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See Comin' Up on p. 16 for details.

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Hockey enrolment 'explodes'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Participation in Westmount's inter-city hockey program has increased 50 percent since B-level teams were added last year to those competing regionally at the A level.

Registration figures for this fall and winter season confirm that the "explosion" in the travelling teams experienced last year has not only solidified, but is continuing to grow, according to city sports coordinator Bruce Stacey.

There are now 143 youth playing on eight travelling teams, plus another 22 on higher level, double-letter teams (AA and BB) outside Westmount. This compares with 95 in the 2006-2007 season.

"The trend is perpetuating," he said. "Last year's boom was not just a fluke."

Since Westmount introduced the new B-level teams, however, "our waiting lists for recreational hockey have also grown because the inter-city teams require more ice time than in-house ones."

For this year, a total of 520 youth and 384 adults are registered to play on recreational and *continued on p. 3*

Food for the holidays



Westmount Public Security began placing boxes in municipal buildings this week to collect non-perishable food items for Westmount families in need. Above (from left), auxiliary PSO Kelly Hemsley, Sgt. Denis Proulx and Captain Richard Bourdon display items collected as admission to the Artisans' Festival at Victoria Hall November 8 and 9. More than \$2,040 in cash was also received.

Don't feed the squirrels? Where are the signs?

New trial replaces arrest warrant

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Signage in Westmount parks should state that the feeding of wildlife is prohibited, says a local resident caught up in a legal quagmire over the feeding of a squirrel more than two years ago.

Bruce Kert, who decided at the time to contest a \$75 ticket, told the *Independent* he discovered only recently that a warrant had been issued for his arrest after he

failed to show up at the court case and pay the costs that had escalated to \$455.

"I only learned about the court date after asking a [Westmount] public safety officer if he knew anything about the progress of my case," Kert said.

"He called me back to say it had already taken place about a year and a half ago."

Never notified?

Kert said he immedi- *continued on p. 8*

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New Westmount study to monitor train vibration

Westmount will be conducting more train vibration studies to monitor current levels, and determine whether or not changes have occurred between 2000 and now.

City council at its mid-month meeting November 12 awarded the work to Osmos Canada at a total cost of \$22,236. Four test points will be Prospect St., Bruce Ave., Lewis Ave., and the condominium building at 4700 St. Catherine (the former POM bakery).

Councillor Cynthia Lulham noted that while some work had been done on the commuter train track since the last study - basically in welding together some of the rail joints - residents have reported the situation (noise and vibration) has not improved.

While the city is in ongoing talks with AMT, CP and other railway officials to resolve the issue of noise and vibration, new information is needed, she said, "before we contend the work has not made a difference"

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Intercity hockey offers new choices

continued from p. 1

inter-city teams while another 34 under 18-year-olds and 29 adults are on waiting lists. This constitutes a record number wanting to play in the programs.

The value of offering inter-city play, Stacey said, is that it provides an opportunity for those with the skills to participate at a higher level and experience playing outside of Westmount. It offers more choices and also keeps the house teams ("C level" in hockey hierarchy) more recreational.

Demands for ice time and the resulting waiting lists were evident in the long lineup at registration this fall, he explained. People came as early as 11 am for 6 pm registration "so they would be sure of making a team."

Unfortunately, because priority is given to the youth programs, he explained, a number of adults had to go on to the waiting list.

New salt shelter tempo to be tempo

Residents of Blenheim and Lewis were assured at the city council meeting November 12 that a big tempo-type salt shelter at the Corporation Yard will be just that – temporary.

"Don't get alarmed," Councillor Cynthia Lulham explained. The roof of the old dome-shaped structure is falling in and its permanent replacement will be part of a study next year on the efficiency of the current Public Works area.

While residents of Blenheim Place have long complained about the visibility of the existing salt shed at the foot of their street, she said the new temporary structure would be shifted further east, closer to Lewis Ave.

The quotation of Les industries Harnois was accepted for the work at a total cost of \$58,875.

The rising demand for hockey programs goes hand-in-hand with society's increasing emphasis on the need for healthy lifestyles, Stacey said, especially given an ageing population and reports of obesity



Members of Westmount's Bantam A inter-city team at practice November 11 at the arena.

in children.

While numbers in various levels are expected to fluctuate in the future according to the level of skills, the interest in inter-city teams appears to be continuing.

The A-level and B-level teams play in the Eastern Hockey League of the Lac St. Louis regional hockey association along with Montreal West/Hampstead, Verdun, LaSalle, Côte St. Luc, TMR, Lachine and St. Laurent.

These teams require at least two hours of ice time a week, up to 90 minutes for games and an hour of practice. The recreational teams play for one hour a week and typically practice an hour every two weeks.

With 22 Westmounters playing in Lac St. Louis double-letter hockey (AA and BB) as members of the Verdun Cobras, Westmount provides the Cobras with four hours of ice time a week.

Rotary pledges \$100,000 for respite home

The Rotary Club of Westmount has just announced a \$100,000 pledge to help build a respite home in Beaconsfield to be run by the West Montreal Readaptation Centre. Respite homes are temporary sleeper facilities for children with intellectual disabilities. They are designed to decrease the pressure on parents and the likelihood of the family breakdowns that are so common for couples faced with the challenge of disabled children. The home would serve western Montreal, including Westmount.

The contribution is the largest yet for the respite home project and the largest one by Rotary since building the Manoir Westmount seniors' residence in 1979.

"These particular funds come from a donation to the club from the estate of Edna Burrows, widow of Rotarian Jack Burrows. We honour them for their generosity and Rotary spirit of service above self," said Westmount Rotary president Cynthia Campbell.

The Building Hope Campaign for the respite home is run by the Taylor Birks foundation, which financially supports the different activities of the West Montreal Readaptation Centre. The campaign's goal is \$1 million to help build a 3,300 square foot facility.

Construction of the home is scheduled to begin in the summer 2009, with a projected opening in early 2010.

Fundraising professionals honour Study philanthropists

Grade 11 Study student Diana-Luk Ye and Study Foundation trustee Andrea McConnell have been recognized by the Quebec chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals for their philanthropic activities.

Ye was one of three named to the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy honour roll and McConnell was one of six bestowed with the honour of Outstanding Volunteer of the Year. They were both recognized at the organization's annual National Philanthropy Day lunch on November 13.

McConnell has worked for The Study as a foundation trustee, Annual-Giving co-chair, host of the school's annual Trillium reception and as a member of the board of governors.

Ye was nominated for her volunteering, including 200 hours of service in the past two years. She was also recognized for a variety of projects, including the Montreal Associa- *continued on p. 17*



Andrea McConnell (left) and Diana-Luk Ye.



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Commercial recycling: a family approach

BY EVE ASPINALL,
MEMBER OF THE HEALTHY CITY PROJECT

“Sustainability” is a key word in our community these days and means many different things to many different people. The city’s vision statement discussions that were held at Victoria Hall on the 16th of September, October and November attest to this.

The lively discussions were thought-provoking, productive, and informative. We hope you were able to attend at least one of them! Many worthwhile ideas emerged, although putting them into practice will be challenging.

An example of one such challenge is commercial recycling. For some time, both city council and the Public Works department have been giving it serious study. On the surface, this appears relatively simple, but unfortunately it is fraught with complications. Before putting such a recycling plan into action, it must be effective, it has to conform to our streetscapes and the costs involved must be reasonable.

When one looks at what is happening in downtown Montreal, the recycling is put out at all hours and gets blown all around.

