

Don't Miss It

Household Hazardous Waste Collection
Saturday, October 18.

See Comin' Up on p. 16 for details.

INSIDE

Westmount Page p. 13



Art Westmount this weekend.
For details, see comin' Up p. 16



Westmount profile NICOLE FORBES p. 18

Don Wedge speaks to Mark London p. 5

Pet Expert BY LYZANNE & F. BRESLAW p. 14

Can suburban taxpayers sue as a class?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A Westmount homeowner's bid to launch a class action suit against Montreal heads to the Supreme Court November 19 in an effort to recover alleged overcharging of taxes during two merger years.

Jon Breslaw, a resident of Grosvenor Ave., claims that in 2004 and 2005, Montreal billed residential property owners in the 15 now-demerged municipalities more than the 5 percent increases allowed by the Quebec government in legislation creating the megacity.

Road to Supreme Court

Permission to institute the class action has already been rejected by two lower courts: Quebec Superior Court in December 2006 and a year later by the Court of Appeal. But leave to be heard before the Supreme Court was granted to Breslaw as well as to representatives seeking a similar motion against the city of Longueuil.

"It's a good sign," said Doug Mitchell, of the Westmount-based law firm of Irving Mitchell *continued on p. 6*



Pole dancing comes to Westmount

Students practise pole dance routines at DG Entertainment (514.846.8456, www.eroticedance.ca) located on St. Antoine St. in Westmount. Participants include mothers, students and individuals from a variety of professions. They are practising for a show to be held at the Cleopatra Club on St. Lawrence Blvd. November 14. The studio also instructs in burlesque, Latin dance and belly dancing. According to DG Entertainment's Jennifer Nicoll, many of the students prefer these forms of dancing over gym workouts. DG Entertainment also offers bachelorette parties.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

Customer service a priority of 'new' Public Security

One call should do

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

One call is all Westmounters should expect to make when seeking assistance from Public Security as the municipal force focuses on improving customer service.

The one-stop shopping approach was outlined by Director Richard Blondin in addressing last Tuesday's meeting of the Westmount Municipal Association and re-

sponding to citizens' requests for proactive patrolling and more satisfying response from dispatchers.

"Customer service is a priority," he said. "Citizens must be able call one number and not be referred all over the place." It was the role of the dispatcher to connect callers to the appropriate area, or to send a car when required.

Asking those in atten- dance to call him directly at *continued on p. 12*



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Borehole drilling starts, arena parking expands

What secrets lie below?

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

What lies beneath the arena? The remnant of streams, fill from large buildings or a geological mix?

The answer will be revealed in samples to be recovered through the drilling of boreholes starting immanently as part of ongoing studies for the arena renewal project.

"It's important to the design process that we understand the available area to determine what is best to put on the site," said Councillor Patrick Martin as city council approved the \$34,548 quote of Inspec-Sol at its meeting Wednesday last week. The drilling is expected to be completed by the end of the month.

Some of the 12 exploratory boreholes, he said, would be drilled as far down as 23 metres to bedrock.

In other recent updates, city council's review committee will meet this Thursday with architects to discuss progress to date though geotechnical findings may not yet be known, according to Martin.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, former director general Bruce St. Louis and interim Public Works director Marianne Zalzal met Sept. 29 with 40 residents of the former POM building at 4700 St. Catherine St. and neighbours to present details for current and future arena parking.

This includes how the lot at the rear of

the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf will be managed by the city, Lulham said. "I'm very concerned that we monitor this and ensure it doesn't cause problems for residents." Pedestrian lights would be installed at Bethune and St. Catherine, the lot would be reserved for cars with Westmount stickers and one "lane light" would be installed. Peak use would be between 4 and 8 pm so she did not foresee noise becoming much of an issue.

The city has also arranged to use Westmount Park School's parking lot for the arena, Lulham said.

Police carry out pedestrian campaign

A police campaign to create awareness of the dangers of jaywalking continues until October 26 in Westmount and across the island.

Pedestrians are reminded to cross streets only at intersections or crosswalks, and on green lights or pedestrian signals where applicable. Fines for failing to adhere to regulations range from \$15 to \$30 before administration fees.

Drivers must stop before the crosswalk at red lights, and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians while turning on a green light and in crosswalks. Fines range from \$100 to \$200, plus costs, and carry a loss of up to three demerit points.

Broadbent in Westmount



Anne Lagacé Dowson and Ed Broadbent.

Former NDP leader Ed Broadbent was in Westmount October 8 stumping for federal candidate Anne Lagacé Dowson. He was warmly introduced at her Sherbrooke St. headquarters as "a man needing no introduction" and indeed the familiar national figure was well received by NDP supporters.

Before heading to an event at McGill, a relaxed Broadbent chatted with the press, joking he would tell them "everything he knew in seven minutes."

On a more serious note, he talked about the NDP role in the post-election parliament. In opposition to a majority government, he affirmed the NDP would "hammer away" at the party's traditional concerns. In a situation where the NDP

would work with a minority government, he talked about acting responsibly to make parliament work, while expecting to get "some" of its program adopted.

Unsurprisingly, he saw Harper's Conservatives as his party's main ideological opponent, but the Liberals fared little better, despite Dion being a "decent man." According to him, "The Liberals promise like the NDP, but don't follow through." He was especially critical of both parties' blanket espousal of lower corporate taxes, despite his own support for industry-specific reductions.

What was on Lagacé Dowson's mind pre-election? Thoughts of victory: "I think we can win." If not, she said she had no personal plans, "no plan B."

City not liable in fallen-tree death

Quebec Superior Court has dismissed a claim against Westmount involving the death of a motorist on Côte des Neiges Rd. three years ago when a city of Westmount tree fell on the car he was driving during a severe storm.

The suit against the city and the Société d'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) by family members of the victim, Gabriel Anthony Rossy, claimed more than \$1.3 million. Rossy, 27, of the Town of Mount Royal was a graduate of LCC.

The judge, Steve Reimnitz, rejected the motion against Westmount, referring it instead to the SAAQ on the grounds it had involved an automobile accident. The decision was rendered Sept. 29. The claim had been in the hands of the city's insurers.



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Mayor's Column

Latest news on the arena/pool renewal project

BY KARIN MARKS,
MAYOR OF WESTMOUNT



In council's ongoing commitment to provide residents with timely information regarding the arena/pool project, we are introducing this new column to provide updates on the most recent news and developments regarding project planning initiatives. Look for this column in future editions of this paper. This and a whole host of other information regarding the project can also be found on the city's website at www.westmount.org.

- A petition signed by 425 residents in support of 2 full ice rinks and an updated swimming pool in the new facility was presented to council at its September 22 meeting.
- Councillor Cynthia Lulham and former DG Bruce St. Louis met with some 40 residents at 4700 St. Catherine St. to present details as to how the parking lot at the rear of the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf will be managed by the city to accommodate arena parking needs, both current and future.
- Councillor Kathleen Duncan, former DG

Bruce St. Louis, Sports and Recreation director Michael Deegan met with representatives of the Dolphins swim team to discuss their ideas for a new pool facility. While the current program for the new facility contemplates an outdoor pool only, the concerns and suggestions raised will be reviewed by the project steering committee.

- Boreholes will be dug around the site (beginning within the next 10 days) to determine the existing soil conditions, an essential prerequisite during preliminary planning stages of the project.
- The project brainstorming by Lemay's architectural design team is well under way. This is a "work in progress," the preliminary results of which will be presented to the project steering committee in mid-October.

For information on these or related issues, please refer to our website or contact Brigitte Stock at 514.989.5371.



