

## Police arrest 3 men linked to 73 break-and-enters

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Nominated for M&M municipal

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LAUREEN SWEENEY

Three men who aroused suspicions of a passing police patrol on Redfern Ave. May 6 were questioned and arrested when a break-in was discovered nearby.

After investigation, the three were found to be linked to 73 break-and-enter files, police said. Most of the burglaries occurred in condos in and around Westmount.

Police had noticed the trio around 2:10 pm outside a building that was previously targeted by thieves and kept them under surveillance from a lane while backup arrived. They were taken into custody after a surveillance camera confirmed the three had broken into the building.

Two of the suspects were found to be on conditional release concerning the same type of crime. The three now face additional charges of B&E, conspiracy and damage.

## Back to the good old days



This scene of city worker Claude Dubé in Westmount Park was captured from a library window May 6 by director Ann Moffat, who found "it says so much about sustainability and quality of life." She enjoyed the silence "instead of the Vac machine." The hand-painted cart disappeared for a time and was spotted two years later at the side of a house on Grosvenor, said parks superintendent Michael Hunter.

## WMA chooses Centre Greene's McNally for volunteer award

The Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) has chosen Mary Anne McNally as the recipient of this year's Derek Walker Volunteer Citizen of the Year Award.

The award will be presented at the WMA's annual general meeting, to be held Monday, May 25 at 7:30 pm at Victoria Hall. The event is open to the public.

The Centre Greene volunteer has been working at the community centre since the early 1990s. She has been the group's president and on the board, as well as spearheading certain specific initiatives. She is now a board member emeritus.

Rosalind Davis, member of the WMA's Derek Walker search committee, explained the selection, "The WMA tries to recognize an unsung hero with this award, and Mary Anne is just perfect, given all that she has done for groups in this community. In the past, she has shied away from recognition and tried to deflect it onto Centre Greene. We are also very happy to be giving this award during Centre Greene's 20th anniversary year."

Anna Johansson, executive director of Centre Greene, echoed the same theme, "Everyone continued on p. 5

See our listings p. 9

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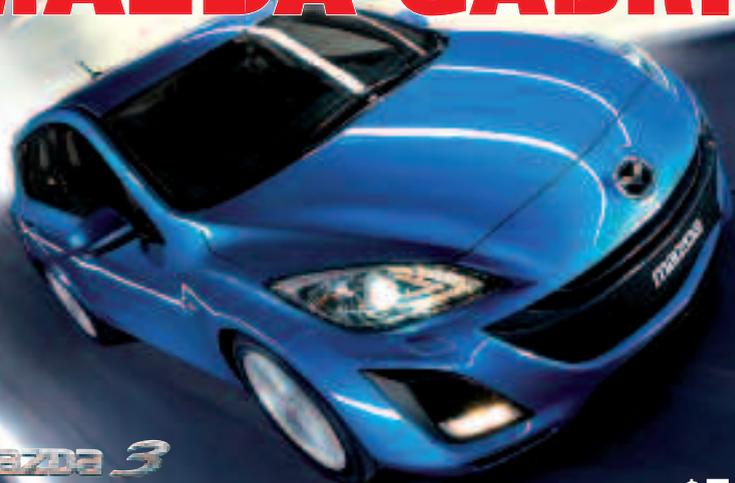
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## City puts up no-feeding signs

# To keep from going squirrely

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Signs have been going up over the last week in the larger Westmount parks informing users not to feed the squirrels, ducks, pigeons and other wildlife.

Their installation stems from a high profile case against resident Bruce Kert for feeding a squirrel in Westmount Park almost three years ago.

It coincides with the resolution of his case May 4 in a ruling by the Montreal Municipal Court ordering him to pay the \$50 fine without costs.

Kert had been fighting the ticket along with accumulated costs of \$455 and a warrant for his arrest, both of which had been waived earlier by the court.

Pleading guilty with explanation, he claimed he should have received only a warning because no signs were posted alerting him to Westmount's by-law against feeding wildlife.

"I think the law is stupid and not consistently enforced," Kert said following the ruling. "People aren't going to stop feed-



Newly installed in Westmount Park.

ing the squirrels and pigeons."

He also said he had turned down a request by Mayor Karin Marks to act as a spokesman for not feeding the wildlife, a by-law he happens to disagree with. "A spokesman is a person who repairs bicycles," he quipped. "I'm a musician."

He's most irked about the court process, however. He states the incident escalated into a court fiasco and a waste of taxpayers' money.

