

Elected!

District 2



TIM PRICE

District 4



KATHLEEN DUNCAN

District 5



GARY IKEMAN

District 6



NICOLE FORBES

District 7



CYNTHIA LULHAM

District 8



THEODORA SAMIOTIS

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 3 No. 11a

We are Westmount

November 3-4, 2009

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Underdog BY F. BRESLAW p. 23



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## Elections 2009

# Upsets, nail-biters and landslides

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's six election races were punctuated by upsets, surprises, bitterness, squeakers, landslide wins and changing faces.

When the votes were counted Sunday night (November 1), the 31 percent of eligible voters had chosen five women to fill council seats, the largest number ever. One, Theodora Samiotis, defeated veteran District 8 councillor John de Castell by only 24 votes.

"It was a nail-biter," she said, as the early returns seesawed back and forth between the two. Attributing her win to a rallying of people to her team, she added it was "a time for a new voice."

And in District 5, where the hottest race was generated by four contestants, it was Gary Ikeman, an outspoken critic of the outgoing council, who carried the seat by 70 votes over the heavily backed Georges Hebert, his closest contender.

"It's a huge win," Ikeman said on ar-

rival at city hall to partake in the celebration. In spite of the fact he did not have the support of Mayor Peter Trent, former mayor Karin Marks and outgoing councillor George Bowser, he noted, "I nevertheless got 40 percent of ..... the vote. I think people be- *continued on p. 6*

Gabor Szilasi  
awarded  
Prix du Québec

See p. 18

## Cenotaph service set for Sunday

Westmount's annual Remembrance Day service takes place this year on Sunday, November 8 at the cenotaph in front of city hall starting at 2 pm.

Local military units will parade to the site, participate in the ceremony and lay wreaths along with community groups. Mayor Peter Trent will lay the city's wreath in his new official capacity. Last year, he laid the wreath of the Royal Montreal Regiment as its honorary colonel.



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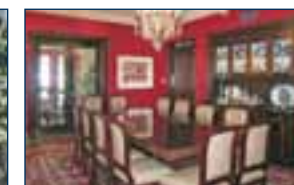
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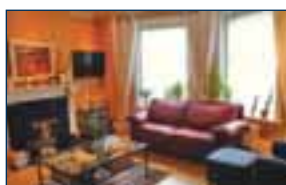
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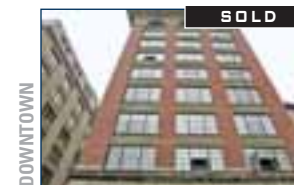


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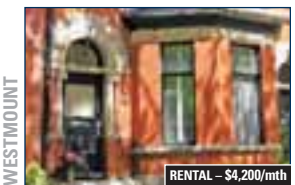
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# Westmouter employs NDG panhandler to curb speeders

BY ISAAC OLSON

Bundled against the autumn wind, his fur-lined hood and white-frilled scarf pulled tight, a lone figure sits in a swivel desk chair at the corner of Côte St. Antoine and Prince Albert. His clipboard is at the ready as he signals to rush hour traffic. But he is not a police officer.

Tony Wallace, an NDG resident, was hired by Westmouter William Graham to persuade motorists to obey traffic laws along Côte St. Antoine Rd. He does this by assuming an authoritative look with his pen and clipboard while motioning to speeding motorists. So far, both Graham and Wallace report, it has been working.

Graham said Wallace was panhandling outside of a Metro station one day and, rather than offering him pocket change, he offered him a job.

"I immediately thought, 'Maybe if I stuck him in a chair on my sidewalk in front of my house, he might be effective at slowing down traffic,'" said Graham, noting he has been paying Wallace \$20 to work two-hour shifts during traffic's afternoon peak. "He has developed a rapport

with the neighbours and motorists. I think he does have an effect on traffic."

Initiated as a four-week experiment, Graham, a snowbird, hopes to continue the project when he and his wife return from Mexico in five months. He may even take it a step further by equipping the traffic-calming panhandler with an orange, reflective vest and sign.

"By sitting here, they do slow down," said Wallace. "It really helps."

When he first came on the scene, the cars were flying by, Wallace recalled, but, simply by eyeing drivers and occasionally signaling with his hands, motorists have improved their behaviour.

Sick of speeders, Graham wishes there was a more concerted effort to inspire drivers to obey the rules of the road. Beyond hiring more people like Wallace, he would like to see more electronic, speed-monitoring signs, speed bumps, defined lane lines and stronger enforcement. He also suggested Westmount work with neighbouring Montreal boroughs like NDG on the connecting thoroughfares.

Municipal leaders should, at the very least, ensure city vehicles obey the traffic laws, he said.

"I think the situation is going to get worse as more and more are using their cars," said Graham. "We need to start now."



William Graham (right) and Tony Wallace (centre, seated) talk with driver Madeleine Leblanc, NDG resident.

## Soskin's Persephone presents *Be My Baby*

Westmount-based Persephone Productions will perform *Be My Baby* until November 14 at the Monument National, Studio Hydro Quebec, 1182 St Laurent (nearest Metro St. Laurent).

Founded and operated by long-time Westmount theatre teacher and director Gabrielle Soskin, the not-for-profit theatre company provides opportunities for

emerging artists to perform. Centre Greene's theatre club, headed by Erica Bloom, is attending the production as a fundraiser for the community centre.

Set in the 1960s, the current show includes music from the era. Details may be found at [www.persephoneproductions.org](http://www.persephoneproductions.org), or by calling the box office at 514.871.2224.



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TRIBUTE TO ROBERTSON

On one of the coldest nights last January, the late Stuart Robertson was in his element. The Westmount resident and gardening columnist was the first guest speaker in the “How Does Your Garden Grow?” series at Victoria Hall, having graciously offered to teach a class.

That night, he warmed our spirits with thoughts of spring and bright blooms as he walked us through the ABCs of gardening.

For those of us who made his acquaintance, even briefly, it was a privilege to have met him.

DOROTHY LIPOVENKO, YORK ST.

*Ed.’s note: For another story on bus shelters (Sherbrooke St. this time), see p. 4.*

### ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER

I am sorry that Mr. Ikeman felt that my letter to the editor (October 13, p. 4) was a weak personal attack. It was not intended as such.

Unfortunately, I have learned to value a person’s actions over their words. Most Westmounters can support the platitudes put forth in his letter (October 20, p. 4), and I am not opposed to most of these points.

My concern was with the stated purpose of his website WAMCAM which purported “To provide information and

opinion” concerning the rebuilding of the arena facilities. I notice that since my letter, the site has been modified such that “The WAMCAM website supports moderation in the Arena / Pool Project. *Only those opinions that support a moderate project will be published.*” This should have been stated when the website was first published.

My other concern with the website, also demonstrated in his response, is the “unfortunate” use of statistics. By dividing the population of Westmount (approximately 20,000) by 1.5 rinks, Westmount ranks in the top four municipalities on the island of Montreal in terms of ice capacity to population. The fact that municipalities like Kirkland have private facilities (three sheet, in its case) is not mentioned.

I’m not sure how many hockey or ringette games have been played on half a rink, though perhaps the Habs could give it a try and see if it improves their luck.

Mr. Ikeman did not respond to the content of my letter. Instead he put forth his platform and modified his website.

Finally, in response to his sixth point “Taxpayers 60 years and older are far less likely to be playing hockey than doing other activities,” I should point out that I am over 60 and play hockey twice a week. I have spoken to others my age, and if we had the proper facilities we would be pleased to play in an over-60 league like

other municipalities. Perhaps he feels that my generation should stay at home!

Let’s build two hockey surfaces in a cost-effective manner with the least impact on the environment. Our children and their grandparents will thank us in the long run.

PETER NAYLOR, ABBOTT AVE.