Green bin project

BY EVE ASPINALL
MEMBER OF THE HEALTHY CITY PROJECT

As our landfill sites are rapidly filling up, the recent move by our city to expand the kitchen and garden waste collection is welcome and timely.

As Lauren Sweeney reported last month (*Independent*, September 16, p. 1), the program will be extended to garbage sectors 6, 7, 9, and 10 on the eastern border of the city November 3. The bins will be delivered to residents this month with instructions.

As of September 22, a total of 34 tonnes of green waste was reclaimed from garbage for composting under the first phase of the program (garbage sector 8). This will now be used for farming, greening of land along highways and bagged for consumers. This not only helps defray the costs of collection but returns the nutrients to the land around us.

At the outset of each phase a "compost ambassador" program is initiated. This involves finding two volunteers per street, approximately 75 in all. They attend a short session with discussion of how to handle questions,

where to obtain answers to difficult ones and how to be a help to residents with green-bin queries. They are given official identification and work in pairs. They try to visit as many of the houses on their street as possible. The unanimous responses of a random sampling of the ambassadors from garbage sector 8 were amazing:

"It was a joy!" "I had a blast!" "I got to meet so many nice people." "Everyone was so welcoming."

Of course, not every resident was quite so thrilled initially, but they were truly in the minority. Very often, after talking to the ambassadors, they were converted.

Getting involved

If you like people and would like to contribute to the well-being of our community and the environment by being an ambassador, call Jenny Patton at 514.935.6983, who chairs the Environment Committee of the Healthy City Project.

There are questions that arise frequently, including ones about squirrels

and raccoons who consider the green-bin contents a free meal! Their sense of smell, insatiable curiosity and incredible inventiveness provide a challenge.

But humans still have smarter brains, or so we like to think. Bungee cords are great for tying your green bin to a railing or to tie the lid on tightly - no slack though. The green bin, if placed in a larger carton (with sides about 20-25 cm or 8-10 inches high) weighted down with some bricks will not fall down. If the green bin is on soft ground, four or five strong stakes will prevent it from tipping over.

How creative can you be? Share your solutions with your ambassadors.

Very smelly stuff can be wrapped in newspaper to reduce the odour. ALL kitchen waste must go in the compostable bag that fits inside the green bin. Never put any kind of plastic or twist ties in your green bin. They contaminate the finished compost.

To replace the bags that come with your green bin, replacements are available at Hogg's, Home Depot, Canadian Tire, Pharmaprix, but not at Metro. Bags for doggy-do are available at Maison Verte. Westmount's excellent website is very informative at www.westmount.org. Click on "Environment."

What needs to be emphasized is that the green-bin program does not replace home composting, which is so advantageous to those with gardens and produces wonderfully rich nutrients for our bushes, flowers and vegetables, lawns, and even house plants.

Because our home compost piles cannot generate enough heat to accommodate meat, dairy products, etc., the green bin is an ideal solution.

Unfortunately, shells from oysters, clams and mussels as well as anything that has nylon in it (i.e. dental floss, Bounce sheets) cannot be composted and have to be buried with the garbage in landfill. If anyone wants free compost, it is available at the St. Michel Complex twice a year.

Let us embrace the expansion with vigour to show how successful we can be at reducing the horrendous amount of garbage we are currently sending to landfill.

At a minimum of two tonnes per week per sector, it will have an impact.



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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

View from the Vineyard: Westmount's planning success

BY DON WEDGE



Mark London was one of the creators of modern Westmount. His terms as a member or chair of the Architectural and Planning Commission spanned nearly two decades. During them, he was a leader in the transformation to today's conservation policies.

But since 2002, he has not lived here. He moved to Martha's Vineyard, the dream resort off the Massachusetts coast, just south of Cape Cod, when he became head of its powerful planning agency.

So it was a surprise to notice him intervening in the current debate over Westmount's planning procedures – particularly council's seemingly automatic acceptance of recommendations of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), the architects and others who evaluate building permit applications.

But London was not surprised. He has returned each year for a visit and has "kept an eye on things," he told me.

"I have a bookmark for the *Westmount Independent* on my computer. I'm often in touch with Mayor Karin Marks, too.

"I was talking to her about current events and decided to write recalling background and give a perspective on the general issues."

Loss to Westmount

I had sensed that part of Westmount had been lost when the Londons left. His wife, Linda Thompson, was part of the La Cache team, and well-known, too.

London participated in all sorts of community issues besides those of the Architectural and Planning Commission. His main work had been with the city of Montreal, where he was largely responsible for the redevelopment of the Expo islands and then the opening up the Lachine Canal.

The Londons had had another life,

though. For 23 years, they had spent summer holidays on Martha's Vineyard. When the unique planning position arose, they moved, eventually selling their Prospect St. home in 2005.

In the 1970s, London was among active architects – including Peter Rose and Michael Fish – who called for guidelines and more of a conservation approach.

"There was a pro-development council. Except for a handful of obvious heritage homes, Westmounters were expecting that most of the city was going to be torn down and replaced by shiny new buildings," London remembered.

In 1983, a different council brought respect for the city's heritage and London found himself on the Architectural and Planning Commission.

"The established members said they had no guidelines, but they constantly referred to previous decisions. I documented these references and proved to them that they did have guidelines!"

Guidelines finalized in 2001

Later, the council of 1991, which included Karin Marks, took it further. An architect documented the details of every building, from which the character areas were developed and zoning was changed to reflect them. In 2001, they were published in their current form.

The studies provide the basis of today's decision-making by the PAC, which replaced the Architectural and Planning Commission.

"We are thinking of doing something similar on the Vineyard," London said. "We could use a lot of the work done in Westmount as a model, even though our emphasis is on the natural environment."

Previously final

While the Architectural and Planning Commission's decision was final, the present day PAC recommends to council. In voting against recent permits, councillors Patrick Martin and Kathleen Duncan have

questioned the seemingly automatic approval and council is currently reviewing the process.

London, the old reformer, is not advocating much change.

Seasoned professionals

"Part of the success of Westmount's system is that the city has been lucky enough to get a succession of seasoned professionals to do the lion's share of the work."

Council's role, he feels, is to determine policy.

"Although it is ultimately in charge, I hope it will generally trust the PAC. Once in a while, it might send something back for reconsideration."

However, London is sympathetic to the idea that plans be known publicly before permits are issued. "There should be more input, particularly on larger projects," he said.

"I believe there are legal restraints but I hope they could be overcome."

Citizen activist Don Wedge's email address is calert@web.net.



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Letters to the editor

A SAINT BY ANY OTHER NAME

Congratulations! I think you're doing a splendid job with your newspaper and I look forward to reading it, especially now that it may become a weekly.

I have noticed, however, that you have at least twice referred to École St. Léon (its correct name) as St. Leo's, which has never been its name, but which I think was how it was commonly referred to in Westmount's older unilingual English days. This has been confirmed by my grandchildren, who have been students there for



the last several years. Since I doubt that anglophones appreciate having anglophone institutions referred to by French translations of their names, I think francophone readers would like to see the correct name of the school appear in your paper rather than the anglicized incorrect version that you have used.

ANNE BARKMAN, HALLOWELL

Editor's note: My approach to English usage is for words to track spoken English and appear in accord with the style guide that the *Independent* has adopted (e.g. use of capitals, hyphens, italics, abbreviations etc...).

As such, even proper nouns can appear

differently from their "official" forms. Sometimes the change isn't even the result of migrating between languages.

I dislike the more literal approach of using whatever name a group has officially adopted because it seems to me we start speaking "official-ese" or "brand-ese" or some other language, and not English.

