



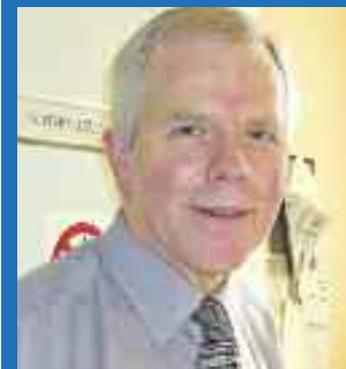
The most expensive: 60 Summit Circle

**Real estate transfers –
new every month, like
the market! p.8**

**Building permits –
Westmount's only
published list p.8**



Penultimately most expensive: 15 Oakland Ave.



Profile: Dr. Henry Olders p. 14

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

February 6, 2008

We are Westmount

Vol. 2 No. 2a

Healthy City's recommendations would impact all Westmounters

Sustainability gaining momentum

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Imagine a Westmount with urban farming, granny flats and a north-south shuttle bus. Or fees for excessive garbage and leaf-blower use.

These are only a few of the preliminary recommendations for creating a sustainable Westmount proposed in a research report from the Environment Committee of the Westmount Healthy City Project and presented to city council at its January 28 meeting. Some people are referring to it as the "Kohl Report", in reference to the late chair the working group that produced it.

And if the first city council session of 2008 is any indication of what lies ahead, the year promises to see the concept of sustainable development begin to unfold in a high profile manner that could have far-reaching impact on the Westmount of the future.

Other related business

Other related items making their way onto the city council agenda or into discussion included advertising for a sustainable development coordinator and introducing the collection of kitchen waste in the spring.

The commissioning of a parks study, examination of the bike path and the re-doing of the playing fields were also part of the city's umbrella plan for creating a sustainable community.

It was, however, the Healthy City's "Preliminary Proposals for Westmount Sustainability Plan" that set the stage for the type of measures to be considered.

One of the reasons for researching and presenting such a report was "to con-

tribute our enthusiasm to citizens, some of whom might be less than enthusiastic," said Sheila Mason, who now chairs the working group that wrote the report.

Wide-ranging recommendations

Mason, a Concordia professor and member of the Sustainable Concordia Advisory Committee, explained how the work had explored and examined a wide range of areas from energy reduction and water conservation to encouraging the sale of locally grown food and public education.

The report urges the city to lead by example in reducing the use of fossil fuels, supporting the use of the CPR track as a light transit route to the airport and preparing its *continued on p. 2*

**Welcome to the
Year of the Rat!**



Westmounter Hazel Mah opened her Mahjongg and dLUX restaurants at Hotel Ruby Foo's on January 29. Ironically for a restaurateur, one of the themes chosen for the evening was the rat. Chinese New Year, on February 6, inaugurates the Year of the Rat (or 4706) and explains the choice of theme. For more photos and details, see p. 10.

WMA turns 100 with kick-off talk on communication

The Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) is launching its 100th anniversary year with a focus on enhancing communication between citizens and their city.

President Henry Olders announced the theme of the February 5 meeting, "Improving communications between citizens and the city", during question period at the city council session January 28. He invited all present to attend the public meeting featuring guest speaker, Bruce St. Louis, Westmount's retiring director general.

"This is the kick-off for our centennial year," he said. The WMA's February 5 meeting was scheduled to take place at the

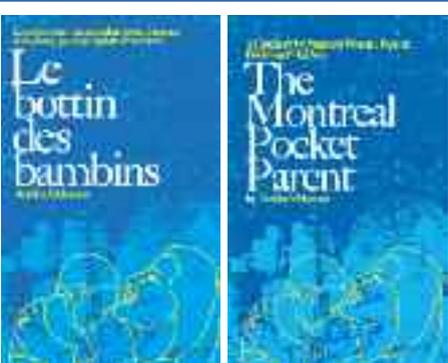
Westmount Public Library at 7 pm.

Remove 'archaic' wording

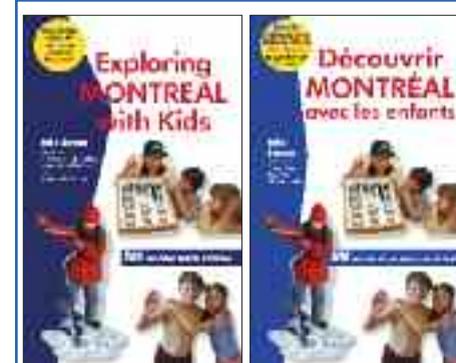
On the subject of good communication, Olders took issue with what he called "archaic" wording used in some of the by-laws that had been introduced as part of the evening's agenda.

Wording such as "among other things" was "stupid," he said. "There's no place for smudge words." (For more on Olders, see this week's Westmount Profile on p. 14).

Earlier, Mayor Karin Marks voiced concern about the vagueness in an enabling by-law that *continued on p. 2*



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Sustainability study has broad scope

continued from p. 1

equipment for the results of climate change: heavy rain and snow, and more frequent electrical outages.

It also recommends the creation of another bike path along Westmount Ave. and a connecting one down Lansdowne Ave. and The Glen to the Lachine Canal.

Three-part mission

"Our aim is three-fold," Mason said, namely "to provide citizen input on a map of environmental issues which will overlap with the city's map," as well as to provide reminders on what other cities are doing, and to build on Westmount's significant achievements over the last two decades in environmentally sound purchasing and as leaders in recycling.

Mason also paid tribute to the late Peter Kohl who chaired the working group that produced the report until his death on

December 27. Kohl was co-founder of Memphremagog Conservation Inc. and a former member of Ontario's Environmental Appeal Board.

Parks study to examine bike path

Councillor George Bowser earlier announced that the city had engaged a landscape architectural firm to study Westmount's 13 parks with a view to creating a unified master plan.

The future of the bike path through Westmount Park will be included in the study, Mayor Karin Marks said in reply to questions from citizen Stan Grossman, who also asked for citizen input.

Also at the meeting, council started the ball rolling on refurbishing the playing fields in Westmount Park, giving notice of motion to adopt a loan by-law (a formality) in the amount of \$800,000, as already budgeted.



Sheila Mason at the microphone

WMA turning 100

continued from p. 1

referred only to the reconstruction of "roads." Taking objection to "huge enabling by-laws" presented at meetings of the island-wide Agglomeration Council,

she suggested adding specifics when they are available, in this case the streets in question which have already been determined.

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WESTMOUNT ADJ. Sunny young 4 bed, 3 full bths, eat-in kitchen, finished bsmt, new windows, huge custom skylight, firepl, garage, steps to Mount Royal Park, private schools, downtown, Greene Ave. **\$749,000.**

Never too much snow



Westmounters of all ages were out on a wintry February 2 to enjoy Westmount's 25th Winter Carnival. Old-fashioned sleigh rides took Westmounters around Westmount Park to admire the blanket of snow that fell on February 1. From left: Annika Horner, Amel Melanson, Conrad Horner and Murray Horner.

Wellness Wednesday at The Study

In sharp contrast to last week's howling wind and icy rain, students from The Study enjoyed kayaking, hitting golf balls and learning the meringue during the school's second Wellness Wednesday on January 30.