After initially receiving the ticket for \$75 (\$50 fine and \$25 costs) on September 14, 2006 from a public safety officer, he immedi-

*continued on p. 14*

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# Aesthetics slowing installation of hand sanitizers

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While hand sanitizers have been phased in at several municipal buildings over the last year, they are notably absent from some high-use facilities such as city hall, the library and Victoria Hall.

With recent health advisories concerning the H1N1 flu virus, the installation process is being stepped up and should be complete within the next month, said city director general Duncan Campbell.

“We have to find an appropriate location at city hall,” he explained.

Among the first hand sanitizers noticed a few months ago were those at Public

Works and Protective Services and now one has been prominently installed at the arena in the lobby outside the offices. Another is slated for the pool.

“If they’re not easily visible, they won’t be used,” said Michael Deegan, Sports and Recreation director.

Therein lies one reason for their absence from some city buildings. They’re simply too sterile looking.

The model purchased by the city was not considered in keeping with the décor of historic Victoria Hall, Deegan said, so the search is on for a more aesthetic model. Aesthetics and location are also posing issues at the library.

# Arena plans remain under review, no questions asked at council

The arena/pool project has gone back to architects for further review, Mayor Karin Marks confirmed at the city council meeting May 4. But not one citizen took the opportunity to ask questions about the process or the \$30-million plan.

Because of the review, the scheduling of information packages for residents and the third public information meeting on the design are on hold. Marks said the council had asked architects to find ways

to enlarge the pool area and second rink as well as to revisit the exterior design of the building. (See April 28 *Independent*, p. 9).

Two previous information sessions attracted a total of slightly more than 100 citizens, and feedback on the city website is reported to have been lower than expected.

# Westmount High annual reunion dinner

The Westmount High Old Boys Association’s AGM and reunion dinner take place this year at Westmount High School. Tickets for the May 15 event can be obtained by dropping off a cheque at Westmount High by 5 pm, May 14. The keynote speaker is Bill Brownstein, class of ’65. Tickets are \$50 for alumni; for guests or grads from ’99 onwards, \$25.

# Compost pick-up – final phase, first bin



Nicole DesRochers of Enlèvement de Déchets Bergeron began her May 5 compost pick-up route with a house at de Maisonneuve and Metcalfe. It was the first day of collection for the final area to be added to the city’s kitchen and garden waste pick-up. Only buildings of eight units or fewer are currently covered by the program.

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# Letters to the Editor

## CLEAN-UP EFFORT APPLAUDED

That noise you hear? It's my shout-out of thanks and appreciation to the city of Westmount and Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier for reinstating the post of sanitation inspector, full-time.

As noted previously in the *Independent* (May 5, p. 3), the impetus has been the volume of complaints regarding garbage and related issues.

With kitchen waste collection now fully implemented, the permanent vigilance is reassuring. In recent years, this taxpayer has seen a frustrating disconnect between Westmount's commitment to the environment and enforcement of garbage by-laws, particularly garbage that is put out the night prior, or even the day before, scheduled pickup.

While Westmount has limited control over graffiti, it certainly has the power to ensure that residents who make Westmount their home respect the city's standards of cleanliness and maintenance.

The hiring of a sanitation inspector full-time is the best plank in Westmount's eco-platform yet.

DOROTHY LIPOVENKO, YORK ST.

## FEED THE SQUIRRELS DAY?

May 5 was celebrated in some areas of Westmount as "feed the squirrels day" courtesy of the Public Works department, which neglected to inform residents that garbage collection on Tuesdays had been superseded by the collection of composting material from green boxes. The department had also failed to provide the

necessary green boxes.

People get fined for feeding squirrels in the park.

What is the penalty for arranging to feed them garbage from green plastic bags left uncollected near the sidewalk?

JOHN D. DOREY, VICTORIA AVE.

## WHY NOT A TALLER ARENA?

It is easy to criticize the arena and pool project. Still, the results of years of arduous work by representatives of the city and the reputable firm of architects hired to do the job are disappointing.

In her article "Back to the drawing board?" in your April 28 issue, Laureen Sweeney summarizes well the opinions of many Westmounters. May I suggest that some of the issues need to be addressed seriously before sharpening any pencils, and it might also be worth re-examining some of the options put forward by previous consultants?

This could start with the site itself - far too small to house the intended functions. An enlarged site that could include the dog run and the junior tennis courts might result in a far better overall plan. To start with, the pool and its surroundings would be better situated and there would be no bulky buildings stretching into the open space defining Westmount Park.

Another issue is the height restrictions imposed on the designers. I see no problem with higher buildings that might result in imaginative solutions and free space; for example stacking the rinks on top of each other or having a dog run on

the roof of a parking structure at the lower level of Landsdowne Ave. This could result in a landmark building justifying the \$30-million price tag.