On the international scene, consider Munich and Germany - to name just two examples. These names are quite different in their German forms (München and Deutschland). I am sure all the relevant, official documents in that country cite the German forms of these names. But there is no question in my mind what an English-speaker would say, and so what an English newspaper should use as its standard style.

In my view, English belongs to its speakers and no one else, not even an English version of the *Académie française*. When words or terms appear differently in English than elsewhere (e.g. source languages, official documents), it is not an error or a slight - it's just English.

The other funny thing about English is that because there is no ultimate arbiter of usage - no "English *Académie*" - there can be different, equally correct usages.

Thanks for championing yours in our paper.

ARENA PRESENTS MANY ISSUES

First off, I just want to say I find the *Westmount Independent* a refreshing addition to the Westmount community. I enjoy reading it very much.

However, I am writing in response to the article published in the October 1 edition (p. 1) regarding "Hundreds appeal for new arena".

The first problem is space. It is limited! The plan I saw circulated had the arena being expanded over the parking lot. There are many people who have lived for years in the building on Academy Rd. that sides onto it. There are condominiums and triplexes along St. Catherine St. that face it. Extending the arena over it blocks any view or light for the people on Academy Rd. It completely blocks the view of the people on St. Catherine St.

There is also the question of parking. This already causes quite a bit of inconvenience and frustration. The director of Public Security, Richard Blondin, informed me that "paying \$120 for a parking sticker only gives you the privilege of parking in Westmount, but does not necessarily enable you to park in front of your own home." Does anyone else have to

walk two blocks with groceries because they can't park in front of their own house?

This is beside the fact that many arena users come racing down Academy Rd. from de Maisonneuve, even though it is a one-way going the other way. This is a question of both safety and law.

A few spots leased from the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf on St. Catherine St. are not going to eliminate these problems. They are just going to get worse.

There is also the drinking problem. The guys get together to play hockey, stand outside the arena drinking beer, then get into their cars and drive. There have been many beer bottles left on the lawn next to our building and the armory, some smashed against the bricks. I didn't know the arena had a liquor license.

I am not saying that expanding into the parking lot is the final decision, but it is something that has been tossed into the discussions and needs to be taken into consideration.

The placement of the dog run has been a thorn in many people's sides for many years. The arena could be extended over the dog run area and the dog run moved closer to Lansdowne (with proper fencing) or moved back into the park, where it was for many years.

While it is wonderful to see so many children (and adults) making use of the city's facilities, there has to be some consideration for the other residents of the area.

BELINDA BOWES, ACADEMY RD.

FACT-CHECKING BLACK

Nothing disturbs me more than people who purport to publish facts, but who are extremely biased and actually publishing erroneous material. I am referring to Heather Black's article on Stephen Harper in the *Westmount Independent* (October 7, p. 4).

Actually the food inspection program was crafted under the Liberals as reported by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. You have chosen to report not on facts but on comments, including ones by Bono; numerous so-called independent polls and your own wise comment on the projected budget. It is interesting to note you haven't found one positive thing to say about Harper or one negative thing to say about any of the other leaders of the political parties.

What political party are you working for? If any, your article should have revealed your bias.

DR. MERVYN GORNITSKY, WOOD AVE.

Breslaw off to Supreme Court

continued from p. 1

Kalichman, lead lawyer in the Breslaw case. "Only 10 percent of appeal requests get to the Supreme Court."

The total amount of the alleged overcharging by Montreal is believed to be worth some \$60 million, he said.

Breslaw, the representative plaintiff, is claiming overpayments of \$560 and \$753 for 2004 and 2005. This is the portion of taxes he claims were illegally imposed as a result of Montreal's by-laws for those years and the calculation of exclusions used to determine the 5 percent ceiling.

"Our legal argument is that only the (Quebec) government had the right to identify the exclusions," Mitchell told the *Independent*. The claim is based on interpretation of the law creating the megacity at the end of 2000.

Breslaw, a Concordia economics professor, has appeared at Westmount city council to challenge the overpayment.

He decided to launch the action after working on the demerger campaign and discovering his tax bill was greater than what he understood it should be.

"Much of the opposition to the merging of municipalities centred on the fact that the tax burden on the formerly independent municipalities would increase dramatically as a result of the merger," the submission reads. As a result, Quebec capped at 5 percent the allowable increase these suburbs would be assessed based on their individual property evaluation rolls.

The rejection of the claim by both lower courts, Breslaw said, "was on the basis that a class action was not the appropriate tool for challenging the validity of a municipal by-law."

However, the Supreme Court will be looking at the question of "on a practical basis, how do you take a municipality to court when the financial loss is in the range of \$1,000?" The costs would be too great for an individual to do so, he said.

If successful in his action, Montreal will be required to reimburse Westmount homeowners the amounts owing them, Mitchell explained.

Initial proceedings to launch the class action took place in April 2005.

Editor's mea culpa

I managed to misspell *both* of Viviane Agia's names in her (very kind) October 1 letter to the editor (p. 7). Agia is a very forgiving woman. When I called to apologize, she said, "I still believe your newspaper is good." DP

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City wants our wildlife to stay wild, good luck!

BY MAY CUTLER

I have just received a pamphlet from Westmount telling us to take a hands-off approach to our wildlife.

I once tried.

I live in an apartment now, but for the 26 years that I lived on The Boulevard, wildlife took a hands-on approach to us.

In 1961, shortly after we moved in, I opened the kitchen door to check a noise. A furry creature with white mascaraed eyes stared at me calmly as it munched at a pizza box. I called my four boys to come see. They were delighted.

A folding gate on our fire escape protected our garbage cans from raccoons, but not squirrels. I once thought squirrels were dumb, that God made them perky and cute to make up for it. Why would they bury food and, instead of digging it up, eat every anemone bulb I had planted?

Before we built a wooden coffer to keep our garbage safe as gold, we put tight lids on the pails, too tight for tiny paws. One afternoon I saw two squirrels at work, one seated on the handle on each side, pushing the top off upwards. Since they couldn't see each other, how had they communicated in the cooperative work?

One for a zoologist to ponder.

Bats

Some Westmount wildlife actually succeeded in getting into our house. If you've ever been wakened in the middle of the night by a bat swooping around your face, you know it's as scary as the breath of death.

My husband turned on the light to dial Westmount Public Security, then quickly turned it off. My husband, his dressing gown over his head, stumbled down in the dark to answer the door.

The first thing Public Security did was to turn ON all the lights. They found the bat immobilized on a wall. An easy catch with their net.

"Don't you know," they asked, with controlled tolerance, "that bats are immobilized by light? It's in the dark they fly around."

Now we know.

Lady and the skunk

We didn't need this self-invited animal life. We had a live-in pet of choice. Lady, our yellow lab, was so tugged and hugged, if she'd been a plush toy she'd have been in shreds.

Was that why she got so territorial

about our back yard? I shouted at her when I saw what she was cornering. Useless. Incidentally, the recommended tomato juice bath to remove skunk perfume doesn't work as perfectly as claimed.

Lady and the tramp

Westmount has more dogs than there are breeds, so it should not surprise that it once had a wild one. He was huge and black, a sex predator no one had ever colared.

My husband and I thought we'd let Lady have pups. The vet advised we wait until she got a little older, so at the first sign of puberty, we were careful to keep her on a tight leash.

Outside, this big black dog appeared as if mapped in by satellite. We called the Westmount dog catcher. He came. He knew the dog well, he said, "But I can't catch him. He's too smart." (No wonder Westmount discontinued the service. What's a dog catcher for, if not to catch dogs that can't be caught?)