These activities are possible as students at both The Study and St.

George's settle in to the former Marianopolis sports facilities on Côte des Neiges, which has been rented by the two schools and rechristened "the Annexe."

The Study's activities program is intended to increase awareness of the importance of physical and emotional wellness, health and balance, many of which activities now take place at the Annexe.

For six Wednesday afternoons a year, students from The Study leave their campus and head to the Annexe where they can choose two activities led by teaching staff and professional animators.

A number of activities are offered including circuit training, dance and golf lessons, yoga, kickboxing and kayaking. Grade 10 student Emilie Michelle, an avid hockey player for The Study, was busy learning a golf stroke. "This year we have a great variety of activities. I'm really look-



ing forward to kayaking," she said.

Kayaking has proven to be a big hit. The 25-metre pool offers the space needed to teach a group of students basic kayaking skills.

"It's different because normally we wouldn't have a chance to kayak in a pool! It's a good way to get out of the classroom and do something we don't normally do," said Joanna Miceli, Grade 11 student and Westmount resident.

According to The Study's physical education teacher Chantale Lewis, the concept behind Wellness Wednesday is to reinforce mind, body and spirit. For example, through yoga, the girls are taught how to reduce stress, new dance steps and exercise both mind and body.

In answer to the spirit component, the program offers students the chance to hone their leadership skills through working with different peer groups.

New day camp this June

A new co-ed day camp that is open to the community starts this June at the Annexe, as the former Marianopolis sports complex is called. A joint effort between St. George's and The Study, the day camp offers environmental discovery, performing and media arts, robotics, language studies and more. Holly Durkee, the Annexe's facility director, said the camp is trying to differentiate itself from other camps through the combination of enriched programming, an earlier start date and the Annexe's facilities, which include an indoor pool and private green space. For information call 514.303.9131.

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The Contrarian: The Case of the Twisty Street



Looking east from the area near the north end of the pool and Westmount Park United Church, towards Westmount Park School.



Looking south down Park Place and towards St. Catherine St.

Does anyone else find it weird that Academy Rd. at the southern end of Westmount Park starts off east-west (at Westmount Park School), and then turns the corner to run north-south and intersect with de Maisonneuve?

In addition, the street that links St. Catherine St. and Academy by running through the arena parking lot has no name. Now some might say it isn't a street at all but a parking lot. But you can drive through it, so doesn't that make it a street?

Recommendation: Academy Rd. be used for the east-west street only, and the arena parking lot/Academy north-south stub be renamed "Arena."

The whole French/English issue could be dodged by writing it in caps, "ARENA," and so avoiding the need/non-need for an accent. Not adding accents to capitalized French words is a dying usage, though, so maybe it would be wiser to leave it as "Arena" and explain that the word was actually chosen from Latin, and is neither English nor French.

Happy Valentine's Day

BY JOANNA MEYER
KENSINGTON AVE.

It's Valentine's Night
And I can't wait to see
What my darling has chosen
Especially for me.

So I'm dressed in my best
Red velvet with lace –
Of the dreary old housewife
There's nary a trace.

He's just arrived now
And looks a mite frantic –
Oh, I do hope he's chosen
Something romantic.

"Hi, honey," says he –
"Ted's about to arrive –
We're watching the ballgame
It's televised live!"

"And by the way, pet –
In case I forget –
When Valentine's Day comes along
Get spruced up and pretty
We'll head for the city
And dance and carouse until dawn!"

Communications coordinator hired



Westmounter Brigitte Stock was appointed to the newly created position of communications coordinator for the City of Westmount at the January 28 meeting of the city council. Hired on a three-year contract, she was introduced by Councillor Nicole Forbes.

Going up to cut back



Crews have been trimming trees in Westmount over the last few months. Perhaps some disasters during last weekend's snowfall have been averted.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

If you *don't want* to get our publication, Canada Post advises that you place a sticker on your mailbox that says, "No ad mail." *Si vous ne voulez pas recevoir notre publication:* Malheureusement, nous ne sommes pas capable de bloquer une adresse individuelle. Il faut mettre une étiquette près de votre boîte à lettres qui lit « Pas de média-poste ».

If you *do want* to receive our publication and you have a sticker on your mailbox (or are outside our distribution area), please send a cheque for \$1.50 times the number of issues left in the year. We will mail them to you for the rest of the current calendar year.

Most frequently restocked drop sites: Lobby of 310 Victoria Ave.; Sherbrooke St. exit to Metro grocery store at Victoria Ave. and Sherbrooke St.

Drop notice: Snow conditions may delay us getting around to all of our drop sites on Tuesday of publication week. Whatever the snow conditions, we still aim to reach our "most reliable" drops (Metro on Victoria, Westmount Square and 310 Victoria lobby) on Tuesdays.

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Civic Alert

My Westmount – all due to Sally and Sancton

BY DON WEDGE



It was Sally Aitken who began it. My personal journey of discovery of the Westmount community started when I visited a huge environmental fair that Alderman Aitken organized in November 1989.

She subsequently told me I should contact Tom Thompson, the new Westmount Municipal Association president, as well as Maureen Lafrenière, Carole Treiser and Molly Anderson, who were starting the local environmental action group, WE-Act.

So a new phase of my life began and a network with like-minds soon followed.

Roots

Long before, when I was about four years old, my father in England had taken me to a parish council meeting. As soon as I could read, I used to follow the reports of mayors and councils in the local papers. Also as a child, I was taken to see how newspapers were made. Printers' ink was in my blood early.

Thirty years later I had entered the corporate world, and the family moved to the US and then Canada on company transfers. I had gained an expertise in the use of computers – big mainframes of the 1970s that struggled to do what is now easy for a desktop model.

As we moved around, we always subscribed to the local paper. In Connecticut, it was the cutely named *Greenwich Time!* Months before we moved from the West Island, we started to receive John Sancton's Westmount *Examiner*.

Each week he made the city seem such

an interesting place, with a paper filled with everything you might want to know about the community. Correction: Perhaps, everything you might *reasonably* want to know!

However, I was not to be acquainted for some years with the publisher, despite the local connections that were growing abundantly at Sally Aitken's prompting.

I only watched as the late John Sancton retired and his family sold the paper to a broadcasting company, which later sold it to its current owner. The paper eventually became a shadow of its former self.

Civic Alert born

To help fill what I saw as a gap, I began an email newsletter, *Westmount Explained* (which became *Civic Alert*), dealing with municipal and merger matters.

Around that time, I personally came to know John Sancton. At my suggestion, he joined the board of the Westmount Municipal Association, sharing his knowledge of the town with the mostly much younger directors.

As we neared the forced mergers, I became increasingly active in promoting the independence position with contributions to local media – at first on behalf of the WMA and later for *Démocratie*. John often helped and encouraged me.

Got Stuff?

The Rotary Club of Westmount's giant **Garage Sale & Auction** is coming again. We are ready to pick up saleable household or office articles.

We need useful, quality and working items: furniture, antiques, paintings, lamps, housewares, toys, books, etc...

