

Event of the week

Lecture on: Marianopolis' centennial
Thursday, September 18.
For details, see *Comin' Up*, p. 17.



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Kitchen waste pickup expanded to encompass half of Westmount

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The second phase of Westmount's green bin kitchen and yard waste collection will cover a much larger territory than initially planned, covering most of the eastern half of the city. It will replace the regular Monday garbage pickup.

Expected to be rolled out November 3 to 1,580 households, the latest effort will build on lessons learned from the 525 homes involved in the first phase, said environmental coordinator Marina Peter. These residents are now being surveyed for comments and suggestions due this Friday.

The larger than expected Phase 2 territory results from the contractor finding a way to accommodate four garbage sectors

rather than the proposed three, she explained.

"This means that now almost half the city will be able to have their organic waste – kitchen and garden debris – sent to composting and diverted from landfill."

Together, Phases 1 and 2 total 2,105 of Westmount's 4,724 single family homes, duplexes and residential buildings having eight or fewer units. Larger apartment buildings are not yet included.

The Phase 2 garbage sectors are numbers 6, 7, 9 and 10 (see map, page 11).

These cover a general area bounded by the east city limits and south from Summit Circle to the west down Bellevue, Aberdeen, Murray and Forden to Côte St. Antoine and south on the east side of Clarke to *continued on p. 11*

La Cache in bankruptcy



For story see p. 3

27 Bellevue issue in judge's hands

Council adopts permit change

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A divided city council finally voted 5-2 at a special meeting September 9 to correct the controversial permit that would add another storey to a house at 27 Bellevue. But at least one councillor contends the decision may be illegal.

Council's second attempt to correct an initial error in the permit came only an hour before the second day of hearings before Quebec Superior Court into the case, in which a neighbour is challenging the work on grounds it will block her scenic view.

But in debating the permit change, council waded into deeper issues involv-

ing differences between English and French versions of the zoning by-law and council's responsibilities in approving permits recommended by the city's influential Planning Advisory Committee.

"We are not legally permitted to vote for what's on the table," stated Councillor Patrick Martin, a professional engineer, citing the more stringent French version and several technical reasons he would later repeat in Superior Court.

"I don't see how any city councillor can vote for this (amended permit) after I've told them it's illegal," Martin added.

But when Councillor George Bowser's request to abstain from the vote was denied by *continued on p. 8*

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Dion and Layton revisit Westmount, p. 14



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La Cache in bankruptcy, local links still strong

After 32 years in business, the parent company of well-known Greene Ave. landmark La Cache will be closing many of its Canadian stores in the context of a bankruptcy/reorganization.

The *Gazette* reported on September 10 that at least 14 named stores will close on September 30. The list did not include the Westmount store.

By press time, the *Independent* was unable to reach La Cache's head office to discover any special plans for the flagship Greene Ave. location. Staff members at the store were unable to comment.

La Cache has been a longtime fixture in Westmount with many links to the community. The founders, April and Chris Cornell, lived in Westmount when they started the store. At one time, each store had a local charity mandate, which for Greene Ave. included support of Centre Greene's *Samedis Greene*.

Lulham remembers

Many Westmounters have worked at the chain over the years, including current city councillor Cynthia Lulham.

When contacted by the *Independent*, Lulham was audibly saddened by the recent developments and reminisced about her time at La Cache from the mid-1980s to 1995.

"I started as a part-time salesperson because I loved their things," she said.

Lulham went on to hold many jobs, "rising through the ranks as they were created," and ended up as the manager of operations for the US.

She opened many stores in both the US and Canada, including several of the 14

that will be closing on September 30.

Party led to politics

In fact, Lulham's employment at La Cache led indirectly to involvement in municipal government.

When planning the firm's 20th anniversary outdoor party in September 1995, she came into contact with then-councillor Karin Marks, then-director of Public Works Fred Caluori, director of Building and Planning Joanne Poirier and then-director of Public Security Richard McEnroe.

"They were all 'can-do' people," as opposed to many public officials she had met while opening stores all over the continent. When her neighbours encouraged her to run, the positive experience of the anniversary helped her decide to enter politics.

The 3,000-person anniversary party featured llamas, a camel and fire-eaters from the Cirque du Soleil. It was the first time that Greene Ave. had been closed for an event.

Lulham has other links to the Cornell family. Before ever working at La Cache,



she had their son, Cameron, as one of her campers at the YMCA day camp, where she worked in the summers.

Reflecting again on the parent company's bankruptcy, Lulham summed up, "It is very sad. April and Chris had a vision, a dream."

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GP's view of future health care discussed

BY EVE ASPINALL
MEMBER OF THE HEALTHY CITY PROJECT

When a longstanding patient – who had waited a month for a follow-up appointment and then sat in the waiting room for over an hour – mentioned the delay, the reply was “You haven’t seen anything yet!”

This led to a very interesting and lengthy interview with Dr. John B. Hughes, MD, CM and assistant professor of Medicine at McGill University’s Faculty of Medicine on the future of medicine in Quebec and Canada. He has practised in Westmount and is well known in the community.

Once upon a time, perhaps 20 years ago, you went to the bank and chatted with the teller who stood behind the counter. She would help clients fill out the deposit slips, write up their bank books or whatever. She knew most of her customers and interacted with them in a personal level. Now they have been largely replaced by automatic teller machines (ATMs). They are very convenient, very effective and efficient, and absolutely impersonal.

Medicine a unique service

It is this type of change that is happening throughout society – economies of

scale, economies of operating procedures – to the detriment of personal service. Dr. Hughes is skeptical of how this will translate to medical services, as medicine is a bit unique in the service industry.

Services will still be there but delivered in a less personal manner. There will be less continuity of care, patients may no longer see the same doctor each time and may not be known by him/her. This occurs now in many urban communities across Canada.

Young doctors are not setting up private practices such as we know them because the environment in which to do so is being intentionally manipulated in another direction by the third party payer, our government.

Canadians do not have the money to pay for the services they expect to get, as evidenced by the closure of 20 percent of community hospitals in the 1990s at the demand of the IMF (International Monetary Fund). Our politicians are responsible for the allocation of funds for services. Dr. Hughes believes that there is not enough money around to provide for services Canadians expect.

Thus the government is trying to keep the level as high as possible to provide the best care to every one and has resorted to the ATM-type solution as opposed to the



The Queen Elizabeth on Northcliffe Ave. was one of the community hospitals closed in the 1990s. It has been reborn at the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex.

bank teller approach.

There are clinics of many kinds, e.g. CLSCs and GMFs, where the staff fluctuate, many of whom do not have deep roots in the organization and do not know their patients. People on average move every five years so that continuity is missing.

Fewer specialists

There are greater difficulties accessing specialists these days. Their numbers have been cut; there are restrictions on foreign licensing, even on those with post-doc training here in Canada and even on American doctors. It takes lengthy telephone calls to sell a critical case to a specialist in order to expedite a consultation which will be an extra burden on their daily schedule. Doctors have to turn down new patients in order to see their own patients in a timely manner, otherwise they lose control over their practice and problems become larger.

People have to pay attention to what is happening in society. Unfortunately, most people do not have the time to pay attention to what is happening in the health care field, and added to that, health care is an extremely complicated domain and, as such, the government is allowed to get

away with less than full disclosure.

The federal and provincial governments should come out with a full statement of what is covered by Medicare and what is not. This would put an end to this delusional state that people have of free health care for everything. It is about time someone said, “The emperor has no clothes!”

People have to demand that government spend the money on health care by influencing their politicians. One signature on a handwritten letter is worth 1,000 on a petition. In the short term, there is a real problem finding a GP, but in the long term there has to be pressure on the government to recognize the public’s desire for a solution.

The public will get what they want but they have to be willing to pay for it.

Dislocation to come

Dr. Hughes will argue that today Canadian society is not willing to pay the price and as such has to suffer severe dislocations in the health care system. Basically and although it is a bit of an oversimplification, Canadians are not willing to pay the funds so that everyone gets a GP.

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Parenting Pick: School fairs

BY ANNIKA MELANSON

Montreal Families magazine is hosting two education fairs in September, which offer parents an opportunity to meet representatives from more than 40 public, private and boarding schools. The fairs will be held on Monday, September 22 at the Holiday Inn Midtown (420 Sher-

brooke St. W. corner Hutchison Street.), from 5 pm to 8 pm and on Tuesday, September 23 at the Holiday Inn Pointe Claire (Highway 40 & St. Jean Boulevard), from 5 pm to 8 pm. Admission is free.

