October. Please email event information, including name of the event, date, contact, ticket price and location, to redgrave@videotron.ca.



Brigitte and David Eidelman, Rosalind and Morris Goodman, Heather Munroe-Blum and Len Blum.

Photos: Ryan Blau

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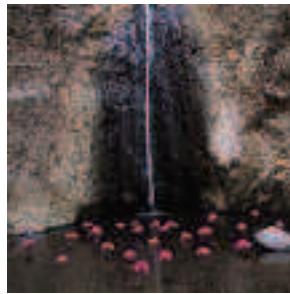
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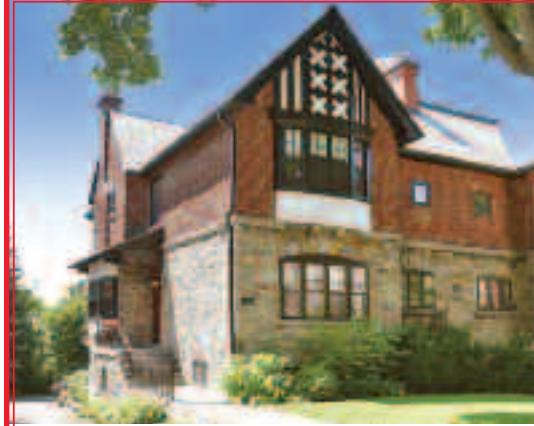
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Lamoureux: Firefighter turned prez of non-profit anglo association

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The way Dan Lamoureux sees it, there's more danger involved working for the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) than as a firefighter.

Case in point, in the 26 years Lamoureux was a firefighter for the city of Westmount, he never suffered an injury serious enough to hospitalize him for more than an hour.

But last spring when he travelled to Blanc Sablon on the north shore of the

Gulf of St. Lawrence for QCGN business, he stepped out of his vehicle, slipped on some ice and fractured his leg.

In a calculated move a decade ago, Lamoureux retired from the Westmount fire department just before it merged with Montreal's. He says today that he wanted to bring his career to a fitting close with the city he came to love and respect – Westmount.

"For me, everything started in Westmount," said Lamoureux, who remains involved with the city as a member of the



Dan Lamoureux, the QCGN's new president, in his office on René Lévesque Blvd. August 14. He spent 26 years working for the former Westmount fire department.

committee that oversees the firefighters' pensions. Yet even his introduction to the QCGN had a Westmount connection.

Former city councillor Margaret Lefebvre put forward his name to sit on a QCGN committee, the Greater Montreal

Community Development Initiative. Then last year he accepted an offer to sit as secretary on the QCGN's main board of directors. He was elected president this past June during the organization's annual general meeting.

The QCGN is an umbrella organization for more than 40 groups across Quebec involved with issues affecting the province's anglophone residents. Lamoureux puts his own spin on the organization's philosophy.

"As anglophones, we don't only want to survive – we want to thrive," he said during an interview with the *Independent*. "What that means is we need to have the skills to make sure that we are able to stay here. We made an investment in Quebec. Speaking for myself, personally, I'm very comfortable here, and I want to stay."

He was also a school commissioner on the South Shore.



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Someone call for a band?



Most years, residents of Arlington Ave. hold a block party around the end of August. For their latest gathering held on August 28, brothers Ian and James Aitken (who grew up on the street) and long-time resident Richard Pound were able to enlist the Black Watch's Regimental Pipes & Drums to march – pipes wailing all the way – from Sherbrooke St. to about two-thirds up Arlington, where they performed a few more numbers. The idea apparently came to the Aitkens and Pound last November while they were attending the St. Andrew's Ball.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



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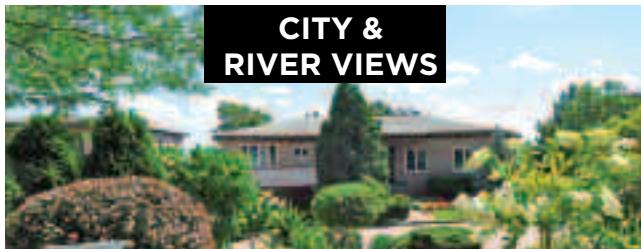
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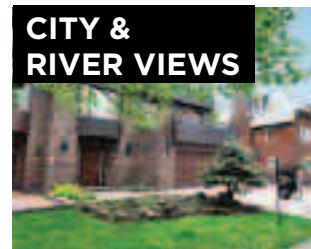


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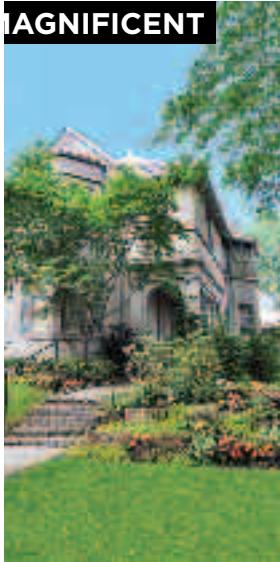


