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A St. Patrick's Day
Birthday Boy,
Patrick Martin

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Profile: Patrick Martin, p. 14

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 3 No. 3c

We are Westmount

March 17-18, 2009

Archer freed in Darfur

Westmounter
Laura Archer
was kidnapped
in Sudan on
March 11. She
was freed on
March 13. For
story, see p. 2.



Building permit values drop 25%

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While 2009 has started off with smaller than usual building projects and renovation activity in Westmount, residents planning updates, alterations or additions may run out of time if they don't apply soon for a building permit.

The advice comes from Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier, noting that with the upcoming municipal election in

November, city council will be dissolved following the October 5 council meeting. This leaves only six months for permit applications to make their way through the system in time for approval.

"I would suggest anyone wanting to start work this year get their plans in soon," she said.

Requests for many permits go through both the city's Board of Inspections and PAC, the city's architectural design com-

mittee, before they can receive city council approval.

The 92 permits issued in January and February this year reflect a 25 percent drop in the total estimated value of new construction over the same period last year. This is based on \$5.7 million in 2008 compared to \$4.3 million this year, Poirier said.

In comparing the two years, Poirier did not in- *continued on p. 2*

Take a close look at Saturn

Star gazing event set for Earth Hour

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A special Dark Sky event is being planned for Earth Hour, Saturday, March 28. Westmounters may admire the heavens from the Summit Lookout led by astrophysicist Tony Moffat for the Healthy City Project.

Weather permitting, several telescopes will be installed to provide a rare opportunity for viewing Saturn and the Orion Neb-

ula between 8:30 and 9:30 pm when lights are being turned off across Quebec.

"We hope this is the start of a tradition to inspire people to reduce their energy usage and enjoy life more," Moffat said.

A mini-bus is to leave city hall for the Lookout at 7:45 pm for those who require transportation. Refreshments will be served at the event and 100 CFL light bulbs will be handed out courtesy of Hydro West- *continued on p. 4*



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Artist and nurse Laura Archer kidnapped and freed in Sudan



Laura Archer in her St. Antoine studio with one of her paintings, August 2008.

Westmounter Laura Archer, a native of Charlottetown, PEI, was kidnapped in North Darfur, Sudan on March 11 and was released by her captors on March 14, according to Médecins sans frontières, the organization she works for.

Two other international and two Sudanese workers were taken at the same time and also released.

She is a professional nurse who has volunteered in India and several African countries.

David Price, who interviewed Archer in 2008 to photograph her paintings of African refugees for the *Independent* (August 19, p. 8), recalled their meeting, "She was very down-to-earth. A car accident had turned her away from a rat-race career path into art, travel and philanthropy, and her studio had a semi-nomadic, student feel to it. It is terrible to think of her in the hands of thugs. I am glad she is free."

Meals on Wheels started here

Westmount was a trailblazer in bringing Meals on Wheels to Quebec.

March 16 to 21 is the fourth annual *Semaine québécoise des popotes roulantes* (as Meals on Wheels is called in French).

The week's organizer, the Regroupement des popotes roulantes (PRASAB), is saluting the pioneering role that Westmount has played in the group's history.

According to PRASAB, the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) first offered the service in Westmount in 1966. According to *St. Matthias' Church Meals on Wheels Canada Group #1*, a number of groups initiated the first pilot project (called "Stew for a Few" until 1966) in 1965, including the VON, the women of St. Matthias' Church and the Montreal Volunteer Bureau.

St. Matthias continues to offer the serv-

ice in Westmount today, as do Centre Greene and Mountainside Church. The local VON has turned into NOVA - and recently moved to Westmount (see May 20 *Independent*, p. 1 for story).

In 2008, 16,000 volunteers in 300 groups served over 1 million meals throughout Quebec.

Note to burglars: smile for the camera!

Another crime in Westmount has led to an arrest thanks in part to surveillance cameras operating in colour. It follows on the heels of other similar incidents that closed numerous files.

Police said a suspect was filmed March 4 between 4:54 and 5:40 am as he broke into an apartment building on Sherbrooke St. between Elm and Mount Pleasant. He was seen criss-crossing the lobby and going in and out of the garage, helping himself to a bike. Windows were broken on two cars but it is not known if anything had been stolen from them.

The suspect was recognized by police and arrested that evening when patrollers spotted him east of Westmount in possession of the same clothing: a green toque, beige construction gloves, and pants with white marks on the seat. He also had a set of multi-function screwdrivers.

Apply soon for reno permits as election looms

continued from p. 1

clude in this year's total a \$2.1 million project at the large 4300 de Maisonneuve apartment block as an anomaly that otherwise would skew the figures in judging the overall home construction and renovation scene.

The figures so far suggest that people are undertaking smaller projects, she explained. "I don't know if the financial crisis has anything to do with it or not."