For a complete list of attending schools or for more information, call *Montreal Families* at 514.487.8881 or go to www.montrealfamilies.ca.

Civic Alert

Dawn patrol: Questionable wisdom at 8 am councils

BY DON WEDGE



Some people like early morning meetings, some don't. Councillors are no exception. Their views are split with a bias towards early starts. As part-timers, they can spend the rest of their day pursuing regular business.

I doubt that the public who attend council meetings share that view. They tend to skip council's daytime sessions.

On September 9, the first of last week's two special sessions was notable for the presence of a handful of citizens. Called for 8 am, councillors were due later at the courthouse downtown, where they had been subpoenaed to give evidence in the case of 27 Bellevue Ave.

Protagonists in the dispute of neighbours exchanged sharp words before Mayor Karin Marks opened the meeting, but there was no ugliness even as councillors Patrick Martin and Kathleen Duncan voted against their colleagues.

Four Westmount Municipal Association directors watched, dutifully trying to understand how the change to a Category 1 building had been allowed.

Although the media had been notified at noon the previous day, the *Indie's* Lau-

reen Sweeney, as so often is the case, was the only local reporter present and her reports are on pages 1 and 8.

Despite the early hour, far more than the issuing of a permit was at stake, including: neighbours having access to information about applications, redefinition of the permit process and of councillors' duties. They became fall-out issues raised on September 10 at the second daytime meeting of the week, when Martin successfully persuaded his colleagues to end the rubber stamping.

Previous time

It brought to mind a previous time when I had been part of a public turnout for a council meeting at 8 am. In 1991, May Cutler's council met to pass a minor housekeeping item, only to find no fewer than nine protesters, organized by the Westmount Municipal Association.

On this occasion, all council had to do was to authorize Councillor Peter Trent to take Mayor Cutler's place at the same evening's session of the Régie intermunicipale de gestion des déchets de l'Île de Montréal (RIGDIM), which was part-owned by Westmount.

The purpose of this RIGDIM meeting was to authorize a crucial phase in the mayors' \$1 billion incinerator plan.

The WMA had become firmly convinced that this was not the way to go, and was subsequently vindicated when the promoters admitted disposal would cost \$122 per tonne to burn compared with about \$34 per tonne to bury in a landfill.

Is history about to repeat itself? Big Montreal Mayor Gerald Tremblay is interested in a plan to build incinerators across the region.

By 1991, although Quebec law specified public meetings, nearly 40 of the mayors' RIGDIM sessions had been held in secret. Nevertheless, the word was getting out.

Public interest was growing not only in Westmount, and the idea of burning waste and creating pollution in the process was

being strongly criticized. The 26 member mayors themselves were divided. Trent supported it at that time.

The dispute had become very charged over the previous months. The decision was to go ahead with the proposal of the American combustion engineers Foster Wheeler, subject to it gaining Quebec government approval.

This would only be given after a commission had held public hearings. When these began in April 1993, citizens, media and experts tore the plan to pieces.

In the end, the commission condemned the project saying it should not go ahead for environmental, social and economic reasons!

On the Market: 52 Columbia

Built in 1896, this stone, fully renovated upper duplex benefits from an open concept eating and living area, three bedrooms, exposed brick walls, refinished wood floors, a renovated kitchen and bathroom (with a Jacuzzi), granite counters, high ceilings, original moldings, new energy-efficient thermo pane windows, two outdoor parking spaces, as well as the possibility to build a rooftop terrace.

The owner, a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) accredited architect, used strategies to make the renovation as sustainable as possible by reusing as much of the existing materials as possible such as walls, wood floors, doors, doorknobs, plaster and moldings, which reduced waste and saved energy.

A low-flush toilet was installed in the bathroom. The heating system uses original cast iron hot water radiators, which use

The deal was terminated, the Americans sued and, in 2008, with astronomical legal costs, it is still being disputed in the courts.

As I compared the 8 am meeting of 1991 with last week's, I realized how things have remained the same. Public reaction to the issues in both cases hardened as more facts became known.

Currently it is a call for more transparency and better rules. In 1991 it was more transparency and a better solution.

It's not always easy for a council to change course, but it is sometimes important to do so. Oh! And secrecy is not always wise! *Citizen activist Don Wedge's e-mail address is calert@web.net.*

less energy than new ones because of their thermal mass. The hot water heating system was switched to electric. Another "green" benefit is the proximity to the Atwater metro station.

This is a great opportunity for a first-time buyer, a young couple, a new family or a single professional. As the property is a second-floor walk-up, it is less suitable for an older buyer. The only drawback is the proximity to the train tracks.

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Changed roles

Two sidelights: The PQ responsible minister, incidentally, was the now-retired Jacques Brassard, who last week intervened in the federal election by accusing the Bloc of effectively putting sovereignty on hold.

Councillor Tom Thompson, who attempted to apply his trademarked dispute-settling on members' by-law differences, was on the other side of the microphone in 1991 – as president of the WMA. **DW**

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Letters to the editor

SIGN-UP NOT 'WELL ORGANIZED'

I must object to your article's characterization of the Sports and Recreation sign-up ("Hundreds Register", September 2 *Independent*, p. 3). While the staff and volunteers did work very hard, the process was certainly not "well organized."

The fact that hundreds of people, many with small children in tow, had to wait for many hours in line indicates that some more organization is needed.

You may be right that registrants were excited to sign up for the sports programs, but most in line were greatly PO-ed at the sign-up process.

If we calculate that 800 people waited an average of 2 hours in line and apply an average time cost of \$30 per hour (a conservative estimate in Westmount), citizens lost a total of 1,600 hours and \$48,000 in this process.

Of course, those wealthy enough to have their nannies wait in line for them (yes, this is a growing trend) were much less inconvenienced. I'm sure the wonderful folks at Sports and Recreation can come up with a better way to do this.

Clearly, this is one Westmount "tradition" that needs to be changed.

ROBERT DAVID, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

ARE CANADIANS IN QUEBEC ENTITLED TO ALL THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS?

Now that national unity has become an election topic, almost nothing threatens Canadian national unity more than the blatant and unconscionable abandonment of more than one million Quebecers of non-French origin by federal political party leaders: Harper, Dion and Layton.

Angry citizens across our nation are watching these hypocritical leaders openly pursue Quebec nationalist and separatist voters while ignoring the plight of loyal Canadians in Quebec who live under a regime of always-denied, but open, state-sanctioned discrimination.

This prejudice is imposed through the abrogation of language, sign and education rights, not to forget the restriction of access to English language services and overall denial of hiring of Quebec's minorities in government positions.

Considering that the Conservatives,

Liberals, NDP and the Bloc Québécois all wholeheartedly supported recognition of the "Québécois nation" in the parliamentary vote last year, this would be the best time for federal political leaders to make clear commitments on exactly what their parties will do to restore the abrogated rights to these too long neglected Canadians in Quebec.

Are Quebec's discriminated-against minorities, as full citizens of Canada, not entitled to live in Quebec with all the complete and inherent rights of being Canadian? Is it not disingenuous that the federal government promotes national bilingualism and affirmative hiring programs for French Canadians across Canada, while Quebec is officially unilingual, French, and employs few anglophones, allophones and visible minorities?

It is shameful, disrespectful, and irresponsible for federal leaders to avoid these serious issues as Canada's national interest is flagrantly overlooked in the appeasement of the nationalist-separatist agenda that has driven Canada's political life for too long.

ALLEN NUTIK, REDFERN AVE.
LEADER OF AFFILIATION QUEBEC

Arlington Ave. sale back on

The Arlington Ave. street sale was rained out on September 14, but it has been rescheduled for Sunday, September 21 from 10 am to 2 pm. 10 to 12 families plan to participate as merchants.



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Electors react to meeting the candidates

LOOMING ABORTION DEBATE?

In the upcoming general election, I really fear a return of the abortion debate. Harper's bill that would potentially criminalize abortions by recognizing the fetus as a legal person is a back door to reopen a long-settled debate.

I also fear that Dion's Liberals will not be standing up to Harper as much as they should. They have abstained from many non-confidence votes and probably wouldn't have toppled the government over this issue. They have given Harper a blank cheque to press through his agenda.

What has happened to the Canadian consensus on abortion?