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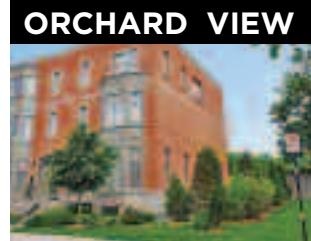


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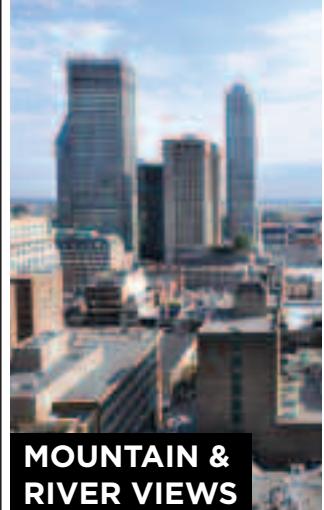
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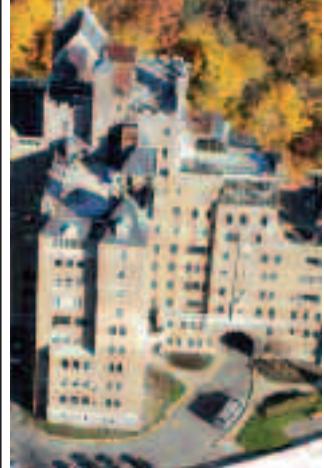
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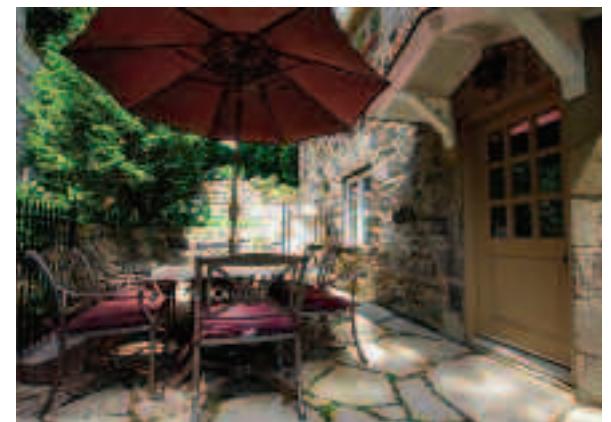


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Lansdowne man can finally enjoy life after double lung transplant

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

After four decades of living with cystic fibrosis (CF) and nearly two years of being on a lung transplant waiting list, Jay Sokoloff has started making good use of his backyard pool.

The Lansdowne Ave. resident was born with CF, a respiratory problem that causes difficulty breathing, compounded by lung infections.

He spent more than 38 years taking numerous medications, while also being dependent on a variety of medical devices. As Sokoloff's health deteriorated critically in recent years, a double lung transplant was the only option left.

This year on June 24, while Sokoloff held a party with friends in his back yard, he received a call that a lung donor had been found and he should report immediately for surgery at Notre Dame Hospital.

"That really brings a party to a halt, let me tell you," he said in an interview with

the *Independent*. "I got off the phone and said I was sorry but I had to go for my lungs."

While he was breathing at only 30 per cent capacity before the surgery and would become completely exhausted just taking his two dogs for a short walk, Sokoloff said his breathing level is now 99 percent and he can take part in virtually any kind of physical activity he wants.

"Right now I'm high on life because I haven't breathed like this in 25 years," he said. He thinks part of the reason he is recovering so well is that the surgery was perfectly timed.

Sokoloff, who runs the Mortimer Snodgrass novelty boutique in Old Montreal (it was on Monkland from 2001 to 2006), was planning a party and sale on September 1 to celebrate his recovery and the end of summer. Twenty percent of sales were to be donated to the Quebec Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.



Jay Sokoloff plans to enjoy his backyard pool a lot more now that he's able to breathe normally following a double lung transplant.

Letters

continued from p. 6

Maisonneuve and Claremont changed to the pedestrian sign. At this point, two things happened simultaneously: A gang of cyclists moving from west to east on de Maisonneuve sped across Claremont; a senior woman moving from south to north on the east side of Claremont and crossing de Maisonneuve stepped off the sidewalk on her crossing light.

The [cycling] leader yelled at her to "watch out" or "look out." The woman stopped until the cyclists had sped past and then crossed on the remaining seconds of her light.

How soon will it be before a pedestrian is hit by a cyclist? I have almost been hit twice.

When will all cyclists obey all the rules of the road and stop thinking that they morph into pedestrians when the light shows a walking figure?

THOMASINE MAWHOOD,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

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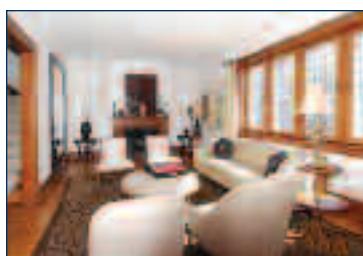
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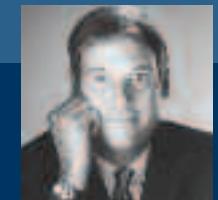


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CENTRE DES LOISIRS DE WESTMOUNT

Participez au concours *Capsule témoin du Centre des loisirs de Westmount* !