ANDREW HOFFMANN, SPRINGFIELD AVE.

## SAVE GREEN SPACE, FIND OTHER SPOTS FOR ARENA

In her letter to the *Independent* ("Westmount Y's Pool Over-, Not Under-, Taxed," May 5, p. 7), Rosalind Davis asks that the city reconsider the placement of the dog run in the southwest corner of Westmount Park. According to Davis, this is to increase the "renewed" arena-pool area to allow for an indoor swimming pool, as well as two large ice rinks.

I write this letter not as a dog owner, but as someone who loves trees and green space. Has she seen the beautiful trees in that area? One of them is the probably the largest tree in Westmount.

Surely it is time for the citizens of Westmount to recognize that the arena-pool area is located in a busy part of the city and that a huge complex such as the one that the hockey players and swimmers envisage is not good for this space. The arena-pool area is a residential area and not just a service area.

I would like the city to try again to find another area to place at least some of these facilities. This might be behind Westmount High, a site which has already been suggested by one writer to this section. Another suggestion for an indoor pool would be in the old train station. It sits neglected and unused.

We are a community of some 20,000 people and a mega-project is not necessary. For the neighbourhood's sake and for the sake of finances, and for keeping fine green space, I appeal for moderation in all aspects of this envisaged project.

MARILYNN GILLIES, MELVILLE AVE.

## AN ARENA FOR OUR TIME

At the arena/pool public consultation meeting that I attended, the arena project's lead architect stated the proposal is "a building for our time." After requesting some detailed information on running cost estimates, I was surprised to learn the proposal is for a building that consumes as much energy as the current arena and, surprisingly, will be responsible for the emission of around 500 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

Since we live in a province with essentially carbon-free electricity and also have a Hydro-Quebec initiative called the Quebec Arena Refrigeration Intervention Program

(which allowed Val des Monts to build a facility using ground source heat exchange with 75 percent less energy consumption than current arenas), I would contend the proposal cannot be classified as "for our time" since we are living in a world which should be moving to a post-fossil fuel future as quickly as possible.

I was also surprised when the mayor asserted that an indoor pool had been discarded because it would create "too much activity." With an aging population, swimming is an excellent form of exercise for all generations and would allow for a facility that serves a larger segment of the community.

Since physical wellness is an essential tenet of the city's sustainability vision, I would have thought this should be front and centre of the project's mandate. A building "of its time" would couple the refrigeration system to a ground exchange system (also referred to sometimes as geothermal) so that the ice rinks can be efficiently cooled whilst heating an indoor pool (which acts as a thermal buffer) as well as providing air conditioning. This, coupled with solar collectors on the roof, would produce a low-energy building with zero operating carbon emissions, serve a broader section of the community and give Westmount an asset we can be truly proud of.

To my eye, the current proposal looks like a building of ten years ago. Times have changed considerably since then.

PAUL MARRIOTT, GROSVENOR AVE.

## New meeting on big houses

Revisions to the city's proposed zoning amendments to limit the size and underground spread of so-called super-sized homes will be explained at a public meeting May 14 at 7 pm at city hall.

The changes resulted from concerns voiced by architects and others over confusing and complicated formulas proposed at the consultation session March 23.

The new date was announced May 4 when city council tabled the new draft.

The by-law includes the introduction of a maximum Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for above-ground construction based on a sliding scale for lots having an area of 8,000 square feet and a total FAR including below grade construction for smaller lots - all within zone 1R. Most of this is north of The Boulevard.

The draft also reduces site coverage and lateral setbacks.

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

*We are Westmount.*

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## Civic Alert

## Twelve issues to resolve for greater arena project acceptance

BY DON WEDGE



Everyone, take a deep breath!

Consider where we are with the arena/pool renewal project: the mayor and council have taken the plans back to the drawing board, but some citizens want a fresh start. Undoubtedly, most of the population wish for something better than the present aging facilities, but a few talk of a referendum. How can the project be rescued? Can the many views be harmonized? These 12 topics shape the debate:

**1 COST** – Even at the originally mooted \$20 million, it was to be Westmount's most expensive project. Now it is \$30 million. This means a \$400 increase on the average annual tax bill of \$10,000 – less whatever support can be obtained from governments or other sources.

**2 SUBSIDIES** – They are the key. Westmount has not received major government help on a project for more than a decade and deserves its share, Mayor Karin Marks maintains. Quebec City has many requests but limited funds so it will be difficult, says our MNA Jacques Chagnon.