100% of the funds raised will be used for community, national and international projects... as we have been doing for over 75 years. You can help **The Rotary Club of Westmount** help others.

For local pickups **514 935-3344** or **info@rotarywestmount.org**



Becoming a columnist

Eventually, he egged me on to contribute to the *Examiner* regularly. My WMA colleagues also supported my feeling that writing a column to create interest in local affairs could be an effective way of serving the community. So in 2005, I downsized my *Civic Alert* newsletter and began contributing weekly to the paper.

Examiner editor Wayne Larsen must be given credit for doing a remarkable job with incredibly limited resources. Today's corporate publishers have little interest in boosting editorial budgets or even in the town they "serve".

However, many of Larsen's contributors are from out-of-town. They somehow don't walk the same streets as their readers, yet the paper continues to generate a lot of advertising support. It is not about to collapse overnight.

The situation changed last spring, when David Price launched the *Westmount Independent*. It immediately caught the spirit of my Westmount friends and acquaintances. It consistently gets delivered

to home mailboxes, and I can't imagine what advertisers are waiting for!

Despite the new competition, the *Examiner* still contains much out-of-town material, although Larsen always ran my articles.

Despite his support, over the New Year I decided that to continue extending my community service to Westmount in the *Examiner* was futile.

I hope that by moving *Civic Alert* to these pages, I will help strengthen the *Independent*, and that it will serve the community for as long as newspapers live.

It has become clear that it walks the same streets as the citizens. It is today's successor to John Sancton's Westmount news paper. Thank you Sally and John for getting me started.

Don Wedge's email is calert@web.net.

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TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Déneigement

La Ville de Westmount a besoin de la collaboration de tous les automobilistes afin de s'assurer que le déneigement s'effectue rapidement et efficacement pendant tout l'hiver. À chaque fois que vous stationnez votre véhicule, n'oubliez pas de vérifier les panneaux orange. Les véhicules entravant le déneigement seront remorqués.

Neige venant des entrées privées

Ne jamais placer la neige venant des entrées privées des rues, ruelles et trottoirs publics. Il est possible d'ajouter aux bancs de neige existants avant les opérations de déneigement, mais il faut toujours s'assurer que les trottoirs et la voie publique ne sont jamais obstrués. Autant les propriétaires que les entrepreneurs sont passibles d'amendes pour toute contravention. Info : 514 989-5311. 🍷



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Galerie : appel de propositions

La galerie du Victoria Hall lance un appel de propositions pour sa programmation de la saison 2008-2009 (septembre 2008 à août 2009). Cet appel s'adresse aux artistes et artisans qui habitent à Westmount. Les propositions doivent être transmises au plus tard le lundi 31 mars. Pour de renseignements détaillés, veuillez consulter notre site Web. Info : 514 989-5226.

Jacques et le haricot magique

Westmount et le Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée, en collaboration avec l'équipe de L'Illusion, Théâtre de marionnettes, présenteront Jacques et le haricot magique le 8 février à 10 h 30 au Victoria Hall. Ce spectacle gratuit s'adresse aux petits de 2 ans et plus. Nombre limité de places. RSVP : 514 989-5226. 🍷



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Club d'échecs

Aimez-vous jouer aux échecs ? La prochaine rencontre du club d'échecs aura lieu le vendredi 8 février à 14 h dans une ambiance amicale. Nous

DATES À RETENIR

Jusqu'au 9 février

Exposition : Lily Lam et Barbara Wisnoski
La galerie du Victoria Hall

Le 12 février - 19 h

Société d'horticulture de Westmount
Le jardin de nuit, un voyage photographique
Conférencière : Linda Rutenberg
Bibliothèque

Le 20 février - 19 h

Club de lecture anglaise
Bibliothèque

Le 21 février - 19 h

Association historique de Westmount
Conférences printanières
*La conservation des maisons westmountaises
construites dans les années 1800*
Bibliothèque

Le 25 février - 20 h

Séance générale du conseil
Hôtel de ville

sommes toujours à la recherche de nouveaux joueurs. Info : 514 989-5386.

Love is in the Air!

Savourez du chocolat ! Venez choisir un roman d'amour à notre mini vente de livres et laissez-vous emporter par les mots des conteurs Stéphanie Bénéteau et Roman Pylat qui ne manqueront pas de vous émouvoir avec leurs histoires d'amour, de foi et d'espoir le mercredi 13 février de 19 h à 21 h. Info : 514 989-5386.

Conférences de 14 heures**Fashion in the Napoleonic Era**

Joignez-vous à Pamela Grimaud pour une présentation multimédia sur la mode à l'époque de Napoléon - le mercredi 27 février à 14 h. Info : 514 989-5386.

Les vendredis du cinéma

Venez visionner le film *The Middle of the World* de Vicente Amorim le vendredi 29 février à 19 h et participer à une discussion de groupe par la suite. Vous devez préalablement vous inscrire au comptoir de prêt. Info : 514 989-5386. 🍷



PUBLIC WORKS

Snow Removal

The City of Westmount depends on the cooperation of all drivers to ensure that snow is removed quickly and efficiently throughout the winter. Whenever you park, look up and check carefully for orange signs. Vehicles blocking snow removal operations will be towed.

Snow from Private Driveways

Snow from private driveways and walkways must never be placed on public sidewalks, lanes or streets. During snow loading, snow may be added to the existing snowbanks prior to removal, but this snow must never obstruct the public roadways or sidewalks. Fines may be levied on home owners and/or contractors who violate these regulations. Info: 514 989-5311. 🍷



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Gallery Call for Submissions

The Gallery at Victoria Hall announces a call for submissions for its 2008-2009 exhibition season (September 2008 to August 2009). Artists and artisans who are residents of Westmount are invited to apply. The deadline for submissions is Monday, March 31. For complete details, please consult our Web site. Info: 514 989-5226.

Jacques et le haricot magique

Westmount and the *Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée*, in collaboration with *L'Illusion, Théâtre de marionnettes*, will present *Jacques et le haricot magique* on February 8 at 10:30 a.m. at Victoria Hall. This free puppet show, presented in French, is excellent for toddlers 2 years old and up. Places are extremely limited. RSVP: 514 989-5226. 🍷



LIBRARY

Chess Club

Do you enjoy playing chess? Our Chess Club will meet on Friday, February 8 at 2 p.m. Drop by for a friendly game as we look forward to meeting new players. Info: 514 989-5386.

DATEBOOK

Until February 9

Exhibition: Lily Lam and Barbara Wisnoski
The Gallery at Victoria Hall

February 12 - 7 p.m.

Westmount Horticultural Society
The Garden at Night, a Photographic Journey
Guest speaker: Linda Rutenberg
Library

February 20 - 7 p.m.

English Book Club
Library

February 21 - 7 p.m.

Westmount Historical Association
Spring Lecture Series
Preservation of Westmount homes built in the 1800s
Library

February 25 - 8 p.m.

General Council Meeting
City Hall

Love is in the Air!

Indulge in chocolate, select a romance from our mini book sale and be swept away with storytellers Stéphanie Bénéteau and Roman Pylat as they share stories of love, faith, hope and courage guaranteed to warm your heart on Wednesday, February 13 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Info: 514 989-5386.