### SOME BUS SHELTERS A MESS

Not all Montreal bus shelters are as clean as those in your October 20 issue (p.



Bus shelter near Atwater (north side of Sherbrooke) in the last few months.

Photo: Paula McKeown

33). The enclosed photo is of a shelter situated just west of Atwater and just short of the start of Westmount. I have to pass this filthy mess every day and it revolts me.

There are a number of schools in the area, which explains where it comes from. Supposedly the youth of today are ecology-conscious, but you wouldn’t believe it whilst standing ankle-deep in refuse.

I have written over the years to the various city councillors, the mayor and the STM, which I am told is responsible for the cleaning of the bus shelters.

I gather that fines for littering exist. Who would think it?

PAULA MCKEOWN, SHERBROOKE ST.

moved into the intersection, the count-down was at 15 seconds (out of a 20 second count-down) in my favour, when this driver turned, and I, crossing, was nearly bowled over, with my purse hitting the car.

I am tired of ceding to drivers and cyclists who don’t have the right of way. Why do I, as a pedestrian, have to accept being treated as a nuisance on the street?

This is Westmount, where we have a number of seniors who are active but slow-moving. Lights are in place to, hopefully, allow safe passage at intersections.

What will it take to have the rules of the road enforced, so that we can move safely within our community?

LYNN PECKNOLD, GROSVENOR AVE.

### NO MORE SYDNEY CROSBY’S COMING FROM THESE PARTS?

If your eight-year-old dreams that he or she can be the next Sydney Crosby, Ikeman gave his view on it at Meet the Candidates, October 19: “I don’t want to support a facility that’s designed to produce hockey players for the NHL.”

ADAM CUTLER, WESTMOUNT AVE.

### EGG-THROWING NOT TOO COOL

Sunday morning revealed how brilliant our young men and teenage boys are. Several houses had been “egged” (indiscriminate throwing of raw eggs on private and public property) during Halloween night.

This puerile and depraved behaviour should not go unacknowledged. If the joke is so, so funny, please let us also participate by divulging your names so that we can accommodate and do the same thing to your houses and cars.

MARKUS MARTIN, THE BOULEVARD

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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Weekly

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

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DEPUTY EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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# Tenants, management face off at the 4300

By ISAAC OLSON

Ongoing construction at one of Westmount's high-end apartment complexes is the icing on an already toppling cake for many residents, spurring some lawsuits and, most recently, a contentious meeting between tenants and the property's management.

Régie du logement's public records indicate at least four residents of Le 4300 de Maisonneuve have waged official complaints against Toronto-based Realstar Management in the last six months.

Angry renters voiced their wide-ranging concerns during an Oct. 26 meeting attended by representatives of Realstar and the tenants' association — concerns that focused, in large part, on the current, full-scale brick work that has stirred up dust, limited building access and generated noise for months on end.

"We were not really well received and I understand," said Realstar's district manager Antje Enz. "The people are frustrated. It's an accumulated frustration."

Realstar has added a flat-screen TV, free coffee and cookies to the building's library/party room to create a place to avoid the noise. They have also added a guest suite for napping and construction avoidance.

When questioned over the phone about the latest meeting and the overall situation, tenant's association co-president Stanley Baker and board member Stephen Cohen both replied "no comment."

Speeding up renovations in response to tenants' concerns, construction will be completed by the end of 2010, Enz said, adding Realstar officials are doing everything they can to make renters more comfortable during the project.

Renovations will also include the replacement of all the windows, she said.

"We sympathize completely with our residents," said Enz. "We acknowledge the fact that the work has to be done in a timely manner."

The 50-year-old apartment complex, with 317 units and an estimated 600 residents, is currently owned by British Columbia Investment Management Corporation (BCIMC), according to the company's website. BCIMC owns the building through 3630005 Canada Inc.

Demanding more than \$18,000, Cohen, who was elected to the tenant's association at the Oct. 26 meeting, is currently leveling one of the priciest suits against Realstar.

According to his three-part complaint filed on June 30, Cohen is seeking an \$85 permanent reduction of his \$893 monthly rent, a \$255 retroactive rent reduction and damages of \$2,000 a year, all since August of 2006.

In his complaint, Cohen cites a "major loss of peaceable enjoyment."

While complaints from Cohen, Michael Price and Arnie Baron vary in amounts, construction is mentioned in all three. (Michael Price is the father of the publisher of the *Westmount Independent*, in which he has no role or interest, although he does share office space with the *Independent*.) As of press time, the Régie failed to produce a copy of a complaint by a fourth tenant John Corrigan, citing a technical problem. Jean-Pierre Le Blanc, Régie spokesperson, said there might be a fifth case, but, as of press time, he only had four file numbers.

Beyond complaints about the construction, five out of the seven residents called expressed grievances ranging from overheating of the upper floors and trashed building esthetics to defective windows and faulty fire alarms. .... Only one tenant, however, *continued on p. 20*

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# Election '09: Acclaimed, returned, initiated

continued from p. 1

lieved that I will be responsive to them and that I stand by my principles and don't owe favours to anyone."

Interestingly, the defeats of Hébert and de Castell has left the council without an obvious ambassador for sustainability. Hébert, as president of STOP and a member of the city's Healthy City Project, was a potential pick by Trent for environmental commissioner, a position held by de Castell. "Now I'll have to reconsider how we'll deal with this," said Trent. Maybe in a more decentralized manner, he suggested.

With almost all successful candidates calling in one degree or another for more openness on council, the *Independent* asked Trent if he read that as a message from the electorate. "The style of the new council will be quite open to debate," he replied. "That's what I'm all about. Cabinet solidarity begins once we agree publicly."

Incumbent councillor Kathleen Duncan swept to the largest win of the night with 76 percent in District 4 against Nicholas Smith. Another landslide win, at 73 percent, was given to District 6 councillor Nicole Forbes who had been challenged by Michael Osterland.

Incumbent Cynthia Lulham, however, squeaked through to a fifth term in a bitter fight in District 7. Refusing to shake hands with her opponent Mavis Young, Lulham announced that she had filed two complaints against her with city clerk Mario Gerbeau, the returning officer, for allegedly campaigning on the steps of the polling station.

Lulham, told the *Independent* the next morning that "it was probably not my most gracious moment," and it was now time to move on "though I still don't think I'd shake her hand." Lulham attributed her win in large measure to the effort of neighbours and supporters who campaigned for her in the last days before the



Mayor Peter Trent, returned councillor Cynthia Lulham and new councillor Gary Ikeman.

elections when she was sidelined by swine flu.

Young said the campaign was a great experience and had brought out issues of openness and transparency that she would keep pushing for. "And I intend to follow the arena project very closely."

As results began trickling in to city hall, stockbroker Tim Price in District 2, was the first to savour victory after seesawing back and forth with 21-year-old Philip Cutler who in the final analysis lost out by only 42 votes.

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## Election results

The following results were released by the city clerk's office immediately following the election November 1.