I warned my son Mickey to be very careful NOT to let Lady out. When, in the time it takes for such matters, Lady gave birth to four black puppies, I gave him hell.

"I told you not to let Lady out."

He protested, "But I didn't let Lady out."

"Don't lie. You must have!" I said.

"I didn't," he insisted, then sheepishly added, "I let the black dog in."

One of the puppies we gave to a friend in Massachusetts. He lived to be 19 and was well known as the smartest dog about town.

Lesson to be learned: never underestimate the curiosity of children or animals.

May Cutler is a former mayor of Westmont.

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Email them at medium to high resolution (one per email) to indie@westmountindependent.com. As a guideline, photo should be emailed as 5 by 7 inch JPG at 200 pixels per inch. You can also drop off photos at the office.

There's a new DG in town



At his first council meeting October 8 as Westmount's director general, Duncan Campbell (centre) shares an entertaining moment with Lucille Angers of the city clerk's office. At left is city clerk Mario Gerbeau, director of legal services.

Sports & Rec honours sportsmanship

At Westmount Sports and Recreation's Semi-Annual Awards Night for Spring/Summer 2008 held on October 6, the following awards were presented for sportsmanship:

Novice baseball: Julian Ludwick, Charles Stewart, Jonah Roy, Shayne Tessler. **Mosquito baseball:** Danny Chen, Victoria Houle, Julian Ritchie, Gabriel Mashaal. **Inter-City baseball:** Devin Kreuzer (Mosquito), Ryan Dimentberg (Pee Wee), Jacob Dubrovsky (Bantam).

Girls Novice soccer: Charlotte Bernier, Abigail Shine, Chloe Maas, Emily Sarid, Hannah Sophia Blauer, Maia Cullen, Sandra Dick, Lauren Esquilant. **Girls Atom soccer:** Hanna Johnston, Harriet Cowell, Madeleine Pothier, Sophia Harman-Heath, Margaux Gilmour, Martina Erdstein. **Girls Pee Wee soccer:** Alexa Weiser, Tai Mackenzie, Chloe Mackenzie-Lee, Devan Kelly-Menard, Jessica Chetrit, Sophie Bell. **Girls Bantam soccer:** Marine Leblanc, Yasmine Goudjil, Gabrielle Samek, Nadia Johnston.

Boys Bantam soccer: Rami Rahle, Yasmine Benjelloun, Nicholas Millot, Thomas Marchesi. **Boys Pee wee soccer:** Stephen Roumeliotis, Djamel Boumenna, Francis Ellis, Patrick Richards. **Boys Atom soccer:** Christopher Jones, Bronte Viens, Becket Osterland, Kai Rosentzweig, Gabriel Dannenbaum, Benjamin Lazare, Julian Moford, Spencer Meltzer. **Boys Novice soccer:** Evan Egger, Cristian Andrei, Samuel Petit, Tarek Boumenna, Tom Price, Samir

Gouin, Ryan Keith, Kaan Gezen, Jeffrey Smith, Sebastien Zelaya.

Next week: winning teams.

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Westmount Art Scene

Photographer Gabor Szilasi and painter France Jodoin

BY HEATHER BLACK

This month, the Visual Arts Centre is featuring 20 photos of family life taken by Westmount photographer Gabor Szilasi. Enigmatic lighting is the dominant feature of Szilasi's artistry. But the same can be said of France Jodoin's atmospheric seascape paintings at Collins Lefebvre Stoneberger.



Gabor Szilasi stands behind one of his photographs at the vernissage and book launch for *FAMILLE* at the McClure Gallery on October 9. The exhibition runs until November 1.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith.

Szilasi at the McClure

The Gabor Szilasi exhibition is in honour of his 80th year. Celebrated for his portraiture and documentary photos, the theme of the McClure Gallery exhibit is "Famille." With over 20 black and white photographs – not previously exhibited or published – Szilasi captures the intimacy of family life with wife Doreen Lindsay and daughter Andrea as fleeting sensa-

tions within balanced compositions of light and dark.

In "Mont Saint Hilaré" the photographer appears in the right-hand corner; in the background, wife Doreen melds with nature's leaves. Andrea as teen is central, luminous and clearly the focal point. A photo, taken in 1976, of a younger Andrea – her eye obscured by her hand – is particularly contemplative. Another – a playful pose of mother and child framed against a brass bedstead – is almost angelic. A storyteller at heart, Szilasi works his magic from his home darkroom to create images of family that all can enjoy.

A publication of 37 photographs also entitled "Famille" with text by gallery director Victoria LeBlanc, art historian Hedwidge Asselin, and daughter Andrea accompanies the exhibit. An important talent, Szilasi's images of Quebec in the 70s – individuals or rural kitchen settings and country stores – influenced many young photographers. A round-table discussion with his family will be held on Thursday, October 23 at 7 pm, at the Visual Arts Centre, 350 Victoria (514.488.9558).

Jodoin at Collins Lefebvre Stoneberger

France Jodoin's abstract landscapes capture the wild, emotive sea off Newfoundland's rugged shoreline. In "A Story of Race, Passion and Glory", two ships course through apocalyptic sweeps of paint recreating sea and surf. A painterly alchemy – of aquamarine blues, seaweed ochres – defines a shoreline set against a crimson sky

Like the sea, Jodoin's art is wet and fluid. Stimulated by imagery, music and poetry, the Quebec artist paints intuitively, often starting with colour. In "Earthliness under clawed toes" a black-winged, fish hawk lands as waves crash against black rocks. Dramatic in the use of light and dark, the osprey – like the North Atlantic – is menacing yet mythic. Transporting the viewer to her cottage in rugged Torres Cove, the sea's destructive, yet creative,



France Jodoin "Shores Are Empires"

force is captured.

In "Shores are Empires", a monumental oil on canvas influenced by Turner, salt-like washes define a sea of conquest. Painted in gun-metal green, it recalls Toynebee's comment: "Civilization is a movement and not a condition, a voyage and not a harbour." The result is an ephemeral seascape, calm but powerful. The vernissage will be held on Thursday, October 16 – the artist will be present – at Collins Lefebvre Stoneberger, 4928 Sherbrooke (514.481.2111).

The art of dark and light

Chiaroscuro – the balance of light and dark – sets the composition in both photography and painting. But the images of Gabor Szilasi and France Jodoin appeal, as light and dark continue to challenge and define the other. Balanced at times delicately, at others boldly, light and dark create atmosphere and beauty, forging our interest and imagination.

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Hockey greets for a cause

Westmounter Dr. Jacques How is getting some extra help this year for the annual gala of the MUHC's Adult Endocrinology and Metabolism division. Special guests include Red Fisher of *The Gazette* and Habs alumni Yvan Cournoyer, Réjean Houle, Dickie Moore and Henri Richard. Dr. How is the chair of the group's Fundraising Executive Committee.

Endocrinology deals with glands that secrete hormones such as insulin, adrenaline and cortisol. As such, the most im-

portant disease that the group studies is diabetes, which is caused by problems in the production or operation of insulin.

Donations help make purchases that the government can't pay for, such as the recent acquisition of a retinal camera, which scans the eyes of diabetics for complications that can lead to blindness.

The fourth annual edition of the dinner and dancing event takes place on October 29 at 6:30 pm at Le Crystal Hotel (1100 Mountain St.). For information, contact Diane Dalterio (514.934.8362, diane.dalterio@muhc.mcgill.ca).



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More new Westmount teachers

ST. GEORGE'S

Lindsay Gallimore



Joining St. George's staff this year as French and geography teacher for the high school students is Lindsay Gallimore who arrives from British Columbia. She graduated from UBC with a BEd and recently worked at a school in Surrey, BC. She says she is looking forward to working with smaller class sizes and incorporating technology into her lessons.