2 o'clock Series**Fashion in the Napoleonic Era**

Join us on Wednesday, February 27 at 2 p.m. for a stunning multimedia presentation on men's and women's fashion during Napoleon's reign. Info: 514 989-5386.

Film Fridays

Join us as we meet on Friday, February 29 at 7 p.m. to watch the film *The Middle of the World* by Vicente Amorim and discuss it afterward. Please register for this event at the circulation desk. Info: 514 989-5386. 🍷

Contactivity birthday bash



More than 60 people braved icy conditions to attend a lunch for those 60 and over who were celebrating a birthday in January. The festivities took place on January 31 at the Contactivity Centre (4695 de Maisonneuve). Lunch was served followed by live music and dancing. From left: back row, Ginny Thomas (communications coordinator) and Mary Stark (director); front row, Westmount's representative to the provincial assembly, Jacques Chagnon, Ada Fuoco and Mari-Lin Smith Miller.

Adoptee settles in



After seeing the story about Mishka in the Westmount Independent's 9 Lives column, Westmounter Patricia Dumais decided to adopt the seven-month-old tabby kitten. "I have a fondness for tabbies," said Dumais, who also has Alfie, a 13-year-old tabby and Nikita, a 12-year-old black-and-white cat. All three have been adopted by Dumais because they needed homes and the arrangement has "worked out very nicely." In fact, Alfie is happy to have a playmate.

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Bought & Sold: Real estate transferred since December 31, 2007

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BUILDING PROJECTS: WHAT'S PERMITTED

The following work permits for new construction, alterations and plumbing were approved by Westmount city council at a special meeting on January 16.

46 Surrey Gardens: to make a rear terrace;

480 Roslyn: to install some windows;

10 Oakland: to install some windows;

441 Argyle: to install some windows and skylights.

Bowser & Blue to perform at hospital gala

The Montreal General Hospital Auxiliary will hold its annual Spring Gala fundraising event featuring Bowser & Blue on May 14 starting at 6:30 pm. Cocktails and silent auction.

Venue: Oscar Peterson Concert Hall, Concordia University, 7141 Sherbrooke St. W. Information: The Auxiliary office, 514.934.1934 x 43009

Westmount Horticultural Society February meeting

"The Garden at Night" is a photographic journey by renowned Montreal photographer Linda Rutenberg, which takes place on Tuesday, February 12, 7-9 pm at the Westmount Public Library (4574 Sherbrooke St.). Doors open at 6:30 pm. Join the society, or renew your membership for \$20 (Jan. - Dec. 2008). Guest fee is \$5. For more information, email info@whsociety.com.

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Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1403961



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Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1394541



St Henri. Loft Sherwill. Spacious master bdr with walk-in cc. Mezzanine off lvr and dnr. 12.5 ft ceilings, large windows. Living area has a separate office space off kitchen and dnr. Walk to market, metro. **Asking \$279,000**
Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1368870



Westmount. Charming English style cottage renovated with taste on quiet cul de sac. Extended kitchen w/dinette, mud entry from garden and parking for one car. Cozy playroom, 4th bedroom + bathroom in basement. **Asking \$595,000**

Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1395608



Westmount. Set in an elegant row of charming Victorian townhouses (1898), steps from Greene. 4 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1 powder room. 11-ft ceilings, new oak floors. Fin. basement, prize-winning private fenced garden, parking. **Asking \$640,000**

Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1399557



Westmount. Victoria Village. Lrg 3-bedroom+den, stunning woodwork, architectural treasures. Exposed brick and fireplace in living room. Kitchen has a pantry and adjacent mudroom. Deck, garage. **Asking \$655,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1298227



Westmount Elegant house on one of Westmount's most desirable streets. A made-for-entertaining main floor, sizeable eat-in kitchen, rich hardwood floors, abundance of windows, exquisite moldings and finishing, 2 fireplaces and garage are just some of the features. **Asking \$1,550,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1368728



Duplex in lower Westmount, walking distance to Greene. Both units have 3 bdrs w/finished bsmts, independent parking. Both have outdoor area and balconies. Upper unit has been upgraded. **Asking \$685,000**

Virtual tour: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1342727



Westmount Renovated cottage in lower Westmount. Kitchen, 2 renovated bathrooms, complete finished basement with 8 ft high ceilings, central air. Garden, parking. 1 yr lease min. **Asking \$3,500/month**

Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1393506

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Westmouter opens restaurants at Ruby Foo's

A large group of clients and friends helped long-time Westmouter Hazel

Mah celebrate the opening of Mahjongg Bistro de Chine and Café dLUX on January 29. The restaurants are located at the Hotel Ruby Foo's (7655 Decarie Blvd., 514.731.7701).

Guests were treated to a Chinese lion dance, including drums and two lion costumes (not to be confused with longer dragon costumes). An array of Chinese dishes was also served.

The restaurants are operated by CHED, a company founded in 1980 by Mah and still owned by the Mah family. CHED also operates Le Piment Rouge and El Diablo Rojo in Montreal, Cold Stone Creamery stores in Dallas, Texas and Panera Bread stores in southern California. CHED's corporate catering division provides food-service management services to a number of hotel, casino and business accounts in the greater Montreal area. Mah has been a Westmouter for 30 years.



Hazel Mah with Robert Gauvreau. Gauvreau explained to the Westmount Independent that he was a near-Westmouter, and his daughter, Frédérique, attends the Villa Ste. Marcelline in Westmount.



Traditional Chinese drummers.

Colourfully Yours: Lighting can beat the blues

BY AURELIEN GUILLORY
& GRETA VON SCHMEDLAPP



Have you all started suffering from the winter blues? It's quite understandable, what with those bills from the holidays arriving and some shattered memories – was it really worth it? Well, my

darlings, as Aurelien and I will show you, you don't have to go to Merida on the Yucatan to get cheered up! Simply cast a critical eye around your dwelling and decide that you will listen to our sage advice.

Lighting is key

Spruce up your lighting. Remember that I made you promise to work on lighting first! With all this talk about green (as in eco) lighting and our poor tattered world, please read these ideas that will help you look good at home. Play "ball" on the home court! If you can't control how you look and feel in your own home, where can you?

So, first, a few key ideas that are crucial to understand the new fluorescent low wattage light bulbs: First, CRI=

Colour Rendering Index. This is the very important concept of how a light bulb does or doesn't distort colour in relation to our best perception of colour – sunlight. A CRI of 65 percent is often like the old cool white fluorescent tube...most often too much yellow-green – never flattering on any skin tone, whereas a bulb of 98 percent CRI will mean that the colour balance is closer to the sun and doesn't distort your lovely hair and those stunning baby-blue eyes!

Next, the Kelvin scale

A scientist, obviously Dr. Kelvin, decided to measure the colour temperature of the sun and rate various light bulbs, incandescent, halogen, or fluorescent according to their light colour. So, a low 2,000 degrees K is warm light similar to those old-fashioned incandescent bulbs that put out more heat than light, and use lots of power. Remember, wattage does not equal brightness, or lumen power, so we save on heat output, and gain in brightness with the new compact fluorescents. A high number of 3,500 or so will mean a cooler, clearer, airy feeling, especially good for kitchens and work rooms.