<b>Mayor, Peter Trent</b>	Acclaimed	
<b>District 1</b>		
Patrick Martin	Acclaimed	
<b>District 2</b>		
Tim Price	234	44%
Philip Cutler	192	36%
Claire Kruyt	104	19%
Rejected ballots	4	1%
<i>Turnout</i>	34%	
<b>District 3</b>		
Victor Drury	Acclaimed	
<b>District 4</b>		
Kathleen Duncan	436	76%
Nicholas Smith	135	23%
Rejected ballots	0	
<i>Turnout</i>	29%	
<b>District 5</b>		
Gary Ikeman	278	40%
Georges Hébert	208	30%
Douglas Leahey	109	16%
René Pelletier	91	13%
Rejected ballots	5	1%
<i>Turnout</i>	37%	
<b>District 6</b>		
Nicole Forbes	309	73%
Michael Osterland	110	26%
Rejected ballots	6	1%
<i>Turnout</i>	21%	
<b>District 7</b>		
Cynthia Lulham	361	53%
Mavis Young	317	46%
Rejected ballots	7	1%
<i>Turnout</i>	34%	
<b>District 8</b>		
Theodora Samiotis	224	52%
John de Castell	200	47%
Rejected ballots	3	1%
<i>Turnout</i>	30%	



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## City of Westmount's Olympic torch committee named



From left, Elliot Grenier and Andrew Macdougall at the Independent's offices sharing some of their preliminary thoughts for Westmount's Olympic torch events. Asked about being on the committee, Grenier replied, "It's good. I feel lucky." Grenier is a grade 5 student at Akiva. Macdougall was chosen at least in part for his Scouting experience.

Westmount has announced its seven-person Olympic torch committee: Caroline Beaudry, Bryna Cohen, Elliot Grenier, Andrew Macdougall, Katherine Nikidis (the head of ECS), Julian Prince-Finkelstein and Stephen Simco. The committee does not choose the runners, but will organize events on Torch Day: Thursday, December 10, when the Olympic icon is set to leave city hall for Old Montreal in the early evening.



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Walker's international auction for November 25th will include major paintings from the estate of the late Maurice Duplessis, former premier of Quebec, J.R. Beattie, former deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada and modern sculpture from the estate of O.J. Firestone, and G. Hamilton Southam.

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# Westmount Page



Vol. 3/21

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## PANDÉMIE - GRIPPE A(H1N1)

### Vaccination - Place Alexis-Nihon

Santé Montréal annonce l'ajout d'un centre de vaccination contre la grippe A(H1N1) à la Place Alexis-Nihon (1500, avenue Atwater) à compter du 6 novembre de 8 h à 20 h. Veuillez noter que cette première période de vaccination est destinée aux parents des enfants de 0-6 mois, aux personnes immunosupprimées pouvant recevoir le vaccin et aux familles de personnes immunosupprimées ne pouvant recevoir le vaccin. Pour les informations les plus récentes, veuillez consulter le site Web de Santé Montréal à [www.santemontreal.qc.ca](http://www.santemontreal.qc.ca). 🌿



## HÔTEL DE VILLE

### Cérémonie commémorative du Jour du Souvenir

Le maire et les conseillers de la Ville de Westmount vous prient d'assister à une cérémonie commémorative du Jour du Souvenir le dimanche 8 novembre à 14 h au Cénotaphe, situé sur la rue Sherbrooke près de l'avenue Argyle. Nous nous souviendrons... 🌿



## ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

### Salon des métiers d'art

Visitez le Salon des métiers d'art de Westmount : exposition et vente les samedi 14 novembre et dimanche 15 novembre de 10 h à 18 h au Victoria Hall. Prix d'entrée : denrées non périssables ou 2 \$. Info : 514 934-0294. 🌿



## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

### Vente de livres de qualité des Amis de la Bibliothèque

Les Amis de la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount tiendront une vente de livres les samedi 7 et dimanche 8 novembre, de 10 h à 17 h, dans la salle Westmount de la Bibliothèque. Tous les profits serviront à acheter de nouveaux documents pour la collection de la Bibliothèque. Info : 514 483-5604.

### Club de lecture Readers to Readers

Aucune liste de lecture imposée et aucune date limite, seulement des discussions au sujet des livres que vous

## DATES À RETENIR

### Jusqu'au 7 novembre

Exposition : sculptures de Laura Santini  
Galerie du Victoria Hall

### les 7 et 8 novembre - 10 h à 17 h

Vente de livres de qualité  
*Amis de la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount*  
Bibliothèque

### le 8 novembre - 14 h

Cérémonie commémorative - Jour du Souvenir  
Cénotaphe

### le 16 novembre - 20 h

Séance du conseil ordinaire  
Hôtel de ville

avez lus ! Notre prochaine rencontre est prévue le mardi 10 novembre à 10 h 15. Info : 514 989-5386.

### Club d'échecs et de jeux de sociétés

Aimez-vous jouer aux échecs et/ou au Scrabble? La prochaine rencontre du club aura lieu le vendredi 13 novembre à 14 h dans une ambiance amicale. Nous sommes toujours à la recherche de nouveaux joueurs. Info : 514 989-5386.

### Club de lecture anglaise

La prochaine rencontre du club de lecture anglaise se tiendra le mardi 17 novembre de 19 h à 21 h pour discuter du livre *Eva's Threepenny Theatre* d'Andrew Steinmetz. Info : 514 989-5386. 🌿



## TRAVAUX PUBLICS

### Reconstruction de la conduite d'eau principale - rue Ste-Catherine

Les travaux de remplacement de la conduite d'eau principale entrepris par la Ville de Montréal se poursuivront jusqu'au début du mois de décembre. Un texte précisant les étapes du projet, les impacts pour la circulation et le stationnement, l'installation d'un réseau temporaire d'eau, et le remplacement des services d'eau est disponible à [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org). Info : 514 872-3777. 🌿



## PANDEMIC - INFLUENZA A(H1N1)

### Vaccination - Alexis-Nihon Plaza

Santé Montréal has announced an additional vaccination centre against the A(H1N1) flu virus at which will open in Alexis-Nihon Plaza (1500 Atwater Avenue) beginning November 6 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Please note that the first period of vaccination is intended for parents of infants 0-6 months of age, for persons with a weakened immune system that are able to receive the vaccine and for the family members of individuals whose immune system is weakened and cannot receive the vaccine. For up-to-date information, please consult the Web site of Santé Montréal at [www.santemontreal.qc.ca](http://www.santemontreal.qc.ca). 🌿



## CITY HALL

### Remembrance Day Commemorative Service

The Mayor and Councillors of the City of Westmount invite you to the Remembrance Day Commemorative Service on Sunday, November 8 at 2 p.m. The ceremony will take place at the Cenotaph, near the corner of Sherbrooke Street and Argyle Avenue. Lest we forget... 🌿



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Westmount Artisans' Festival

Everyone is welcome to attend the Westmount Artisans' Festival exhibition and sale on Saturday, November 14 and Sunday, November 15 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. at Victoria Hall. Admission: non-perishable food items or \$2. Info: 514 934-0294. 🌿



## LIBRARY

### Friends of the Library Quality Book Sale

The Friends of the Westmount Public Library will be holding a book sale on Saturday and Sunday, November 7 and 8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Westmount Room of the Library. All proceeds from this sale go towards purchasing new books for the Library. Info: 514 483-5604.

## DATEBOOK

### Until November 7

Exhibition: Sculptures of Laura Santini  
Gallery at Victoria Hall

### November 7 & 8 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Quality Book Sale  
*Friends of the Westmount Public Library*  
Library

### November 8 - 2 p.m.

Remembrance Day Commemorative Ceremony  
Cenotaph

### November 16 - 8 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting  
City Hall

## Readers to Readers Book Club

Join our morning book club with a twist. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10 at 10:15 a.m. to talk about great books recently read. Info: 514 989-5386.

## Chess and Scrabble Club

Do you enjoy playing chess and/or Scrabble? Our games club will meet on Friday, November 13 at 2 p.m. Drop by for a friendly game as we look forward to meeting new players. Info: 514 989-5386.