It's also too soon to know whether the 2009 federal tax credit incentive for renovation projects will cause building activity to pick up or whether the lower costs of work reflected in permits to date will translate into a trend. "We should know after the first quarter."

An updated pamphlet on work permits is expected to be ready in the coming weeks. While this year's version is expected to include changes in the new proposed zoning by-law (see story p. 3), the basic steps and criteria remain unchanged.

Westmounters planning to replace old wood-frame windows were encouraged at the March 2 city council meeting to take advantage of their superior wood quality and restore them instead. Councillor Cynthia Lulham explained that the wood (often oak) is matched only by today's mahogany.

New restoration techniques include the installation of glass with high-energy rat-

When is a permit needed for building projects?

The first step in undertaking any change in windows or other renovation project in Westmount is to obtain a copy of the city guidelines, according to city officials. These are available at the Urban Planning department at city hall and posted on the city's website.

The city recommends that homeowners obtain a permit before signing any work contract, ordering materials or starting a project, since unapproved work can be stopped in progress or demolished. Fines also can be issued.

Permits are not required for interior or exterior painting or the repainting of masonry or the minor replacement of decayed wood or masonry as part of normal maintenance.

But a permit is a must for any new building, alteration or addition as well as all plumbing changes, replacement of windows and doors, and the installation of mechanical equipment such as heat pumps and emergency generators.

Included as well are decks, fences, hedges, retaining walls and the resurfacing of parking aprons and driveways. So is the replacement of balconies, stairs and sloping roof materials.



Work continues on a high-profile permit issued last year to add a new storey at 27 Bellevue. Neighbours' attempts to stop the work to protect views were thwarted in court.

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Public to be consulted on law for 'supersized' homes

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Changes to Westmount's zoning by-law to prevent the so-called over-building of properties will be detailed at a public consultation meeting at city hall, Monday, March 23 at 7 pm.

Following three years of study, the measures will apply to all new construction in zones R1. This is the area north of The Boulevard to the east of Upper Belmont as well as a narrow section to the south. The southern portion is bounded by Carleton and Sydenham to the east and west, and continues down to Côte St. Antoine through Forden and Murray properties.

"The aim is to have houses that match the size of the land," said Councillor Cynthia Lulham in announcing the consultation session during the March 2 city council meeting.

Criteria will be introduced establishing different scales for the amount of habitable space (floor area ratio or FAR) a house can occupy relative to the size of the lot.

As well, building set-backs from side property lines will be increased for large

frontage properties of 75 feet or more, and underground construction will be limited to the home's building lines.

Won't rule out large houses

Imposing an FAR to the size of the lot won't mean that large houses can't be built, explained Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier. "It ensures that new houses are more in scale with neighbouring ones."

Similar laws to prevent the building of very large homes relative to the size of lots are now being enacted all over North America and Europe, Mayor Karin Marks said at the council meeting. In Westmount, the exercise of setting criteria has been particularly complex given the setting of homes on a hillside. No one formula fits all.

Underground issues, too

The city has long been concerned as well about a growing trend toward the construction of large underground garages and exercise rooms (see "Building projects push limits", *Independent*, p. 1, May 16, 2007).

Underground construction that extends right to the side lines of a property may affect drainage, natural vegetation, the topography of the mountain and even impact on the neighbouring properties during construction, Poirier says.

Underground "extensions" also prevent the future planting of large trees.

Those attending the public consultation will be able to view a presentation on the proposed changes and ask questions.

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Cavallaro signs don't measure up, says Office



The Cavallaro food shop on Sherbrooke St. was recently visited by the Office québécois de la langue française, following a tip from someone complaining its store window signage did not respect Bill 101. As shown in the photo above, the size of the English and French wording is the same, an alleged contravention.

Owner Tony Russo said he doesn't

know who filed the complaint, but having been visited by an official from the OQLF, he is planning on making the required changes to his signage. He said the other wording on his storefront window is exclusively in French, and that the recession is no time "to bust people's chops" on the issue.

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Spring Interview Series

Legacies – reflecting on the worlds we inherit

May 13, May 20, June 3, June 10

Our Man in Ottawa

Commons: Provide funds, not paperwork or prereqs

BY MARC GARNEAU,
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR
WESTMOUNT-VILLE MARIE



During the past two months, Canadians have become acquainted with the expression "shovel-ready infrastructure projects." These words describe construction or repair projects in our cities and municipalities that have the benefit of stimulating the economy and of employing Canadians who might otherwise have become unemployed.

Examples of projects include road work, the repair of water mains and sewer systems, the construction of bridges, public transportation, the restoration of cultural landmarks and the building of recreational centres.

All parties agree that such projects are crucial to stimulate our slowing economy. They not only employ people: there is also something important to show for it - i.e. revitalized cities and municipalities.