Les Westmountais sont invités à proposer l'un des **12 éléments** à être inclus dans une capsule témoin qui sera enterrée sous le CLW. Procurez-vous un formulaire d'inscription dans un édifice municipal ou envoyez un courriel à capsuletemoin@westmount.org avec vos nom et adresse, une description de l'objet et pourquoi vous pensez qu'il représente le Westmount d'aujourd'hui. Faites partie de l'histoire de notre communauté !

Exposition des plans du CLW

Les plans du nouveau Centre des loisirs de Westmount, incluant un dessin architectural des trois niveaux du futur immeuble ainsi qu'une interprétation visuelle, sont présentement exposés à la Bibliothèque de Westmount et au Victoria Hall.

Suivez l'avancement du projet

Recevez des mises à jour par courriel à propos de la construction; abonnez-vous en envoyant un message au centredesloisirswestmount@westmount.org. Vous pouvez également nous suivre sur Twitter : @constructalert. Aimez-nous sur Facebook au [westmountrecreationcentre](http://www.westmountrecreationcentre.com) et consultez le www.westmount.org pour tous les détails sur le projet.



SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Inscriptions : activités automne et hiver

La période d'inscription pour les activités d'automne et d'hiver se poursuit au Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5353.



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

La galerie du Victoria Hall

La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter l'exposition *Décléc 70*, une exposition itinérante du Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée, conçue et réalisée par l'organisme Art Souterrain, du 6 au 23 septembre 2012. Cette exposition se veut un hommage à la photographie documentaire québécoise des années 70. Les photographes sont : Claire Beaugrand-Champagne, Marik Boudreau, Michel Campeau, Alain Chagnon, Roger Charbonneau, Pierre Gaudard, Clara Gutsche, Jean Lauzon, David Miller, Normand Rajotte et Gabor Szilasi. Info : 514 989-5521.

Soirée astronomie au Sommet

Joignez-vous aux membres de la Société royale d'astronomie du Canada au belvédère du parc Summit le samedi 29 septembre de 18 h à 21 h 30 afin d'observer les étoiles avec leurs puissants télescopes. Info : 514 989-5226.

DATES À RETENIR

Le 10 septembre à 20 h

Séance du conseil
Hôtel de ville

Le 11 septembre à 10 h 15

Cercle de lecture
Bibliothèque

Le 16 septembre à 10 h

Journée Terry Fox (inscriptions à compter de 9 h)
Parc Westmount, près de la bibliothèque

Art Westmount 2012

Les 29 et 30 septembre prochains, 71 artistes westmountais exposeront leurs œuvres à la bibliothèque, aux serres, au Victoria Hall ainsi qu'à la Place Kensington. Cette année la 4^e édition du weekend Art Westmount coïncide avec les Journées de la culture 2012, célébrant les arts et la culture à l'échelle du Québec. Venez rencontrer les artistes qui seront sur place de 10 h à 17 h les samedi et dimanche. Info : 514 989-5226.



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Club de lecture d'été TD : fête de clôture avec le magicien Benoit Fournier

Soyez des nôtres le samedi 8 septembre à 14 h au Victoria Hall (prix, spectacles et rafraîchissements). Les membres du club de lecture peuvent obtenir leurs billets au comptoir des enfants. Info : 514 989-5229.

Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd

Cet atelier vous permettra de vous exprimer en vers et de libérer votre créativité dans une ambiance décontractée. Le mercredi 12 septembre à 10 h 15. Info : 514 989-5386.

Rencontre d'auteur : Taras Grescoe

L'auteur montréalais Taras Grescoe discutera de son dernier livre *Straphanger: Saving our Cities and Ourselves from the Automobile* le mercredi 12 septembre à 19 h. Info : 514 989-5386.

Un livre, une ville : Andrew Westoll, *The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary*

Un livre, une ville est un projet communautaire de lecture et une fabuleuse aventure culturelle où tous peuvent lire le même livre et en partager la richesse. Au rendez-vous le mercredi 19 septembre à 19 h au Victoria Hall : une conversation dynamique sur le livre *The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary* et une rencontre avec son auteur Andrew Westoll. Des billets gratuits sont disponibles à la bibliothèque publique de Westmount. Info : 514 989-5386.



WESTMOUNT RECREATION CENTRE

Enter the *Westmount Recreation Centre Time Capsule Contest*!

Westmunters are invited to make a proposal for one of the **12 items** that will be included in a time capsule to be buried deep in the WRC. Pick up an entry form in a City building or send an email to timecapsule@westmount.org with your name, address, a description of the item and the reasons why you believe the item represents today's Westmount. Be part of our community's history!

WRC Plans on Display

Plans of the new Westmount Recreation Centre are now on display at the Westmount Public Library and at Victoria Hall. These include detailed architectural plans of the 3 levels of the facility as well as an artist's rendition.