## English Book Club

Join the English Book Club from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17 as they discuss *Eva's Threepenny Theatre* by Andrew Steinmetz. Info: 514 989-5386. 🌿



## PUBLIC WORKS

### Water Main Reconstruction on St. Catherine Street

The City of Montreal has begun a major reconstruction of the principal water main under St. Catherine Street between Greene and Clarke avenues. This work will continue until early December. Information outlining the project phases, the impact on traffic and parking, the installation of a temporary water main, and the replacement of the water services is available at [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org). Info: 514 872-3777. 🌿



## Selwyn shaves to save



The Selwyn House senior school participated in the Shave to Save event on October 29. From left, Matthew Goldbloom (Grade 9), Jonathan Bracewell (teacher), Adam Hodgins (teacher), Jake Mullan (Grade 11), Daniel Knight (Grade 11), David Grier (teacher), Vincent Iacono (Grade 10), Fernand Le Fèvre (Grade 10) and Annabel Soutar (teacher). Amount raised at press time was \$19,000. This is the fifth year Selwyn House has organized the event, in conjunction with Virgin Radio, to raise money for the fight against breast cancer. Funds go the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation.

## Scouts celebrate 100 years in Westmount

Scouting in Westmount is 100 years old, and Scouts Canada CEO Rob Stewart was in town to commemorate the anniversary with a special plaque for the city.

Also at city hall on October 28 to mark the milestone were Westmounters and consummate Scouters Maggie Shaddick and Andrew Macdougall; Mayor Peter Trent; and the city's Community Events assistant coordinator Virginia Elliott (who is also a keen Scouter and the current area commissioner).

In his first speech of this term as mayor, Trent recalled how a Scouting book – 1908's *Scouting for Boys* – had been a treasured possession as a child. He also recalled how each year the Scouts form the rearguard of the Remembrance Day parade – and it was a “nice touch” to mix

young people and soldiers together in this way. He praised the Scouts for filling a void created by less attendance at houses of worship and a “vacuum of values.”

Stewart said that Scouting in Canada has grown in the past year, for the first time in many years.

The city of Westmount has long been a supporter of Scouting. In 1976, council voted to allow the Scouts to use the Westmount crest – with Mayor Donald MacCallum casting the tie-breaking vote to make it happen. Trent affirmed this privilege during his previous tenure as mayor.

There are approximately 100 Scouts and three Scouting groups in Westmount at the moment.



From left, Mayor Peter Trent, Rob Stewart and Virginia Elliott share a joke. Trent is holding his own Scouts hankerchief that he was given in a previous term to symbolize an honorary Scout mastership.

DIMANCHE 8 NOVEMBRE 2009 À 14 H

### CÉRÉMONIE JOUR DU SOUVENIR AU CÉNOTAPHE

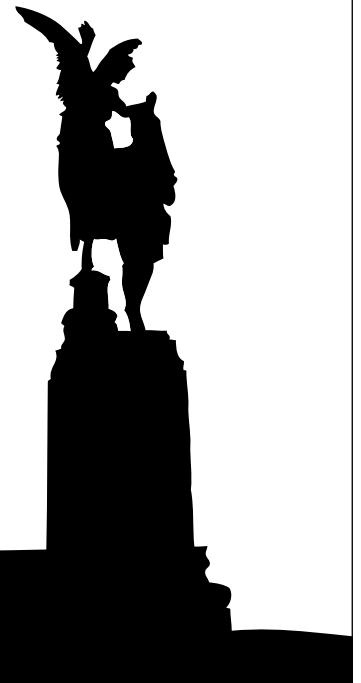


Le maire et les conseillers de la Ville de Westmount  
vous prient d'assister à la cérémonie commémorative.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2009 AT 2 P.M.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY AT THE CENOTAPH

The Mayor and Councillors of the City of Westmount  
invite you to the Remembrance Day Commemorative  
Service.



*Nous nous souviendrons...  
Lest we forget...*

## Opinion

## The political arena

BY GEORGE BOWSER

Politics is the art of shaping, communicating and managing public policy. I don't say it's a science, because I don't believe politics can be done mathematically. Certainly it helps to be able to think logically, but human beings tend to make decisions for emotional reasons as well.

On the subject of Westmount's arena/pool renewal project, people typically begin with an instinctive, gut-feeling position, and then assemble logical reasons to support it. This is not science. Scientifically speaking, you should assemble data and deduce a conclusion from it. You might have a theory in your head and then set about gathering data to test it, but a scientist should be open to the idea that the initial theory is flawed.

One position on the arena/pool is, briefly: "No encroachment on green space for the arena footprint!" This is a fine principle, and with the addition of the phrase "if possible" it becomes politically serviceable. The added phrase provides a starting point for debate. We might decide that it's worth sacrificing a bit of green space for

the sake of another benefit, such as a social space that will enhance health and wellness year-round.

Another position might be: "Save taxpayer dollars at all costs!" This is also a fine principle. It may lead us in the direction of putting up a less complex building in a different location, or perhaps no new building at all. If we substitute "where possible" for "at all costs," it becomes political.

Yet another position might be: "We deserve the best sporting facilities for our city!" An excellent principle, and difficult to contradict, at least in literal terms. If you add the word "possible" after "best," you're off to a good political start in evaluating the new building and what it might contain.

There seems to be widespread agreement that there's no need to assess the need for a needs assessment, which is odd. A needs assessment is not something stereotypical Westmount residents traditionally do for themselves, or they wouldn't own 20,000 square feet of living space and drive Lincoln Navigators. This is a place where we can have a lot more than what we need.

I have a visceral understanding of the over-worked saying "politics is the art of the possible" now that I've spent a few years as a politician, albeit at the most junior level.

Citizens and activists never have to add the mitigating phrase "if possible" to any statement they make. They get to stick to their principles and fire off volleys of idealism and discontent in all directions. Politicians don't. For a few dollars a year, they've traded the firm ground of certainty for the quagmire of perpetual doubt. If they're any good, that is.

Late Westmounter Laurie Normand-Starr  
volunteer work carries on

Table of Hope supporters from left: Cindy Aikman, committee member; Mila Mulrone, honorary co-chair; Julie Snyder, honorary co-chair; and Herman Alves, committee member.

BY ISAAC OLSON

A new award, named after recently deceased Westmounter Laurie Normand-Starr, will honour local humanitarians during a new annual fundraising event.

While officially launching the fundraiser at St. Henri's Bitoque restaurant on October 28, Mila Mulrone announced the creation of the Laurie Normand-Starr Humanitarian Award that will be given to a local charity worker during the yearly fundraising dinner called Table of Hope.

Mulrone, Westmounter and wife of former prime minister Brian Mulrone, is an honorary co-chair of Table of Hope.

"Very, very sadly, we lost Laurie last April, and she left an indelible memory in

our hearts of what hard work and volunteerism in this city is all about," said Mulrone. "But I know that she would be incredibly happy to hear that her cause and her love is continuing on with Table de l'espoir."

Table of Hope, slated for May 3 at the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel, is expected to raise an estimated \$100,000 before expenses, said committee member Peter Cochrane.

All proceeds from this year's dinner will be donated to Share the Warmth Foundation, carrying on the now defunct Taste of the Nation tradition, which, spearheaded by Normand-Starr, raised nearly \$2 million over 14 years for various humanitarian organizations.

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## November at the Art Galleries

Galerie de Bellefeuille – Michael Harrington: New works on display from Nov. 5 to 16. Donna Shvil: Vernissage (artist will be present): Nov. 19 at 5:30. Exhibit continues to Nov. 30. 1367 Greene, 514.933.4406

Galerie D'Este – Ángel Mateo Charris: Exhibit continues to Nov. 29. 1329 Greene, 514.846.1515.

Galerie V. Trimont – New Works by François Samson, Mario Merola, Frank Milo. 4259 St Catherine, 514.658.7214.

Gallery at Victoria Hall – Laura Santini: Exhibit continues to Nov. 7. Anna Gedalof, Teresa Maglietta and Paola Ridolfi. Exhibit Nov. 20 to Dec. 12. 4626

Sherbrooke, 514.989.5226.