There are thousands of such projects and one might soon expect a frenzy of construction if two challenges can be overcome. The first has to do with the approval process at the federal level. Paperwork, as we all know, takes time. It is therefore critical for the government to streamline the process while remaining accountable. So far, its record of getting projects approved

has been disappointing.

The second challenge has to do with "matching funds." The budget has allocated money to infrastructure projects on the condition that federal funds are matched at other levels of government. In other words, cities and municipalities will need to contribute a portion of the funding for the projects that are approved. Unfortunately, cities and municipalities are strapped for cash at this time.

This brings me to a resolution proposed by the Liberal Party that received majority support in the house of commons on March 3:

"That, in the opinion of this House, and as experience has demonstrated, the most efficient, expeditious and stimulative method of transferring federal funding for municipal infrastructure projects is by means of mechanisms similar to those put in place, beginning in 2005, to share with municipalities on a per capita basis a significant and growing portion of the federal excise tax on gasoline; and the House calls upon the government to transfer at least half of its proposed new infrastructure funding in this manner over the next two years, with no requirement that these additional federal funds be matched by the municipalities with which they are shared."

Implementing this resolution will get money out the door quickly and cities such as Westmount will get to choose projects without having to provide matching funds. We are all hopeful that this government acts quickly to implement this resolution for the benefit of all Canadians.

Welcome back, Don

It is the custom in this part of the world to wait until the Final Unpleasantness before one says anything Really Nice about someone. Stand back as I take aim at that tradition and welcome back Don Wedge after a five-month hiatus. I hope he will be writing every week, but if he wants to set a different pace, he is welcome in this paper at any time.

Meeting Don Wedge

I had a very peculiar introduction to Don. Soon after starting the *Independent*, I heard he was miffed with me, even though we'd never met. The reason, it turns out, was that he wanted to be on the list of "Best wishers" contained in our first two issues. He was a writer, at that time, for a competing publication, so it had never occurred to me to ask him.

But for Don, a freelance writer accountable to no one but himself, there was no contradiction between that specific role and encouraging more community journalism.

Westmount first

Also, as I later learned, Don puts Westmount first. If he thinks something is good for Westmount, he will support it,

period.

I was very pleased when Don decided he wanted to come over to the *Independent*, but I was pleased in a sober, businesslike fashion. Without needing to agree or disagree with his views, I would be adding one of Westmount's best known columnists to the team. (Even one of his sharpest critics, in print, has gone out of his way to tell me how much respect he has for Don.) You don't have to go to business school to see that as a Good Thing.

Pleasant surprises

Little did I know what a pleasant surprise I was in for!

Don over-delivers on content. He has excellent suggestions about all aspects of the paper. He comes up with feature ideas well outside his "municipal affairs" purview. He is quality conscious. He does not seek out credit. He works from his hospital room to meet deadlines. Don is a wonderful man to work with.

I think Don feels lucky to have landed in a city like Westmount when he moved to Canada, but I think Westmount is lucky to have someone like Don commenting on its affairs. I know I am.

David Price, Editor

Bring your own old bulbs

.....
continued from p. 1

mount to the first 100 people who bring a used incandescent bulb for exchange. "So BYOB," Moffat said.

Residents and building owners are being asked to turn off all lights for Earth Hour. Moffat and city councillor Patrick Martin plan to go door-to-door around Sunnyside Park to make the request in person. Scouts and others will blitz other nearby areas.

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Herbs for horticulturalists



Herbalist Karen Runnels was invited by the Westmount Horticultural Society to explain how to prepare herbal vinegars, tinctures and liqueurs at the Westmount Public Library on March 10.

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Civic Alert

An A to Z for springing ahead in Westmount

BY DON WEDGE



A – Absence: Quebec's health care system triumphed. Family, friends and colleagues responded, and here I am. My thanks to all. The first letter could also have stood for Artificial turf, Aging or Arena.

B – Back: Eager to catch up on what I've missed, here's a round-up of some of the events and people I caught. At least for now, it is the Westmount arena that dominates.

C – Campaign: This is an election year for the municipality, which could emerge as a variant of the arena debate. Four years ago, Karin Marks' successful bid to lead the reconstituted Westmount had begun by March.

Councillors Cynthia Lulham and, this week, Patrick Martin, have confirmed their candidacies for the November elections. Newcomers are shy in stepping forward.

D – Defence delayed: Interviewed on *Daybreak*, CBC's morning radio show, about Como Maciocia and Louise Harel's attacks on the borough system, Tremblay loyalist Alan DeSousa remembered all the arguments he used in 2000 when he was a forced-merger opponent.

F – Fire Inspection + First Responder: Would anyone claim we are better served than before the forced merger?

G – Gainey, Bob: Not only has he acquired Habs' coaching duties but also a first grandchild – daughter and Westmounter Anna gave birth to a son on March 5.

H – Harel, Louise: More dangerous as a retiree than as an out-of-office cabinet minister?