If the lanes or streets are partially blocked, the recycling trucks drive past, leaving the material exposed to the wind,

rain and snow for another week. The streets and laneways are littered, provoking many letters of complaint to *The Gazette*. We do not want this repeated in Westmount.

Harder than it looks

In trying to find a solution, many factors must be considered. Should the commercial pickups be part of the regular run? What time should they occur? Early in the morning is not really feasible because it would mean store personnel would have to arrive several hours before their businesses normally open. Peak traffic periods also have to be avoided.

Where will the merchants place their recyclable materials? Will it be on the sidewalk? Or in a back lane? Will the materials impede pedestrians or service vehicles? How accessible will the material be for the recycler’s trucks? These are some of the issues that are currently under scrutiny.

It is great that our merchants want recycling and they must feel guilty about sending so much recyclable material to landfill. Do they themselves have some obligation to take care of their own recyclables? Can they individually or collectively transport their material to the city yards on Bethune St.? Can they persuade their suppliers to take back the excess packaging?

Elsewhere in Canada, some municipalities require businesses to look after their own recycling. (This is an example of one issue that Westmount is currently working on. There are many others which will be reviewed at a later date.)

Westmount is unique. We are a close-knit community. We care about our city, our neighbourhoods and our environment. This is reflected in our local government: our mayor and council, the staff at city hall and our city employees. They care about Westmount. Our councillors put in long hours; serve on many com-

mittees and sub-committees; respond to citizens’ complaints and queries; and rely heavily on the staff at city hall. From the director general on down, the staff is very well informed, very obliging, and very much in tune with all things Westmount. They in turn rely on their employees who do their jobs with pride. It is an interactive system where the emphasis is on listening, communication, and mutual respect. They are family and they care about us.

Surely – by working together – merchants, residents, council and staff will find a solution.

Devine up for the challenge of managing SPCA

BY KRISTIN MCNEILL

Westmounter Alanna Devine has had her hands full since taking over the helm of the embattled Montreal SPCA.

She resigned from the SPCA board and is now the organization’s acting executive director. Devine replaces Jamie Allister, also a Westmounter, who remains on the board as treasurer.

Pierre Barnoti, the controversial figure who previously held the position of executive director, was officially released from his duties on July 23 for undisclosed reasons. The board is currently looking at candidates to fill the position permanently.

Devine, a lawyer, said she was already coming in to the shelter every day before being hired. She had decided she wanted to devote herself full time to animal welfare. Though she is not currently practising, some of her legal skills lend themselves to her role. “It’s a way of thinking, of dealing with stressful situations. Being creative is helpful. And I’m comfortable speaking [publicly], and that helps a lot in this job because there is a large PR/media component.”

The SPCA administration is working to overturn a negative public perception which continues to haunt the organization. Said Devine, “We still struggle with [our public] image, and that affects people wanting to donate and be involved. We are hoping that they will see we are true to our word and are really changing things.”

New initiatives

One of the new initiatives being put into place is targeted donations to such

programs as Operation Feline (a spay/neuter clinic for cats of low-income owners), costs associated with future seizures or animals needing expensive surgeries.

There are certain critical periods when the shelter is especially busy, such as the July 1 moving day when many pets are left behind, and the higher-than-usual number of animals in need of care after a raid, such as was the case in October.

Despite these periods, there is rarely a



Alanna Devine, acting executive director of the Montreal SPCA with her own rescued dog, Layla.

quiet day. “There are everyday challenges facing the organization,” Devine stated.

Devine said the current animal-cruelty laws and enforcement are in need of review, “We need a lot of changes provincially and federally. But Step One is to ensure at least we’re working with what we have. The provincial government tried something that was different from all the other provinces, but these last two [October] seizures show that it’s not enough; it’s not working, so it’s time to try something else.”

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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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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Letters to the editor

'OFF ROCKER' OFF THE MARK

I will be brief.

I was shocked to see the phrase “clearly off her rocker” used to describe a person who may be mentally ill (“Underdog” in October 28 *Independent*, p. 12). Mental illness strikes anywhere and everywhere, and should not be made light of.

An apology is in order to Medor's owner.

JACQUELINE DEALY, ROSLYN AVE.

Editor's note: Thanks for your letter. You are not alone. We received two calls on the same topic. With the benefit of hindsight, I agree. The sentence should have been reworded.

WESTMOUNT'S ALPHABET SOUP

I am a recent immigrant to Westmount and Canada. Since I arrived 18 months ago, I have read almost every issue of your charming paper.

However, in the last issue (November 4) I felt a little lost. The article “WMA at 100” (p. 7) failed to break down the acronym. Is that the “Westmount Mothers' Association” or the “Westmount Men's Association”? Only later in the paper, by seeing their advertisement, did I understand its meaning.

Then, an article about Selwyn House mentioned the battle at Vimy Ridge against the Germans. Having a basic knowledge of history allowed me to narrow this battle down to either World War I or World War II, but the article failed to mention which one or even the year it took place. I am still curious: when was this battle and where did it take place? Where is Vimy Ridge?

As someone new to the area (and country), I would appreciate additional context in framing your interesting articles.

MARK BERGER, SHERBROOKE ST.

Editor's note: Thanks for keeping us on our game. We always try to strike a balance in how much information we provide. On the one hand, we don't want to re-report events (and don't have the room to do so),

but, on the other hand, we don't want to leave the reader in the dark. November 4 will go down as an “in-the-dark-ish” issue, with a promise to do better.

You may already have satisfied your curiosity, but in case you haven't: Vimy Ridge was battle that took place in France in 1917 during World War I.

BIKE PATH WORSENS WESTMOUNT PARK

It is now obvious that the \$1-million renovations for the sake of succulent grass for increased soccer registrations have made the Westmount Park bike path even more dangerous.

Two new foot paths from Academy Rd. now cut across it: one at the gazebo, the other near the tennis courts.

Montreal's extension bike path of last year has easily doubled the number of cyclists this year and not a few of them are speed fiends and stunt riders. The new junction at the gazebo will invite children



Dangerous crossing?

to cross the bike path there. The two 40-degree slopes between Melville Ave. and the gazebo now seem even steeper – thus providing school children excellent descent in their snow slides and, in the warm months, a chance to roll steamroller-wise into the path of speeding wheels.

During a soccer match, cyclists will need no invitation to turn into the new footpaths (which look exactly like the bike path), fling their machines on the grass

and watch games from the spacious concrete spaces thoughtfully provided them. And should the multi-million dollar project for skating rinks and swimming pools materialize, there will be increased car traffic/pollution and the jostling of crowds during soccer matches. The scene for collisions and the comings-and-goings of screeching police cars and ambulances will be neatly choreographed.

Come next spring and summer, resi-

dents may bid farewell to peace and quiet in Westmount Park. I question how expert are the vaunted “experts” consulted by the Westmount administration. And, I would be obliged to our mayor for an answer in the *Westmount Independent*.

In conclusion is a tip from president-elect Obama: Down with lobbyists. Up with people.

STEPHEN CHIN,
SHERBROOKE ST.

On the Market: 365 Redfern

Built in 1910, this stone house was once the Japanese embassy. The house has been divided into two semi-detached houses, but could easily be restored to its original single-family dwelling status or kept as an income-generating property. It benefits from eight bedrooms, five wood-burning fireplaces, high ceilings, oak floors, stained glass, six bathrooms, a 20-foot solarium, a grand entrance hall and staircase with beautiful wood paneling throughout. The driveway has two outdoor parking spaces.