Lighting stores

I must mention Greg and his team at that snazzy shop Arevco on Greene Ave. for the best in 'exotic' light bulbs of all kinds, an elegant selection of European fixtures and the surprise of a repair and re-wiring service for your bulky Tizio or the magnum of Mumm's that you want rewired into a lamp (to remember that special event). They are very knowledgeable. In contrast to Arevco, zoom on over the Decarie Gulch to Royalmount to find Union Electric and their bewildering collection from techno styles, like the superb Artemede, to shimmering crystal chandeliers — even in black! Track down Laurent or Nathaniel for some savvy advice.

Love those Mexican beaches

Now, back to those blues we mentioned. Have you ever heard of SAD? That's Seasonal Affective Disorder. We Canadians, and other "inmates of the North" like people living in the Scandinavian countries, are subject to varying degrees of depression when we are deprived of vitamin D and the other wonders of sunlight on our pineal gland, and melatonin production. So at Union, and other

places in town, you can find a special fixture that will expose SAD sufferers to the proper spectrum of light — simulating all those days on a beach in Mexico you just can't get to right now. It really works, as Nathaniel and Aurelien will tell you. We have mentioned this device often for years – especially for office workers who don't see the sun often in the winter (particularly those poor ones in Vancouver and London!).

Well my loyal reader, please forgive me for being too clinical and technical this time, but Aurelien and I do try to respond to our readers, and at this time of year, what could be more timely? Do watch out for too much texture in your lighting, try to bounce your light off a wall or ceiling, because it's sooo much more flattering! So, save a good martini for Aurel and me to celebrate your happy lighting experiences. (Have you tried Blair's martinis with Hendricks' Scottish gin at Liverpool House on Notre Dame? I await your report.)

As always, colourfully yours,

GRETA VON SCHMEDLAPP.

Keep your comments coming: Catch us at www.colorsbyaurelien.com

ON THE SHELVES

Among the many new arrivals at Westmount Public Library singled out this week by the staff are:

Magazines

“The Last Empire: Can the World Survive China’s Rush to Emulate the American Way of Life?” *Mother Jones*, Jan/Feb 2008, p. 28

“What the World Reads Now: Join Us for a Literary World Tour as We Check in on the Books that are Inspiring People from Melbourne to Mumbai”, *Ode Magazine*, November 2007, p. 50

«Quelles valeurs transmettre à nos enfants? Un grand sondage CROP», *L’actualité*, février 1, 2008, p. 22

CDs

Duets by Anne Murray. A lovely album with soothing melodies and strong vocal performances from Murray and 17 female artists.

Pictures by Katie Melua. Equal parts pop, folk and blues, this new album builds upon Katie’s successes as one of Britain’s finest female artists and shows her experimenting and growing as a songwriter extraordinaire.

English Adult

The Senator’s Wife by Sue Miller. The author of the iconic *The Good Mother* and the bestselling *While I Was Gone* takes readers deep into the private lives of women with this mesmerizing portrait of two marriages, exposed in all their shame and imperfection and in their obdurate, unyielding love.

Last Night at the Lobster by Stewart O’Nan. O’Nan has crafted a frank and funny, yet emotionally resonant tale, set within a vivid workaday world seldom seen in contemporary fiction. This work presents a poignant yet redemptive look at what a man does when he discovers that his best might not be good enough.

Four Letter Word edited by Joshua Knelman and Rosalind Porter. Margaret Atwood, Miriam Toews, David Bezmozgis, Neil Gaiman and other contemporary writers give us their tales of longing and de-

sire, unrequited love and affairs gone terribly wrong. Do read at least a couple for Valentine’s Day.

French Adult

Birmane by Christophe Ono-dit-Biot. Leaving for Burma, a journalist is hoping for a scoop: an interview with the greatest opium trafficker of all time. This adventure story and travel diary won the Prix Interallié.

Une vie by Simone Veil. From her childhood in an assimilated Jewish family to the death camp of Auschwitz then on to become minister of health in France and president of the European Parliament, this is the autobiography of an exceptional political woman.

Reference

The Canadian Writers’ Contest Calendar 2008.

2008 Canadian Art Sales Index. Works of art and art books by Canadian artists and authors sold at auction between August 1, 2006 and July 31, 2007

La poésie québécoise: des origines à nos jours

For 3-6 year olds

Love, Ruby Valentine by Laurie Friedman. After Ruby Valentine misses her favourite holiday of the year, her parrot, Lovebird, convinces her that every day is the perfect day to say “I love you.”

Veux-tu être mon bisoudoux? By J. Ryder

Any time of day is the right time for a cuddly kiss from mom!

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FREE Clairvoyance, Spirit Communication, Mediumship & Messages. Sunday, February 10, 7:30 p.m. Days Hotel, 1005 Guy Street. ALL INVITED. Bring a friend. Info: (514) 937-8359.

FOR SALE Pair of 39 inch, painted pine, single twin beds, circa 1900. Asking price: \$600. Contact Margaret 514.937.8149.

Wine: What’s In Store...

Valentine vino

BY CAROLA PRICE



Valentine’s Day seems to put so much pressure on a man. What do you bring your honey? Flowers are nice but which ones convey your message of love? Chocolates are good too, but do you go all out with the *artisanal* or just stick with the old stand-by? There is nothing like curling up with a delicious LBV Porto or clinking flutes of pricey Champagne given to me by, well let’s face it, me. Note to all the men out there: Don’t be afraid to bring your lady to the SAQ and find out what she likes to celebrate with. Ladies, be sure to drop hints as to what you want to drink on that special day. May you enjoy love and laughter this Valentine’s Day.



Ampeleia Maremma, Tuscany, Italy.
SAQ#10496311, \$36.25

This black beauty has a nose of fennel and black cherry with a hint of the forest (all good things in aroma). Lots of cherry and currant flavours with some coffee bean and a slightly earthy overtone in the finish. Pair this with roast beef, leg of lamb or some tomato sauce poured over luscious egg noodles with shaved Grana Padano.

Available at the following SAQs (at press time): Across from Atwater Market, Victoria, Westmount Square.

Nicolas Feuillatte, Brut Rose, Champagne, France. SAQ# 10515825, \$55.00

The colour is a delicate pink but the taste is bold and rich. Light strawberry and violet on the nose leading to small but effective bubbles in the mouth with more strawberry and cherry on the finish. Pair this wine with shellfish and lighter cheeses, salmon soufflé or oysters on the half shell.

Available at the following SAQs (at press time): Victoria.



Gould Campbell Vintage Port, Portugal. SAQ# 10456466, \$66.00

This stellar port has been a consistent favourite of the critics since the outstanding 1963 vintage. With loads of black cherry, coffee, caramel and licorice in the nose and mouth, this is another winner. *Wine Spectator* scored it a 95. Whether drinking it now or in 10 years this port marries with decadent chocolate lava cakes or orange crème brûlée as well as heavy gooey cheese with lots of flavour.