I – Indefensible: Quebec municipalities' charge that Jean Charest's delay of infrastructure money promised in 2007 – and still undelivered – could not be defended by cabinet minister Yolande James on *Daybreak*.

J – Jarislowsky, Stephen: Coy about admitting to being a billionaire, he told CBC TV's Andrew Chang: "Obviously, I have built up quite an amount. But I don't count it regularly." *Forbes* listed Jarislowsky at \$1.2 billion against \$2.5 billion last year.

It is not a good time for Quebec billionaires: Paul Desmarais went from \$4.6 to \$2.6 billion and Charles Bronfman, \$2.4 to \$1.8 billion, according to *Forbes*.

K – Kitchen waste: The start-up collections of 2008 meant that almost 100 tonnes of waste was not sent to landfill.

L – Lulham, Cynthia: A pre-arranged visit to Italy did not prevent her from making her views known via conference call at council's closed-door arena information session last week.

M – Marathon: Wanting to preview what the public will be told in April, that meeting lasted six hours, with another planned for this week.

N – "No" vote: Unlike the demerger referendum, with its clear options, the resistance to the arena will involve multiple issues, sometimes conflicting: city debt, size, NIMBY, parking, operating cost, carbon footprint, inadequate facilities, and more. Who will the various objectors coalesce around?

O – Order of Quebec Architects gave renewed strength to resident Luc Rivest in his quest to have council look sympathetically at investigating a wood arena.

P – Pointe Claire is adding a new 10-lane Olympic-size swimming facility next to its famous six-lane A-frame aquatic centre, which will be renovated.

The new building will cost \$7 million and the renovations \$9 million. Quebec has promised \$6 million, but Pointe Claire has asked for more.

Q – Question: The magic words that the Ipsos-Reid pollsters will be given to ask citizens may determine the arena project's fate.

Telephone sampling, skewed by the exclusion of cellphone-only homes, seems a strange way to determine such a major decision.

R – Rush: At present, arena plans are shrouded in the kind of darkness that Tony Moffat craves during Earth Hour. With them being exposed to the light on April 6 at the city council meeting and the polling starting barely a fortnight later, will there be time for well-informed debates on the options?

Who will the resistance coalesce around? (see N).

S – St. Louis, Bruce: Not DG since September, but actively preparing the arena project from an office in the Public Works building.

T – Train: A close look at the latest map shows a diversion from the CN line to the airport. That implies no CP shuttle and no Westmount track upgrade that would come with it.

V – Vancouver will convert part of its city hall lawn into community food gardens – a "quick start" recommendation from the first meeting of its Greenest City Action Team, which includes David Suzuki and former BC premier Mike Harcourt.

W – Westmount's biggest single investment: the arena, even if only costing \$25 million. Will it join the other icons: city hall, the library, Victoria Hall, the Gallery, and Bowling Green clubhouse? Need it match them?

X – An X will probably be the mark to decide the arena's ultimate fate. If it gets over the current hurdles, there will need to be a substantial loan, which could lead to a conventional vote.

Y – "Yes" vote: But for the phone poll, will the Jean Charest demerger voting rules apply? If someone doesn't answer the Ipsos-Reid call, will it count as a "Yes"?

Z – Zenn – These Quebec-made electric cars now have permits for (restricted) road use, so why not in Westmount with its own hydro supply system? The arena is

not the only consideration!

Citizen activist Don Wedge's e-mail address is dwedge@sympatico.ca.

Marianopolis offers new science camp

Marianopolis is launching a new science camp for 11 to 15-year olds for three weeks this summer. It is touted as a "hands-on camp for budding scientists" and will offer "challenging and age-appropriate experiments in robotics, physics, chemistry and more." It runs from July 6 to July 24, with sign-up options on one or all three weeks. Early registration, which gives a preferred rate, ends March 31. For rates and more information: www.marianopolis.edu/sciencecamp.

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BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at the city council meeting March 2.

487 Mount Pleasant: to replace windows

and doors and demolish a rear wooden shed;

4699 Westmount Ave.: to replace windows at Roslyn School;

732 Upper Belmont: to build a rear extension;

29 Forden: to build a deck and modify door and window openings, all at the rear;

11 Renfrew: to replace four side windows;

622 Grosvenor: to replace windows at the front and one at the side.

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Beaux Arts des Amériques

Adieu Westmount, but au revoir Westmounters

Art gallery Collins, Lefebvre, Stoneberger of Sherbrooke St. in Westmount has turned into Beaux Arts des Amériques of the Plateau. Founded in Westmount in January 2007, the gallery moved last month, changed its name and is now open at its new digs, 3944 St. Denis.

Why the change?

"We had an opportunity to buy a building," said partner Anthony Collins, "and renovate a space that was even better to show artwork, especially large ones, which have to breathe.

"Here, we have higher ceilings and the moving walls that we've installed allow us to show almost the entire inventory in a flash."