The finished basement is spacious and equipped with a bathroom (with shower) as well as a full kitchen and laundry room. It also benefits from its own private entrance, which makes it ideal for a live-in nanny, guests or even a young adult. The kitchen has been recently renovated with granite countertops. The *en-suite* master bathroom has also been redone and hosts a separate glass shower, large bathtub and marble tile. The rest of the house is in good condition but needs some updating. Conveniently located between Victoria Village and Greene Ave., close to bus routes, Atwater metro station, parks and the Westmount Library and arena/pool, this house is ideal for a growing family.

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Westmount

Remembering those we never knew

BY PATRICK MARTIN,
CITY COUNCILLOR

Another cold day of remembrance this November 9 at the Westmount war memorial. Those in attendance bore the raw weather humbly in memory of those who endured so much on our behalf. It was notable how many citizens turned out with their children.

There was also a special Canadian memorial in London, England this year enti-

ther conflict, on further sacrifice.

The dwindling number of ageing veterans paying their respects at the service highlights that the majority of the people there – city officials, residents, servicemen and women, cadets – were born after World War II. How will we go on remembering those who, in fact, we never even knew?

Already the internet is playing a role in perpetuating their memory. There was great interest in the *Vigil* project this year, and the amount of material available online for those who have an interest is staggering. Individual records of those who served in both world wars can be researched on the Canadian Virtual War Memorial website (www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/), then click on the left hand link under “Canada Remembers”), hosted by Veterans Affairs Canada.

Preserving family memories is an important way to pass on the spirit of remembrance to future generations. My uncle Hugh Martin, whose name is inscribed on the Westmount cenotaph, was an RCAF navigator whose plane was shot down near Malta in December 1942.

He was born the year his father, Sgt. Philip Martin, died in France. His name gives strength and a link to the past to three male and female members of our extended family who were named after him and carry his story forward with their children.

Let us hope that in years to come they will continue to remember them.

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Château welcomes Westmount Park



Château Westmount residents Andrew McLean (left), a retired Australian lieutenant-colonel who fought in the African and Pacific theatres during World War II, and Roger Ricard (right) greeted Westmount Park students and McLean's wife, Pat (back), on November 11. The grade 5 students and teacher Pam Price were at the seniors' residence to transplant poppies and recite commemorative poetry.

The Royal Montreal Regiment pays tribute to Scrimger



Lieutenant-Colonel Colin Robinson, the commanding officer of The Royal Montreal Regiment, speaks while two guards protect the Victoria Cross.

BY ISAAC OLSON

Lieutenant-Colonel Colin Robinson, the commanding officer of The Royal Montreal Regiment, gave a Remembrance Day presentation about Dr. Francis Scrimger – a Victoria Cross recipient during the World War I.

More than 75 people attended the lecture at the Atwater Library to learn about

Scrimger and his Westmount-based regiment. While serving as a Canadian Army Medical Corps captain attached to the 14th Battalion (Royal Montreal Regiment), Scrimger selflessly risked his own life to save soldiers on the front lines. Normally housed at the Ottawa War Museum, the original Victory Cross awarded to Scrimger in 1915 was on display along with other war artifacts.



Sgt. Philip Martin (1882-1916) (left), and his son Westmounter Flight Sgt Hugh Martin (1916-1942).

tled *Vigil 1914-1918*. The names of all 68,000 Canadian soldiers who died in World War I were projected, one by one, for eight seconds each, on Canada House in London. Following that, the names were projected at the same local time in various cities across Canada.

At the Ottawa cenotaph, six of my Martin cousins of three generations were present at 4:01 am on Monday, November 10 when the name of our grandfather who fell at the Somme in November 1916, Sgt. Philip Martin, was projected on the memorial. Buried in France, his name was symbolically retrieved and brought home to his family. It was very moving to witness, either in person, or like other family members in Canada and the US, by following the ceremony online.

A laudable increasing attendance at the service in Westmount in recent years is perhaps in response to heightened awareness that our young men and women are on the front lines in Afghanistan. But hopefully our remembrance of the sacrifices of long ago does not depend on fur-

Remembers...



Remembering WWII veteran Keith Kertland (1918-1943)

BY GARY AITKEN

When the war started in 1939, the Kertland family lived on Victoria Ave. just above The Boulevard.

Keith Kertland and his twin Kenneth were born in 1918 when the family was living on Lansdowne Ave. near Sherbrooke St. In the first year of their lives, they were both struck with pneumonia. Early one morning my grandmother discovered that baby Kenneth had died in the night.

Keith was then baptized “Keith Kenneth.” My mother remembers her younger brother Keith as very personable and a hard worker. He did not do well in school and it is possible that the pneumonia of his infancy caused him a slight mental handicap. He left school at 18 and eventually worked in the aircraft division of Canada Car & Foundry. At the time, his three brothers and two of his brothers-in-law were already in uniform.

In August 1940, he joined the militia as a trooper in the 17th Duke of York’s Royal Canadian Hussars. This was the well-known Montreal cavalry unit, whose distinctive armoury can still be seen on Côte des Neiges Rd. near the entrance to Mount Royal Park. In earlier days, their horses were stabled behind the armoury and riding exercises took place on the mountain

trails. Just before the war started, the realities of modern warfare changed the mission of the cavalry to that of a mechanized reconnaissance regiment.

In the midst of his training he was granted permission to marry Janet Rechel, the daughter of an American family then living in Westmount. The wedding took place at St. Stephen’s Anglican Church.

The Hussars, then known as the 7th Recce. Regiment, trained first at Aldershot, England and then elsewhere in the south of England with the 3rd Canadian Division for the next two years, mainly based at the coastal town of Hastings.

In early May 1943, Keith was awarded a Good Conduct badge for helping dig out survivors of a bombing raid.

Wrong place, wrong time

A week after that, at 1 pm on May 23, the Hussars’ officers sent a message to the kitchen in the Queen’s Hotel. They wanted to delay lunch by half an hour so they could listen to Fred Allen’s radio show. Just a few men were on duty in the dining area. At exactly that time, a number of German daylight bombers flew in low from the sea under the radar, dropping their bombs on the Hastings waterfront. One of them landed on the hotel where the officers’ mess was, killing 11 soldiers. One of them was Keith Kertland. He was 25.

A few days later the people of Hastings lined the streets as the flag-draped coffins were carried on army trucks from the church to the station. Keith is buried at a lovely cemetery called Brookwood (Plot 40, Row C, Grave No. 8) in England near the town of Pirbright, not far from the famous gardens at Wisley. There are many other Canadians buried there, mainly RCAF and RCN personnel.

Remembering her brother Keith, my mother, now aged 93, said wistfully, “He was a nice boy, such a nice boy.”

His name is inscribed on the Honour Roll in Victoria Hall and on the Westmount cenotaph, where my family honours his memory each year at this time.

This article is taken from the book, Good People – The Kertlands of Canada. It is available in both the Westmount Public Library and the Atwater Library and Computer Centre.

A day of remembrance



From left, Marco Robertson of the Royal West Academy Honour Band plays “The Last Post” on the bugle as Corporal Ryan Henderson (face obscured by bugle), Flight Corporal Philippe Paré, Flight Corporal Grace Labreche and Sergeant Patrick Dunbar listen. In the background is Captain Damien Kontopoulos, commanding officer of 1 West Montreal Squadron.

BY ISAAC OLSON

Complete with singing, marching and poetry reading, Place Kensington held its second annual Remembrance Day ceremony on November 11.

The 1 West Montreal Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron carried the Canadian flag and Lieutenant-Colonel Gayle Quick, Canadian Forces chief nursing officer,

gave a brief presentation about nursing in the military.