In spite of Green Party candidate Claude Genest's assurances ("Greens vs. right to choose is 'outrageous falsehood'", August 26 *Independent*, p. 6), even the Greens seem to be ambivalent about it. Elizabeth May has publicly called abortion a "frivolous right to choose" in an address to the Sisters of St. Joseph in London, Ontario.

I hope the voters of Westmount-Ville

Marie will consider a women's right to choose as a central motivator when deciding whom to vote for. I hope they will choose the only candidate and party who have never waived on this issue and who have continuously opposed Harper.

That candidate, of course, is the NDP's Anne Lagacé Dowson.

LISE ST-DENIS, SIMPSON ST.

POLITICIANS SHOULD REUSE

It was interesting to observe, at the Meet the Candidates night on August 27, that none of the main party candidates (including the Green Party) seemed to be using his/her own re-usable water bottle.

These experienced public figures all should have known that plastic-bottled water is often what's offered at many types of speaking engagements. If the candidates are really serious about environmental issues, I would like to see them set a good example by taking the easy but important step of using their own re-usable bottles.

SUSAN KAZENEL
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Westmounters build a new school wing in Peru

Last year, Carolina Gallo La Fleche hosted a breakfast to raise money and collect clothing for an orphanage in Peru. One of the guests, Westmounter Birgitte Keefe, was planning a trip with her 15-year-old son Brendan. She wanted to do something different than just sightseeing and decided on Peru.

Keefe formed a group of like-minded mothers and their children whom she

thought would want to participate and join in an adventure. The group's members are Alice Goldbloom and her daughter Alexandra, Christina Crandall and her daughter Kirstin, Joanna Yao and her son Jean-Louis Chen, Judi Levitt and her son Jonathan, Carolina Gallo La Fleche and her daughter Morgane Richer La Fleche, and Keefe's son Brendan.

Jean-Louis, Jonathan and Brendan attend Selwyn House; Alexandra and Kirstin attend The Study and Morgane recently attended Villa Ste. Marcelline.

Keefe researched a number of organizations and decided upon Volunteer Abroad, which helped coordinate a trip to Peru as well as a volunteer project. The chosen project was a school where a new wing was desperately needed.

"Children in North America grow up with so many benefits. The purpose of this trip for me and my son was for him to see how people survive in other countries and arrive every day at school with a smile on their face," said Keefe.

Each participant donated a sum that collectively covered the cost of materials, as well as the hiring of an expert contractor. But it was the mothers and their kids



Volunteers Abroad director Julia Clement (top row left) and Morgane Richer La Fleche (top row right) with local Peruvians.

that did all of the hauling, nailing and painting.

"The children had the chance to interact in a meaningful way with the local stu-

dents and they were also able to see what a difference their work created. It was truly a privilege and touching experience," said Gallo La Fleche.



From left: Brendan Keefe, Jonathan Levitt, an unidentified Peruvian student, Jean-Louis Chen and another unidentified Peruvian student. Keefe, Levitt and Chen are currently in grade 10 at Selwyn House.

Making it official

The recent mounting of this MUHC logo on the former Air Canada building just west of Claremont on de Maison-neuve brings to reality the hospital's move to the Westmount border.

Acquisition of the building for clinics and administration offices was initially reported by the *Independent* May 20 in a story headlined "Superhospital moving closer".

The building backs onto the Glen Yard.

► The de Maisonneuve entrance to the "new" MUHC building, steps from Vendôme Metro station.



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Cllr. calls permit amendment "illegal"

continued from p. 1

the city clerk, he voted in favour of the permit along with Cynthia Lulham, Tom Thompson, Nicole Forbes and John de Castell. The latter two reversed their votes from a previous meeting, saying they now had information they required.

This time, only Councillor Kathleen Duncan voted with Martin in opposition. Along with Lulham and Marks, they were the only council members called to testify in court, though most members of council received subpoenas.

Elated by the final outcome of the council decision, Steven Goldberg, the owner of 27 Bellevue, leaned over to kiss his wife. They quickly thanked the council and headed for court.

The previous attempt to amend the permit August 25 on a different technicality was voted down 4-3, thereby adding weight, initially, to the plaintiff's case against the city and Goldberg. Mireille Raymond alleges the new storey would block the view from her home at 20 Sunnyside.

The new attempt to correct the permit was based on a design change that also allows the roof to be raised to allow an attic crawl space to become another storey.

In debating the second change, Martin pointed out how the English version of the by-law was apparently used as the reference by the city and varied from the French. He believed that in Quebec a

French version takes precedence. (This would be based on Article 8 of the French Language Charter, city clerk Mario Gerbeau later told the *Independent*.) As well, Westmount typically accepts the more stringent of two varying regulations.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who chairs council's urban planning committee and sits on the Planning Advisory Committee, said "our guidelines are not absolute because architecture is not absolute."

Mayor Karin Marks later pointed out that the city's architectural guidelines (though written into the by-law) were just that - guidelines. "It's not a finite process," she explained. The guidelines provide the direction "we want to go in" and are interpreted building by building. That was why council should take the advice of professional architectural experts.

In that regard, Martin argued, the role of the advisory body was to make recommendations, whereas the responsibility of council was to ensure that they conformed legally, which he believed in this case was not so.

Tom Thompson explained it was his role as chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee to ensure all details of the permit conformed to the by-law, which he believed they did. "A court may decide differently," he added. The court case was expected to conclude on Sept. 15.

Later, during question period, citizens questioned the reliance on architectural



Before the second day of court action, opposing neighbours peruse the new design features for 27 Bellevue before the council debate. From left are John Keyserlingk, Barry Garber (both of Sunnyside) and Steven Goldberg of 27 Bellevue. Looking on is Councillor Nicole Forbes (right).

experts. "Why do you have to do what the experts say?" asked Marilyn Gillies.

In pointing out that mistakes had been made in the original permit, Helen Rainville said, "so architects aren't infallible."

Retired architect Michael Ellwood, who has experience in Westmount, suggested that the setbacks at 27 Bellevue made it a non-conforming building and as such any additions also required special non-conforming consideration.

Asked by the *Independent* after the

meeting if some of the issues raised might lead to a review of the current permit granting process, Marks answered only that she had "always felt" the public should have greater access to plans "before the shovel goes in the ground."

On the other hand, she said, there are fears that providing too much information before a permit is granted can become "a political football." Marks previously served as the council's architectural and planning commissioner.

Changes kick in quickly to permit approval process

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In the wake of the court challenge to a building permit for 27 Bellevue, it took only one day last week for council to change the way it typically approves such permit recommendations from the architectural review board.

At its mid-month meeting September 10 - the day after its controversial approval of the Bellevue permit change (see story p. 1) - council voted unanimously to accept the request of Councillor Patrick Martin to withdraw seven major projects from the newest list of 24 permit applications on the agenda. This would give council more time for reviewing the requests of the city's influential Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

"I'd like to see us get the information sooner," Martin said.

In some cases neighbours would be affected, he explained. To vote properly, councillors needed to have sufficient in-

formation to know what they were voting for.

He cited the manner in which he had been examined in Superior Court the day before by the city's own lawyer who questioned the council's responsibility to be fully informed before voting on the permits. The one for 27 Bellevue had been approved initially March 31 in a group of some 79.

Martin said it was unrealistic to expect the council to approve a long list of permits received only the previous afternoon, especially when they involved additions and extensions that "would definitely have an impact on neighbours."

Lessons learned

Through the experience of 27 Bellevue, he said, "we've learned that neighbours don't take kindly" to that type of work, and

that court challenges can be costly.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who sits on PAC with the city architectural advisors, said she had no problem endorsing the recommendations of PAC. She felt uncomfortable delaying permits to people who had been waiting a long time and who were told their permits were "going through today." A common complaint was how long it can take to get a permit.

She also urged councillors to read PAC minutes to keep informed. But Councillor Kathleen Duncan said the minutes provided only "generic explanations" of the projects under consideration.

Others come onside

When Duncan recounted a similar courtroom experience to Martin, councillors Tom Thompson and John de Castell voiced support for Martin's suggestion

and the motion on the table was amended by Lulham on the spot and subsequently approved.

Mayor Karin Marks said that "we will look at the process" but that it was council's role to ratify decisions of PAC, not replace it. Council should either support the architectural review board that had been in place since 1918 or make the process into a political analysis.

The seven building projects withdrawn included a two-storey addition at 60 Oakland and a second storey addition at 659 Murray Hill as well as extensions at 511 Roslyn, 736 Upper Belmont and 455 Claremont. Another was to build a garage deck on a Category 1 heritage home at 389 Elm and the addition of a sunroom at 328 Wood.