Collins doesn't see the move as a turning away from the gallery's Westmount roots. "We have hundreds of clients and

friends in Westmount. When we asked them about the possible move, we found out that they were already coming to this area."

Branding challenge

The name change was driven by the challenges of branding in the internet age. "Beaux Arts des Amériques" had always been a part of the gallery's name, but Collins explained "a lot has to be crammed into website names and email addresses these days, so we decided to focus on what we present."

The gallery's painters, sculptors and photographers come from the across the Americas, although Collins points to a particularly "strong roster" of Canadian photographers - practitioners in a field Collins describes as "perhaps the fastest growing area in contemporary Canadian art."



From left: Beaux Arts partners Jacqueline Stoneberger, Anthony Collins and Lucienne Lefebvre.



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Westmount Adj. – 3131 Jean-Girard
\$1,795,000 – “Excellent condominium alternative.”



Town of Mount Royal – 365 Dobie
\$1,095,000 – “Totally renovated split-level.”



Westmount – 4302 Montrose
\$2,975,000 – “Georgian treasure on over 10,000 sq.ft. of land.”



Westmount – 122 Sunnyside
\$1,575,000 – “Charming semi-detached stone house.”

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Hochelber opens on Redfern

Photographer Renata Hochelber launched her exhibition, "Poetry of Trees: Spring", March 12 at the 215 Redfern office building.

The exhibition contains photographs from her native Prague as well as Montreal and was organized by her sister-in-law, Carmela Mindel, herself a Redfern tenant in her role as president of the board at the Argyle Institute. Explained psychologist Mindel, "I view trees as having a part to play in wellness and I like to support artists who support wellness."

Hochelber modestly claimed that her photography is a "hobby," but she is certainly no stranger to professional art. She represents Le Corbusier's graphical works in the North American market, Sylvia Safdie, Jana Sterbak and the estate of Milos Reindl. She has also worked as director at the galleries of former Westmounter Theo Waddington and current Westmounter Robert Landau.

Why the focus on trees? "They are alive," she replied, "and although they are



From left: Renata Hochelber and Carmela Mindel with a photograph of Prague in the background.

rooted in one place - poor things - they bring so much joy to people."

The exhibition (suite 120) is open to the public on the following Thursdays: March 19, March 26, April 2 and April 16 from 4 pm to 7 pm.

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Rappaport charged with sex assault

Fifty-three-year-old Westmount resident Elliot Rappaport was charged with two alleged counts of sexual assault and two alleged counts of forcible confinement, on March 11, according to local media. Rappaport was a family doctor at his St. Henri practice in the 1980s and 90s. In 1995, the Quebec College of Physicians and Surgeons concluded Rappaport had committed acts “demeaning to the honour and dignity of the medical profession.” He was subsequently suspended and fined. He was later stripped of his licence by the college in 2002 for reasons that have not been made public.

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

\$479,000 2 Prospect St.
 \$525,000 50 Bruce Ave.
 \$529,000 109 Lewis Ave.*
 \$529,000 111 Lewis Ave.
 \$535,000 102 Irvine Ave.
 \$589,000 36 York St.
 \$599,000 443 Claremont Ave.
 \$645,000 534 Lansdowne Ave.
 \$648,000 4608 St. Catherine St.
 \$649,000 54 Bruce Ave.
 \$679,000 59 Columbia Ave.
 \$699,000 400 488 Victoria Ave.
 \$795,000 458 Claremont Ave.
 \$798,000 382-382A Metcalfe Ave.
 \$799,000 431 Wood Ave.
 \$799,000 Address unavailable
 \$829,000 479 Argyle Ave.
 \$829,000 481 Argyle Ave.
 \$839,000 380 Metcalfe Ave.
 \$849,000 Address unavailable
 \$849,000 694 Victoria Ave.
 \$889,000 Address unavailable
 \$895,000 4697 Westmount Ave.
 \$899,000 563 Grosvenor Ave.

\$929,000 59 Chesterfield Ave.
 \$939,000 Address unavailable
 \$939,000 4338 Montrose Ave.
 \$959,000 646 Roslyn Ave.
 \$965,000 594 Lansdowne Ave.
 \$979,900 Address unavailable (Sunnyside/Upper Roslyn)
 \$990,000 754 Upper Lansdowne Ave.
 \$995,000 Address unavailable (near Greene Ave.)
 \$995,000 25 Renfrew Ave.
 \$995,000 426 Elm Ave.
 \$995,000 463 Mt. Stephen Ave.
 \$998,000 716 Upper Roslyn Ave.
 \$999,500 490 Argyle Ave.
 \$1,039,000 628 Victoria Ave.
 \$1,049,000 623 Belmont Ave.
 \$1,088,000 26 Thornhill Ave.
 \$1,090,000 43 Holton Ave.
 \$1,095,000 638 Roslyn Ave.
 \$1,095,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,098,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,150,000 449 Claremont Ave.
 \$1,195,000 19 Willow Ave.