**3 GOING IT ALONE** – While there is general support among the population, the strongest encouragement comes from the hockey lobby, with Howard Hoppenheim and former city councillor Nick Matossian acting as spokesmen. But no one has indicated what should happen if there is no – or not enough – outside financial help. Several councillors have bluntly said: "No government grant, no big project." The interested groups should be forming positions on this contingency.

**4 TIPPING POINT** – At least for the moment, the indoor pool has become the key complaint, as its advocates realize that – a year into the project – there is no provision for one and council is not even considering it.

**5 LAST CHANCE** – There are justified fears that if there is no indoor pool commitment now, there will not be one in the lifetime of many. Faced with the debt likely to be created by the present renewal project, will taxpayers approve even the more modest loan needed for a new facility? Nevertheless, some advocates see the present proposal as the future site of a pool open in summer, enclosed the rest of the year. But that is more easily said than built – or paid for!

**6 DIVERGING IDEAS** – With eyes on the diminishing government grants, council hoped to carry all resistance before it, but the public has spoken with a myriad of suggestions. Many of them have been in the Letters to the Editor and the news articles of this paper (see history at [www.westmountindependent.com](http://www.westmountindependent.com)) since the project's preliminary design was unveiled on April 6. In fact, the main record of the debate is found in these pages.

**7 CITY INFORMATION** – The city's web site is lagging behind the Indie's coverage. Notably absent, at the time of writing, are the city's responses to citizens. The currently empty frequently asked questions (FAQ) page will house council's answers. They will also form part of the promised information kit eventually distributed to every home.

**8 DIALOGUE FORMAT** – The city still intends to stage a further information

meeting – after the kit is distributed. But the WMA and others have asked for a town-hall format, with suggestions and responses immediately available to all present so that comments may flow and positions evolve. There were such meetings for the library, which led to the ultimate design and strong support.

**9 USING FINITE RESOURCES** – Certainly not all residents are going to get what they want – especially swimmers. Should there now be a shrinking of the rink plans to balance the pool requirements? Are enough of the population's needs covered? Executive hockey is there, but how about the executive grandmas?

**10 FEEDBACK** – All residents should try to get on top of the issues and give the planners a project all can live with. Currently, there is no bigger municipal issue. Council should encourage public dialogue now to try and bring consensus.

**11 REFERENDUM** – If the differences are not sorted out now, they will surface again in last-ditch efforts at a referendum on the borrowing by-law. In 1996, a \$6-million loan was sought for a new protective services complex. Adjacent residents were opposed and brought in friends and well-wishers from all wards of the city to petition for a referendum. It was a magnificent organizational effort and council did not proceed.

**12 FINALE** – In such cases, on just one work day, 500 qualified residents have to go to city hall and sign the register. It is a tough task. If Westmounters can't find a way to agree, someone had better start thinking of organizing those 500 signatures and then preparing for a city-wide, contentious referendum.

Citizen activist Don Wedge's email address is [dwedge@sympatico.ca](mailto:dwedge@sympatico.ca).

## 'Everyone wants someone like Mary Anne'

*continued from p. 1*

wants someone like Mary Anne in their life. And she is the kind of person who wants *not* to be recognized. She is only accepting the award because it will help Centre Greene.

Johansson explained that McNally has been a part of every Centre Greene fundraising event, project, activity, bazaar and gala for the past decade. "She is extremely diplomatic and really good at unruffling feathers. Whenever I need help with a letter, she helps and always gets the tone right."

McNally also spends one to two hours a week helping with the centre's finances.

### Caregivers' Tea

McNally has championed certain specific projects that take place at Centre Greene, such as the Caregivers' Tea, which she founded two years ago. The tea is for people who are acting as caregivers to people who have lost their autonomy, usually a spouse or parent. Last week it held its last monthly meeting before the summer hiatus. The group provides general support and invites lecturers on specific topics of interest, such as recent talks by a neurologist, who addressed all aspects of degenerative mental diseases, and a lawyer, who dealt with wills and mandates.

"The Caregivers' Tea started because I had become a caregiver myself [to hus-

band Herb McNally] and it grew out of my need – which is what is wonderful about a community centre," said McNally.

McNally was born in the US, but has lived in Westmount since 1959. Her four



Mary Anne McNally with one of her own paintings.

grown children – Amy, Peter, Sarah and Kate Scowen – grew up on Lansdowne Ave. and now live out of province. In addition to her volunteer work, she is an accomplished painter and holds a fine arts

degree from Concordia.

McNally first got involved with the Centre Greene board when asked to do so by a neighbour. She was living on Columbia Ave. at the time, itself a neighbouring street to the centre. "She told me it would only take one to two hours a month," said McNally.