Han Art – The Maurice Duplessis collection from Walker's Fine Art & Estate Auctioneers. Preview: Nov. 14 and 15. 4209 St Catherine W., 514.876.9278.

McClure Gallery-Visual Arts Centre – Eliza Griffiths. Vernissage: Nov. 5 at 6 pm. Exhibit continues to Nov. 28. 350 Victoria, 514.488.9558.

Parisian Laundry – BCL. Exhibit continues to Nov. 21. 3550 St Antoine, 514.989.1056.

West End Gallery – Selected works, 1935-1980: Jewish painters. Vernissage: Nov. 14 at 1 pm. Exhibit continues until Nov. 25. 1358 Greene, 514.933.4314.



At Second Glance

## Creating community

BY HEATHER BLACK



The municipal election is over. But for citizens as well as politicians, the question remains: What kind of city do you want to live in?

Linda Leith asked that question over a decade ago, and her answer – the Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival – is now a model for success. A source of inspiration, Leith, Blue Met's founder and artistic director, recently addressed the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal at their meeting October 19 at the Unitarian Church, just west of Claremont.

The lesson of Blue Met and founder Linda Leith is that a few with vision can make a world of difference.

So how can Westmounters improve our community?

For some, that answer may include monitoring council or joining the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA). Others may join an arts group or a non-profit organization like the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal, which brings national and regional issues to our attention.

### City international

How did Leith go about creating her festival? First, she focused on the best talent Montreal has to offer. Although Toronto's international film festival or art fair have eclipsed Montreal's, Blue Met has countered this trend in the literary world. Now Canada's largest festival of its kind, it attracts over 17,000 participants each year.

Then, she created a format that responds to Montreal's distinct citizenry. This being the world's first multilingual literary festival, writers read or hold workshops in their own language, whether English, French, Spanish, Farsi, Inuktitut, Hungarian or Scots Gaelic. And the audience is made up of members of Montreal's various linguistic communities.

A benefit to all Quebecers, the Blue Metropolis International Publishers' Forum allows foreign and English-Canadian writers and publishers to interact with those here. But equally important, the foundation, by encouraging and sponsoring various writing-related activities, fills an educational void.

Blue Met's educational message is "know your community." New programs like "Quebec Roots: The Place Where I Live" encourage elementary, high school

and adult education students to create and publish texts and images on their community.

Blue Met links students with professionals. For example in "Stage Write", students of all ages – with the help of professional playwrights – produce a short radio play, based on a real or imagined community event. For "Writing for a Song / Parole, parole, parole", secondary students work with songwriters to create lyrics.

Other programs recognize the need to write in both English and French. Initiated by community groups, "Neighbours / Voisins" for youth between 14 and 19 encourages second-language skills by publishing an e-zine. Guest photographers, cartoonists, editors or journalists assist students via the web or in person.

Moreover, these projects encourage us to learn our history and celebrate our culture. Last year, "Voices from Quebec" included students from across the province – from the Eastern Townships to the Lower North Shore to Nunavik. This project had students read works by Quebec English-language writers, research their community's various ethnic groups, record oral history, and in this way share their heritage.

Working with professionals, students produced five-minute oral history documentaries on their communities. All to "foster an understanding of the ways in which anglophones contribute to the cultural vitality and diversity of Quebec". Others like "Blue Metropolis Literary Murals project, The City of Words" where book excerpts by Montreal writers are painted on building exteriors across the city, are designed to encourage literacy.

Blue Met's programs tie local truths to a culture of excellence and diversity to an international perspective. Greater Montreal needs to embrace internationalism – a point not lost on various Montreal mayoral candidates. While the success of Blue Met bodes well for future endeavours like a 2020 Expo, its formula of inclusiveness strengthens community ties and community life.

For more information on this Westmount-based organization, visit [www.wccm-ccfm.ca](http://www.wccm-ccfm.ca). Or for Blue Metropolis Foundation programs, visit [www.bluemetropolis.org](http://www.bluemetropolis.org).

Heather Black is a Westmount communication designer. Contact her at: [blackheajea@gmail.com](mailto:blackheajea@gmail.com)

## Masters swimmers balk at new YMCA charges

The Westmount YMCA has charged each of its Masters swim team members an extra annual fee of \$80 this fall – and some of them are less than thrilled.

Previously, Masters swimmers, who use the Y's five-lane, 25-metre pool, paid only the usual \$580 Y membership charge.

The *Independent* learned of the situation from a disgruntled team member, who pointed out that the Pointe Claire Masters, who train at that city's Malcolm-Knox municipal pool, are charged \$480 for a six-lane, 50-metre pool.

On the other hand, the West Island Y, also in Pointe Claire, has a three-lane, 20-metre pool. There is no Masters swim team there and membership is \$595 per year.

Gary White, the Westmount Y's executive director explained his view, "Not everyone realizes that the Westmount Y is a charitable organization. Our Y is on track to subsidize members in financial difficulty to a total of almost \$70,000 this year.

"Amongst the many things I do as a director is ensure that we manage our finances in the most responsible way. The decision to implement a fee for our Masters swim team was only taken after careful analysis and a discussion with the team leaders. The fee has been put in place to offset the disproportionate cost that we incur to run this program.

"It's understandable that some of the members of the team might be upset. However, it is interesting to note that I have also heard from members who fully support the fee if it will ensure the Y's continued commitment to the team and the exceptional level of coaching we provide."

Although Masters president Rosalind Davis says the team "supports the Y and has been involved in fundraising for its capital campaign," she is among those not impressed. "We are uncomfortable at how this number was arrived at."

Davis points out that the Y pool is a four-lane pool doing duty as a five-laner and there are no diving blocks. She also contends that the air quality is so bad that some swimmers have had to quit. The team's oldest swimmer (age 83) may soon be another who has to do so.

An October 7 meeting between White and the team did not change the fee or the swimmers' minds.

"We feel we bring the Y visibility," continued Davis. "We won the provincials and I'd say 80 percent of our 110 members belong just for swimming."

Davis is calling for an independent as-

essment of the pool's air quality, the creation of a pool fund into which swimmers' extra fees would be paid and an assurance that the fee won't be hiked every year.

In the meantime, said Davis, "We're not happy, but we're paying it."

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## Centennial students take on history class with a flair



Westmounter Nassym Lai as Laura Secord, Emma Gonzalez as Princess Diana, Tania Kumar (kneeling) as Mother Teresa, Westmounter Sophie Bell as Rosa Parks, Jessica Paul as Harriet Tubman, Adam Dahan (kneeling) as Bob Marley, Adam Chano as Walt Disney, and Westmounter Matthew Halickman as Moses.

History class took on an interesting twist for Grade 8 students at Centennial Academy recently. They were assigned to

research a famous person from the past and then debate the virtues of their famous figure to prove they were the most worthy in terms of contributions made to society.

The project culminated in a Hall of History on October 22 where students came to school dressed up as their research subject.

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## Were lampposts ever yellow?



This lamppost at Metcalfe and Sherbrooke has seen better days, but may be revealing some of Westmount's history at the same time.

## Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Dr. Michel Demers speaks on Holistic Dentistry at Westmount Y (4585 Sherbrooke St.), 7 to 9 pm. Info: 514.931.6770 ext. 248. Free.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Montreal writer **Caryl Cude Mullin** reads from and signs her new book *Rough Magic* at Babar en ville (1235A Greene Ave.), 5:30

to 7:30 pm, Info: 514.931.0606.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Westmount library's semi-annual **used book sale**, 10 am to 5 pm held by Friends of the Library. Also on Sunday, Nov. 8 Info: 514.483.5604. 4574 Sherbrooke St.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8

- Stephen Jarislowsky** gives a talk on "My Personal Journey through Life from Berlin to Montreal" 9:30 to 11:30 am at Temple Eman-El-Beth Shalom (395 Elm Ave.) Cost: \$10 at the door for light breakfast and lecture. Info: 514.937.3575.