“Canadian nurses have a long and proud history of providing support to Canadian military forces,” opened Quick, before highlighting the near 125 years of nursing service – responding to natural disasters and wars, both domestic and overseas. “Nursing officers are highly respected members of the Canadian forces.”

Westmounters perform *Othello*

Westmounter Gabrielle Soskin, artistic director of Persephone Theatre, is currently directing Shakespeare’s *Othello* at the Bombardier Theatre at the McCord Museum (690 Sherbrooke St.) from November 13 to 29.

Stephanie Chapman Baker, who plays the part of Desdemona, is also a Westmount resident who met Soskin when she attended John Abbott College (Soskin was one of her teachers). She is a graduate of the John Abbott Professional Theatre Programme and of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art classical acting program. When asked about how she feels about *Othello*, Chapman Baker said: “I love it. The costumes, the period and especially the language, which is so rich.”

In 2000 Soskin created Persephone Productions, a not-for-profit theatre company mandated to give emerging artists work opportunities. The company has



Gabrielle Soskin (left) and Stephanie Chapman Baker

won several awards over the years. In December 2007 Gabrielle was a recipient of the Myron Galloway award for distinction given by Montreal English Critics Circle Association (MECCA) for her very special contribution to Montreal English theatre.

Tickets are available by calling 514.398.7100, ext. 234 or by visiting www.persephoneproductions.org.



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continued from p. 1

ately went to the Palais de Justice saying he had never been notified of the court date.

He said that records showed a bailiff had tried to serve him with a subpoena on three occasions, but that it had never been served. As a result, for an extra fee of \$40, he says, he has obtained a stay of conviction and a date for a new trial in the new year.

"This is all absolutely ridiculous and shows the inefficiency of the justice system. They should have gotten hold of me." Kert says he has lived at the same address for 10 years.

The incident, he explains, occurred September 14, 2006, as he walked through Westmount Park outside the pool. "I spotted a couple of peanuts on the sidewalk and threw them at a squirrel."

A public safety officer then approached him and issued the \$75 ticket on the spot. This includes a court fee of \$25 along with a \$50 fine, according to Public Security officials.

Warning would be sufficient

"A warning would have been sufficient at the time since I didn't know about the by-law and there were no signs in the park about not feeding the squirrels," Kert says. "When I went up to Public Security, they told me I was too late. The ticket had already gone downtown."

He says he has since learned that the same day he was ticketed a complaint had been made to Public Security about someone else who had been feeding wildlife,



Squirrels romp behind Bruce Kert and his dog Morgan near the spot where he received a ticket more than two years ago.

"and I was probably just in the wrong place at the right time."

WMA turns 100 in style



From left: Dan Sullivan, Andrew Macdougall and Chantal Montreuil.



From left: Barbara Moore and Merle Binmore.

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The Westmount Municipal Association – an independent, non-partisan volunteer organization devoted to promoting good, responsive local government – celebrated a century of service with a 100th Anniversary Gala Dinner on November 15 at Victoria Hall.

After enjoying cocktails and dinner, the 90-odd guests were treated to the comedic music of Bowser and Blue, one half of which duo is Westmount city councillor George Bowser.



354 Olivier, Westmount
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110 Duchastel, Outremont
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434 Metcalfe, Westmount
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"Restorer's delight"



642 Belmont, Westmount
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"The perfect home"



3131 Jean-Girard, Wst Adj.
\$1,895,000
"Condo alternative w/elevator"



122 Sunnyside, Westmount
\$1,695,000
"Excellent location"



4302 Montrose, Westmount
\$2,988,000
"Georgian gem"



3577 Atwater, #809,
Westmount adjacent
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"Lovely terrace"



325 St. Sacrement, #401-402
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*2006, 2007, 2008



Travis to mothers: Not guilty!

BY KRISTIN McNEILL

A sense of home is strong for self-made business woman Debbie Travis, who moved to Westmount in 1989.

Travis came home to Westmount last week for the launch of her newly released book *Not Guilty*. She is currently at the mercy of an aggressive travel schedule as well as managing two production companies and a design studio with offices in Montreal and Toronto.

Noisy Sanctuary

Being on the road makes her home a sanctuary, though not necessarily a quiet one. "To me home is noise, peeling potatoes, having loads of people around, kids coming in with other kids. I really try and make our house the place where kids feel comfortable to come over – to keep an eye on them. Ours was sleepover central. The back side is that the house looks like a Salvation Army with mattresses everywhere."

Not Guilty is her first book not related to decorating. With her two boys now young men in university, the question is what prompted her to write a book that speaks mostly to women who are balancing raising young kids with working for a company, running a small business, or the pressures felt by stay-at-home mothers.

Travis said the impetus to write the book came from a flood of responses from both women and men after the *National Post* published her story on three women, mothers of different ages, who Travis mentored, and their challenges returning to the workforce.

Guilt wastes time

Guilt, headlined in the book title, is something Travis feels women waste too much time feeling. She explained that women often feel guilty about taking shortcuts when kids are young, and the subsequent "sadness of wishing you could



Debbie Travis, with her new book, *NOT GUILTY*

do it all over again and looking back: "What did I do right? What did I do wrong?"

Though she absolves herself as a specialist in child rearing or marriage counseling, she does advocate the necessity of women permitting themselves to "walk away" and take time for themselves, to have some "backdoor money" as a financial safety net (a tip from her own mother), and to stay interested in one's own life.

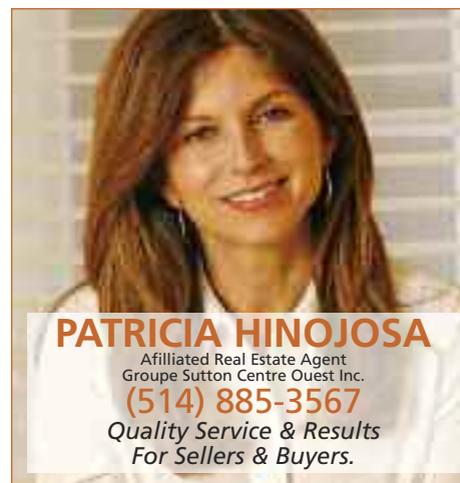
Travis' first home in Westmount was on Victoria Ave. where, newly married and coming down off the highs of a life in Europe, she busied herself decorating the house. Soon, people were clambering for

her decorating touch.

Decorating explosion

Travis says it was timing that pulled her into the beginning of a "decorating explosion" and claims to have the first show on home decorating in North America, paralleling Martha Stewart's cooking shows in the US.

Travis says she's had the best of all worlds: a childhood in the country, her 20s in London and raising her own family in Westmount.



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Loft studio, in the Corticelli, close to Downtown & Old Montreal, next to canal and bicycle path. Perfect pied à terre-wood floors, big windows, renovated bath, large kitchen overlooking interior garden, open living/dining/bedroom area and Murphy bed. Easy parking. **Asking \$209,000**

WESTMOUNT

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Charming 3 bdrm, 2+1 bth Victorian home with parking and large garden. Beautiful deck off the kitchen and 2nd floor bedroom. Brand new roof.

481 Argyle
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Westmount Adj.

Large semi-detached w/beautiful woodwork, 5 bdrms, 3 bths, huge eat-in kitchen and finished basement in top Wsmt adj. location. Across from the Mount Royal Tennis Club.