Follow the progress of the project

Receive regular email updates on the progress on the WRC; send a message to westmountrecreationcentre@westmount.org. You can also follow us on Twitter : @constructalert and like us on Facebook at [westmountrecreationcentre](http://www.westmountrecreationcentre.com). Check us out on www.westmount.org for all the project info.



SPORTS AND RECREATION

Fall and winter activities registration

Registration for fall and winter activities are ongoing at Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5353.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Gallery at Victoria Hall

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is proud to present the exhibition *Décléc 70*, a touring exhibition of the *Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée*, created and produced by *Art Souterrain*. The exhibition, a tribute to Quebec's documentary photography of the 1970s, is presented from September 6th to September 23rd, 2012. The photographers are: Claire Beaugrand-Champagne, Marik Boudreau, Michel Campeau, Alain Chagnon, Roger Charbonneau, Pierre Gaudard, Clara Gutsche, Jean Lauzon, David Miller, Normand Rajotte et Gabor Szilasi. Info : 514 989-5521.

Astronomy at the Summit

Join members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada at Summit Lookout on Saturday, September 29th from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. to observe the night skies through their powerful telescopes. Info : 514 989-5226.

DATEBOOK

September 10 at 8 p.m.

Council Meeting
City Hall

September 11 at 10:15 a.m.

Readers to Readers Book Club
Library

September 16 at 10 a.m.

Terry Fox Run (Registration from 9 a.m.)
Westmount Park near the Library

Art Westmount

On September 29th and 30th, 71 Westmount artists will be showcasing their work in the Library, the Greenhouse, Victoria Hall and Place Kensington. This fourth edition of the Art Westmount weekend coincides with the 2012 edition of *les Journées de la culture*, a celebration of art and culture throughout Québec. The artists will be on hand at the venues Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to provide insight into their works. Info: 514 989-5226.



LIBRARY

TD Summer Reading Club: Closing Party with Magician Benoit Fournier!

Join us on Saturday, September 8th at 2 p.m. in Victoria Hall for prizes, entertainment and food! Reading Club members may pick up their free tickets at the children's desk. Info: 514 989-5229.

Poetry Workshop with Ann Lloyd

Get creative in these light-hearted workshops that will get you to express yourself in verse. Wednesday, September 12th at 10:15 a.m. Info: 514 989-5386.

Author Event: Taras Grescoe

Montreal author Taras Grescoe will discuss his new book *Straphanger: Saving our Cities and Ourselves from the Automobile* on Wednesday, September 12th at 7 p.m. Info: 514 989-5386.

One Book, One City: *The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary* by Andrew Westoll

One Book, One City is an opportunity to engage and enlighten our residents, foster a sense of community and create a culture of reading in our city. Experience a stimulating citywide conversation about Andrew Westoll's *The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary*. Meet the author on Wednesday, September 19th at 7 p.m. at Victoria Hall. Free tickets are available at the Westmount Public Library. Info: 514 989-5386.

Westmount, à votre portée. Pour toute question ou commentaire, veuillez nous contacter :
Westmount at your fingertips. Contact us with any comment or question:

www.westmount.org
assistance@westmount.org

July prices running slightly lower than previous month



Real estate

ANDY DODGE

The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in July 2012, provided by city officials. A list of sales starts on p. 17.

Prices moved down slightly in July real estate transfers, though volume remained high and the top end of the market stayed fairly strong.

Twenty-six single-family houses and a duplex changed hands for an average \$1,474,082, down from the average \$1,626,360 in 25 one- and two-family sales in June. Five of the July sales were over \$2 million, the same number as in June, with the highest for 118 Aberdeen Ave., which brought \$3,167,204, only slightly higher than the \$3,150,000 paid for 540 Roslyn Ave., the two highest prices since 205 Edgemoor Rd. sold for \$6,410,000 in May.

Where the dip occurred was for property in the \$1-million to \$2-million category, which counted only 12 sales in July compared with 16 in June. Of the 12, only three were for more than \$1,500,000.

Lowest price for a single-family dwelling this year was \$550,000 for the tiny house at 536 Lansdowne Ave., one of 10 sales for less than \$1 million. The price was only slightly above its municipal evaluation, and two properties went for less than valuation, including a near-neighbour at 450 Lansdowne Ave. and a bungalow at 28 Devon Rd. near Westmount's northern border. The highest mark-up, almost 90 percent, came in the sale of 4281 de Maisonneuve Blvd, between Olivier and Clarke avenues, which brought a price of \$2,385,000.

The average mark-up over valuation was 25.4 percent, up a whisker from 24.7 percent in June, but the average has been hovering around the 25-percent mark since April. So far this year the adjusted average price is very close to \$1,500,000, up almost eight percent from last year.

continued on p. 23



118 Aberdeen

Bought & Sold, cont'd.

.....
continued from p. 17

For transfers, please see paper copy.