- Westmount's annual **Remembrance Day** service takes place at the cenotaph in front of city hall starting at 2 pm.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Westmount Horticultural Society invites **Gwynne Basen**, film-maker and a director of *Seeds of Diversity*, to speak on "Ornamental Kitchen Gardens". Westmount Room of Westmount Public Library, 7 pm. Cost: \$5 for non-members.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

St. Matthias' Church (10 Church Hill)

**Christmas Fair** from 10 am to 2 pm. WHERE. Baked goods, jams, gifts, jewellery, books. Lunch. 514.933.4295.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

- Women's Canadian Club of Montreal presents **Nancy Wood**, host of CBC's Day-break, on "Experiencing the Broadcasting/Journalism Field as a Woman." 12:30 pm at the Unitarian Church (5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd.) Guest fee \$10. Info: 514.488.7891.

- The Montreal Camera Club presents photographer **Gabor Szilasi**, 7:30 pm at Westmount Park Church (4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd.), rear entrance. Info: johnzimmerman@videotron.ca or www.montrealcameraclub.com.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

**Council meeting** at city hall, 8 pm.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Westmount **Toastmasters Club** 85th anniversary, with guest speaker: Mayor Peter Trent. Open to all. 7 to 9 pm at Victoria Hall.

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# Social Notes from Westmount and beyond Westmount style at Montreal Fashion Week

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE



Westmount designer Yves Jean Lacasse has teamed up with a Senator. The NHL hockey star Alex Kovalev, now playing with the Ottawa Senators, joined Lacasse in hosting a fundraising event for children with heart illness on October 13 at Marché Bonsecours.

Russian designer Tatyana Parfionova, arriving from Moscow for the event, is a friend of Kovalev's wife Eugenia, who created the event as a fundraiser for the Kovalev & Friends Foundation.

Former Westmounter Kovalev, who had heart problems as a child, established the

foundation "to assist children with heart illnesses."

The sold-out soirée was preceded by a red-carpet cocktail held in the midst of fashionista frenzy of Montreal Fashion Week. At Marché Bonsecours, stanchions delineated a tiny cocktail party space, where stocky black-clad chaps admitted ticket holders so they could partake of Prosecco.

The fashion show opened with a fantastic fiddle piece "Ochichornya". The traditional Russian-Ukrainian folk song was interpreted with a modern twist by a jeans-clad punk violinist who danced up and down the runway while playing with fabulous fervour.

Parfionova's line featured velvets, bows, tulles, roses and ruffles – often all in the

same outfit. Yves Jean Lacasse's clothes did not disappoint. His somewhat dandified approach to dressing for men and women received a standing ovation, as did Kovalev who walked down the runway in a Lacasse cut-away coat. (Some women were overheard saying they would have preferred Mr. K. as scantily clad as Lacasse's male models, who sauntered down the runway in underwear!)

Noted amongst the chic guests were media celebs Herby Moreau and Angelo Cadet; Ursula B; pediatric cardiac surgeon Dr. Suzanne Vobecky, associated with the Foundation; and Heidi Hollinger, who was also part of the event – a natural link as this Westmounter is not only a renowned photographer, but also speaks Russian.



Westmounters Yves Jean Lacasse and Roy Heenan (right), with Danielle Legentil.



Dr. Suzanne Vobecky and Westmounter Yves Jean Lacasse.



Irena Chaperalova, Westmounter Randy Stroll, Maria Chaperalova.



Westmounter Mose Persico interviews Alex Kovalev.





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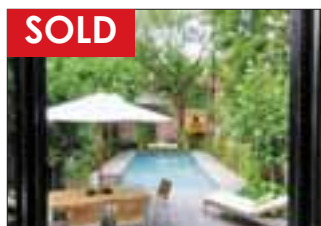
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## Vimy Foundation secures major grant

The Vimy Foundation has received a two-year grant from the Beaverbrook Canadian Foundation. The \$100,000-per-year grant can be extended to a third year.

The Vimy Foundation's Beaverbrook Vimy Prize (as it will soon be re-named) is a two-week summer scholarship in Europe that enables students to study Canada's role in World War I. The scholarships are open to Canadian, British and French students 15 to 17 years old.

"We are very grateful for this significant donation," said Vimy Foundation president and Westmounter Andrew Powell.

"This association is a major step forward that will help the foundation plan the future with confidence."

Born in Canada of modest background, Max Aitken (later Lord Beaverbrook) rose to become an influential newspaper publisher, government minister in Britain and friend of Winston Churchill. "It is very important for young people to know and to discuss their shared history, and the Beaverbrook Vimy Prize provides an excellent forum for that discussion to take place" said Timothy Aitken, president of the Beaverbrook foundation.

## Szilasi awarded Prix du Québec

Westmounter Gabor Szilasi has been awarded the Prix du Québec's Paul-Émile Borduas prize for his work as a photographer. The ceremony was scheduled to take place November 3 at the provincial legislature, after press time.

He was "very pleased and proud," when contacted by the *Independent* on October 29.

Szilasi's "The Eloquence of the Everyday" photography exhibition is at the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography in the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa until January 17, 2010. This major retrospective of 50 years of Szilasi's work was previously at the Joliette Mu-

seum of Art (see *Independent*, April 21, p. 1).

Szilasi will be at the Montreal Camera Club on November 16. See p. 12 for details.

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Joanne Walford and DanceSport instructor Anatol Touranski strike a pose at DanceSport.

Joanne Walford has been dancing at DanceSport since it opened more than three years ago. A dentist by profession, Walford dances in competitions "for fun," unwinding with everything from the waltz to the tango, with a little foxtrot and quickstep thrown in for good measure. DanceSport offers ballroom and Latin dance classes for all levels, with or without a partner.

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## Parenting

## A flu by any other name is just as vexing

By SOPHIE TARNOWSKA



Well, this is awkward. It seems there's a life-threatening – or perhaps just life-endangering virus – going around, and I have no idea what to do about it, which is a no-no when you hold your child's life in your hands. (Dramatic enough for you?)

I went to the Westmount YMCA last week to pick up my daughter after her swimming class, cursing myself for having registered her for an activity that involves sloshing through a locker room filled with two inches of water and shivering kids, only to find ourselves changing next to a kid who could not stop coughing.

I morphed from Mother in Soggy Boots to Infectious Disease Professional and began barking orders at my poor wet child in a high-pitched whisper, "Turn away! Don't touch your mouth! Stop inhaling!" and whisked her out of there as fast as I could. Had a Hazmat suit been available, we would have donned it.

That's when I realized just how little I know about the H1N1 virus. Cut to Westmount Park (where I do my best "information-gathering" – code for eavesdropping on other people's conversations). I overheard two mothers debating whether or not to vaccinate against the swine flu. "We're getting it," said one. "My mother says her neighbour's daughter was in hospital for five weeks, so weak that she could barely turn over in bed. *Can you imagine?*"

"Well, we're not getting it," said the other. "Frank said his secretary's mechanic's daughter's classmate got it, and it was just like a regular flu – no big deal."

Despite the obvious scientific accuracy of the above statements, I decided to take an informal poll of my best and brightest yummy mummies – and found that the majority is choosing not to be vaccinated or to vaccinate their kids, which backs up an article I read in *Wired* magazine recently that states higher rates of non-vaccination often correspond with higher levels of education and wealth.

But while some of us appear to be just as concerned with finding the secret to

frizz-free hair as we are about the swine flu, airports around the world (notably Beirut and Dubai) are forcing passengers to walk through a fever-detecting machine before they're even allowed to board their flights. So either my fellow Westmounters feel they possess an immunity that I don't, or the Middle East has gone totally falafel. Where is the happy medium between panic and *laissez-faire*?