Martin said he had no issue with approving permits for windows, doors and similar types of work, but felt council needed sufficient time to understand the files dealing with more major work.

For permits approved on September 10 see p. 20.

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Westmount Page



Vol. 2/17

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TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Énoncé de vision sur le développement durable

Les résidents de Westmount sont invités à participer à des ateliers de discussions afin de préparer un énoncé de vision pour une communauté durable. Cet énoncé servira au développement de politiques futures et actions environnementales, économiques et sociales. La première séance s'est tenue le mardi 16 septembre; la prochaine séance se tiendra le jeudi 16 octobre à 19 h au Victoria Hall. Info : developpementdurable.westmount.org

Travaux de réfection de l'avenue Westmount

Veillez noter que les travaux de réfection de l'avenue Westmount, de la rue Lansdowne vers l'est jusqu'à The Boulevard, se poursuivront jusqu'à la fin de septembre. Ce projet de 4,3 millions \$ inclura le remplacement de la conduite d'eau, les lampadaires ainsi que la reconstruction de la rue et des trottoirs. Veuillez consulter notre site Web pour plus de détails. Info: 514 989-5268. 🍷



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

La galerie du Victoria Hall

La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les œuvres de John Hill du 18 septembre au 11 octobre. Info : 514 989-5226. 🍷



BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Conférences de 14 heures

Le théâtre au Québec de 1937 à 1952 : un voyage musical

Joignez-vous à Hélène Jasmin et au saxophoniste Antonin Marineau qui vous offriront une présentation multimédia sur le théâtre au Québec au milieu du XXe siècle le mercredi 17 septembre à 14 h. Info : 514 989-5386.

Rencontres avec les auteurs

John Kalbfleisch

Joignez-vous à nous pour une soirée en compagnie de John Kalbfleisch le mercredi 17 septembre à 19 h. M. Kalbfleisch lira des passages de son

DATES À RETENIR

Le 17 septembre – 18 h 30

Club de lecture française
Bibliothèque

Du 18 septembre au 11 octobre

Exposition : John Hill
La galerie du Victoria Hall

Le 18 septembre – 16 h

Cercle de lecture – Pour ados !
Bibliothèque

Le 18 septembre – 19 h

Association historique de Westmount
Collège Marianopolis (Françoise Boisvert)
Bibliothèque

Le 19 septembre – 14 h

Club d'échecs et de Scrabble
Bibliothèque

Le 22 septembre – 20 h

Séance du conseil
Hôtel de ville

nouveau livre *This Island in Time : Remarkable Tales from Montreal's Past*. Info : 514 989-5386.

Les vendredis du cinéma

Venez visionner le film *Himalaya* d'Eric Valli le vendredi 26 septembre à 19 h et participer à une discussion de groupe par la suite. Vous devez préalablement vous inscrire au comptoir de prêt. Info : 514 989-5386. 🍷



SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Ouverture des patinoires

Patineurs : prenez note que les patinoires de l'Arena de Westmount sont en opération pour la saison 2008-09. L'horaire complet de patinage libre est disponible sur notre site Web. La carte d'accès – installations sportives est requise. Le port du casque protecteur est fortement recommandé. 🍷



PUBLIC WORKS

Visioning Workshop on a Sustainable Westmount

Three different vision statements have been drafted for public discussion. Between September and December 2008, the community can get involved by making suggestions at special workshops, the first of which was held on Tuesday, September 16. The next workshop will be held on Thursday, October 16 at 7 p.m. in Victoria Hall. Info: sustainabledevelopment.westmount.org.

Major Road Work on Westmount Avenue

Major road work on Westmount Avenue, from Lansdowne Avenue eastward to The Boulevard, will continue until the end of September. The \$4.3 million project involves replacement of the water main, replacement of street lighting and reconstruction of the roadway and sidewalks. Full details are available on our Web site. Info: 514 989-5268. 🍷



COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Gallery at Victoria Hall

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present the works of John Hill from September 18 to October 11. Info: 514 989-5226. 🍷



LIBRARY

Fall Author Series

Join us for an evening with author John Kalbfleisch on Wednesday, September 17 at 7 p.m. as he reads from his new book, *This Island in Time: Remarkable Tales from Montreal's Past*. Info: 514 989-5386.

2 O'Clock Series

History of Quebec Theatre 1937-1952: A musical journey

Join Hélène Jasmin and saxophonist Antonin Marineau on Wednesday, September 17 at 2 p.m. for a musical journey of early Quebec theater. Event in French with a bilingual question period. Info: 514 989-5386.

DATEBOOK

September 17 – 6:30 p.m.

French Book Club
Library

September 18 to October 11

Exhibition: John Hill
The Gallery at Victoria Hall

September 18 – 4 p.m.

Teen Readers to Readers Book Club
Library

September 18 – 7 p.m.

Westmount Historical Association
Marianopolis College (Françoise Boisvert)
Library

September 19 – 2 p.m.

Chess & Scrabble Club
Library

September 22 – 8 p.m.

Council Meeting
City Hall

Film Fridays

Join us as we meet on Friday, September 26 at 7 p.m. to watch the film *Himalaya* by Eric Valli and discuss it afterward. Please register for this event at the circulation desk. Info: 514 989-5386. 🍷



SPORTS & RECREATION

Skating Rinks Now Open

Skaters take note! The rinks at the Westmount Arena are now open to the public for the 2008-09 season. The complete general skating schedule is available on our Web site. A valid Facility Membership Card is required, and helmets are strongly recommended. 🍷

Compost collection growing

continued from p. 1

Dorchester and down Hollowell. (The Phase 1 central block, sector 8, is bounded by Lansdowne, Côte St. Antoine, Clarke and de Maisonneuve.)

News of the expanded Phase 2 was reported at the August 25 meeting of city council.

Compost ambassadors sought

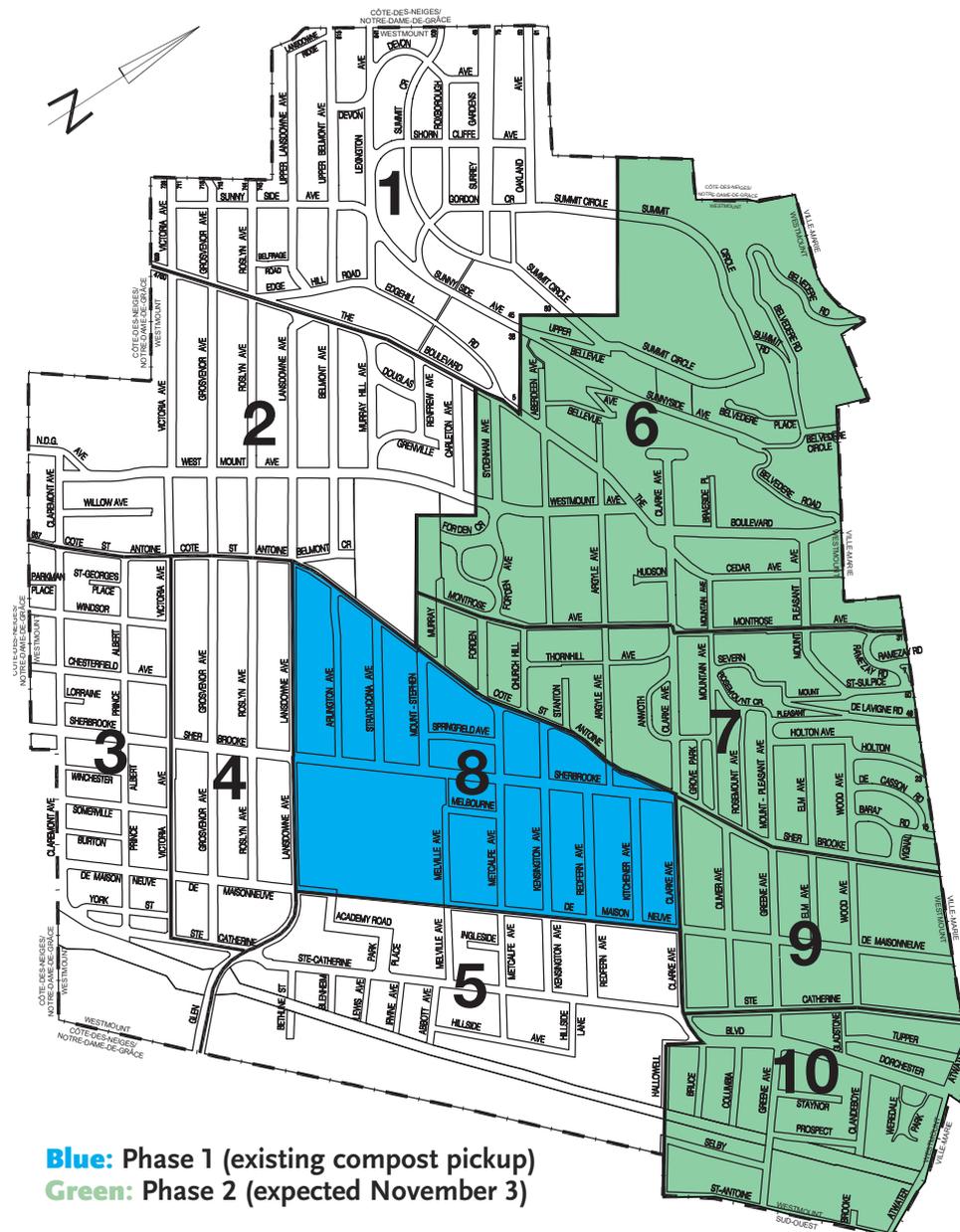
“We will be actively recruiting more compost ambassadors to help throughout these sectors,” said Jennifer Patton, who