All cooped up

Adventures in Urban Farming

MARCI BABINEAU



As I walked through the garden one recent morning I saw that the hops were filling out on wall and the last blast from the raspberries were forming at the ends of their canes. It is August and my hens have been cooped up for three solid months. They are quick to scold me to bring them some fresh greens or just let them free to feast!

We have had five hens in Westmount now for three summers: Daisy, Lulu, Om, Coco and Kiko. They have had many visitors. The hens were one of the “secrets” in our secret garden tour this June. They’ve been in the newspaper, on TV and were even invited to Victoria Hall for Earth Hour. It turns out they are walking, clucking, egg-laying ambassadors for the local food movement.

When we got them as day-old chicks in

the spring of 2010, I was keeping a promise to my 10-year-old. We had had hens before, but always in warmer, less urban places. We had done the homework of speaking to the neighbours and researched the city statutes. I was keen to have their eggs and their manure for our compost. What I didn’t expect was that they would be such incredible community builders.

Chickens have the same basic needs we do: food, water, warmth, light and friendly conversation. Hens, like dogs, have evolved at our hand for centuries and are surprisingly social creatures. We feed them organic corn feed and something green every day. Their favourite snacks are: worms, insects, egg shells, small pieces of meat or fish, any leafy green, lemon balm, oxalis, grass, borage, comfrey, parsley and coriander. National, a local grocery store, has provided us their left-over greens, which also keeps it out of the land fill!

During the winter, the hens live pretty happily in a coop under the house, converted from a four-and-a-half-foot high crawl space, about 20 feet long and eight feet wide. They have a heating lamp and a

fluorescent light on a timer for seven hours of light during the dark months. The temperature hovers around zero Celsius in January and February, which they are quite happy in.

Once the temperatures are above zero, they are out of the coop and in the snow. By late April, they have to be cooped up again or they surely will lay waste to every green shoot in their path. When it is more or less consistently 10°C at night, they move to their outdoor coop, which we converted from our son’s old playhouse. The underside is fully chicken wired into the ground, so that nothing but the neighbourhood birds can get in. Little wrens mostly clean up the bits of corn and scrap.

After the beans finish and just before harvesting the potatoes, my hens are invited into the garden to do their worst. They scratch around continuously finishing every scrap, soon plotting their escape to the greener grasses on the other side of the fence.

Marci Babineau is a long-time organic gardener, and keeps hens and bees in her urban garden in Westmount. You can reach her at sustainthislife@gmail.com.

Jaywalker struck Aug. 10

continued from p. 7

addresses and postal codes, so they can supposedly send documents.

Côté, describing the suspects as “very organized,” said they might be getting some personal information from stealing mail first and using those details to further dupe victims. A few weeks later, she said, the residents are receiving calls and mailings from banks about new credit cards being opened in their name and fraudulent usage of those cards.

“We just want people to know that they shouldn’t give any information over the phone,” she said, noting one resident called the Canada Revenue Agency back to verify the caller and discovered it was a scam. “You can take the number, call back and verify that the call is legitimate or you can ask for communication in official mailings through Canada Post.”

It’s also important, she added, that residents who ask for a new credit card but don’t receive it in the few days following the request to check in with the company to ensure the mailing wasn’t intercepted by criminals.

Alleged jaywalked struck on Sherbrooke

An alleged jaywalking pedestrian was struck as he attempted to run across Sherbrooke near the corner of Strathcona just after 3 pm on August 10 (see photo in the August 28 edition, p. 4). The pedestrian, 28, was conscious and in pain when police arrived, but his injuries were not life threatening. He was transported to the hospital by ambulance, said Côté. The driver was not violating the law at the time of the accident, and no charges were laid.

Côté said this serves as an example as to why it is important for pedestrians to cross at marked intersections and follow the signage properly. At most of West-



A dent in the car’s windshield shows where a pedestrian was struck.

Photo: Independent

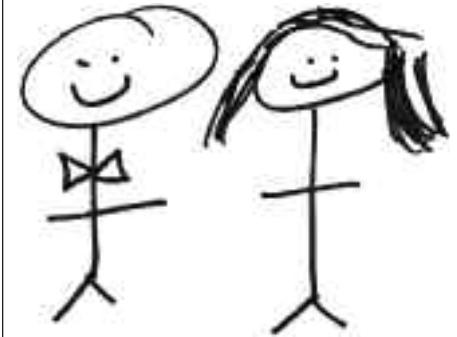
mount’s busier intersections, she said pedestrians are required to wait for the “walk” signal rather than follow the traffic lights. Just because motorists have a green light, she added, does not mean they have the right of way.

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Cat found in basement, taken to SPCA

A resident of Upper Roslyn called Public Security August 26 to report a raccoon in the basement. But when officers arrived just after 8 pm, they instead found a calico cat. Without identification, the cat was re-

leased outside in the hopes it would find its way home. But when it continued to sit in the middle of the street, officers took it to the SPCA. It is not known if it was claimed.