It has turned out to be much more work than that, but McNally seems anything but regretful.

### Centre Greene to turn 20 this fall

It is a big year for Centre Greene in many ways. The building turns 60 this year, and the community centre itself turns 20.

And Johansson is celebrating her 10th anniversary as executive director.

But both McNally and Johansson always seem anxious to put the accent on the centre and even more so on fundraising for a concrete project that will help its users.

At the moment an accessibility project is the focus. They hope to see the centre get a ramp for its front door and a "no barriers" bathroom. An application for federal money has been submitted to the Enabling Accessibility program of the department of Human Resources and Skills Development.

Given their past accomplishments, don't be surprised to see a new bathroom at Centre Greene soon.

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## Perennial plant exchange coming to arena May 20

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's Perennial Plant Exchange takes place at the Westmount arena Wednesday, May 20, a week later than most years.

This will give gardeners more time to dig up perennials for swapping, said city horticulturist Claudette Savaria. The long holiday weekend, traditionally a planting time, is earlier than usual this year.

Plants may be dropped off at the arena between 4:30 and 6 pm. They must be potted, in good condition and clearly labeled by variety and, if possible, sun or shade requirements. Workers will not accept annuals, orange day lilies, goutweed, houseplants or shrubs.

Donors will receive vouchers (a limit of six per variety) which they may redeem for other perennials from 6 to 8 pm. Plants may be purchased from 7 to 8 pm. Proceeds will help fund a guidebook being prepared on Westmount parks and their trees. The event is organized by the Horticultural Advisory Committee (HAC).

Presentations at information kiosks will take place at 5:30 and 6:30, and a se-

lection of tomatoes, peppers and other heritage plants will be on sale. The city's *Walking Tour of Westmount Gardens* will also be available.

### From the greenhouse

This year, 13 varieties of perennials have been grown in the city greenhouses for trading and sale. They are:

- Coreopsis "Baby Sun" (tickseed)
- Tanacetum "Santana" (tansy)
- Sedum "Yellow Ochre" (sedum or golden stonecrop)
- Scabiosa "Ritz Blue" (scabiosa)
- Primula mixed (primrose)
- Papaver "Tangerine Gem" (poppy)
- Myosotis (forget-me-not)
- Lychnis "Molten Lava" (lychnis)
- Lewisia "Soranda" (lewisia)
- Incarvillea "Rose Carmin" (bignoniaceae)
- Hibiscus "Luna Pink Swirl" (rose mallow)
- Cerastium "Silver Carpet" (snow-in-snow)
- Calamintha "Purple Rose" (nepitella)

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## Westmount chef

## Green steps in the kitchen

BY AARON DAVID FRASER

In the wake of Earth Day and before the early summer explosion of fresh, local products at the markets, this is a perfect time to consider ways to make our kitchen, and therefore our environment, a greener and more sustainable place.

Here are some baby steps towards “greening” your kitchen life.

- Buy the least processed food. Eat food that is grown by farmers and not scientists. The general rule is that the least travel and change to the original product, the better it will be for you.
- Read all labels. My children have fun going through the labels with me. They love to point out the bad things like palm oil (which almost always comes from the rainforest), sugar, corn syrup, glucose/fructose and salt.
- Compost. Even though Westmount now collects organic kitchen waste, that waste is transported, which takes resources. Keep the good stuff for your own garden (coffee grounds, egg shells, fruit, and vegetable peels and ends, etc.). This also

reduces the amount of fertilizers that you may be buying to add to your garden soil.

- Grow as much of your own fruit and vegetables as you can. Even just a few planters with simple, easy-to-grow zucchini, cucumbers, beans, herbs, tomatoes will help lower your carbon footprint. Our climate even supports the growth of some fruit, such as grapes, strawberries, blackberries, apples and blueberries.
- Eat smaller amounts of higher-quality meats from sustainable, ethical, organic, free-range farmers. Take your kids or grandkids on a fun day trip to a local organic farm. Farmers love to show people how special their produce is! Check out local examples at [www.equiterre.org](http://www.equiterre.org), [www.fermeduzephyr.ca](http://www.fermeduzephyr.ca), [www.fermemangetout.ca](http://www.fermemangetout.ca), [www.fermemorgan.com](http://www.fermemorgan.com), [www.viandesbiocharlevoix.com](http://www.viandesbiocharlevoix.com) and others.
- Read *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan. Explore the idea “what to eat for dinner”, what “organic” and “free range” means and what ..... ingredients to watch for *continued on p. 14*



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### NEWS YOU CAN USE

#### News You Can Use – 3 Great Recession Busters!

Summer is coming! Okay, so maybe the economy is lagging, but there's no reason why WE have to be!