One friend answered that question by opting to get the vaccine for her and her husband, but not for their kids, to ensure that she remains healthy enough to care for them should they fall sick, but sparing the kids what they see as the risks of the vaccine, however minimal.

Overall, my yummy mummy network seems to have more questions than answers, which is fine if we're assessing the long-term consequences of giving manicures to toddlers, but scarier when we're trying to decide whether to vaccinate against an illness named after a pig.

And kudos to whoever chose to use the term "swine" instead of pig – this flu sounds like something Shakespearean-era wives shouted at their misbehaving husbands after one too many ales, "Thou art

nothing but the flu of a swine, o' pestilent cad!"

I find it strange that we all seem more afraid of the cure than we are of the curse – it's as though vaccines did their jobs too well and eradicated diseases so effectively that we feel invincible to the point of wondering why we need vaccines at all. Add to that the accusations of vaccine-related illnesses, and we have...me: A confused mother who wanders the aisles of Pharmaprix, stroking bottles of mushroom extract that promises to boost our immune systems, fondling vials of homeopathic tinctures, and finally, escaping into the magazine aisle to ignore my worries and catch up on news of Brangelina and their 26 (swine-flu and frizz-free and possibly manicure-receiving) offspring.

Some resources you might find helpful:

The where, who and how of vaccinations in Quebec:

- [www.pandemiequebec.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.pandemiequebec.gouv.qc.ca)
- [http://vaccination.msss.gouv.qc.ca/carte\\_region.php?region=06](http://vaccination.msss.gouv.qc.ca/carte_region.php?region=06)

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# Anger at the 4300

*continued from p. 5*

was willing to talk on the record.

Comparing the recent meeting to Alcoholics Anonymous, where everybody “tells a tale of horror,” Price said: “There was one guy there who got up and was so angry he could hardly speak.”

Records indicate Price, who has lived in the building since 2005, filed a complaint in September for \$200 a month since March 2009 up until the “whole situation gets solved.”

Motivated to action by the ongoing construction and rent increases, Price said he, at first, tried withholding a portion of his monthly payment, but was quickly sued by Realstar – a suit, he said, that was fast tracked by the Régie. Realstar sought to break Price’s lease, but was unable to do so, so long as he paid the rent he had held back, which he did.

He then pursued his own litigation against the company.

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## Part 2 in the bus shelter series

# Sherbrooke St. bus shelters very clean too

On October 28, we extended our west-to-east tour of Westmount bus shelters to cover Sherbrooke St. We found the shel-

ters very clean, despite a letter to the editor to the contrary (see p. 4 for letter and photo). For our St. Catherine St. bus shel-

ter photos, see our October 20 edition, p. 33.



*Southwest corner at Grosvenor.*



*Southeast corner at Lansdowne.*



*North of the library, south side of Sherbrooke.*



*Northeast corner of Metcalfe.*



*Near northwest corner of Argyle.*



*Southwest corner of Clarke.*



*Southwest corner of Greene.*



*Northeast corner of Greene.*



*Southwest corner of Wood.*



*Northeast corner of Wood.*



*North of Dawson College, near Atwater (north side of Sherbrooke – Westmount adjacent).*



*Southwest corner of Atwater (Westmount adjacent).*





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## Westmount couple organizes ski patrol fundraiser

Westmounters Elaine and Howard Heitner are coordinating a fundraiser for the Canadian Ski Patrol at the annual Ski and Snowboard Sale at Champlain College, November 14 and 15, between 10 am and 6 pm.

Howard has been involved in the ski patrol for over 22 years in the Eastern Townships.

The Canadian Ski Patrol is Canada's largest active volunteer first aid and rescue organization, providing safety and rescue services in ski areas and non-skiing events in the province. There are over 5,000 members across the country, ranging in age from 18 to 80 years old.

The "ski swap" being organized by the Heitners will provide funding for accident prevention programs, first aid training for volunteer patrollers, and toboggans, backboards and bandages.

It will take place in the college's gymnasium. Used equipment can be brought to Champlain College (900 Riverside Dr., St. Lambert) on November 14, until noon and then, if not sold, picked up between 5 and 7 pm on November 15.



Howard Heitner on ski patrol duty.

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## Underdog She's 'special' that Shelby

BY FERN BRESLAW



I met Shelby and my heart sank. We've seen a lot of goodwill and generosity towards dogs with special needs or hefty health issues, but for me, Shelby takes the cake. She is isn't just special. She is "special."



Shelby

If one person calls for this dog, I will be ecstatic because there isn't any way to fix her. She simply is how she is.

Shelby is a very, very tiny, very sweet husky. At six months old, she should have a line up of people wanting to take her home, but she doesn't. She suffers from what looks like anxiety tendencies.

She walks in circles, goes into trances and needs a special crate to keep her safe

when left alone. Other dogs pick on her because they know something is wrong or different. She needs to be an only dog and won't be easy to train. Basically, she won't be giving you a nice "shake your paw" or winning any dog shows...but she's a sweetheart.

When she lies down in your lap, it makes your heart melt: She is simple, gentle, good with cats...even so, who is going to take a dog with her problems?

Shelby may never grow out of how her issues, but she is very, very lucky to have been taken in by Reach for the Stars Rescue. They are treating her with homeopathy and have seen some improvement but are fearful she will remain homeless.

I almost didn't want to run her this week, since it seemed like such a lost cause. Instead, I was going to write about this pure white puppy who was found as a stray up north.

But then I remembered that this is called The Underdog Club, and remains dedicated to all the underdogs out there.

Shelby is just that and she deserves a chance more than any dog I've seen in a while. My fingers are crossed.

To find out more about Shelby, please call Reach For The Stars Rescue at 514.560.5940 or visit [www.underdogclub.org](http://www.underdogclub.org).

### Underdog Club Update

#### Adopted

Toby – the 8-year-old, fat black lab who was abandoned at the gallery.

Fatty Princess – the 35-pound bichon.

Peaches

Charles – the three-legged sausage.

Puff – Amazing people came out for this little guy. Thank you so so much to everyone who donated. He is going to have a very good lie from now on.

#### Still waiting for a home

Daisy – the little girl who had her jaw broken. Some nice person has found all the funding Daisy needs, but she is still without a family.

Floyd – the bulldog with liver damage is doing much better. He was helped like mad by readers who put up the cash for his vet bills, but is still on the homeless shelf.

McKenzie – the pit, who was left for dead in an apartment, is good as can be but is still a pit, so no callers here.

Maddox – the black German shepherd with heart worm is currently being treated.

ECS put on a great fundraiser for him, but he too is still sitting in a kennel.

For everyone above, please contact 514.969.3376 or email [fern@underdogclub.org](mailto:fern@underdogclub.org)

Fern Breslaw, director and founder of the Underdog Club.

## Connelly new head of Montreal Children's Library

BY ERIN STROPES

The Montreal Children's Library, headquartered at the Atwater Library, has a new head librarian. Adrienne Connelly, previously at the Richmond Square branch as a branch librarian, started her new position September 21. She is in charge of administering all three branches, and will continue to serve at Richmond Square until her replacement takes over this week.

"This is a big change from the front-line role of being a branch librarian," said Connelly, who holds a masters degree in library science from McGill. "I'm looking forward to finding new opportunities for the library, and facilitating all the great children's programming that we already have in place."

Connelly replaces Robin Sales, who took a position in Vermont after seven years with the Children's Library.