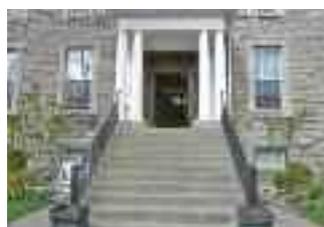
2122, de Vendôme
Asking \$799,000



Reno'd Row-House

Steps from Wsmt Park & Victoria Ave. Beautifully renovated semi-detached Victorian w/3+1 bdrms, 3+1 bths, new kitchen, finished basement w/separate entrance and private parking at back.

109 Lewis
Asking \$529,000



Convenient Condo

Bright and spacious Parisian style 3 bdrm, 2bth condo. Steps to Greene Ave., transport and schools. Parking and large storage space included!

343 Clarke #4
Asking \$445,000



Fabulous Flat

Very bright and spacious reno'd 3 bdrm upper with parking. Decorative fireplace. Plenty of storage. Steps to Victoria Village, transports, schools and shops!

457 Grosvenor
Reduced \$419,000



Delightful Detached

Spacious 3+1 bdrm, 2+1 bths detached cottage w/ open concept living-dining room, 2-car garage & very large garden. Close to schools, shops, parks and transport.

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The Inventory: Houses for sale

The Inventory is content provided by the Westmount Independent for the benefit of the reader. All information is garnered from public sources. Real estate agents, on the other hand, have access to closed networks that allow them to see more information, including the addresses of all listings. The Inventory endeavours to list all of the real estate of the type specified (e.g. condos or houses) that is for sale in Westmount at press time. If you are a real estate agent or private seller whose property has been overlooked, please write to us at indie@westmountindependent.com and we will work to include your properties in future editions.

Price	Address	Price	Address
\$329,000	Address unavailable	\$1,295,000	28 Oakland Ave.
\$369,000	104 Abbott Ave.	\$1,299,000	Address unavailable
\$440,000	327 Victoria Ave	\$1,349,000	35 Church Hill
\$495,000	2 Prospect St.	\$1,349,000	1 Severn Ave.
\$499,000	536 Lansdowne Ave.	\$1,395,000	79 Rosemount Crescent
\$525,000	50 Bruce Ave.	\$1,398,000	786 Upper Belmont
\$529,000	address unavailable	\$1,445,000	Address unavailable
\$529,000	111 Lewis Ave.	\$1,450,000	Address unavailable
\$549,000	102 Irvine Ave.	\$1,495,000	481 Strathcona Ave.
\$559,000	4860 St. Catherine St.	\$1,495,000	10 Willow Ave.
\$599,000	443 Claremont Ave.	\$1,495,000	Address unavailable
\$599,000	36 York St.	\$1,499,000	3249 Cedar Ave.
\$645,000	534 Lansdowne Ave.	\$1,525,000	Address unavailable
\$648,000	4608 St. Catherine St.	\$1,550,000	70 Summit Crescent
\$649,000	Address unavailable	\$1,550,000	Address unavailable
\$679,000	59 Columbia Ave.	\$1,588,000	175 Cote St Antoine Rd.
\$685,000	4614-16 St. Catherine St.	\$1,595,000	359 Redfern Ave.
\$735,000	488 Victoria Ave.	\$1,599,000	Address unavailable
\$789,000	379 Grosvenor Ave.	\$1,650,000	457 Mt Pleasant Ave.
\$829,000	Address unavailable	\$1,650,000	Address unavailable
\$829,000	479 Argyle Ave.	\$1,695,000	3 Bellevue Ave.
\$849,000	431 Wood Ave.	\$1,695,000	122 Sunnyside Ave.
\$849,000	Address unavailable	\$1,695,000	531 Grosvenor Ave.
\$898,000	4146 Dorchester Blvd.	\$1,695,000	320 Cote St. Antoine Rd.
\$909,000	460 Lansdowne Ave.	\$1,695,000	Address unavailable*
\$920,000	Address unavailable	\$1,698,000	Address unavailable
\$939,000	Address unavailable	\$1,699,000	311 Kensington Ave.
\$949,000	354 Olivier Ave.	\$1,789,000	25 Oakland Ave.
\$949,000	598 Cote St. Antoine	\$1,795,000	642 Belmont Ave.
\$990,000	594 Lansdowne	\$1,795,000	729 Upper Lansdowne Ave.
\$990,000	Address unavailable*	\$1,850,000	487 Mt. Pleasant Ave.
\$995,000	Address unavailable	\$1,899,000	757 Upper Belmont Ave.
\$995,000	4306 Montrose Ave.*	\$1,899,000	68 Summit Circle
\$999,000	Address unavailable	\$1,950,000	Address unavailable*
\$1,039,000	628 Victoria Ave.	\$1,970,000	30 Surrey Gardens
\$1,090,000	Address unavailable	\$1,975,000	55 Belvedere Circle
\$1,095,000	26 Thornhill Ave.	\$1,995,000	701 Victoria Ave.
\$1,095,000	638 Roslyn Ave.	\$1,995,000	25 Bellevue Ave.
\$1,097,000	644 Grosvenor Ave.	\$1,995,000	29 Bellevue Ave.
\$1,098,000	Address unavailable	\$2,095,000	14 Ramezay Rd.
\$1,100,000	507 Claremont Ave.	\$2,150,000	9 Rosemount Ave.
\$1,115,000	490 Argyle Ave.	\$3,200,000	3712 The Boulevard
\$1,149,000	631 Roslyn Ave.	\$2,375,000	420 Cote St. Antoine Rd.
\$1,150,000	434 Metcalfe Ave.	\$2,390,000	Address unavailable*
\$1,195,000	595 Lansdowne Ave.	\$2,399,000	74 Gordon Crescent
\$1,195,000	4335 de Maisonneuve Blvd.	\$2,399,000	4354 Westmount Ave.
\$1,195,000	754 Lansdowne Ave.	\$2,400,000	3255 Cedar Ave.
\$1,200,000	Address unavailable	\$2,448,000	Address unavailable
\$1,225,000	Address unavailable	\$2,495,000	118 Upper Bellevue Ave.
\$1,258,000	4308 Montrose Ave.	\$2,495,000	Address unavailable
\$1,275,000	418 Wood Ave.	\$2,590,000	40 Forden Crescent
\$1,295,000	4386 de Maisonneuve Blvd.	\$2,600,000	38 Belvedere Rd.
\$1,295,000	3664 The Boulevard	\$2,675,000	3745 The

continued on p. 17

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Westmount. New listing! Large lower of detached duplex with garden + 2 garages located steps to Victoria Village, shops, transport + includes 2 + 1 bedrooms, sun-room, 3 renovated bathrooms, finished basement, high ceilings, charming mouldings, bay window, fireplace, spectacular stain-glass, French doors, eat-in kitchen. **\$690,000.**



Westmount – NEW LISTING!



Detached with garage, garden, wonderful location between Greene Avenue and Park. 5 bedrooms, 2½ bathrooms, lovely architectural details – wood, stained glass. Finished basement, French doors, fireplace, bay window, move-in! **\$1,195,000.**

9 Lives: Tia and Pax

BY LYZANNE

They are so pretty, Tia and Pax.

They are 9 years old and still young at heart, spry enough for adventures with a new family and cuddly companionship for many more happy years. They are both in good health, and recently had complete check-ups and dental work done.

Tia and Pax came from a home where they were coddled, but their owner died.

They were lucky to have been taken in by Gerdy's Rescues and went to live in a foster home with a resident menagerie. They hold the all-time record, having spent nearly four years in foster care! A family and a home of their own would be heaven-sent.