chairs the Environment Committee of the Healthy City Project.

These are volunteers who will visit neighbours to offer tips on the new green bin collection. Interested persons may call her at 514.935.6983.

Comments from the Phase 1 survey will be reviewed starting next week, Peter said. “We want to know from residents how clear the instructions were, what problems might have arisen more often than we realized, and any tips or tricks they might share with others.”

Garbage sectors in Westmount



With the approaching rollout of Phase 2 of the kitchen waste collection in sectors 6, 7, 9 and 10, almost half the city will be involved.

City staff bowling championship: qualifying round

City of Westmount staff and council members took advantage of their proximity to the bowling green on September 10 to have a lawn bowling tournament. The finals take place on Wednesday, September 17.



Last year's champions pose this year: “The Dee-Gees” (for director general): from left: Roma Chaykowsky (executive assistant), Bruce St. Louis (director general), Andrew Ross (communications agent) and Marie José Aubertin (executive assistant). They are finalists this year too.



The city council team: from left, councillors Nicole Forbes, Cynthia Lulham and George Bowser, Mayor Karin Marks. What's with the Hawaiian-style leis as headdresses? The team decided to use headgear as their team identifier and the leis were the only items available at the Dollar Store. The mayor has talked publicly of her weakness for Dollar Store items, but this is the first time the Independent has seen evidence of it.

Terry Fox Run in Westmount Park



Scott Garnham, the first registrant.

Three participants were ready to go at 11 am for the early start of the Terry Fox Run in Westmount Park on September 14. The weather was overcast, but there was no rain.

Early bird and downtown resident Scott Garnham was the first to arrive, followed by a couple who had come from Perth, Ontario for a combined vacation/charity run.

Events were set to get going more vigorously at 12 noon. Among anticipated participants were all the members of the



From left: Organizers Amanda Maks, Kristina Ramsay, Sabrina Kaley, Mauricio Salazar and Jennifer Maks.

Dawson's triple-A women's basketball team. Participants were to run the two-kilometer course five times for a total of 10 kilometers.

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Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1454927

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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 \$219,000**

Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1459143

WESTMOUNT

**STE CATHERINE W. ST.**

Westmount Park Towers, close to Victoria village and Westmount Park. This 2 bedroom/2 bath, elegantly furnished condo has a fireplace, solarium, river and mountain views and a garage. Condo fees include a pool, exercise room & 24 hour door man. **Asking \$440,000**

Photos: www.mcguiganpepin.com/1453740

Layton revisits Westmount



NDP leader Jack Layton (left) energizes supporters and Westmount-Ville Marie candidate Anne Lagacé Dowson (right) at her Sherbrooke St. headquarters on September 11.

Photo by Robert J. Galbraith.

Retail Watch

BY ANNIKA MELANSON

Toile Sur Rendez-Vous celebrates 10 years

BY ANNIKA MELANSON



Founded in 1998 by Westmounter Ingrid Bryson in the basement of her Thornhill Ave. home, Toile Sur Rendez-Vous (now located at 326 Victoria Ave, suite 212, 514.486.2424, www.linensbyappointment.com)

will celebrate its 10th anniversary with an open house on Wednesday, October 8, from 10 am to 5 pm.

Bryson acquired her retail experience from 1981 until 1995, when she and her husband owned the Trading Post on Queen Mary. After the Trading Post closed, Bryson went on a trip to Toronto with a friend who worked as an interior designer. Bryson explained “[I] couldn’t believe that I was going to Toronto to buy linen.”

She “wasn’t going to go into retail again and I came up with the linens by appointment concept. Our forte is selling what people need and servicing the client, while respecting their budget.”

“Our expertise is the bedroom,” said

Bryson, “the two important components are *décor* and especially comfort.” Toile Sur Rendez-Vous is a showroom as well as a one-on-one service by appointment where clients can go with or without a designer, discuss their needs and budgets, and work closely with Bryson to select the bed, bath and table linens of their dreams.

The cherry on top? The attention to



Ingrid Bryson

Dion kicks off in Westmount



A light moment amid more serious ones: the group was reacting to a comment from a well-wisher that Stéphane Dion would be the next prime minister. From left: Marc Garneau; Janine Kreiber, wife of Dion; Sarah DeSousa, sister of the slain Anastasia, and Dion.

Photo and story by Robert J. Galbraith.

On the first full day of the federal election campaign (September 8), Liberal leader Stéphane Dion and Westmount-Ville Marie candidate Marc Garneau stood shoulder to shoulder under the shadow of Dawson College, where just two years earlier, gunman Kimveer Gill shot 20 people,

killing Dawson student Anastasia DeSousa.

Dion slammed Prime Minister Stephen Harper and accused his party of being soft on crime. He said a Dion government would ban assault weapons, so that, “this kind of event must not happen again.”

service from beginning to end. Once an order is ready, the linens are not only delivered to the client’s home but also installed (yes, they actually go to your home and make your bed, so that it looks just like the ones in magazines). Other personalized services include linens for baby nurseries, children’s bedrooms and monogramming, which is often difficult to find.

Toile’s upcoming open house is a chance to check out the newly renovated showroom without an appointment and hear Bryson give seminars about organic mattresses, which she carries.

Bon Living for Westmount bon vivants

Opened in mid-August, Bon Living (1355 Greene Ave., second floor, 514.933.4266, www.bon-living.com) “is a place where people can go and get groovy stuff not found elsewhere. We carry unique things in different price brackets,” said owner Andrew Joannidis.

The feeling of the second-floor boutique is modern and spacious, with well displayed merchandise. The space was designed by the owner’s brother, Michael Joannidis, who also designed the uber-trendy Café Méliès on St. Lawrence Blvd.

Bon Living’s original gifts include crystal wine glasses from Tuscany, Murano

glassware, stainless champagne buckets trimmed in Swarovski crystals, mouth-blown and hand-painted colourful Murano vases, scented organic candles and multi-time zone clocks. This is the place for a corporate gift, a wedding present, a hostess gift or just a splurge.

Soon to come is designer food (mostly Italian), such as ten-year-old wine vinegar, olive oils and Tuscan chocolates, as well as wooden toys from Sweden, such as a rocking rabbit arriving shortly.

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Westmount High students organize against human trafficking



From left: (back row) Chanel and Connie; (middle row) Cynthia, Sophie, Mel and Beth; (front) Sabrina and Ashley.

A group of Westmount High students was taking a stand against human trafficking on September 13.

They were out collecting signatures and handing out pamphlets against the phenomenon at Grosvenor and Sherbrooke St. To report instances of human trafficking, their pamphlet referred readers to the National Human Trafficking Hotline at

1.888.373.7888. It is run by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, a non-profit group funded by the US government and private parties.

Local sponsors of the signature drive included the Westmount Auto Esso garage at Grosvenor and Sherbrooke St. and Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom's Committee against HT.

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Thank you for your support,

David Price, *Editor & Publisher*

THE WESTMOUNT TOWNSHIPPER

Townshippers' Day

This year marks the 29th edition of Townshippers' Day, an annual event organized by the Townshippers' Day committee.