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Sleek like a Minxie



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Minxie has been in need of a forever home for some time now, and I would like to feel that someone in our neighborhood will see this photograph and imagine her in their home, in their family, and adopt her.

This beautiful grey short-haired tabby with huge green eyes is a very healthy two-year old. She has had all her shots and has been spayed.

Minxie is a very good companion, and loves people. She is very playful but also just likes to lounge next to someone. She enjoys visitors, greeting everyone at the door and is not shy to approach to rub against human legs!

Once she trusts, she can easily be picked up and petted for prolonged periods of time. She cuddles easily and purrs softly.

Minxie is presently in a foster home for the Eleven Eleven Animal Rescue group. She had been initially found on the streets, still a kitten, with a litter of her own and another on the way and sent to the SPCA. She was rescued from the SPCA by Eleven Eleven and will now find her way to a family soon. Please contact Julie who is fostering her at 514.823.9688 or email her at jbatti@gmail.com.

Thank for helping us find a family for Minxie.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



Minxie

Injured crow rescued

An injured crow was reported taken to the SPCA by public safety officers August 15. It was found crouching beside the curb outside 230 Redfern. A resident of de Maisonneuve notified Public Security about the bird's plight at 12:45 am.

Electronic Independents available

Enjoy the *Indie* at supper time on Tuesdays! Sign up by writing us: office@westmountindependent.com.

Shoed off soccer fields

Public safety officers were called to ask a group of about 25 people to leave the soccer fields on Academy Rd. August 22. The players had apparently jumped over the fences to play without permission when the complaint was received from a nearby resident just after 7 pm. Public Security officials said it was an ongoing occurrence that was being monitored.

Quebec classifieds

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Employment Opportunities

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For Sale

QCNA (Quebec Community Newspapers Association) can place your classified ad into 24 weekly papers throughout Quebec – papers just like the one you are reading right now! One phone call does it all! Call Marnie at QCNA 514-453-6300. Visit: www.qcna.org.

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Shops de-flowered



Vandals broke the flowerpots of at least two businesses on St. Catherine between Metcalfe and Kensington overnight August 20-21. "We're very upset. Not outraged, but not very happy with Public Security," said Brian McGuigan, who discovered the mess that morning outside the office of his firm, McGuigan Pepin Realty. "I know they can't be everywhere, but it is not the first time [on our block]. People are out partying and they take a swipe at everything."

Photo courtesy of Joan McGuigan

More light for trapped bird – and resident

A resident of Columbia reported that a bird had become caught in the skylight of the home August 22, Public Security officials said. Public safety officers used a net to catch the bird and release it back outside. While on the scene, an officer changed a hard-to-reach light bulb for the resident.

Baby accidentally locked in car

A frantic mother called Public Security August 26 at 1:39 pm to report she had accidentally locked her baby in a car parked outside 4867 de Maisonneuve. Officers said they found the year-old child in good spirits despite extremely hot temperatures that day. A taxi was called to open the door – a service provided by cabbies. A driver arrived along with police, who also had been summoned. The door was opened at 2 pm.

Real estate

continued from p. 20

Five condominium sales in July ranged in price from \$478,500 to \$880,000, and another six sales in two new buildings (4500 Côte des Neiges Rd. and 11 Hillside Ave.) brought prices from about \$260,000 to \$475,000; in fact, one was the first resale of a condo at 4500 Côte des Neiges, which had been bought from the developer for \$292,500 plus tax in May and sold in July for \$380,000, sales tax exempt. The five sales for which valuations are available brought prices averaging 12 percent more than evaluation, down from 23 percent in the previous quarter, but the sample is small and we can draw no conclusions from the statistic.

Other transfers in July included two semi-commercial buildings, both on Sherbrooke St., and another storefront in the basement of 1 Wood Ave., with access from 4055 St. Catherine St. The storefront had been purchased with others for \$7,000 worth of taxes in May last year, and it appears that the various units are becoming more and more popular with merchants.

Another diamond jubilee medalist discovered in Westmount



Robert Wilkins of Clarke Ave. is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. He was presented with his medal by Senator David Angus at a ceremony held July 4 at the Macdonald Stewart Foundation in Montreal. Wilkins was a former city clerk and secretary of Westmount in the 1980s.

Photo: Cindy Canavan

Rennie prepares for marathon



Westmounter Cheryl Rennie trains for a full marathon. Montreal's chapter of the "Rock 'n' Roll Marathon Series is to take place Sunday, September 23. Rennie says she has "put over 500 km under her soles" since May and "has had many ups and downs." She explains in her fund solicitation note that "the motivation is, no matter how bad it feels, it can't be as bad as being in a fight for your life." She faced her own health issues last year and this year is running for several friends suffering from cancer. Her donation website is www.tinyurl.com/runningrennie, and her deadline to raise funds is September 10.

Photo: Rebecca Sydenham

Crossing guards

continued from p. 3

working in Westmount and at the Roslyn crossing?