Available at the following SAQs (at press time): Pepsi Forum.

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The Westmount Parent Writing, shopping and watching

BY ANNIKA MELANSON



Are you back in the groove after the holidays and looking ahead to some fun activities happening around town for families? Fear not, there are a variety of interesting workshops, shows and even a writing competition for school kids happening right here in the 'hood.

Food for Thought writing competition

All elementary and secondary students who attend school in Westmount, live in Westmount or are members of a library in Westmount can compete in this year's McEntyre writing competition "Food for Thought". Peter McEntyre was the mayor of Westmount from 1969 to 1971. He set up a trust fund to support an annual writing competition to encourage kids to think and learn about their community. This year, participants are asked to write about food: favourite food, organic food, traditional food, food allergies, planting food, learning to cook, struggling for food, etc. As always, participants are asked to write about the theme in the context of community. All entries should have 1,000 words or less, typed or neatly written in English or French, and submitted to the Children's Desk at the Westmount Public library – before 9 pm on April 4. To enter, pick up the McEntyre cover sheet at the library (514.989.5229). The winners will be invited to the awards ceremony at Victoria Hall on June 2 and will be awarded a prize (\$10 to \$75). All winning entries become the property of the library. Imagine your child's work forever in the library for others to read.

Support for new mothers

Plunging into motherhood (a.k.a. "the unknown" for first-time mothers) isn't easy and can be scary. We all need the reassurance and support from someone who's been there, done that, in a non-condescending manner. Have no fear, Moms for Moms is here. Westmounters and mothers Michelle Feifer and Angela Lehrer will be leading a six-week group workshop

with an uncensored introduction to everything baby. Ask for their opinions on anything from baby equipment to how to choose a nanny. The next session begins in February and costs \$150. Ten percent of their proceeds will be donated to a local children's charity. For more information or to register, contact Feifer (514.935.3810, michfeifer@hotmail.com) or Lehrer (514.482.7475, alehrer@sympatico.ca).

Get great discounts with the Mummieslist card

Speaking of Westmount mummies, Andrea Rich, creator of the Mummieslist (www.mummieslist.com) newsletter and discount card has her 2008 cards ready. As usual, her cards get savvy mums discounts at all of our fave spots: Sox Box, Greens & Co, Second Cup, Bead Emporium, Babar Books, Mademoiselle Pinki, James, Maman, Béb  et Caf , Azure Wraps, Babysecure, Cho'Cola, LMNOP, EatZ Encore and many more. As always, a portion of proceeds goes towards a charitable organization. To receive mummieslist updates via email, simply send an email saying "sign me up" to mummieslist@yahoo.com.



Andrea Rich and her two-year-old daughter, Sophia.

Sunday Discovery Workshops at the Redpath

The Redpath Museum hosts fun and educational workshops on Sunday afternoons. There is a short presentation about

the topic *du jour*, followed by a craft activity in the lab. Upcoming workshops include:

February 10: Les Loups, les Coyotes et les Chiens (French). Presentation followed by a workshop where kids make their own marionette.

February 17: Mummies (English). Presentation followed by a workshop where kids make their own Egyptian mummies.

February 24: Les Volcans (French). Presentation followed by a craft activity where kids make their own erupting volcanoes.

March 2: Spiders and Scorpions (English). Presentation where children learn about these unusual insects and their swimming relatives.

March 9: Les Dinosaures du Canada (French). Presentation about Canada's prehistoric dinosaurs followed by a craft activity where participants create their own fossil.

March 16: Sharks (English). Presentation followed by a craft activity where kids make their own shark puppet.

These one-hour workshops are offered at 1:30 pm and 3 pm. Admission is \$6 per child, free for accompanying adults. Although it is suggested for all ages, I would recommend it for children 4 and up. Reservations must be made one week before the activity by calling 514.398.4086 ext. 4092. For more information, go to www.mcgill.ca/redpath.

The Backyardigans live on stage

Fans of the television show *The Backyardigans* will be excited to know that there will be a live show on Sunday, February 24 at 1 pm and 4 pm at Th atre St. Denis (1594 St. Denis, 514.790.1111, www.theatrestdenis.com). *The Backyardigans: Quest for the Extra Ordinary Aliens* is a 60-minute non-stop musical show where the Backyardigans are in hot pursuit of a mystery spaceship and its missing passengers. The show is suitable for ages 2 to 5 years, who are encouraged to sing and dance along with their favourite characters, Uniqua, Pablo, Tyrone, Tasha and Austin. Tickets are \$27.50.

Go for moms

Do you ever wish you had more time? Do you feel like you need help and don't know where to turn? If you answered "yes" to these questions, then you should know about this fabulous service for mummies: Go for Moms. This is a "gofer" service tailored to suit the needs of busy mothers. From planning kids' parties to doing the

laundry, from cooking to house or pet sitting, running errands and taking care of the children, their services are endless. Their slogan is "We Get it Done". Keep their number in your back pocket: 514.757.MOMS.

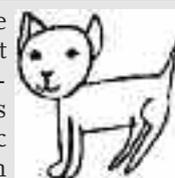
Geordie Productions presents Peacemaker

Westmounters have long enjoyed children's theatre at Geordie Productions. The next presentation, *Peacemaker*, will draw children into a magical world of circus fun, complete with puppetry, dance and juggling while exploring important themes such as friendship, community and peace. The show will be presented from February 15 to 24 at the D.B. Clarke Theatre (Concordia University Hall Building, 1455 de Maisonneuve W., 514.845.9810, www.geordie.ca). The show is suitable for ages 4 to 12 and lasts 60 minutes. Admission is \$13.50 for children, \$16 for adults and \$15 for seniors, including tax.

9 Lives: Giving Cats a Second Chance

BY LYZANNE

Ulyss is a handsome grey and white short hair cat with a wonderful disposition. He is the perfect domestic cat: He is quite calm and purrs happily when petted, yet he is very sociable and is gentle at play. He is wonderful around babies and children, and he is used to other friendly cats. He is a little older and quieter, which is great for a family that doesn't want to train a kitten. He is neutered and declawed. His shots are also up-to-date. His family loved him very much, but they had to give him up because of asthma. To find out more about Ulyss and to meet him, please contact Gerdy on her pager at (514) 203-9180 or email her at info@gerdysrescue.org.



Good news!

A Westmount couple, living on Greene Ave. below Dorchester, has adopted Mishka, featured cat in the 9 Lives' December 16 and January 16 columns. Mishka went to her new home on January 19. See p. 7 for story.
Artwork by Laura S. Cohendet

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Westmount Art Scene

Gallery Tour: New in 2008

BY HEATHER BLACK



Winter is the season of renewal in the art community – and currently Westmount's galleries are exhibiting the work of new artists or those taking new directions. Making the tour – either in person or via the internet – is a perfect way to find that elusive treasure.