For more information about these lovely cats, please call Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions on her pager at 514.203.9180 with a brief message and she will return your call ASAP. Her website is www.gerdysrescue.org and her email is info@gerdysrescue.org.

Many thanks for helping us find a family for Tia and Pax.

Your neighbour, Lyzanne

Artwork by
Laura S. Cohendet



Pax



Tia

Kids for Kids gears up for its annual party for a cause

Kids for Kids, a charitable organization founded by a group of young Montrealers dedicated to fundraising for local children's causes, is gearing up for its annual bash on November 28 at the Marché Bonsecours.

This year, proceeds will go to Centre de répit Philou. Diane Chênevert founded Centre Philou three years ago, after she and her family faced the stark realities of supporting a severely physically disabled child, with minimal assistance from government or health care agencies.

They faced exhaustion, sleep deprivation and lack of time for themselves and each other.

Centre Philou does not charge a standard fee for its services, rather it accepts a symbolic donation from parents who can afford it, and does not turn away any families for inability to pay. Centre Philou's funding is entirely private and comes from family and children's foundations, corporations and individuals.

Tickets are now on sale at Mandy's (4927 Sherbrooke St., 514.380.2797) and cost \$40 (admission to party) or \$125 (includes admission to VIP pre-cocktail). To sponsor the Kids for Kids campaign and make a tax-deductible pledge to Centre Philou, please visit www.kidsforkids.ca or contact Nadia Casolino at 514.380.2797.

Selwyn House welcomes new math and language arts teacher

Glyncora (Cory) Weir is among new teachers at Selwyn House this year. She teaches grade 5 and 6 math, grade 6 Language Arts, and Ethics and Religious Culture.

She was previously at Roslyn where she taught math and Language Arts. Last year she was special needs/resource teacher at the school. Looking ahead to her new year, Weir says



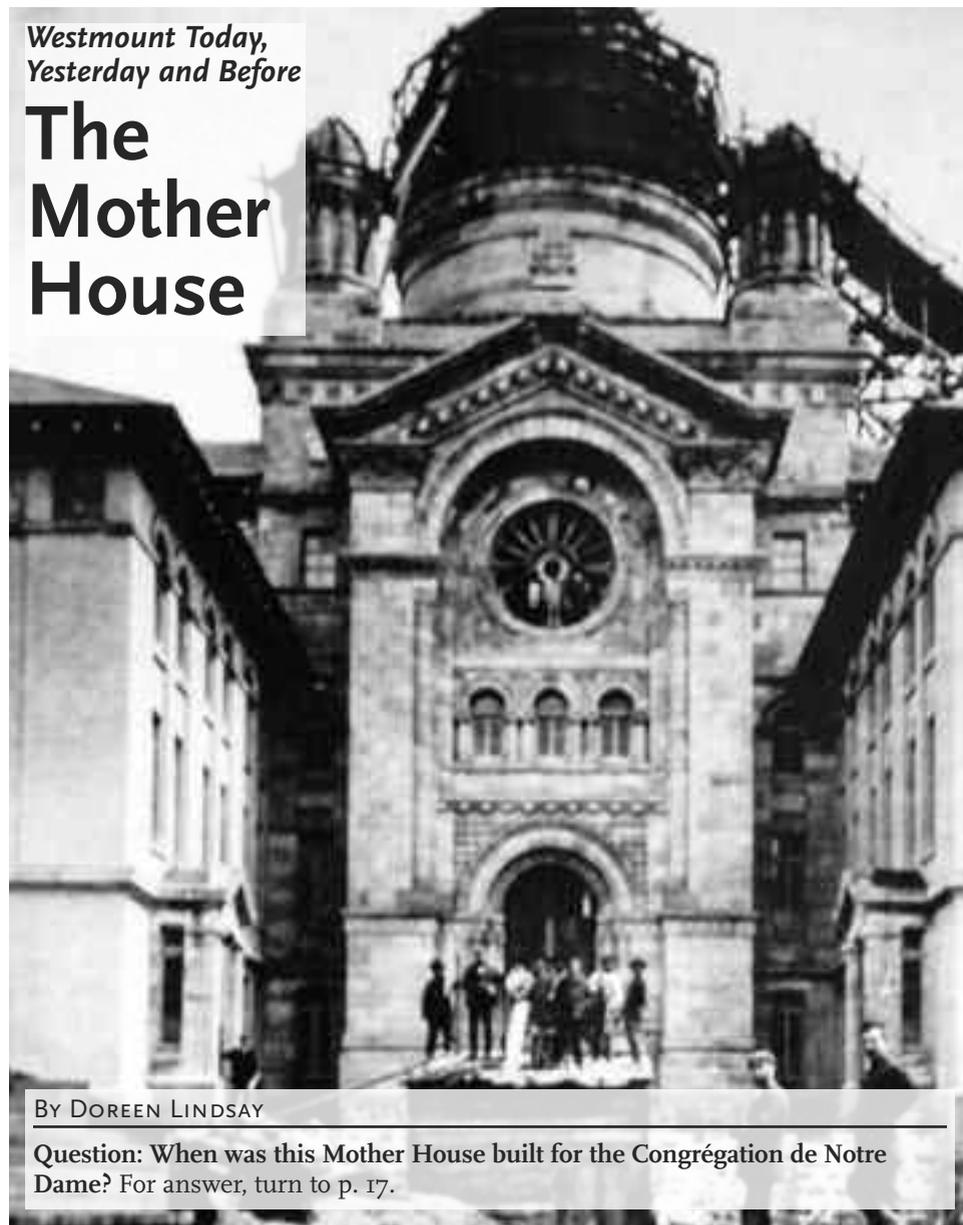
Glyncora Weir.

she is excited "to collaborate with [teacher] Kathy Funamoto on a project entitled 'I Have a Dream'. It will be a club that expands the boys' awareness of historical pioneers of change, addresses global and local issues of concern, and ultimately provides a space for the boys to develop real-world solutions and support structures for those in need."

Weir lives in Westmount, as did her family for a brief period before moving to British Columbia. In terms of her own interests, she enjoys cooking and writing, and loves to dance.

Westmount Today,
Yesterday and Before

The Mother House



BY DOREEN LINDSAY

Question: When was this Mother House built for the Congrégation de Notre Dame? For answer, turn to p. 17.

Underdog

BY FERN BRESLAW



Tango Photo: Jaime Leblanc

Homeless dogs come in all shapes and sizes but there are certain truths that stand out and usually define whether a dog wins the popularity-a-thon or not.

Puppies get snatched up before they even realize they're in a shelter, as do purebreds. It's a little like picking players— at the end of the day there are always one or two hangers-on nobody wants.

A pitbull is undoubtedly in this group and usually there is a dog like Tango. A big black dog. In Tango's case it doesn't help that he came in obese and that he is 8. It's a shame really as he is calm, housebroken, spends time alone without issue and is a genuine breeze when compared to puppy madness.

He has been at the SPCA for a very long time now and is becoming increasingly depressed. He seems rather wise in a dog-like way, which makes his situation seem all the more tragic. If you have been thinking about adopting, please consider visiting Tango at the SPCA. He is perceived as a loser for all the wrong reasons. For more information, call the Montreal SPCA at 514.735.2711. Tango's dog tag is #103, and his cage is #127400.



The Westmount Parent: Magazine mosaics

BY ANNIKA MELANSON

Now that the weather is becoming colder, we turn to indoor activities, such as baking and crafts.

From a young age, I have always enjoyed collage and making mosaics from old magazines and newspapers. It's creative, fun and environmentally friendly. (Think recycling.)