Among the new arrivals at the Westmount Public Library, singled out by staff:

#### Adults – Don't...stop the press...

*Losing The News: The Future of the News that Feeds Democracy* by Alex S. Jones – A Pulitzer Prize journalist, Jones examines the demise of the newspaper industry and how this will have serious implications for our democratic political system.

*Restless Genius: Barney Kilgore, the Wall Street Journal, and the Invention of Modern Journalism* by Richard J. Tofel – In 1929, Barney Kilgore, fresh from college in small-town Indiana, took a sleepy, near bankrupt New York financial paper, *The Wall Street Journal*, and turned it into a thriving national newspaper that was eventually worth \$5 billion.

#### Adult French – It's the economy...

*L'investisseur zen: comment rester rationnel quand les marchés financiers ne le sont pas* by Sébastien Trudel – The author teaches investors how to strike a balance between risk-taking and conservatism and argues that controlling one's emotions during financial cycles is the key to avoiding rash decisions and maximizing gains.

*La prospérité du vice: une introduction (inquiète) à l'économie* by Daniel Cohen – Nominated for a Femina award in the essay category, this book is being praised as a highly readable introduction to economic history. Cohen discusses topics such as the forces that led to the world wars and the future of capitalism.

#### Books on CD

*The Year of the Flood* by Margaret Atwood – Following a cataclysmic natural disaster, Adam One, leader of the religion known as God's Gardeners, and his followers make their way through an altered,

depopulated world.

*The Girl Who Played With Fire* by Stieg Larsson Mikael Blomkvist – Crusading journalist and publisher of the magazine Millennium, the author decided to publish a story exposing an extensive sex trafficking operation between Eastern Europe and Sweden, implicating well-known and highly placed members of Swedish society, business, and government.

#### Magazines

"Competition Spotlight: Roxanne Dyer Captures a Scene Behind the Scenes" in *The Artist's Magazine*, Nov. 2009, p.88. An interview with Westmount artist Roxanne Dyer.

"The Story Behind the Story: Much of the news you see on TV is the work of political hit men not journalist. And it's only getting worse" by Mark Bowden in *The Atlantic Monthly*, Oct. 2009, p. 46.

"Comment sauver le médecin de famille? Un Québécois sur quatre n'en a pas. Et ça ne va pas s'arranger, car les étudiants en médecine préfèrent de plus en plus la vie de spécialiste. Et pas que pour le salaire, nous apprend notre enquête!" by Dominique Forget in *L'Actualité*, November 1, 2009, p. 22.

#### Reference

*OECD Factbook 2009: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics* – An essential tool providing a global overview of world economic, social and environmental trends.

*L'auto 2010* by Jacques Duval, Jean-François Guay, Éric Lefrançois – Thinking about buying a car? We have several other recent car guides. , please ask the reference staff during your next visit.

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Off-Sidel

# A look at the bantam A Wings

BY NOAH SIDEL

With high hopes for the new hockey season, the bantam A Westmount Wings have certainly gotten off to a hot start. The Wings are 3-0 going into last weekend, and coach Sam Pinsky credits hard work for the early success.

"The team is doing very well so far. We won our first game 4-2 against the Lachine Maroons, and then we played the Amba-

Wing Nicholas Jonas explained that his team has started well because of its overall focus on long-term goals and teamwork.

"We have a great team this year with very strong individual players with a lot of skill, and some of us have had good starts to the season," he said.

"Now, we need to focus on bringing it all in as a team instead of as a group of individuals so that we can produce effectively against the stronger teams this year."



The bantam A Westmount Wings in action.

sadors of Verdun, and we beat them 6-1. On Sunday, we played in LaSalle against the Jaguars, winning with a score 6-0," said Pinsky, who has been coaching hockey for 30 years

"That makes it three wins and no losses for us so far this year. My players are really developing great skills, and I am very proud of them so far for their eagerness. Overall the players are responding well to all the practices and appear to be quite disciplined."

In fact, it is just that very discipline that has led not only to the early positive results, but shows promise for the year as a whole.

"My main focus any year is discipline and gelling as a team," explained Pinsky. The team needs to work on the basics of passing and shooting, and it's a little early in the season to say exactly what [our players] do best, but I can say for sure they are all good hockey players who give it their all."

And, perhaps most importantly, they are "all fine, respectful young men," according to their coach.

Defenceman Jeremy Obrand echoed his teammate. "We have a very skilled team this year. If we play as a team and not as individuals we could go far."

Winger Josh Dannenbaum credits not only his teammates, but also his coach. "I think that our team has done well in our first few games for a few reasons. First, I think that we have a very strong team overall and everyone is personally playing up to their full potential," he said. "Second, the line chemistry seems to be working well, and also Sam has been a factor with his helpful tips and handouts that bring our game to the next level."

If the most important reason to play youth hockey is to have fun, and the best way to have that fun is to win, then, according to forward Adam Marcovitz, the Wings have the right formula in place.

"The best part of playing on this team is the camaraderie. Working together to be the best that we can be has been an incredible experience...but, of course winning is pretty good too."

You can always reach me at  
noahsidel@gmail.com.

Bridge for Bright Brains

## Desperation rules

BY GEORGE RETEK

How often does one hear the question: "How did declarer find that fantastic play to make his contract?" The answer some of the time is: "That was his only chance."

Witness the following hand where East/West bid 4 Spades, forcing North/South to complete to 5 Hearts, that was doubled by East.

Dealer: South  
Vulnerable: Both

The Ace of Spades lead was trumped by the Ace of Hearts. North played the Heart two to the 9! Please note that declarer even holding AKQJ in trumps had to finesse against East's presumed 10 of Hearts to ensure two quick entries to South's hand.

Then the Queen of Spades from South was covered by West and ruffed by the King of Hearts. A small Heart to the Queen, and a Diamond discard on the Spade Jack was followed by playing on Clubs.

Eleven tricks made. Of course any other lead than the top Spade would have defeated the contract, but not everybody is perfect.

North

♠ –  
♥ A K J 3 2  
♦ J 9  
♣ K Q J 8 5 3

West

♠ A K 9 8 5 4 3  
♥ 7  
♦ 10 7 2  
♣ 9 4

East

♠ 10 7  
♥ 10 8  
♦ A K 6 5 4 3  
♣ A 6 2

South

♠ Q J 6 2  
♥ Q 9 6 5 4  
♦ Q 8  
♣ 10 7

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**Argyle takes on those pre-winter blues**



Some of the Argyle's supporters at a previous event, from left: Paula Merovitch, George Reid, Rebecca Schlegel and Joseph at "Montreal Walks for Mental Health", held at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Park in Côte St. Luc on October 18.

Westmount's Argyle Institute took advantage of Depression Month (October) to announce a new program. Thanks to a grant from a local foundation, the institute is offering free relational counselling to low-income families and individuals. Violent, psychotic and severely drug-addicted

individuals are not eligible. Argyle therapists include marital and family therapists, psychologists, social workers, creative arts therapists, counselors and psychoanalysts. For an appointment, contact Michele Goldman, intake officer, at 514.931.5629.

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## Looking out from within



This Prince Albert resident doesn't mind who wins or loses in the municipal election, what kind of arena should Westmount have – or about catching H1N1. The only issue on his plate was when the rain would stop.

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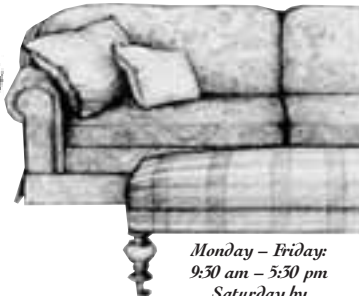
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- **I won't...** just stick a "For Sale" sign in front of your door and wait for something to happen.
- **I won't...** pass you off to an assistant.
- **I won't...** have you wait until I am paged in order to speak with me.
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- **I won't...** be unavailable or send an assistant.
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