\$1,195,000 4335 de Maisonneuve Blvd.
 \$1,195,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,195,000 595 Lansdowne Ave.
 \$1,195,000 379 Roslyn Ave.
 \$1,209,000 554 Lansdowne Ave.
 \$1,225,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,225,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,249,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,249,000 800 Lexington Ave.
 \$1,250,000 4386 de Maisonneuve Blvd.
 \$1,275,000 1 Severn Ave.
 \$1,295,000 3664 The Boulevard
 \$1,295,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,295,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,345,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,349,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,350,000 70 Summit Crescent
 \$1,350,000 3249 Cedar Ave.
 \$1,375,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,395,000 505-7 Roslyn Ave.
 \$1,395,000 79 Rosemount Crescent
 \$1,395,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,395,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,398,000 786 Upper Belmont
 \$1,399,000 481 Strathcona Ave.
 \$1,425,000 364 Kitchener Ave.
 \$1,445,000 26 Melbourne Ave.
 \$1,488,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,495,000 175 Côte St Antoine Rd.
 \$1,495,000 10 Willow Ave.
 \$1,499,000 40 Roxborough Ave.
 \$1,525,000 659 Belmont Ave.
 \$1,550,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,575,000 122 Sunnyside Ave.
 \$1,595,000 359 Redfern Ave.
 \$1,595,000 531 Grosvenor Ave.
 \$1,595,000 4820 de Maisonneuve Blvd.*
 \$1,625,000 Address unavailable*
 \$1,650,000 4760 The Boulevard
 \$1,650,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,675,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,695,000 15 Surrey Gardens
 \$1,695,000 3 Bellevue Ave.

\$1,695,000 701 Victoria Ave.
 \$1,695,000 443 Elm Ave.
 \$1,698,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,699,000 3284 Cedar Ave.
 \$1,749,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,795,000 729 Upper Lansdowne Ave.
 \$1,850,000 757 Upper Belmont Ave.
 \$1,875,000 55 Belvedere Circle
 \$1,895,000 401 Côte St Antoine Rd.
 \$1,949,000 331 Lansdowne Ave.
 \$1,950,000 365-7 Redfern Ave.*
 \$1,970,000 30 Surrey Gardens
 \$1,980,000 593 Argyle Ave.
 \$1,995,000 29 Bellevue Ave.
 \$1,995,000 Address unavailable
 \$1,998,000 Address unavailable
 \$2,150,000 9 Rosemount Ave.
 \$2,375,000 420 Côte St. Antoine Rd.
 \$2,375,000 455 Roslyn Ave.
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 \$2,400,000 3255 Cedar Ave.
 \$2,400,000 680 Victoria Ave.
 \$2,495,000 118 Upper Bellevue Ave.
 \$2,500,000 526 Clarke Ave.
 \$2,565,000 607 Clarke Ave.
 \$2,590,000 40 Forden Crescent
 \$2,600,000 Address unavailable
 \$2,690,000 3 Murray Ave.
 \$2,950,000 Address unavailable
 \$2,975,000 4302 Montrose Ave.
 \$2,995,000 627 Clarke Ave.
 \$3,199,000 Address unavailable
 \$3,250,000 630 Clarke Ave.
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Comin' Up...

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18: **City council meeting** in the council chamber at city hall at 12 pm.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19: **"The Westmount**

Municipal Association: Celebrating a Centennial" from 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Speakers Tom Thompson and Kathleen Duncan. Organized by the

Westmount Historical Association. Coffee and cookies. Free for members, for non-members \$5 at door. 514.925.1404 or 514.932.6688.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19: Art Focus presents "The Spirit & Magic of Mexico", an illustrated lecture by **photographer Linda Rutenberg** at the Westmount Public Library at 1:30 pm. Reservations 514.937.6391.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22: Starting at noon, residents and community groups are invited to march with the Westmount float in the 185th **St. Patrick's Parade** in downtown Montreal. Bus leaves Victoria Hall at 11:15 am to transport participants to the float on René-Levesque (and returns to the Westmount arena after parade). Participants who wish to ride on the float must have a pass which are available free at the Community Events Office in Victoria Hall.

MONDAY, MARCH 23: **Public consultation meeting on zoning by-law changes** regarding the modification of French text and the construction of supersized houses. City hall, 7 pm.