The following craft is a great activity for all ages, but especially the 7 to 14 age group.

Mosaics are made of tiny coloured pieces of stone, pottery, glass or other materials, arranged together and set in plaster or cement to make patterns and images. Mosaics have a long history. They were created in ancient times in Babylon, Egypt, Greece and Rome

Using magazines, newspapers or photos, you can achieve an effect similar to mosaics formed of glass, clay or stone. Here is what you will need:

- Magazines or photos
- Scissors
- Paper (cardboard works best)
- Glue

Start by cutting out small pieces of magazines, newspaper or photographs. Group colours in piles of reds, greens, blues etc. Draw a picture or design onto the paper (e.g. a bowl of fruit, an animal, a flower).

Begin adding the pieces of magazines and photos to create a mosaic.

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Westmount in Verdun



Westmount High teacher Jeff Kosow (left) holds his son Drew up to the glass at the Verdun Auditorium as mother Janis Cohen does the same for Drew's twin Max.

The English School Board of Montreal and Montreal Juniors junior hockey team hosted a special night for students and teachers from Westmount High on November 12 at the Verdun Auditorium.

Players were at Westmount High itself to meet students on November 10.

The Juniors are owned by Westmounter Farrel Miller.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

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VIP RECEPTION 5:25

7:30 p.m. | cocktail dinner | open bar | live | concert | monetary entrance to party at 9:30 p.m.

PARTY TICKETS \$40

8:30 p.m. | cash bar

dress: semi-formal



Westmount Art Scene

Leopold Plotek; Valérie Blass and David Humphrey

BY HEATHER BLACK

These are the final days for exhibits at Han Art and the Parisian Laundry. Bold themes are subjects for artist Leopold Plotek; while sculptor Valérie Blass and painter David Humphrey play with perception.

Leopold Plotek at Han Art

Leopold Plotek creates strong and compelling art. Starting from subject – from mythology to history – line and shape define story or event. Yet the titles reference rather than retell. “At Santa Maria Formosa” shapes dominate the rich reds, blues and greens of a church interior. A central gold funeral urn vacillates from background to forefront like memories. Or like the great stories the Concordia professor would have us recall.

“Blue Othello”, a vibrant portrait of greens and yellows, recalls the character’s

complexity. Positioned off-centre, Othello’s dramatic gesture and gold sweep create the presence of a stage. In “The Fathers’ Epitaph”, an elderly man wrapped in red is gently carried. A moving and personal statement, simple shapes convey an affection that draws the viewer in. Here Plotek’s signature outline – often black – is a subdued tone. The boundaries are few between father and son, or between artist and viewer. Capturing the riches of memory and metaphor, Plotek’s paintings attract and possess.

Valérie Blass and David Humphrey

The three-dimensional art of up-and-coming artist Valérie Blass dominates the lower gallery level. One of the few chosen for the recent Quebec Triennale at the Musée d’art contemporain, the artist investigates various materials as sculpture. Using wood, wool strands, or Christmas ornaments, the mix of materials initially

suggests a group show rather than that of one artist. Entitled “La plus pure apparence”, the tactile dominates the visual. Often cleverly constructed – a tree is composed of bricks – the sculptures appeal as curiosities. Here, the viewer is invited to discern the everyday in the unfamiliar.

That statement also applies to the exhibit of New York artist, David Humphrey, upstairs. Entitled “Expecting Ecstasy”, the artist offers a perceptual “shapeshifting” in surreal compositions. Combining defined figures with ambiguous shapes – a wave threatens two cats; a woman dissolves into her dog – Humphrey’s paintings often defy logic. An instructor at Yale’s School of Art, his paintings are more illustrative than painterly – and that is their charm. Simple shapes with energetic colour conjure up a narrative in a theatrical and, perhaps, humorous way.

Final Days

The retrospective of Plotek’s work at Han Art, and temporarily at Phillips Lounge, reveals a consistency of vibrant



“At Santa Maria Formosa” by Leopold Plotek

colour, deft brushstrokes and strong composition. Han Art is located at 4209 St. Catherine St. .

The exhibit of Blass’ fantasy arrangements and Humphrey’s flights of fancy continues until November 22 at the Parisian Laundry, 3550 St. Antoine.

Comin’ Up...

Tuesday, Nov. 18: The last in a series of

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evening talks on the architectural heritage of Westmount. Octavio Salcedo talks about cornices and exterior woodwork at 7 pm at the city hall council chamber. Cost: \$5. Buy your tickets at city hall or Westmount Library. Info: 514.989.5200.

Thursday, Nov. 20: Westmount Historical Association presents “Dawson College: Looking back 40 years” with speaker Sally Nelson who looks at the establishment of the CEGEP system, the early days of Dawson, and its occupation of the present campus. Event takes place at the Westmount Library from 7 to 9 pm. Admission is free for WHA members, or \$5 at the door for non-members.

Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 22 & 23: The Friends of the Westmount Public Library hosts their Fall Book Sale, from 10 am to 5 pm, at the library (4574 Sherbrooke St). For information call: 514.483.5604. If you have any books in very good condition to donate, please bring them to the library now.

Saturday, Nov. 22: Centre Greene (1090 Greene Ave., 514.931.6202) holds its annual Treats and Treasures Bazaar/Holiday Craft Sale, including children’s activities, from 10 am to 3 pm. Westmouter (and former Centre Greene director) Stuart Robertson will be on hand to answer gar-



Stuart Robertson poses with some of his books. He will be at Centre Greene November 22 to sign copies.

dening questions and to sign copies of his books. Brian Shemilt of Brome Photo (www.bromephoto.com) will also be in attendance. Whether a photo is faded, cracked, torn or blemished, it can be restored, printed, enlarged and preserved for many generations to come. Free estimates.

Monday, Nov. 24: Council meeting at 8 pm at city hall.

Tuesday, Nov. 25: Marianopolis College (4873 Westmount Ave., corner Claremont) sponsors free workshop on green roofs

from 12:45 to 2 pm. Event takes place in D-120, open to public. ● Choose among three lectures taking place at 7:30 pm at the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim’s Tuesday Night Learning series. “Theology of Zohar” by Rabbi Adam Scheier; “Breast Cancer Update” by Dr. Dave Fleiszer; or “Jewish Voices in the Courts: Where Religious and Civil Worlds Collide” by Professor Rosalie Jukier. Reservations are recommended. Info: 514.937.9471, or download registration form from www.shaarhashomayim.org. Free of charge and open to the community.

Thursday, November 27: Meet the Candidates (for the provincial election) at 7:30 pm at Victoria Hall (4626 Sherbrooke St.).

Sunday, Nov. 30: Annual Sisterhood/Brotherhood rummage sale at Temple Emanu-El -Beth Sholom from 9 am to 1 pm. Treasures, clothing, books, household goods, costume jewelry. Donations of goods accepted Oct. 22 to Nov. 27. Proceeds benefit Temple community projects. Info: Heather at 450.672.9788 or Cheryl at 514.486.7162.

Thursday, Dec. 4: Annual Super Bazaar at St. Leon Parish from 1 to 6 pm. Clothes, books, etc.

Philanthropists honoured

continued from p. 3

tion of the Blind to the Centre d'Accueil Marcelle-Ferron senior residence.

Elizabeth Falco, head of school at The Study noted, "philanthropy is so much more than about giving money. This is an important value we try and instill in our girls throughout the school. Diana is a

wonderful example of youth in philanthropy and is well deserving of this special recognition."