It will be held on Saturday, September 20, from 9 am to 5 pm in the picturesque town of Sutton. It is a day of friendship celebrating the English-speaking community

and its heritage.

This ideal is supported by a cultural showcase of bilingual artists, artisans, activities, music and healthy fare.

This event draws up to 10,000 annual visitors for a day of fun and family enjoyment. Admission is free of charge with a suggested \$2 dollar parking donation.

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What's Cooking in Westmount? Blueberries!

BY ANTHEA DAWSON



It is official: the kids have gone back to school, the streets are abuzz again with returned vacationers, and the balmy nights of August seem like a distant memory.

As September 21 quickly approaches and we pack away our white outfits for the year, autumn is knocking loudly at the door. But with it brings one of the most exciting growing seasons Quebec has in the whole year, and now is the time to take advantage.

Beautifully bulbous squashes, multi-coloured peppers and delectably sweet ears of corn line the stalls at the local markets, as do the wonderful local wild blueberries that sprang up in August and, I was very happy to see, are still around.

From the beginning to mid-way through the summer, if you had a hankering for blueberries, you were left only with the huge cultivated kind from California

that sell throughout the whole year. Still tasty, it seemed absurd to be spending \$4.99 for a pint when every time you go to the country you see the tiny, flavour-packed wild blueberries growing in abundance all over the place.

Typically, the season begins about half-way through July, but due to late spring frosts this year, the season was delayed by a few weeks – which works out well for us as we head in to fall.

Blueberries a huge export

Blueberries are a huge export for Canada, \$323 million in 2007, making it the largest fruit crop that is nationally produced. Quebec in particular (which is second only to British Columbia in production) is famous for its wild blueberries, with Saguenay-Lac St. Jean and the North Shore as its most abundant producers. One pint of wonderfully sweet and tangy local wild blueberries are selling this week at Fruiterie Mont Victoria on Sherbrooke St. for \$2.99 (and \$3.99 right next door at Metro), and if storing and freezing

them is your thing, you can buy 15 lb. baskets up north at Bourassa or at the Atwater Market for \$68.00.

That seems like a lot of money to spend on blueberries but if you think how much you'd spend throughout the year on the California half-pints (sometimes as much as \$4.99) or the frozen bags, it's actually quite economical.

And healthy too!

Not only are blueberries full of beautiful flavour, they are also one of the best fruits for us. Packed with vitamins (both C and E), they are also one of the highest fruits or vegetables in antioxidants, which help fight off chronic disease and other effects of the aging process – and all the while being extremely low in calories (about 81 per cup) and sodium.

In fact, researchers have shown that daily intakes of blueberries can help improve vision, stave off urinary-track infections, improve short-term memory loss and can help to reduce risk for some forms of cancer (in particular colon and

ovarian cancer).

If you're struggling to figure out ways to sneak this super-fruit in to your own or your family's diet, fear not – blueberries are so versatile, they can work in almost anything. Not only are they the perfect garnish for your morning bowl of cereal, they are also great in smoothies, and as tangy additions to salads.

There are tons of incredible blueberry desserts to list off, but if baking isn't your thing, just try subbing them in for chocolate sprinkles a top your next bowl of ice cream. Blueberry juices are even becoming more prominent in stores and are really yummy.

Enjoy this short blueberry season because it is not going to be around much longer – by the end of September, all we'll be left with is the overly-priced gargantuan berries from California. Luckily though we have an autumn full of amazing vegetables to look forward to!

Foster Search

Renata needs foster parents

BY RENA RUBIN,
FOSTER CARE & RECRUITMENT WORKER,
BATSHAW YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRES

Renata was honoured with a special award for friendship, participation and service to fellow students when she graduated from elementary school this year. Having had a good academic year, she is excited about high school and making new friends.

Though as a normal 12½-year-old she needs to be held accountable, her behaviour is very manageable. She is also surprisingly good with her chores and routine in the group home.

Renata needs a nurturing, understanding single or two-parent foster home that will be accepting of her connection with her family. Ideally, the location will be easily accessible to Verdun.

Renata's interests vary. She enjoys the outdoor activities she is experiencing at camp. She is keen on listening to music on her MP3. You can engage her in table games, and she likes arts and crafts, movies and music videos. It would be beneficial if she was kept active in outdoor and community programs, such as swimming.

For more information on fostering Renata, please contact Batshaw Foster Homes for Children at 514.932.7161, ext 1139.

Comin' Up...

Tuesday, Sept. 16: The City of Westmount invites citizens to take part in a community-wide discussion on a sustainability vision at Victoria Hall at 7 pm. Info: www.westmount.org, click on Calendar, then Sustainable Development.

Wednesday, Sept. 17: The 2 O'Clock Series at the Westmount Library presents *Le théâtre au Québec 1937-1952: un voyage musical* at 2 pm. To register: 514.989.5299. Event in French with a bilingual question period. Info: <http://westlib.org/english/events.htm> ● The Westmount Library's Fall Author Series presents author John Kalbfleisch who will speak on *This Island in Time: Remarkable Tales from Montreal's Past* at 7 pm. To register: 514.989.5299. Info: <http://westlib.org/english/events.htm> ● Eliezer Yaari, general director of the New Israel Fund on building Israeli civil society, human rights and religious tolerance at 7:30 pm at Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom (4100 Sherbrooke St.). Info: 514.937.3575. ● "The Wisdom of

Larry David's Curb Your Enthusiasm" at 5:45 pm at Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom, \$10 per person (dinner & materials). Reserve early 514.937.3575.

Thursday, Sept. 18: Westmount Historical Association lecture "Marianopolis College: Celebrating its Centennial" by Françoise Boisvert CND, the CEGEP's director general, at the Westmount Public Library from 7 to 9 pm. \$5 at the door. ● Fall course registration at Contactivity Centre from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, followed by lunch at 1 pm. with live music. Call to reserve: 514.932.2326. ● Political activist, author and lecturer Avital Sharansky on "The Russian Aliyah to Israel: Now and Then." Free public lecture at the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim at 8:15 pm. Info: 514.937.9471

Monday, Sept. 22: Council meeting at City Hall at 8 pm.

Tuesday, Sept. 23: St. James Literary Society presents writer and columnist

Monique Polak discussing the research that led to *What World is Left*, an account of her mother's experiences in a World War II concentration camp at 7:30 pm at the McGill Faculty Club (3450 McTavish). Admission \$10. Info: 514.484.0146.

Thursday, Sept. 25: The first of Westmount YMCA's three free public lectures is "Myths and realities about gambling and betting: Know more... and lose less" at 7 pm presented by La Maison Jean Lapointe. Bilingual question period follows. Free, donations welcome. ● Author Michael B. Oren on "Israel at 60: The Challenge of U.S. Sovereignty". Free public lecture at the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim at 8:15 pm. Info: 514.937.9471. ● ART NOW at the Westmount Library features artists and speakers on collecting including Anthony Collins (Collins Lefebvre Stoneberger) at 7:00 pm. Info: Heather Black 514.989.9091.

Sept. 26, 27 & 28: The Foundation for Public Poetry's Montreal Public Poetry Festival at Café Culturel SABA (5124-A Sherbrooke St.). For complete schedule: www.publicpoetry.wordpress.com.

Sunday, Sept. 28: The Orpheus Singers are offering a rehearsal open to the public with commentary by musical director Peter Schubert at St. Mathias Church (131 Côte St. Antoine) between 2 and 4 pm.

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Westmount wedding first



Estelle Petit (right) and Jasmin Pilon (centre) were the first couple ever to be married by a City of Westmount council member, in this case Mayor Karin Marks. The event took place at city hall on September 14. There are four other couples who have put their names down to be married at city hall. As previously reported, city hall has already been used as a venue for a wedding.

Bridge for Bright Brains:

Westmount Synagogues are hotbeds for bridge

BY GEORGE RETEK

The Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue located at 450 Kensington and the Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom located at 4100 Sherbrooke St. have provided ample opportunities to play bridge for many decades. They even provide a light lunch. The game starts 12:30 on Tuesdays at the Shaar and 11:30 on Fridays at the Temple.

Congratulations to the newest Westmount Life Master: Barbara Brownstein, who has been the guiding force at the synagogue for many years. The proceeds of the game are donated for charity.