"I prefer to work with a level of intellectuality where everybody gets along. Even the people who pass by on the street are friendly." He said he has experienced inclusiveness throughout the community.

He also enjoys the Westmount Public Library, where he has become a member. "I paid for my card, and I go there if ever I'm not needed at the school. I spend my day in Westmount."

Protected intersections

The station's other neighbourhood crossing guards work the same four hours a day in split shifts at the other intersections: Roslyn and Côte St. Antoine, Stanton and Côte St. Antoine, Clarke and Sherbrooke, and Clarke and de Maisonneuve as well as Ramezay and The Boulevard.

A seventh works outside the Station 12 district at Côte des Neiges and Doctor Penfield for students at Académie Michèle Provost. Because it's the only school cross-

ing in the territory of downtown Station 20, the Westmount station supplies the service, Plourde said.

All but two of the crossings are designated "Priority 1." This means if crossing guards are unavailable for some reason, a police officer will be assigned to the corner. The two crossings that don't have police back-up are on Côte St. Antoine, at Roslyn and Stanton.

Administration of the crossing guard program is carried out by the station's secretary, Thoto Tshipama, while the performance of personnel is evaluated by traffic officer Steven Goldberg.

Two years ago, a protected crossing on St. Catherine for students attending Westmount Park School was eliminated for lack of numbers, "in a decision made with the school and parents," Plourde explained.

There are about 260 crossing guards across the island of Montreal. Some have permanent status while others work on call. They earn \$14 an hour for four hours starting as early as 7:15 am and lasting until 4 pm, tailored to the schedules of individual schools.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Dyslexia not a barrier to learning or

BY MARLENE EISNER

Carly Wener Fridman and Eric Kogut don't know each other, but they have a few things in common. Their mothers taught pre-school children, they each have careers in which they thrive, and at a young age, they were diagnosed with dyslexia, a learning disability that interferes with the ability to read and understand written words.

Wener Fridman said her mother, Pam Wener, had her tested when she was in grade 1.

"I couldn't have been luckier than to have a mum who worked in early childhood," said Wener Fridman.

"Other parents, when their children aren't perfect, they may brush it off or do their best to hide it. My mother tried to find out as soon as possible what was wrong. She wasn't in denial and then I wasn't in denial. She gave me the confidence at a young age, which was a huge benefit for me."

Her mother joined the Learning Disabilities Association of Quebec (LDAQ), a non-profit organization that advocates and defends the rights of children and adults with learning disabilities and Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and promotes awareness and provides information and services. Through this involvement, Wener was able to help her daughter find the tools she needed to optimize learning. But the road wasn't always easy.

Teased and bullied

At Royal Vale elementary school in the mid '90s, Wener Fridman was often teased and bullied by the other students.

"Fifteen years ago, laptops weren't readily available in the classroom," she said.

"I was the first kid in the classroom with a laptop, and I would be verbally abused. At such a young age kids are very jealous. They would drop it on the ground, or say I was spoiled, or stupid and needed a com-

puter."

Attending high school at Centennial Academy was a different experience.

"It was one of the best places for me. It built my confidence immensely. I was at the top of the class all the time. I still stand by the fact it is a great school for anyone who needs help. They build kids up there."

Wener Fridman took advantage of a number of learning aids available at CEGEP and university, such as using a reader, recording her lectures and having a note-taker. She graduated from the University of Ottawa with a degree in communications, and a minor in marketing and law.

Her difficulty with reading and words interfered with her first job in marketing. She decided to switch career paths and now works as a real estate broker with Royal LePage Heritage Westmount.

"As a real estate agent, I outsource the things I can't do," said the 27-year-old.

"I know what my strengths are: dealing with the public, helping people come up

with solutions when they have a problem. Everything else, I have someone do for me. I'm not ashamed to have a proofreader. I know what I need to be successful. I'm sorry I'm dyslexic, but in my day-to-day life, it doesn't make a difference."

Her advice to others learning to cope with dyslexia: "Figure out what makes you tick and what you need to learn. Everyone can learn; what do you need to be able to do that? In this day and age we have to get over that standardized testing is the only way to test intelligence."

Kogut benefitted from a tutor

In Kogut's case, it was also his mother who sensed something was wrong. When he was in grade 4, she consulted with his teacher, who brushed off concerns, insisting that Kogut was "slow" and would catch up. She had him tested anyway.

A diagnosis of dyslexia allowed him to have a tutor in elementary and in high school. *continued on p. 25*

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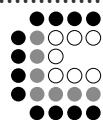
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2012

having a satisfying career

continued from p. 24

“In Bialik, my tutor was Elaine Sma-jovits, and it was pretty much due to her that I graduated.”

Kogut had hopes of going to police tech, but the 92 percent average he needed to get in wasn't possible. He started CEGEP at Dawson, but didn't know what path to follow until a chance encounter led him to St. Pius, part of the English Montreal School Board vocational division.