McConnell said, "I was truly honoured by this award and to be included alongside such a remarkable group of fellow inductees. Philanthropy always brings out the best in people."

The inventory: houses for sale

continued from p. 13

\$2,700,000	526 Clarke Ave.	\$3,200,000	Address unavailable
\$2,850,000	3233 Trafalgar	\$3,250,000	630 Clarke Ave.
\$2,850,000	607 Clarke Ave.	\$3,475,000	Address unavailable
\$2,948,000	3 Murray Ave.	\$3,500,000	Address unavailable
\$2,988,000	4302 Montrose Ave.	\$3,750,000	77 Sunnyside Ave.
\$2,995,000	4313 Montrose Ave.	\$3,980,000	Address unavailable
\$3,199,000	Address unavailable	\$4,800,000	3657 The Boulevard*
			*Also for rent.

Please write to us!

For consideration, letters to the editor must identify them as "for publication" and have authors' customary first and last names, and street names, all of which will be published. Please also include contact information (for follow-up purposes only). We do not publish letters regarding consumer complaints or inter-neighbour disputes. Letters will be edited for length, content and style.

History quiz: The Mother House

Question from p. 14: When was this Mother House built for the Congrégation de Notre Dame?

Answer: From 1905 to 1908.

This 700-room yellow brick building was designed in 1905 by the young Montreal architect Jean-Omer Marchand as the sixth mother house for the sisters of the Congrégation de Notre Dame.

They had purchased the property from the gentlemen of St. Sulpice for \$200,000. Marchand had returned from his studies in Paris and just finished redoing the chapel of the Grand Seminary. By November 20, 1907, the huge structure was almost complete and a 17-foot statue of "Notre Dame de la Garde, Our Lady of the Watch" was installed on the central dome. Today, this dome and statue signal the entrance to Westmount as you drive or walk west on Sherbrooke St.

In July 1908, the CND sisters, 110 novices and 13 postulants moved in. By the end of August 1908, there were over a thousand sisters in the Congrégation.

In addition to establishing their mother

house, the CND also started L'École d'Enseignement Supérieur Notre-Dame (Notre Dame Ladies College) with a similar program of studies as the Collège Classique for men. The official opening was October 8, 1908 with 12 students registered in the French program, three in the English and 27 in part-time courses. A BA degree would be granted through an affiliation

with Laval University. The first graduate was Marie Guérin-Lajoie.

In 1926, the Arts and Science, both French and English, moved up to a new building on Westmount Ave. and changed their name to Collège

Marguerite Bourgeys College. The commercial section remained on Sherbrooke St. as the Notre Dame Secretarial School.

This imposing building and grounds at 3040 Sherbrooke St. continued to be owned by the Congrégation de Notre Dame until 1985 when they sold it to Dawson College. It had been classified as an historic site by the Ministère des Affaires culturelles on August 19, 1977.

Doreen Lindsay is the president of the Westmount Historical Association.

A talk about the development of Dawson College, the English language CEGEP, which has occupied this building since 1988, will be given on Thursday, November 20 at 7 pm in the Westmount Public Library.

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Westmount Profile: Irene Marks

Did 'anything and everything'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Driven by a strong will, the courage of her convictions and a profound love of people, Irene Marks was only 16 when she quit school in Dresden, Germany. It was her way to avoid greeting teachers with the "Heil Hitler" salute during the rise of the Nazis in the 1930s.

But after she and her family fled to Montreal in May 1939, Marks immersed herself in a lifetime of community leadership and contribution.

This includes co-founding, and building over 30 years, the Golden Age Association that evolved from seven members in 1951 into the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors with some 6,000 members today. She also chaired a new seniors group at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom for 14 years.

"I did anything and everything," she says, "from interior decorating to substituting as a social worker for immigrants from Morocco. My whole life has been helping other people. I don't know how to

say 'No' if I know I can help."

Pausing, she adds, "Obviously I have a need to do it." Perhaps, she suggests, it stems from her initial intent to study medicine before the war intervened.

But the same resolve and independent spirit she demonstrated as a young Jew in pre-war Germany continues to characterize her life.

At age 91, and recently recovered from a brain aneurysm and surgery in April, she attended the Westmount city council meeting in September presided over by the mayor – her daughter Karin. She wanted to be there to pay her own tribute to the long-serving director general, Bruce St. Louis.

Not being allowed to drive after her illness is crimping the busy lifestyle she had been leading, she says, including the numerous errands she ran for the entire family. "The car was my freedom."

Learned to save everything

Born in Dresden in 1917, Marks recalls a childhood characterized by a country suf-

fering after World War I. It shaped her life in many ways. "I think we ate turnips three times a day. We kept everything. Even today, if I receive a gift, I save the ribbon. It's amazing how the way you were brought up carries on through life."

In the years leading up to World War II, Marks helped thwart her father's arrest on at least one occasion. "I received a veiled warning one day that the Gestapo would be waiting for him and his brother at the family business.

"I told them I would go in to work instead because at that time they weren't after the women. And sure enough, the officers were waiting. And did they ever make me work cleaning the place! My father spent the day riding on buses."

Brush with Hitler

Marks also had her own brief brush with Hitler.

"After I quit school, I was taking a course in dietetics at a rest-cure place we called a sanatorium. We had interesting people there to rest. One day, Hitler came to visit one of his generals. I was working in the vegetarian department when the order came through for one platter and a platter for 15. So we knew immediately who it was for.

"I wondered if I could get some poison. And if I could, would I use it? But I was the only Jewish person in the kitchen so they would know who was responsible and carry out their wrath on a wider population. I couldn't be responsible for that."

Marks couldn't resist sneaking a peak at Hitler from afar, however. "I just wanted to see him." One of her grandmothers would later die in her eighties in a concentration camp.

After surviving the fires and round-ups of Jews on Kristallnacht – the Night of Broken Glass (November 9, 1938) often considered to mark the start of the Holocaust – the family made plans to leave Germany. Arriving in Canada at age 22, Marks began volunteering at the hospital lab at the former Reddy Memorial. She was soon hired and rose to become laboratory chief.

Meanwhile, she met a young lawyer named Lawrence Marks through Rabbi



Irene Marks at home.

Harry Stern at the Temple Emanu-El. They married shortly after, though Irene spoke little English. She was, however, quite fluent in French.

Continued French tradition

"My parents were smart. When I was about 5, they had a girl from France live with us. Then I carried on the tradition by sending my daughters to Collège Marie de France. And, boy, did that come in handy for Isabelle making her films for the film board and Karin attending all those Montreal council meetings!"

While initially "I didn't want children to destroy my profession," she says, Marks shifted her career into volunteerism while raising the family in their home on Grosvenor Ave.

She worked for a time as the administrator of a 24-storey apartment building on Mount Royal Ave. near Park. She also ran a not-for-profit handicraft store for the Golden Age Association on a grant from the McConnell Foundation.

Having an interest in handicrafts, Marks made smocked dresses for her grandchildren, one of which was worn recently by her great-granddaughter, Kiley. "I was supposed to make her a spider outfit for Halloween this year, but she decided to be a witch. And I wasn't needed for that."

It was, however, a shoe bag that she made for Karin to give as a gift one Christmas that launched Katsumi, the cottage industry that Karin founded in pre-mayoral days. "I worked with Karin, driving the materials to the sewers, accompanying her on sales trips and setting up booths at trade shows," she says. "I did whatever the family needed."

And while Marks speaks in the past tense, it's likely she'll be finding new ways around the loss of her car to keep on with her mission of helping others.

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