Mike MacDonald



Teaching grade 3 French and grade 4 math at St. George's, Mike Macdonald has a passion for teaching as well as traveling. This summer he took the train across North America. He has spent eight years in Montreal and considers the city his home. He graduated with a BPh and a BEd from McGill.

Aidan De Jean



A familiar face at St. George's, Aidan De Jean returns to the school as grade 4 English teacher, after completing the Shoulder to Shoulder stage program at the beginning of 2007-8 school year. He grew up in Montreal West and completed a BA and BEd at Concordia and McGill respectively.

Catalina Diaz Puig



Catalina Diaz Puig is teaching math to high school students at St. George's. She attended the University of Malaga in Spain where she worked towards her Bachelor of Technical Engineering and Master's equivalent in Computer Engineering. In Ontario, she completed an MSc in Electrical Engineering, a BEd and French as a second language. Far from her family in Spain, she says she is fond of Canada and looks forward to discovering Montreal.

ECS

Audrey Bélanger

Audrey Bélanger teaches Canadian history and international studies to grade 10 students at ECS, and world history and economics to grade 11 students. She has taught at Selwyn House and Royal West Academy prior to ECS. She says she likes to organize community service projects with students and will be involved in a Model United Nations project this year.

Sarah Neef

Nine years into the teaching profession, Sarah Neef is a physical education teacher to grades 9, 10 and 11. She also taught English in conjunction with physical education for four years. As the head of athletics, Neef oversees and helps organize all extra-curricular sports and also coaches ECS's juvenile volleyball team.

SELWYN HOUSE

Lauren Walsh



New to both Westmount and to Selwyn House this year, Lauren Walsh teaches English and math to grades 1 and 2. She completed the four-year Bachelor of Education program at McGill, concentrating on Kindergarten and Elementary school. She moved close to the school this summer "and has officially become a member of the community! I absolutely love the area; jogging around the parks and side streets and walking on Greene."

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WESTMOUNT

**LANSDOWNE AVE.**

Between 2 parks! Bargain priced stucco century old cottage, above Sherbrooke, open plan main floor with fireplace, second level has 2 bedrooms & open den, unfinished basement, deep garden. Ideal for renovator. Price upon request.

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Security director wants feedback

continued from p. 1

514.989.5307 if their concerns were not addressed, he said, "It's very important for me to hear what citizens want. I want to correct situations and be more proactive."

In a detailed presentation at the Westmount Public Library, Blondin outlined how the Public Security Unit was being renewed in the wake of many retirements and explained its role in enforcing municipal by-laws and crime prevention.

He also cited examples of some of last year's 60,000 calls for information and assistance, including more than 5,000 to which officers responded, some in conjunction with police or firefighters.

Re-building the force

In re-building the 28-year-old force over the last year, following retirements of almost half the personnel and a turnover of temporary staff, he said a training officer had been hired and out-of-the-box measures introduced to create the "new" Public Security. One of the challenges was replacing veteran dispatchers.

Numerous questions followed as citizens asked for increased enforcement of idling and garbage by-laws, a crackdown on no-stopping and safety violations around schools as well as on double parking outside Alexis Nihon Plaza. They also asked for patrollers to have a better knowledge of Westmount by-laws.

"Why can't they be more proactive, get out of their cars when they see garbage put out the day before, ring the doorbell and speak to the residents?" asked one citizen. She emphasized the need to explain by-laws to residents, rather than necessarily issue tickets.

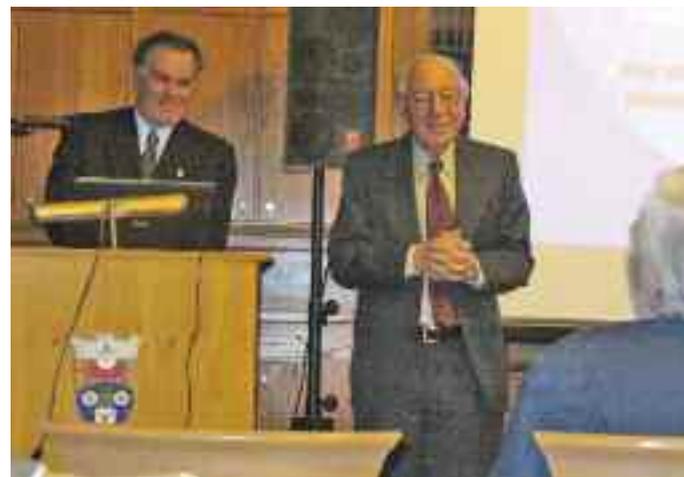
Lacking key powers

Issues were also raised concerning cyclists, jaywalkers and traffic violations. Blondin explained how all moving violations – including those by pedestrians and cyclists – are the jurisdiction of police. Public safety officers lacked powers to intercede in infractions of Quebec's Highway Safety Code. They are also unarmed.

While Westmount's PSOs are the only ones in Quebec to be designated enforcers of the province's tobacco law, he said, under most provincial laws, their powers are no different from those of any citizen.

As municipal employees, they are able to enforce by-laws including parking, but lack the legal power to oblige a person to identify himself.

"Can you change that?" asked former



Director Richard Blondin (left) with WMA director Stanley Baker.

city councillor Sally Aitken, raising the longtime issue of increased Public Security powers. That's an area for the politicians, Blondin said.

This is because police powers are governed by the province, which has been reluctant to extend them to security forces, including municipal ones.

Councillor Tom Thompson, who was in the audience, later told the *Independent* that "These issues are not new." In Westmount, he said, "we have had excellent cooperation with police and complement their work. We want to find a way to expand this so that Public Security, in certain circumstances such as jaywalking and cycling, might have increased powers. This can be very complementary because police can't be everywhere."

Blondin, who took over the reins of the 40-plus member department in 2006 on the retirement of Richard McEnroe, explained the roles of its public safety officers, parking inspectors, dispatchers and parking permits clerks. He told how he had increased the number of patrol cars to five or six during the day, four or five in the evening and two to three overnight.

In addition to the bright yellow patrol vehicles, officers also use unmarked cars and carry out foot patrols in parks and commercial districts. They provide nighttime and security checks, special passing attention at unattended homes, lectures, and many programs related to safety or "making a difference" in the community.

These include the upcoming Halloween patrols and the Haunted House event as well as the holiday food drive, Remembrance Day ceremony, Valentine's Day with the elderly and Family Day.



Westmount vous informe...

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TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Collecte des résidus domestiques dangereux

La prochaine collecte des résidus domestiques dangereux à Westmount se tiendra le samedi 18 octobre. Disposez en toute sécurité de vos restes de peinture et de solvants, des piles usagées, des pesticides et autres en les déposant dans le stationnement de la Bibliothèque de Westmount entre 9 h et 17 h. Une collecte de vêtements usagés et de vieux équipements électroniques sera également effectuée à cette occasion. Info : 514 989-5390. ♻️



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Art Westmount 2008

Les samedi 18 octobre et dimanche 19 octobre
Art Westmount propose une visite à pied de studios et d'expositions présentées dans notre communauté. Participez à cette occasion exceptionnelle pour les artistes de partager avec le public leur art et leur vision dans le cadre d'une activité décontractée. Info : 514 989-5265.

Atelier sur l'énoncé de vision pour un Westmount durable

Le deuxième atelier sur l'énoncé de vision pour le développement durable de la Ville aura lieu le jeudi 16 octobre à 19 h au Victoria Hall.
Info : developpementdurable.westmount.org.