Should you be interested in playing, then you may contact one of the following expert directors: Shaar Hashomayim – Mark Yudin, 514.488.1171; Temple Emanuel – Lynda Smaltz, 514.696.7000

The following hand was dealt at a recent game held at the Temple. Notice the imaginative play by the defender (made in tempo) that caused declarer to go wrong in a solid contract:

North

♠ A Q xx
♥ J x
♦ xx
♣ K Q xxx

West

♠ J xx
♥ 10 xx
♦ x
♣ A J xxxx

South

♠ K xxx
♥ Q xx
♦ A J xxx
♣ x

East

♠ xx
♥ A K xxx
♦ K Q 10 9 8
♣ x

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
P	1C	1H (weak)	Dble
2C (natural)	2S	3D	P
3H	P	P	P

The play:

South lead a Spade and East ruffed the third round of Spade continuation. East played a Club to the Ace and led the singleton Diamond from dummy and played King from hand.

South followed with a small card without the slightest hesitation. Place yourself to East's seat, "obviously" North has 3 Diamonds to the Ace. (North opened a club and bid Spade later. This denies holding 4 Diamonds, and with doubleton Ace, he would not have ducked with the Ace). The best play is to ruff out East's presumed



Among the new arrivals at the Library singled out by staff are:

Magazines

"The smartest cities in Canada" by Cathy Gulli in *Maclean's*, Sept 8, 2008, p. 46. Where you live has a big impact on how wealthy, healthy and happy you are. How does your city stack up?

"Obama, eh? What can the Canadian Left really expect from a president Obama?" in *This Magazine*, Sept/Oct 2008, p. 16.

"L'école du délire. Les enfants apprennent difficilement à lire? Peut-être que les méthodes d'enseignement ne conviennent pas à leur cerveau!" par Catherine Dubé dans *Québec science*, Septembre 2008, p. 18.

"Mexique: le nouveau paradis des retraités québécois" par Marie-Eve Cousineau dans *Les affaires plus*, Septembre 2008, p. 14.

Books on CD

The Plague of Doves by Louise Erdrich. The unsolved murder of a farm family haunts a small, white, off-reservation town in North Dakota. The vengeance exacted for this crime and the subsequent distortions of truth transform the lives of Ojibwe living on the nearby reservation and shape the passions of both communities for the next generation.

Unaccustomed Earth by Jhumpa Lahiri. Exploring the secrets and complexities lying at the heart of family life and relationships, this book is a collection of eight stories including the title work about a young mother in a new city whose father tends her garden while hiding a secret love affair.

English adult

When We Were Romans by Matthew Kneale. Whitbread award-winning novelist Kneale (for *English Passengers*) writes the haunting story of a family in disinte-

Ace. Clearly this plan did not work, as North overruffed dummy's trump on the third Diamond.

Watch what happens had South won the Diamond King with the Ace. South's best play is a ruffing finesse against, South's Jack.

That works, East would only lose 2 Spades and one trick each in Hearts and Diamonds.

When "standard" defense brings sub-standard results, do not be afraid to improvise. Declarer can be misled just as easily as defenders.

gration in the wonderfully offbeat voice of nine-year-old Lawrence.

A Week in October by Elizabeth Subercaseaux. Chilean writer Subercaseaux asks this question: How well do we really know our life partners? Clara, diagnosed with cancer, is writing her autobiography. Her husband is shocked to learn not only of her secret love life, but also that she knows of his.

What I talk about when I talk about Running by Haruki Murakami. In this memoir, the critically and commercially successful Japanese writer discusses his reasons for taking up marathon running about 30 years ago and how it reflects on his life as a writer. Murakami has run more than 25 marathons and his personal best time was 3.27 hours in the 2001 New York City Marathon.

French adult

Les fils de France by Franck Ferrand. The second volume of *La cour des dames*, a series devoted to the intrigues of the early Renaissance, an epic and sumptuous time. This novel describes how, during the reigns of Francis I and Henry II, the power of a few exceptional women emerged.

Les 1001 jardins qu'il faut avoir vus dans sa vie. This book invites us to an enchanting promenade through the world's most amazing gardens. The works of well established or little-known creators, these gardens are representative of a variety of styles: baroque, contemporary, Italian, Japanese or French.

Children's

Le musée de l'art pour les enfants by Amanda Renshaw. Thirty artists and examples of their work are featured in this nicely illustrated book that encourages children to ask why artists do what they do. A fun book for kids, parents and teachers of art!

Golden Legacy: How Golden Books Won Children's Hearts, Changed Publishing Forever, and Became an American Icon along the Way by Leonard S. Marcus. Many of us grew up reading and collecting the colourful picture books with the golden spines. Children's literature expert Leonard S. Marcus has written a fascinating and complete history of Golden Books to celebrate its 65th anniversary.

Reference

Report on the state of public health in Canada by The Chief Public Health Officer.

Dictionnaire de la danse under the direction of Philippe Le Moal.

Pets party on Victoria Ave.



Anna Maria Ranieri, of Pampered Pets de Westmount (324A Victoria Avenue, 514.487.9998), with her dog McGwire and client Oliver. Ranieri hosted a pet party for McGwire's tenth birthday on September 13. Family, friends and clients attended the birthday celebration with their pets.

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Underdog

BY FERN BRESLAW

Mila is a very good girl with very low self esteem.

Like so many of us, Mila suffers from social anxiety disorder and spent most of her time trying to hide from potential adopters during her stay at the SPCA.



Mila

As a result of her wallflower ways, she was placed in a foster home where she could hopefully learn to worry less and show off more. Unfortunately, suitors were still scarce.

Mila isn't one to parade about flaunting her stuff to strangers and so, despite being a smart, obedient dog with fantastic social skill and a huge heart; most people never get to know just how good this girl can be.

Find out more about adopting Mila by contacting Karine at 450.714.1612.



9 Lives: Big Moose's encore

BY LYZANNE

We profiled Big Moose at the beginning of the summer holidays. Unfortunately, he didn't find a home during the break. Now that everyone is back at school and at work in the city, it would be so wonderful if he could be part of a family now, since he is really the perfect family cat.



Big Moose has the classic white and marmalade markings of a handsome domestic shorthair, and beautiful green eyes. He had a very peaceful life with an elderly

gentleman, who can no longer take care of him.

Big Moose is about 3½ years old, healthy but a tad overweight from getting a lot of treats!

He is neutered and his shots are up to date. His front paws are declawed, so he is an indoor cat only.

He has a bit of a John Wayne walk, a swagger, because he has a slight birth defect in one hip, but it doesn't bother him and it doesn't concern his vet.

He is very affectionate and really enjoys being petted.

For more info on Big Moose, please call Gerdy on her pager at 514.203.9180 or email her at info@gerdysrescue.org.

Artwork by Laura S. Cohendet



Big Moose



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Atwater Library at 180 Leney & Sproule

BY SUSAN MCGUIRE

With the approaching 180th anniversary of the Westmount-based Atwater Library and Computer Centre, the Independent is pleased to present a series of articles about ALCC people and events from its start in 1828 as the Montreal Mechanics' Institution.

William Satchwell Leney

Shortly after the Mechanics' Institution was formed in 1828, William Satchwell Leney, who owned a farm at Longue Pointe on the northeastern tip of the is-

years before, and advertised himself as a painter of miniatures, drawing master and decorator of window blinds.

In 1830, he was advertising a series of six views of Montreal, watercolours engraved on copperplate by Leney. They are said to make up the most handsome series published in Canada, and show the maturity achieved in pictorial printmaking during the first half of the 19th century.

Robert Sproule and his expanding family moved to Ontario after 1834, where they lived a somewhat peripatetic existence until he died in 1845.



Early Bank of Montreal banknote engraved by William Leney. Note "dollar" and "piastre."

Courtesy: Corporate Archives, BMO Financial Group.

land of Montreal, donated an engraved copper plate for "striking off the cards of the Institution." In thanks, he was made a member for life.

He was born in 1769 in London and, according to Britain's *Dictionary of National Biography*, became an engraver accomplished in both line and stipple. He and his wife Sarah emigrated to New York about 1806, and they had nine children. While in New York, he engraved small portraits of notable Americans including George Washington and John Adams.

Leney and his family arrived in Montreal in 1820. He engraved the first banknotes for the Bank of Montreal. He died at Longue Pointe in 1831, aged 62, and is buried in Mount Royal Cemetery.

His granddaughter Sarah Leney married young Alexander Walker Ogilvie, who grew up on a farm near the Leneys, became a member of the Mechanics' Institution, expanded the Watson/Ogilvie milling enterprises, and spent many years in public service.