**HERE ARE 3 GREAT RECESSION BUSTERS!**

##### 1 – REORGANIZE YOUR HOME!

- It's a fact: when your surroundings are calm and organized, your mind is calm and organized!
- Get rid of 10 things you don't wear/use/need! – give them to charity
- Make paper your slave – not your master! Use coloured folders for important papers and a shredder for the rest!
- Decrease dust-collecting knickknacks and magazines
- **Putting your home in good order makes it easier to list – and sell!**

##### 2 – REVITALIZE YOUR MIND!

- Cleanse your mind of negativity – life will feel more harmonious!
- Make time for 'Laughter' – that wonderful cure-all; rent a funny movie
- Skip the tv news before bedtime – read something uplifting; listen to music
- Join a Library/Book Club; learn a new craft/language!

##### 3 – ENJOY GETTING HEALTHY!

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# Underdog: Designer rejects for adoption

BY FERN BRESLAW



Shelters are known for their mutts – dogs without pedigree, and until recently, prestige. These days, some mutts are being perceived as designer dogs –

breed crosses intended to make the cutest, most hypoallergenic, most portable dogs possible. They are the Yorkiepoos, Schnoodles or Cockapoos of the world; and we see them in the arms of celebrities and in the windows of pet stores everywhere.

But where, you might ask, does a Cockapoo come from? Well, for the 50 such characters residing at the SPCA since May 2, the answer could make you lose your lunch.

These dogs were voluntarily surrendered by a Quebec puppy mill, which still has over 150 more dogs in its possession. Most of the dogs were used as breeders and as such, nobody was ever meant to see them.

It didn't matter that these fancy little



Maycee

dogs were covered in urine burns (the literal burning off of skin caused by sitting in body waste). It didn't matter that they had never been outside or that they had broken bones or missing eyes. They weren't for sale. Nobody would ever know.

Like Jill. A miniature poodle cross with such severe urine burns all over her body that much of her fur may never grow back. The crew who rescued her is scared that nobody will ever want a dog who looks the way she does.

There's Maycee who broke her leg and nobody bothered to fix it. She walks about now, and the lame leg sort of drags behind her, which she seems to think is fairly normal. But the sight is heartbreaking.

And Georgia. A fat little basset who



Georgia

went blind because the urine fumes were so strong. As if that wasn't disgusting enough, she also had her vocal cords yanked out with a set of pliers to stop her from howling in her cage.

It's sick, it's sad. We need to give some money, lend our homes and hearts to put an end to this.

All the dogs are at the emergency SPCA shelter and in desperate need of adopting, fostering, walking and loving.

Cheques made out the SPCA to raise money for the next puppy mill raid can be dropped off at Bark & Fitz (4868 Sherbrooke St.).

Something must be done. This can't keep happening. Air your thoughts in a letter to the editor, or if you have ques-



Jill

tions, please call me at 514.969.3376.

Adrian Grinberg d.d.

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A view from Westmount's border

# Trafalgar renovations more than halfway there

More than one Westmounter has noticed the Trafalgar Apartments' new roof. The condo building's main copper turret is so new that it has yet to be turned green by the elements.

The 78-year-old complex is located at Côte des Neiges and The Boulevard in Westmount's eastern border, just up from the Glen Eagles.

According to the Trafalgar's building committee chairman, Dino Constantinou, the roof and brick pointing project will be more than halfway done by November of

this year, with \$5.2 million of the project's \$7-million total spent. The final phase is slated for 2010. The project is on budget and will benefit from a heritage grant of \$250,000 from the city of Montreal.

The renovation bill is being divided among the building's 57 units. One small unit's special assessment is currently \$16,500, with the remaining ones falling between \$72,000 and \$248,000. A typical assessment is \$138,000.

The project grabbed headlines in 2007 when it was reported that the large-scale refurbishment had been okayed by most of the building's owners, but would be fought in court by a minority.

An injunction request to prevent the current construction was denied in May 2008, which allowed the construction contract to be signed and work to begin. According to Constantinou, the amount sought in damages from the building and its litigation insurer, AXA, has been lowered from \$4.8 million to \$1.2 million.

The *Independent* failed to reach any member of the dissident group for comment.

The diminished amount and insurance coverage make that dispute a thing of the past, says Constantinou, and he is looking forward to the work's completion.