Événement La vie en vert

Le projet Ville en santé vous invite à venir échanger des idées dans le cadre du salon pour un mode de vie soutenable le samedi 25 octobre au Victoria Hall. Participez à des activités, partagez vos idées vertes, faites le don d'un vélo pour une bonne cause, cassez la croûte en santé et visitez une exposition d'œuvres d'art faites à partir de matières recyclées et bien plus encore..

De 10 h à 13 h - Collecte de vélos

De 10 h à 16 h - Échange d'idées et salon

De 10 h à 17 h - Exposition

Info : 514 486-7686

Concert : Théâtre de musique ancienne

Le 27 octobre 2008 à 19 h 30

Le Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée et la Ville de Westmount présentent *Lie Down Poor*

DATES À RETENIR

le 16 octobre – 19 h

Atelier sur l'énoncé de vision pour un Westmount durable
Victoria Hall

les 18 et 19 octobre

Art Westmount 2008
Partout à Westmount

le 21 octobre - 19 h

Un patrimoine à conserver
Portes et fenêtres
Hôtel de ville

le 27 octobre – 20 h

Séance du conseil
Hôtel de ville

le 31 octobre - 17 h à 20 h

Maison hantée
Boulingrin

Heart: Elizabethan Lute Songs, un concert offert par le *Theatre of Early Music* mettant en vedette Daniel Taylor, Sylvain Bergeron, Matthew Wadsworth et Susie Napper le lundi 27 octobre à 19 h 30 au Victoria Hall. Les billets, au coût de 15 \$ (10 \$ étudiants/3^e âge) sont disponibles à partir du 15 octobre au Victoria Hall. Info : 514 989-5226. ♻️



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Gala et concours de la citrouille de l'Halloween

Vous êtes invités à notre gala de l'Halloween lorsque vous vous inscrivez au concours de décoration de citrouilles. Décorez une citrouille chez vous (pas de perforations s.v.p. et apportez-la à la bibliothèque entre le 17 et 24 octobre. Demandez votre invitation gratuite et n'oubliez pas votre costume!

Semaine des bibliothèques publiques du 18 au 25 octobre 2008

Les bibliothèques publiques du Québec célèbrent la 10^{ème} Semaine des bibliothèques publiques. Joignez-vous à nous pour des événements spéciaux! Info : 514 989-5386. ♻️



PUBLIC WORKS

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, October 18 is Household Hazardous Waste Collection day in Westmount. Safely dispose of your leftover paints, solvents, used batteries, pesticides, old and broken computer equipment, etc. in the parking lot of Westmount Library between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Used clothing and electronic items will be collected the same day. Info: 514 989-5390. ♻️



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Art Westmount 2008

Saturday, October 18 & Sunday, October 19
Art Westmount is a walking tour of open studios and exhibitions throughout the community. Take part in this rare opportunity for artists to share their art and insights with the public through a relaxed and truly enjoyable weekend event. Info: 514 989-5265.

Visioning Workshop on a Sustainable Westmount

The second visioning workshop on a sustainable Westmount will take place at Victoria Hall on Thursday, October 16 at 7 p.m.
Info: sustainabledevelopment.westmount.org.

Live Smart Live Green Event

The Healthy City Project invites you to an ideas exchange on sustainability and green living on Saturday, October 25 at Victoria Hall. See displays and an exhibition of recycled art, participate in activities, give us your green ideas, donate a bicycle to a good cause, have a healthy lunch and much, much more.

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Bicycle collection

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Ideas exchange and fair

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Exhibition

Info: 514 486-7686

Concert: Theatre of Early Music October 27 – 7:30 p.m.

The *Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée* and the City of Westmount present *Lie Down Poor Heart: Elizabethan Lute Songs*, a concert by the Theatre of Early Music with Daniel Taylor, Sylvain Bergeron, Matthew Wadsworth and Susie Napper on Monday, October 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Victoria Hall. Admission is \$15 (\$10 students/seniors) and tickets

DATEBOOK

October 16 – 7 p.m.

Visioning Workshop on a Sustainable Westmount
Victoria Hall

October 18 and 19

Art Westmount 2008
Throughout Westmount

October 21 - 7 p.m.

A Heritage to Build on
Windows and Doors
City Hall

October 27 – 8 p.m.

Council Meeting
City Hall

October 31 – 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Haunted House
Lawn Bowling

will be available at Victoria Hall from October 15.
Info: 514 989-5226. ♻️



LIBRARY

Halloween Pumpkin Contest and Gala

Celebrate Halloween by decorating a pumpkin at home (no carved pumpkins please) and bringing it to the library between October 17 to October 24. You are then invited to our frightfully fun Halloween Gala when you enter your pumpkin in our annual Halloween contest. Don't forget to wear your costume! Pick up an entry form with our contest rules at the library.

Public Library Week

October 18 to October 25

Public Libraries in Quebec are celebrating the 10th *Semaine des bibliothèques publiques*. Be sure to visit us and enjoy the displays and special activities!
Info: 514 989-5386. ♻️

Si-Won then and now



Si-Won at the World Scout Conference in July flanked by Canadians Iain Tait and Kevin Li.

Westmounters who remember the story of Si-Won may be heartened to discover what she has achieved in 17 years of perseverance and hard work.

Losing both legs at age 2 when a car slammed into her backyard in Korea, Si-Won and her mother were brought to the Shriners' Hospital in Montreal through the fundraising efforts of Canadian Scouts attending the 1991 Scout jamboree in her country at the time of the accident. They raised \$20,000 for the family during the event.

Fitted with prostheses and taught how

to walk at the Shriners', Si-Won is now a university student who attended the World Scout Conference in Korea in July to thank Scouting – and Canadians in particular – for helping make her recovery possible.

During her stay at the Shriners' over several years of treatment, Si-Won became a member of the Beaver Colony in the hospital's Scouting group, part of the Westmount Scouting district.

"Seeing her walk so confidently was a very emotional experience," says former Westmount district commissioner Maggie Shaddick who met her again at the world conference.

Shaddick founded the hospital's Scouting group and obtained special permission for it to become part of the Westmount district council.

Underdog

BY FERN BRESLAW



A rescuee from one of the recent raids.

When most people want to adopt a dog, the prettier, healthier and more fun it is, the better. That's why the idea of featuring one dog today is ridiculous when there is a sad abundance of newly rescued underdogs all living in teeny tiny cages at the SPCA who desperately need foster homes.

Fostering is the single best way to help give these dogs a good life in the future. They all need people who can fatten them up, calm them down and over a few weeks help teach them that not all people are a cause of pain and suffering. It is a huge gift to turn a broken-down animal into one who strangers stop to compliment and who will eventually wind up trying to hog your bed.

Fostering can start at a couple of weeks, vet bills are covered and there are over 300 dogs to choose from.

Everyone fostering will receive unlimited karmic remuneration from the SPCA and probably a big slobbering kiss.

Call or visit the SPCA at 514.735.2711 if you would like to help.



Pet Expert: What is Humane Society International?

BY LYZANNE & FERN BRESLAW



Rebecca Aldworth

what your goals are here in Quebec.

Rebecca Aldworth, HSI/Canada: with more than 10 million members and constituents in North America alone, Humane Society International (HSI) is one of the world's largest and most effective animal protection groups. We work through advocacy, legislation, litigation, education, field work and investigations to improve the lives of all animals. Two years ago, HSI/Canada was established in Montreal, and we are already achieving great things – today, we have successful programs to protect companion, wild and farm animals

from the worst kinds of cruelty.