MONDAY, MARCH 23: Warren Allmand, president of the World Federalist Movement – Canada, delivers "**Democracy versus Terrorism**", hosted by The Royal Commonwealth Society, Montreal Branch, at 7 pm in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library. All welcome. 514.931.8690.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 AND THURSDAY, MARCH 26: **Registration for spring/summer recreation activities**, from 6 pm to 8 pm at Victoria Hall. This period is reserved for residents of Westmount. After March

26, registration must be done at the arena during regular office hours only. Registration for non-residents begins April 8 at 8:30 am at the arena. www.westmount.org / 514.989.5353.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26: A dramatized historical play takes place at **Roslyn School** to celebrate its centennial. Organized by Dramatis Personae and Westmount Historical Association, wine and cheese cocktail starts at 7 pm; play begins at 7:30 pm. Free, but donations of \$10, (or \$5 for kids, students and seniors) are welcome for the Roslyn School Foundation. www.roslyn-schoolfoundation.ca.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27: TGIF at **Centre Greene** from 6 pm to 8:30 pm. PJ party with dinner and games. Dress in pyjamas, bring favourite bedtime story. \$10/child, ages 5 to 12. www.centregreene.org or 514.931.6202.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27: A reading by poet and playwright **George Elliott Clarke** at the Atwater Library at 7 pm. 514.935.7344.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28: "What Does It Mean to Be a Canadian Art Historian?" with **Sandra Paikowsky**, professor, Art History, Concordia University, at 1:30 pm. Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom. Lunch & Lecture: \$18. Reservations required by March 23. 514.482.9287.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28: **Ballroom dance event**, "Allstars Night", presented by E-Motion Danse Academie at Victoria Hall. Show starts at 6:30 pm. \$30 (show and buffet); \$10 balcony (show only). Tickets on sale now. 514.286.5483 / dance@emotionacademie.com.

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Underdog: Introducing Bob

BY FERN BRESLAW

Fresh from a puppy mill, the new, wonderfully resilient, still amazingly positive and loving of all cats, dogs and



Bob

people alike, meet Bob, the German shepherd. He is about five and was res-

cued recently from yet another Quebec puppy mill along with 60 other lucky characters. The dogs had been living in the usual conditions: covered in excrement, some missing eyes, bug ridden etc. Still, Bob has somehow stayed good-natured throughout. In addition to his amazingly forgiving attitude, this dog comes with the added bonus of being trained and neutered. Because of his history, we think he would be better off living with someone who can be with him a lot of the time as he gets upset and scared when left alone for extended periods—no doubt for good reasons. He has had a crummy, lousy deal in life so far and is a really good dog. He deserves major spoiling and love from here on in. If you would like to meet him, please call Gerdy's Rescue at 514.203.9180.

Westmount Art Scene

Catherine Bates, Hunt Slonem

BY HEATHER BLACK

Spring has arrived in Westmount art galleries. Hunt Slonem's colourful birds, butterflies and rabbits grace the walls at Galerie de Bellefeuille, while Westmounter Catherine Bates' grey-green landscapes unfurl at the McClure.

Catherine Bates at the McClure Gallery

For this exhibit, Bates captures nature's patterns in a rich green. Entitled "Out of line: monochromes" the use of a restrained palette emphasizes both form and texture. In the oil "Georgian Bay, Lizard Lake", a lone windswept pine evokes the images of Group of Seven artist Frederick Varley, or A.J. Casson. Yet her foliage is a unique blend of leaf prints, woodcut swirls and strong brushstrokes.

Bates' technique – brushstrokes slashed into the green – creates a dynamic fierceness. Yet in "Owl's Head", a mountain scene portrayed in short staccato ink strokes is quietly serene. Both, however, capture the artist's respect for natural landscapes, and the spontaneity of a charcoal sketch.

"Aviator" (2006), a monochromatic masked face illustrates Bates' versatility. Painted in oils in 2008, it recalls an earlier ink on paper "Mask 1" (1984), also on display. The subjects – like Bates herself – are wary observers of man's impact on the natural landscape.

Hunt Slonem at Galerie de Bellefeuille

Known for his brightly hued parrots and finches, this New York artist also renders portraits in a Warhol-like style. In

"Billie Holiday", the thick brushstrokes of the singer's face are superimposed on a coloured background of red, orange, yellow, green, blue and pink blocks. The dynamic style is similar to that found in his paintings of rabbits, large parrots and finches.

In "Finches" (2007), the background is also separated into blocks of orange, blue, white, yellow and green to create a strong design. The birds, painted in small but strong brushstrokes, dot the canvas. The effect of Slonem's graphic style – spontaneous yet planned – is one of joyful freedom.

In "Bayou Lories", a multitude of multicoloured parrots form another eye-catching pattern. Painted in brilliant but diffused colours, the surface is scored with a sharpened brush tip. The resulting criss-cross texture conveys both feathers and chicken wire, freedom and confinement. This layer of ambiguity reflects the artist's love for his own 70 exotic birds.

Compelling nature

Slonem captures the beauty of exotic birds and butterflies, while Bates would have us know the vast and richly textured Canadian landscape. A respect for nature dominates the work of both artists. And both convey a compelling immediacy and intimacy.