Constantinou is no stranger to large renovations. The former economist was a project leader when the Linton Apartments at Guy and Sherbrooke renovated their garage and he calls restoration his "hobby." On his native Greek island of Kasos, he restored a ..... church built by his great- *continued on p. 14*



The Trafalgar Apartments, viewed from The Boulevard in Westmount.

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# WE'RE TURNING TWO AND STILL NEED YOU.

## ***The Westmount Independent* turns two in May.**

We have made great strides since that first edition: in page count, by becoming weekly and in scope of coverage. We've also added *a lot* of advertisers, which is great for the health of the project. Advertising is the paper's only source of revenue. One of the things that advertisers like is that Westmounters *read* our paper – and we've shown them your letters to prove it.

If you like what we're doing and want to help, can you take a moment to send us a letter for publication saying so? It can be one line long or several. We will also put your name on our birthday "Best Wishes" list.

We'd love to hear from you – even if we've already done so in the past.

*Letters should be sent to [indie@westmountindependent.com](mailto:indie@westmountindependent.com)  
or 310 Victoria #105, Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9.  
Please include your street name for publication.*

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

## Joint fundraiser to bring life back to old Cinema V



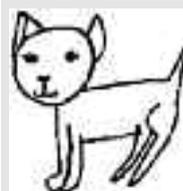
Several former and current Westmounters will be taking to the stage in *Arsenic & Old Lace* on May 20 and 21. Top row, from left, Irene Smyth Simons, Elsa Bolam (director), and Betsy Mitchell. Bottom row, from left, Richard McConomy, Philip E. Johnston and William Fraiberg.

The volunteer cast will play out the farcical and sinister story of the homicidal Brewster sisters and their theatre-loathing, drama-critic nephew Mortimer in Joseph Kesselring's *Arsenic & Old Lace*. Perform-

ances take place on Wednesday, May 20 and Thursday, May 21 at Concordia's D.B. Clarke Theatre (1455 de Maisonneuve W.) The joint fundraiser by Geordie Productions and The Empress Cultural Centre,

## 9 Lives: Majestic Riza

By LYZANNE



Riza is a mesmerizing, proud and affectionate smokey-coloured male Persian. He came from a wonderful home, where he was doted on by an elderly woman.

She brushed him every day, ensured he had good food and showered him with love. Unfortunately, she had to move to a nursing facility where Riza was not welcomed to love her until the end.

He was dropped off at a shelter, where he became depressed. Riza is now in a foster home, awaiting a family with peaceful surroundings. He is a cuddly and sensitive fellow, very much a Persian, and he needs a new start in life. Riza is 11 years old, very healthy, neutered, declawed on his front paws (which makes him an indoor cat), has up-to-date vacci-

nations and has been completely vetted.

For more information on this exquisite Persian, please page Gerdy at 514.203.9180 or email her at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org).

Your neighbour,  
Lyzanne

Artwork by Laura S. Cohendet



Riza

whose mission is to revitalize the old Cinema V into a multi-functional arts centre, is to raise money to help Geordie Productions move permanently into the Empress as resident company. Tickets are \$100 and

include play, reception and silent auction. Former Westmouter Elsa Bolam is Geordie's founding artistic director. For more information: 514.845.9810 or [www.geordie.ca](http://www.geordie.ca).

## Quebec Classifieds

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# Comin' Up...

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

Registration for swimming programs at arena, from 6 to 8 pm. Bring activity pass to register. 514.989.5353.

THURSDAY, MAY 14

Public consultation meeting on the revisions to the city's proposed **zoning amendments** to limit the size of so-called super-sized homes, 7 pm at city hall.

TUESDAY, MAY 19

Tim Wynne-Jones launches his new young adult novel *The Uninvited*, 7 to 9 pm at Babar en ville (1235A Greene). 514.931.0606.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

• **Perennial Plant Exchange** from 4:30 to 8 pm at the arena. Drop-off and voucher distribution from 4:30 to 6 pm (maximum 6 coupons per variety); exchange (vouchers only): 6 to 7 pm; sale 7 to 8 pm. Info: [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) / Community Events 514.989.5226.

• **Special council meeting** at 12 pm in the council chamber.

• Thomas More Institute's Spring Interview Series presents "Legacies – Reflecting on the worlds we inherit" with journalist and author Alan Hustak, who has written about people and places that have shaped Montreal. 7 pm to 9 pm. Tickets: \$10. 3405 Atwater. Limited seating. Reserve: 514.935.9585.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

• **"The city of Westmount: Becoming a city 100 years ago"** with speakers Caroline Breslaw and Ruth Allan Rigby. From 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Admission free for Westmount Historial Association members; non-members \$5 at door. 514.932.6688.