“I always loved to cook, but I didn't

“With recipes, there's no sentences, no continuous reading. It's two cups flour, two cups sugar. The way to become a good cook is you have to remember the method, which is shown to you. I carry a book with me that has the recipes for Café Grand. I just have to remember the method part.”

Being dyslexic has not slowed him down, and he has been able to have a career that he enjoys.

“I love what I do. I get to work with food all day.”



Eric Kogut, 28, has been the sous-chef at Café Grand Bistro on Sherbrooke St. in NDG for four months, and a chef for the last 10 years. Diagnosed with dyslexia when he was in grade 4, he has been able to overcome obstacles and graduated from cooking school. Photo: Marlene Eisner

think there was a school in English here,” he said. A week after his sister learned about the program, he dropped out of Dawson and enrolled.

“It was an amazing experience. I loved it. It was the first school where I actually did well.”

Sous chef at Grand Café

Kogut, who is the sous chef at Café Grand Bistro on Sherbrooke St., has worked in many Montreal restaurants, including Sophia's, Cavalli, Bice and the Macaroni Bar.

He said he has a few tricks to help him read the food orders and remember recipes.

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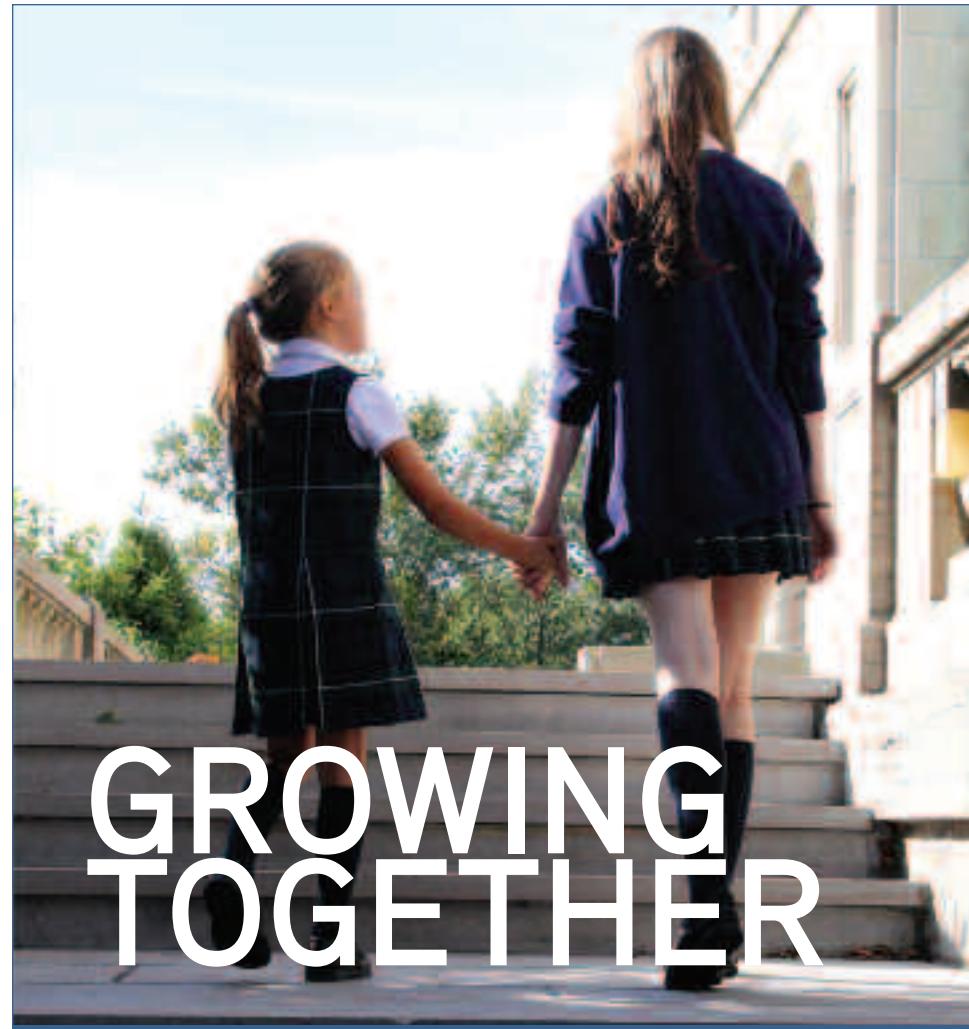
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BACK TO SCHOOL 2012

Local schools gear up for incoming students

PHOTOS: ROBERT J. GALBRAITH

Before students started flooding back to school, some of Westmount's local teaching institutions were preparing for the new school year with renovation work.

Marianopolis College was having exterior maintenance work done to its façade and roof, while Selwyn House had both exterior and interior work done, including replacing over 80 windows.

École Internationale had landscaping work done to its front yard, including planting new trees, fixing the walkways and greening-up the area.



Looking down from the scaffolding at Selwyn House, August 10.



On August 9, École Internationale's entrance is seen lined with new trees.



Crane at work at Marianopolis on August 8.

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