Robert Sproule

Robert A. Sproule was elected to the MMI managing committee in 1830. He had arrived in Montreal from Ireland a few



St. James (top) and Notre Dame St. scenes, before 1830, engraved by William Leney from watercolours by Robert Sproule.

BUILDING PROJECTS: WHAT'S PERMITTED

The following are permits for exterior new construction, alterations and landscaping approved by Westmount city council at a special meeting September 10.

789 Lexington: to change the front and garage doors;

378-380 Clarke: to replace some windows and repair front door;

4333 Sherbrooke: to replace west façade door at city hall;

351 Redfern: to change some windows;

421 Mount Pleasant: to replace some windows;

4221-4229 St. Catherine: to change some windows;

491 Victoria: to replace some windows;

4646 St. Catherine: to replace a third

storey balcony;

315 Kensington: to change some windows;
4742 The Boulevard: to replace some windows;

399 Clarke, 7A: to replace some windows;
21 Barat: to redo the walkway and driveway and do some landscaping;

3 St. George's Place: to replace some windows;

436 Strathcona: to replace some windows;
21 Holton: to change a door and window on the rear façade;

557 Lansdowne: to replace a rear fence;

588 Lansdowne: to replace front and rear windows and doors and demolish a back shed.

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Westmount Art Scene

Montreal artists: Gaucher, Steiger and Jérôme

BY HEATHER BLACK

Montreal artists are world renown. Painter and Cirque du Soleil set designer Dominique Gaucher is one of 17 artists participating at the Quebec Gold exhibition in Reims, while abstract stylists Nory Steiger and Jean-Paul Jérôme are collected worldwide.

**Dominique Gaucher at
Galerie de Bellefeuille**

Figurative artist Dominique Gaucher combines his love of painting with performance. Known for film and stage sets, his paintings also promote storytelling. In “Play with Fire No 4”, shiny orange acrylic swirls are set against a matte-darkened figure, evoking glowing tips of twigs thrust about. In “Unexpected”, a young man in front of a blank canvas stares at swathes of white paint suspended above him.

This daring technique – the artist first paints the scene in photo-like detail before throwing or dripping paint onto the image – creates a unique special effect. Evoking mystery, this is “art as set.” In “Entrance at the Museum”, corporate figures in a cor-



Jean-Paul Jérôme "Impressions-un"

ridor merge with climbers scaling ice-packed cliffs. In this theatre of self-discovery, the artist's identity as worker or risk-taker is questioned. Thought-provoking, the exhibit of Gaucher's work continues until September 22 at Galerie de Bellefeuille (1367 Greene Ave.).

Nory Steiger at West End Gallery

The vibrant colours of the Mediterranean inspire this Montreal artist and long-time summer resident of Sitges, Spain. In “Geometry of Man and Nature”, a chateau is balanced by geometric vegetation and clouds set against, and reflected in, a cyan sky and sea. “In Broken Jug and Landscape”, a stylized still life of fruit and crockery is colour rich and cheerful.

An abstract expressionist, Nory Steiger

reduces nature – including the human form – to circles and squares. Influenced by European art, Steiger has followed Cezanne's advice to “treat nature by means of the cylinder, the sphere, the cone, everything brought into proper perspective...” The exhibit of Steiger's paintings begins on September 27 at West End Gallery (1358 Greene Ave.).

**Jean-Paul Jérôme, RCA,
at Galerie D'Este**

Although his work spans seven decades, Jean-Paul Jérôme is best known for abstract and op art. A founding member of the Plasticiens, his compositions centre on the plastic elements of colour, form, line and texture. “Impressions-un” is a geometric ab-

stract of red, yellow, blue and green, influenced by Mondrian and Vasarely. But “Lumière du jour” – a composition of sienna curves and rectangles – reflects a cubist approach.

This exhibit of 30 works also includes several watercolours. “L'ombre passe” – a strong image in brown and black – illustrates the creative versatility of this important Canadian artist. The Jérôme exhibit continues until September 21 at Galerie D'Este (1329 Greene Ave.).

And locally...

Original to their time and place, these artists are celebrated for their distinct painterly style. But Quebec landscapes and themes also resonate throughout these exhibits – in Jérôme's stained-glass paintings, Gaucher's ice landscapes or Steiger's Westmount sites.

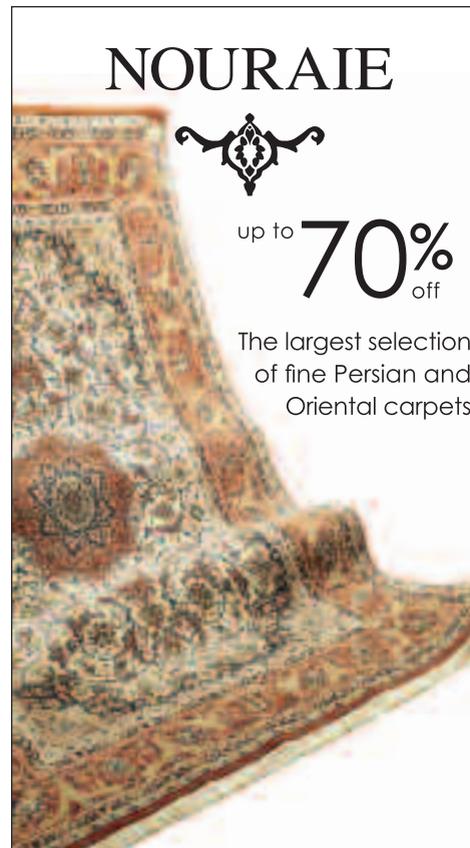
But also it is worth taking note of “Art Westmount 2008”. On October 18 and 19, local sculptors, painters and photographers will open their doors to the public. Don't miss this opportunity to view new artists and new works-in-progress.

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Meet Michel Wilson, Westmount's new police chief

Different type of action for SWAT veteran

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After 17 years with Montreal's SWAT team, latterly as its commanding officer, Michel Wilson is now experiencing a new type of action as the commandant of local Montreal police Station 12.

"There's a lot of action politically and exchanges with city hall," he says. "I feel like the police chief of Westmount - part of the family."

Fittingly, Commander Wilson marked his 25-year anniversary with the Montreal police force last Friday, September 10, as the head of the Stanton St. station.

Stanton is where he began his career as an MUC patrol constable and where he returned for a three-month stint as a new sergeant during the Ice Storm of '98. That was shortly after Westmount's former full-service Station 23 had become one of the first community-police stations on the island.

He liked the concept of working with community partners and "changing the mindset," he says.

"I saw lots of teamwork here during the Ice Storm between firefighters, the different departments of the city and even support from the army." But one of Wilson's special memories was helping an elderly woman during the evacuation of her home. "It was a good feeling, but rather sad to see people have to leave their homes."

The need to help people was one of the reasons he became a police officer, he explains. "It runs in my family," though he's the first to do so through police service.

Field Commander too

In addition to his responsibilities at Station 12, which covers Westmount east to Côte des Neiges and Guy, Wilson is also a field commander - a position highlighted by the peaked navy blue baseball cap emblazoned with the gold braid of his rank that occupies the key position on his bookcase. "I still have that responsibility," he explains proudly.

Wilson and his spouse, Leslie Potts, have two sons aged 7 and 5. Is she a police

officer? "Of course," he replies with a wide smile, a community relations officer at Station 4 in Dollard des Ormeaux. And did he meet her on the job? "Of course!"

Joined SWAT in 1991

A native of Montreal, Wilson grew up in St. Michel and studied police technology at Collège Maisonneuve and the Nicolet police academy. He worked briefly in Boucherville and Vaudreuil before being accepted in the Montreal Urban Community force. As a constable, he worked in Westmount, St. Michel and Hochelega, before joining the SWAT team in 1991. "I liked that kind of action. It was a good team effort. And we had the feeling we were really helping citizens."

As a bomb technician, "I defused a few bombs," he says casually. But his work also included drug raids, hostage takings, and diving for submerged cars. Among his memories are his involvement in the Valery Fabrikant shootings at Concordia University on August 24, 1992.

Wilson maintains his fitness training, and is an avid proponent of karate for the concentration and mental discipline it pro-



Commander Michel Wilson

vides.

One of his philosophies of life, he says, is generating a positive effect on others. "It's important to be nice to the people around you. It creates a transfer of emotion and makes other people happy. I'm a very positive person."

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