Victoria Village

On Sherbrooke St., Collins Lefebvre Stoneberger features the "Fine Art of Americas". To complement the current Montreal Museum of Fine Arts "Viva Cuba" exhibit, works by Cubans Emilio Sanchez and Lydia Rubio are currently displayed. The gallery – soon to celebrate its first anniversary – includes drawings, paintings and sculpture by local and international artists. On Victoria, the Visual Art Centre's McClure Gallery hosts the work of new artists and the spring student show. First-time exhibitor Denis Routhier's show begins on February 8. Further east on Sherbrooke St., the city's Gallery at Victoria Hall currently exhibits the textile art of Lily Lam and Barbara Wisnoski.

Greene Ave.

Galerie de Bellefeuille introduces new artists Joshua Jensen Nagle and Stephen Ibbott. Located on Greene for over 27 years, the gallery exhibits many local and international artists including the work of Westmount artist Jennifer Hornyac and soon-to-be resident Tom Hopkins. Further along Greene, Galerie D'Este specializes in Canadian and international art. Recently, owner Mark Leibner added new artists Marc Cinq-Mars, a Montrealer, and Angel Mateo Charris of Spain. Upcoming

shows feature painters Paul Bourgault and Jean-Paul Jérôme, RCA.

On the west side, La Galerie sur Greene exhibits Quebec, Canadian and international artists. This spring new artists Valérie Butters and Concordia graduate Brian Hunter are featured. Next door, West-End Gallery displays the work of Ingrid Harrison, Miyuki Tanobe, Paul Henry, and Westmounter Lynda Schneider Granatstein. Owned by the Millman family since 1948, the gallery has been on Greene since 1964. Upstairs, Gallery Sandra Goldie represents emerging contemporary artists and recently exhibited Nicole Bauberger. Currently the gallery features several new works by Toronto photographer James Robert Durant. At the corner of Greene and St. Catherine, Han Art specializes in modern and contemporary art, and the newest hot commodity, Chinese art. Han Art introduced Westmounters to artists Nie Jian Bing and Wang Tiande as well as Montrealer Louis Boudreault.

"South End"

Further down Greene, on the south side of St. Antoine, the Parisian Laundry owned by Westmounter Nick Tedeschi also displays contemporary art. Janet Werner's paintings and Radeq Brousil's photographs follow current exhibitors Rick Leong and Alex da Corte.

Walk, drive or surf. Enjoy all that Westmount galleries have to offer – some are among the best in the country. And while visiting an exhibition provides a new perceptual experience as well as scale and texture, a web tour may just reveal "the next big thing".

Another exhibition of interest

Westmounter Joyce Rose will exhibit February 6 to March 1 at Galerie Luz, 372 St. Catherine St. W., 514.908.2880.

Bridge:**I left my hearts in San Francisco (did you?)**

At the 2007 Fall American championship in San Francisco, I had the pleasure to play with Jerry Fleming, who is the only declared candidate to be the ACBL President in 2009. Both Jerry and his lovely wife Marion plan to visit the Montreal Can-Am Regional in the near future.

In a pair event the following deal appeared:

Dealer: North, Vulnerability: None

		Jerry	
	♠	J 9 4	
	♥	8 4	
	♦	AK 10 3	
	♣	AQ 4 2	
♠	K 10	♠ Q 7 5	
♥	AQ 2	♥ 10 7 6	
♦	7 6 5	♦ QJ 9 4 2	
♣	KJ 9 6 5	♣ 10 8	

George

♠	A 8 6 3 2
♥	KJ 9 5 3
♦	8
♣	7 3

THE BIDDING

West	North	East	South
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♣s	Double (indicating 3 ♠ cards)	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	2 No trump	Pass	4 ♠s

THE PLAY

Trick 1: A small ♦ was led to the King

Trick 2: ♥ 4 led to Jack and Queen

Trick 3: Another small ♦ led to the Ace and I discarded a ♣

Trick 4: ♥ 8 from dummy. When East didn't play the Ace it was reasonable to assume that he didn't have it, and I let the 8 slide all the way to West's Ace.

Trick 5: Another ♦ led and ruffed

Trick 6: Having lost two ♥s, now I could afford to lose only one ♠, Key play! I led the ♠ 3 toward Dummy and the defense in helpless. Actually West won the King in the West seat

Trick 7: A ♣ is played to the Ace in

Dummy

Trick 8: Playing Jack of ♠ from Dummy pinned West's 10 and allowed me to play the trump suit for one loser.

When the ♥ suit divided 3-3, the game rolled home.

When missing K-Q-10 in an important suit, don't give up, just use the described intrafinesse technique.

After reading this article now you are ready to tackle another suit combination that appeared as well in San Francisco.

How would you play the following Heart suit combination for one loser?

Dummy: J 9 8 2

Declarer: A 7 6 3

One combination to hope for is that one defender has KQ stiff but this is relatively rare. One has to consider the bidding. Did one defender show more values? Should your right hand opponent (RHO) showed more values, then play left hand opponent (LHO) for doubleton 10. Start with a low card from your hand and play the 8 from dummy. Next time play J from dummy to pin the 10.

If your LHO showed values, then hope for K 10 or Q 10 on your left. Again play low from your hand, LHO plays K or Q. Next time lead the Jack form dummy and you smother the 10. Again you have played this suit combination for one loser.

Had you encountered a genius defender holding K 10 or Q 10, who plays the 10 when you lead towards dummy, then you probably lose two tricks, as the proper next play is to go to dummy and lead the 9 for a finesse. Unless you are clairvoyant to drop the now singleton honour behind you, by playing the Ace, your best move is to congratulate your opponent and ask him/her to be your partner next time.

I have left my Hearts in San Francisco. How did you fare with your Hearts?



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Westmount Profile: Henry Olders

Leading the WMA into new century

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Who better than Henry Olders to lead the Westmount Municipal Association into its next 100 years.

An outspoken advocate of democracy, community involvement and the need for citizens to be heard, the psychiatrist and computer systems engineer is now in his fourth year at the helm of the citizen watchdog organization as it marks its centennial year.

"I have a history of activism," he says. "I'm considered confrontational."

That's because he's not afraid to point out discrepancies or speak up on things that get under his skin – especially when they impact his personal, professional or community lives.

Topping his list: inefficiency, stupidity, comparisons between apples and oranges, and government workers at all levels who may be motivated by growing their departments.

And it was all of these in combination, he says, that the forced municipal mergers represented – the catalyst that drew him in to becoming an active community volunteer and ultimately assuming the presidency of the WMA, one of Westmount's oldest and most high-profile community associations.

Volunteerism antidote to aging

"Not only is volunteerism good for the community," Olders says, "but it may also be good for your health – even staving off dementia." And that's a tip worth noting from a specialist in geriatric psychiatry.

Olders, who has been on the staff of the Douglas Hospital and the Jewish General, now works at Ste. Anne's Veterans' Hospital helping those who have served their country live with the complexities of aging.

And he's becoming more and more convinced, he says, that the key to staying young lies in being of service to others. One of his favourite speech topics is "Age is just a number: the psychology of staying young."

His own activism took root during the late 1960s as an engineering student at the University of Waterloo, when students

occupied the administration building. "We were supposed to be paying for an education," he explains, "not for an administration larger in size than the number of students and faculty combined – or for campus security to go around smashing the cameras of reporters for the student paper."