Last week, as we pulled the last terrified dog from the second puppy mill we had raided in less than a week, I have never been so proud to work for HSI. In total, our emergency services team removed more than 300 abused dogs from two Quebec puppy mills, bringing them to the safety of an emergency shelter we set up with the Montreal SPCA. Some of these dogs were too afraid to even walk on solid ground, and we literally had to carry them off our trucks.

The Humane Society of the United States, our American affiliate, has worked successfully for decades to eradicate puppy mills across North America. Now, HSI has set our sights on the Quebec puppy mill industry. Our message is simple: if you operate a puppy mill, we are coming for you – and your days of profiting from the misery of animals are coming to an end.

But we cannot do it without the support of the public. As a community we have the responsibility to stand up and say no to puppy mills. Together, we can stop puppy mills for good – please visit www.hsi-canada.ca to find out more.

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VivaVoce celebrates 10 years

BY KRISTIN MCNEILL

VivaVoce, a mixed vocal ensemble of professional singers, is celebrating its 10th anniversary during its upcoming musical season.

Victoria Ave. resident Peter Schubert is the artistic director of the organization and the conductor of the choir, which performs a varied repertoire of pieces ranging from 19th century romantic music to early aboriginal melody to, in Schubert's words, "out-there modern music."

Schubert and his wife Lori Henig Schubert moved to Montreal from New York City in 1990 and to Westmount in 1996

with their young son. VivaVoce was born in 1998, inspired by a desire to do something different. "I had been conducting amateur choirs since about 1970, and I got to my mid-life crisis, and thought I could have a mistress, a Maserati or a professional chorus. So I thought it's time to do this," he recalled.

Based on his experience doing commented concerts in New York City – which involves explaining to the audience what they are about to hear, by singling out a specific part, for example the bass – Schubert integrated this practice into VivaVoce to try it out with Montreal audiences. "Since I am a musicologist and music the-

orist, I like to talk about music. People nowadays like to hear about...what they are going to hear; they want to know something about it."

He says some people aren't hot on commentary, but most welcome learning more about classical music. "A lot of people would like to like classical music, but don't really know how, and what Peter does is make it fun," said Lori Henig Schubert, a member in the choir. "He has humorous and surprising ways of illustrating things, and making sense out of the classical music. People really respond to it, whether they are beginners...or people really knowledgeable about music."

Schubert is a music theory professor at McGill University, and aside from directing VivaVoce, he is also artistic director and conductor of the amateur choir, The Orpheus Singers.

What lies ahead for VivaVoce? More CDs and a Canadian tour are planned for 2010.

The 2008-2009 series includes four concerts, starting with Palestrina's "The Saviour of Music" on November 15 at Red-



Peter Schubert of VivaVoce.

path Hall. A special event to mark the 10th anniversary is a Bach concert in April 2009. A 10 percent discount applies to a season subscription before October 16. For info: www.vivavoce-montreal.com or email vivavoce@videotron.ca.

Westmount

Un patrimoine à conserver

A Heritage to Build on

Vous êtes invités à assister à la première de trois soirées causeries portant sur le patrimoine architectural de Westmount. Vous pourrez en apprendre davantage sur l'histoire de la collectivité et sur la façon dont son aménagement unique constitue le fondement des directives « Rénover et construire » de la Ville.

Le mardi 21 octobre Portes et fenêtres

À partir d'interventions réussies, John Diodati, architecte avec Fournier Gersovitz Moss & associés, présentera la meilleure façon de déterminer votre choix en matière de portes et fenêtres.

Toutes les causeries auront lieu dans la salle du conseil de l'hôtel de ville de Westmount (4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest) à 19 h. Les billets sont 5 \$ par session.

Le nombre de places étant limité, achetez vos billets dès aujourd'hui à l'hôtel de ville ou à la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount.
Info : 514 989-5200 ou 514 989-5299.

Please join us for the first in a series of three evening talks on the architectural heritage of Westmount. Learn more about the history of our community and how its unique development forms the basis of the city's Guidelines for Renovating and Building.

Tuesday, October 21 Researching your house

John Diodati, architect with Fournier Gersovitz Moss & associés, looks at how to evaluate windows and doors, using case studies of successful interventions.

All sessions will take place in the Council Chamber of Westmount City Hall (4333 Sherbrooke Street W.) at 7 p.m.
Admission is 5\$ per session.

Space is limited, so buy your tickets today at City Hall or Westmount Public Library.
Info: 514 989-5200 or 514 989-5299.

Neighbour-neighbours



From left: David Price and Paul Grenier at the offices of Grenier + Richards.

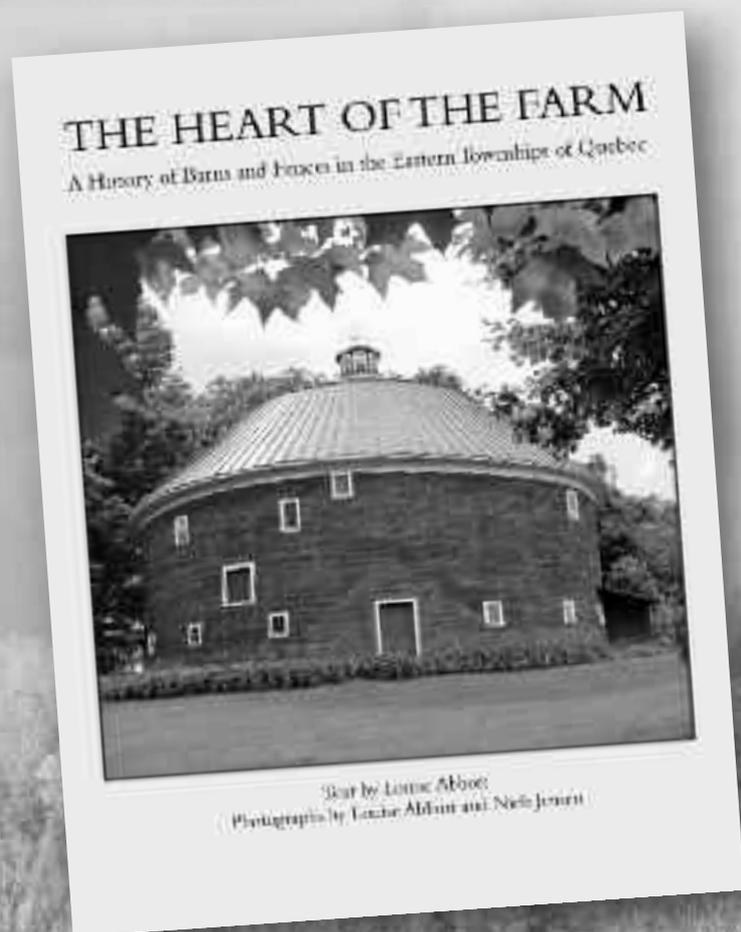
Westmounters Paul Grenier and David Price recently became residential neighbours on Prince Albert Ave. A few months later, Price noticed Grenier at his Victoria Ave office building.

It turns out that both men also have their offices at 310 Victoria – a "reasonable

commute," as one of them noted.

The architectural firm of Grenier + Richards has been in business for 13 years and on Victoria for five. Price, publisher of the *Independent*, has had his office on Victoria since mid-2004.

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Comin' Up...

Thursday, Oct. 16: Westmount's second sustainable development visioning session at Victoria Hall at 7 pm.

Saturday, Oct. 18: Safely dispose of leftover paints, batteries, pesticides and electronics, etc. at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection in the parking lot of Westmount Library between 9 am and 5 pm.

Saturday, Oct. 18: the St. Matthias' Church Annual Fall Rummage Sale, from 10 am to 1 pm in the Lower Hall (131 Côte St. Antoine Rd., corner Metcalfe). Great fall and winter clothing plus lots more. For more information, call 514.933.4295.