Bates' work is on display in the McClure Gallery at the Visual Art Centre (350 Victoria) until March 28. Slonem's exhibit opens on March 26 and continues until April 6 at Galerie de Bellefeuille (1367 Greene).



Hunt Slonem, "Billie Holiday"



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From left: Diana Hindess with Astri Prugger of Astri Prugger Design.

Diana Hindess was at Astri Prugger Design on March 13 to order a mother-of-the-groom dress for her son John's wedding. Two and a half years ago, she bought a mother-of-the-bride dress from Prugger for her daughter Martha's nuptials.



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Westmount Profile: Patrick Martin

Wearing many hats

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

He's built a 35-year career in planning and managing large infrastructure projects and airport developments around the world – largely by thinking out of the box.

"It's amazing how people tend to see roadblocks," Patrick Martin explains. "It really gets me going when I hear someone say that something can't be done. I've always been a practical person who likes to find creative solutions and make them happen."

In Panama City, he found a way for poverty-stricken families living off the garbage dump to improve their lot through city-improved sorting and recycling processes. In Jericho, he led a study in water supply, sewage treatment and waste management "in the oldest city in the world."

And from roads in Africa to airports in Mexico, his engineering experience in more than 50 countries leads him to say: "I think I've learned the tricks of the trade."

Martin has a penchant for "tough assignments because they make you work twice as hard." So it's little wonder that his career evolved into airport design, given the challenges presented by working in this operational – and often political – environment.

Irish heritage

But he also enjoys the more artistic and musical talents of his Irish heritage, underlined by his birth on March 17, St. Patrick's Day. "I've always said I had a great sense of timing!" he notes with a smile.

It's his roots in Westmount, however, of which he's especially proud.

It's here his father owned and built up Westmount Moving at 350 Victoria, the site of today's Visual Arts Centre. And it's here Martin now serves as utilities commissioner and city councillor for District

1. He lives on The Boulevard.

Among his prized possessions is a black and white photo of himself as a child. It's taken in the front yard of his home on Kensington near Sherbrooke against a background of city hall. The house stands on the site originally occupied by the Mount Royal Tennis Club, which Martin led as president through its 100th anniversary celebrations in 2007.

"It's interesting how life has a way of coming full circle, isn't it?" he says.

Martin attributes his ability to improvise and think out of the box to "a very vivid imagination" as a child when he liked to play "pretend."

His mother was French-Canadian from Vankleek Hill near Ottawa, so he attended St. Léon school before moving on to Loyola for high school and an undergraduate science degree.

At Carleton University, he took mechanical engineering and received a master's degree in civil and transportation engineering in 1973.

There, too, he met Jane, a Texan studying journalism, who became his wife. After living briefly in Jamaica and the Dominican Republic, they settled in Westmount where they raised their children: Jennifer, an acoustical engineer, married and living in San Diego; and

Nicholas, studying finance at Concordia.

Meanwhile, Martin launched his career at the engineering firm of SNC Lavalin, where he worked for 14 years, leaving as senior VP of its international design and construction business.

He went on to become president of Sogex International – a subsidiary of the government-owned Société Générale de Financement, working mainly in the energy sector – and of Soprin's international consultancy that he co-founded and co-owned, but later sold.

From 1996 to 2000, as president of Aéroports de Montréal International, Martin was involved in numerous overseas projects as well as a 20-year master plan for Dorval and Mirabel airports.



Patrick Martin outside his childhood home on Kensington. Note the preference for bow ties and municipal architecture.



A Triumph of its own: This little yellow TR6 is the first car Patrick Martin ever bought. That was in 1974 – and he's still driving it. It's often parked outside the Mount Royal Tennis Club.

In his own consulting business, he has worked on the planning of airports at Prince George, Fort McMurray, Regina, Bathurst and the far north as well as a \$400-million passenger terminal for Zabreb airport in Croatia. Other projects include Loyola high school's expansion.

Throughout his work, he says, accountability has been a common thread.

It started when Lavalin was brought in during 1975 to expedite and clean up delays and cost overruns at the Olympic Stadium. Martin was assigned to validate the \$280-million work being done by some 250 sub-trade companies.

Second nature

It's therefore second nature to him in his councillor role to check out citizen concerns firsthand – especially those involving building permits, protection of views or help cutting through red tape. "I try to look for common sense solutions."

And when faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles, he finds his "sense of the absurd" kicks in to provide perspective. "After all, what really matters in life is people."

A former competitive skier, Martin now plays tennis and piano, and rarely misses a Canadiens' game on TV.

He says it has taken some time on council to learn its subtleties. "I want to work toward opening up council and changing a culture of secrecy by making committee meetings public, publishing unabridged minutes, and providing building information to neighbours before permits are approved."

That means he wants to continue on council, "to make sure the arena project stays on track, financially and technically. And, that it is carried out with respect for the area and in a spirit of full disclosure." After all, he adds, "understanding a problem is half the solution."

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