Joined anti-merger fight

Fast forward to 1993, when Olders moved from NDG to his home on Lansdowne Ave. "I was quite struck by the fact that my new house was worth twice as much, but the tax bill was almost the same.

"Having moved to Westmount, I knew I was living in a city that was well run and provided good services, so I didn't feel the need to be involved until it was threatened by the forced mergers. Then I started to attend council meetings and joined the anti-merger fight."

In 2002, during the merger phase, Olders was drafted onto the WMA board and into the presidency the next year.

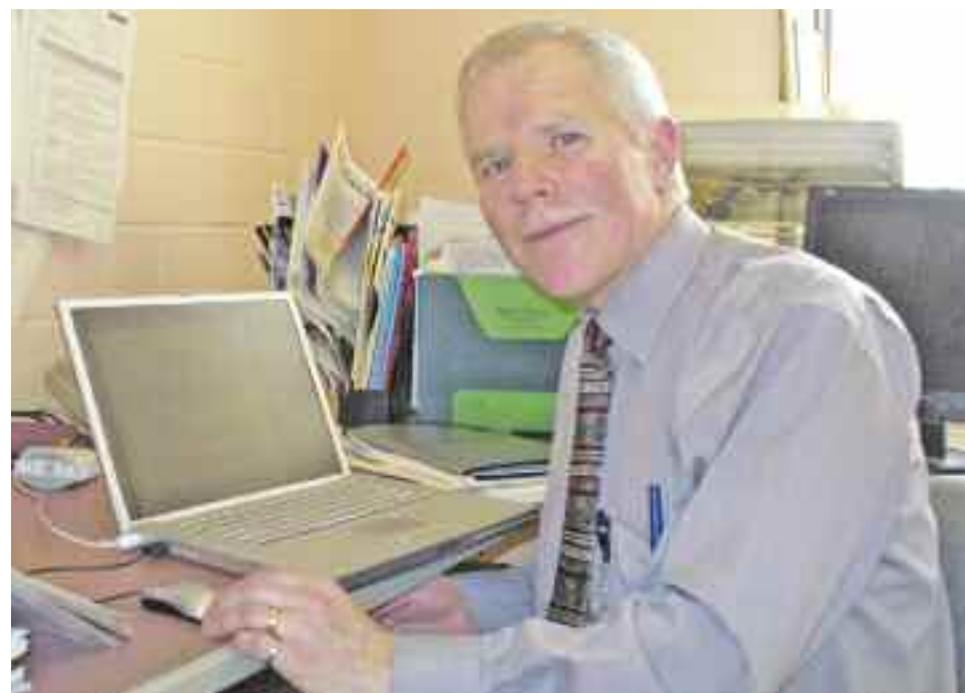
In interfacing with the city council, he says, "I've been after the administration to improve communications."

Over the years, the WMA has trailblazed a number of initiatives that subsequently were taken over by the city such as surveys and welcome packages for new residents. "Imitation is a form of flattery," he adds.

The organization has long been viewed as a training ground for city council candidates. For many years, WMA service was seen as a prerequisite. In fact, current councillors Tom Thompson and Kathleen Duncan first served as WMA presidents. Other council members from the WMA ranks include Sally Aitken, Barbara Moore, the late Jim Wright and former mayor Peter Trent.

"Our role of ensuring good governance means there is less to do when things are going well in the city," Olders says. "But it is important to be eternally vigilant and to adjust our activities to the situation.

"As we saw last year over the artificial turf issue, other community groups – including ad hoc groups with a specific issue – have been successful in having their



Dr. Henry Olders

voices heard, and that's the way a democratically run city should function. I see our role in the WMA as intervening when that doesn't happen."

That being said, Olders has been campaigning for more open debate at the council table. "This is important so that citizens, who may disagree with the view taken by the administration, can be reassured knowing there are councillors standing up for them.

"If that had happened over the artificial turf proposal, it is likely the Save the Park group never would have needed to be so vociferous in making their point. It was a communications issue."

Came from Holland at 7

Born in Tegelen, a small town in Holland named for its tile (*tiglia*) industry, Olders grew up in Toronto from age 7. "I was an engineer from the time I was a kid, taking things apart to see what made them tick and putting them back together."

After graduating in 1970 from Waterloo and then working at a small electronics transformer company, he moved to Quebec to a job in Huntingdon. This led to a stint at CAE Electronics until he made a life-altering decision. "I had always thought of medical school, and decided this was the time to change careers."

Attracted to psychiatry

At McGill, Olders was attracted to psychiatry as a discipline that lacked the "rigid hierarchy and intimidation" that tended to prevail at the time, "though being six or seven years older than other students, I was really immune to that."

And as a computer engineer, he was fascinated with the brain as a collection of

neurons. "I believed we should be able to use this as a model for computers." This has led to his ongoing development of an artificial neural network that he believes has strong implications in several areas, including the diagnosis of sleep apnea.

In 1985, he joined the staff of the Douglas, later becoming director of the Psycho-Geriatric Program – a mini-hospital of some 240 in-patients.

He spent another 10 years at the Jewish General where he developed a records database, for which he continues to provide technical support. In 2005, he moved to Ste. Anne's on staff, but in a consulting role to physicians. "It's a little different to what I'm used to doing," he says.

Grandfather of five

It's a busy life for this grandfather of five. He commutes from Westmount to Ste. Anne's by train, keeps up with his professional reading and sings in the Orpheus Choir with his wife, musician Helen Rainville. He likes to cross-country ski and cycle, though he no longer participates in triathlons.

He also continues the development of his neural network and maintains websites for the choir, the WMA and family members.

Then, of course, there's the WMA itself and the planning for its centennial year, during which Olders hopes more citizens will come out to monthly meetings. "These are good opportunities for Westmounters to learn more about the workings of their government from our guest speakers – and maybe even become actively involved."

After all, who wouldn't want to live longer?

History lectures begin At the Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom

The Westmount Historical Association will be kicking off its 2008 spring lectures series with a lecture about 3219 The Boulevard, also known as Braemar. The house was built in 1847. The lecture takes place on Thursday, February 21 from 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library.

For more information call 514.932.6688.

The second lecture, about 513-4 Côte St. Antoine, takes place on March 20.

395 Elm Ave.
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Torah school

Torah school takes place on Wednesday afternoons from 3:45 to 5 pm. Classes range from Kindergarten to Grade 3. Call to register, or to book a consultation with Rabbi Lerner or Torah school principal Ilana Kuska.

The Torah and social activism

Rabbi Levi Lauer will deliver a lecture, "What certainty to Torah in our Ambiguous Age?", on Wednesday, March 5 at 7 pm.

One of Jerusalem's great teachers of the Torah, Rabbi Levi Lauer, social activist, scholar, founder and executive director of ATZUM, will be at the Temple for one night of interactive Torah learning.

Rabbi Lauer contends that there is uncertainty and ambiguity in sections of the Torah and commentary, especially about God.

He sees this situation as an opening and a call to social activism.

Among the passages to be studied are Exodus 3 and 33, as well as 1 Kings 19.



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