Saturday, Oct. 18, 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday Oct. 19, 11 am to 5 pm: Art Westmount 2008, throughout Westmount, starting point: Victoria Hall and the Gallery.

Wednesday, Oct. 22 (until October 25): "L'or du bleu": works made from or about recycled materials. Gallery at Victoria Hall. Info: 514.989.5226.

Thursday Oct. 23: ART NOW at the Westmount Library at 7 pm. Speakers: painter Susan Pepler and photographer Jackie Cytrynbaum. Info: Heather Black 514.989.9091. All are welcome. ● Marianopolis will host the launch of Monique Polak's *What World Is Left* from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Auditorium (4873 Westmount

Ave.) Refreshments and a book signing will follow in Library. Free and open to the public.

Saturday, Oct. 25: Westmount's first used bicycle collection, Victoria Hall, from 10 am until 1 pm. Organized by Cyclo Nord-Sud with the Healthy City Project. Info: Richard Aylett 514.486.7686. ● Live Smart, Live Green – the Healthy City Project's daylong Victoria Hall event featuring community information and an ideas-exchange on sustainable living and ways to make life greener. 10 am to 4 pm. Info: Barbara Moore, Community Life 514.937.0721; Richard Aylett, Environment 514.486.7686.

Sat., & Sun., Oct. 25 & 26: Cat and Kitten Adoption Day and bake sale in support of Rescue Moustache from 11 am to 4:30 pm at Naturalanimal & Pawtisserie (4932B Sherbrooke St.) Rescue Moustache is committed to animal rescue, spaying and neutering and is completely funded through volunteer efforts.

Wednesday, Oct. 29: "Talking to the Deceased" based on article by Rabbi Simcha Paul Raphael "Grief and Bereavement" at Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom. Dinner: 5:45-6:15 pm, Study, 6:15 pm. Reserve and info: 514.937.3575.

Succot begins



Temple Emanu-El-Beth's succah

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom put up its succah on October 10 to get ready for the Succot thanksgiving holiday, which began on the evening of October 13 and culminates with Simchat Torah on Wednesday, October 22.

Some succahs are decorated and some are left bare.

The tops of succahs are covered with greenery in order to leave them open to the sky. It is customary to eat all of one's meals there during the holiday.

THEY ARE REAL ESTATE, WE ARE WESTMOUNT AND WE THANK THEM

As another Thanksgiving passes and the fall real estate season continues into October and November, the *Independent* would like to take this opportunity to thank its clients in the real estate field.

Real estate advertisers are a major source of advertising revenue for local, free-distribution newspapers. If you love community journalism and you come into contact with one of these advertisers (or others), please take the time to thank them.

Before you hire any agent, make sure that there is a good fit in every way between you and them. What we can say about these agents is that we enjoy working with them and that they support Westmount's only Westmount-owned newspaper. They are a part of the Westmount community and they help make Westmount's community newspaper possible.

To all of them, from all of us here at the *Independent*: thank you.

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WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Westmount Profile: Nicole Forbes

Selling multi causes

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Nicole Forbes began a career of spearheading community, volunteer and political causes as an Expo 67 hostess for the Italian pavilion. And she's been selling ever since.

Whether it's been chairing the Quebec Liberals' fundraising campaign in 1987, working as development officer for the Orchestre Métropolitain through the '90s, or managing Westmount's demerger office, her work inevitably involves drumming up support for a cause.

"I've always been a salesperson," she says. Even now as District 6 city councillor, she's busy promoting the Art Westmount open studio weekend this Saturday and Sunday, October 11 and 12.

And not only did Forbes initiate the city event two years ago so Westmount artists could exhibit their work to the public at large, but she is even opening her own home as an exhibition site for two participants whose studios are located outside Westmount.

"It's a lot of work," she explains. But it exemplifies some of her many volunteer and professional initiatives over the years.

Among them are helping launch Block Parents in Westmount, co-founding the Enfants des Neiges pre-school on Côte St. Luc Rd., working for the federal side in the referendum and at former Westmount MNA Richard French's riding office, representing him at events he was unable to attend.

Grassroots politics

"I've always done grassroots politics," she says, though she views her own role on city council as promoting the community rather than being a politician.

While it has been more than 40 years since Nicole Forbes greeted Expo 67 visitors, that experience speaks volumes about the way she was already shaping her independence. "I may have had a privileged background, but I always did my own thing," she explains.

As the grand-daughter of Paul Bienvenue, Expo's first commissioner general,

she reckons she could have worked at many of the plum positions offered. But, "No way!" she says. "I'm my own person. I was going to find my own job!" Having studied in Florence the previous year and learned Italian, she became one of the few hostesses at any of the foreign pavilions who did not come from the country involved.

"Our uniform was so chic, so Italian. We had little butterflies at the back of the shoes. It was the best time imaginable. We met people from all over the world." Forbes also became involved in the organizing committee for all hostesses.

A few years earlier, after earning a baccalaureate, she had declined another of her grandfather's offers: to become a debutante. Despite being "a party girl," she says, she wanted to study in Italy. This stemmed from his many business trips to Italy to purchase pasta-making equipment for Catelli-Habitant, the family-owned business. Even now, her home reflects the sunny Mediterranean yellows and golds and has a distinctive Sicilian flavour. "I was Italian in another life," she explains.

Strong and protective

Born in Montreal, eldest of five siblings, Forbes grew up in a bilingual home. "I was very motherly and learned to be strong and protective. We're all athletic – we used to ski, jumping over all the rocks."

She entered St. Paul's Academy in grade 3 when the family moved to Westmount from Hampstead and back to family roots. "My great-grandfather, Tancredi Bienvenue, had built a Findlay house at the southwest corner of Montrose and Mount Pleasant.

"We lived at 318 Kensington, in what is now the Wrights' home. There was a vacant lot next door where we used to climb over the fence to play. And I remember how wonderful it was when the arena was first built, before it was enclosed. We girls used to stand around the outside waiting for our heartthrobs to invite us to skate with them."

Her memories also include wonderful weekends at the country home in St. Marguerite near the Alpine Inn with horseback riding at Mont Gabriel; also



Nicole Forbes adjusts her shoe in front of the Italian pavilion at Expo 67

summers at Kennebunk.

After Italy and the Expo experience, Forbes studied political science, languages and art history at the University of Vienna, obtaining a BA from Sir George Williams University (now Concordia) in 1972. She worked for a travel agency, married and turned her attention to raising her two children Rafaëlle and Alexandre Mackay Smith and two step-children, Michelle and Matthew.

That was when she co-founded Enfants des Neiges, benefitting from the advice of her mother who had founded École François-Michelle for children with special needs. It was soon after her 12 years with l'Orchestre Métropolitain that she ran the demerger office.

Forbes continues to play tennis and golf, spends weekends at Georgeville and enjoys music – opera in particular. She also plays the flute and does flower arrangements, "the only artistic talent I have!"

Describing herself as a perfectionist, she says, "I hate blatant errors. It drives me nuts." She is becoming more tolerant and patient with the years, however. "I don't think I'll be a gripey old lady!"

And, she adds, "I'm having the most enriching experiences on council. I get to work with such extraordinary people."



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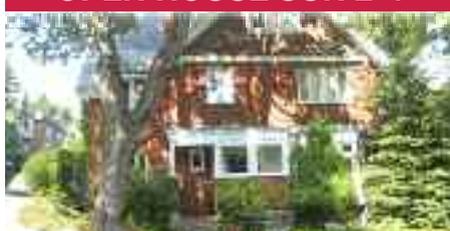


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