• The **Westmount Spring Soirée** takes place at Victoria Hall. Cocktails, 7 pm in the courtyard by the Gallery, followed by a sit-down dinner. Tickets cost \$90 and can be purchased at Victoria Hall, by cash or cheque. 514.989.5226.

SATURDAY, MAY 23

**Re/Max Westmount's garage sale** takes place at Westmount Park United Church (4695 de Maisonneuve) from 9 am to 2 pm. Proceeds raised will go to Opération Enfant Soleil.

MONDAY, MAY 25

**Westmount Municipal Association** holds its annual general meeting at 7:30 pm in the Lodge Room of Victoria Hall. Guest speaker, Marc Garneau. Open to all.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

The annual **Sisterhood/Brotherhood klezmer concert** brings Shtreiml, a quartet. Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom at 8 pm. Sweet table included in the \$20 ticket price. Reserve: 450.672.9788.

## BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permits for exterior construction, alterations and renovation were approved at the city council meeting April 22.

**24 Summit Cresc.:** to demolish existing pool house and pool, build a garage extension, a new pool house and pool, modify the rear terrace and landscaping and make changes to the main building;

**9 Lansdowne Ridge:** to replace garage doors and build a canopy;

**344 Redfern:** to replace some windows and doors and modify an opening;

**17 Forden:** to modify front landscaping;

**815 Upper Belmont:** to redo walls, windows and roof of a lean-to at Villa Ste. Marcelline;

**488 Elm:** to replace some windows and the front door and modify some opening on the rear façade;

**14 Aberdeen:** to build a new swimming pool and modify rear landscaping;

**638 Murray Hill:** to replace three front basement windows;

**351 Lansdowne:** to replace the front windows;

**4825-4833 Sherbrooke:** to renovate the front façade;

**43 Chesterfield:** to convert an existing rear sunroom into a balcony;

**494 Wood:** to replace some windows and a rear door;

**593 Argyle:** to replace windows and doors;

**4928B Sherbrooke:** to install a sign "Intermix";

**4869 Sherbrooke:** to install a sign "James Perse";

**731 Upper Belmont:** to rebuild rear deck;

**4779 Sherbrooke:** to install a sign "Sandra Beauty";

**622 Sydenham:** to replace windows and doors;

**24 Thornhill:** to replace two rear doors;

**574 Claremont:** to build a terrace in the back yard;

**668 Victoria:** to modify the deck and replace some windows and doors;

**779 Upper Belmont:** to replace some windows.

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## Costs waived at January hearing

*continued from p. 2*

ately informed the court of his intention to contest it.

But costs rose, and the arrest warrant was issued after he missed the original court date, which he claims he was never informed of. "I'd rather go to jail than pay \$455," he said. On learning what had hap-

pened, he had to pay another \$40 to obtain a stay of conviction at a subsequent hearing January 21 this year (see January 28 *Independent*, p. 7).

He said he only learned at last week's trial that the costs had been waived by the court at the January hearing, something he had not understood.

## Denial of Trafalgar injunction enabled construction to go ahead

*continued from p. 2*

grandfather to its original format.

Constantinou speaks with affection about the Trafalgar, although he may be selling his own unit soon as he makes

plans to spend time in warmer climates for health reasons. Nevertheless, he can't help praising a "unique building" - a painting of which hangs on his living room wall.

## Green steps in our kitchens

*continued from p. 7*

in your food.

- Subscribe to my favourite food blogger, Nancy Hinton (<http://soupnancy.square-space.com/>), to find out what is fresh right now and what you can be doing to live more sustainably.

These are things we should not just do ourselves but show our children and involve them in the process. Future generations are going to need this knowledge that many of us are still learning now. Respect, integrity and patience are virtues that should be taught in all aspects of our lives - why not apply the same with something as important as our food?

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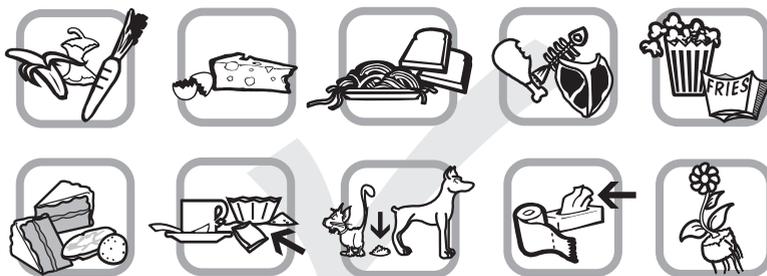
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## Westmount Profile: Jenny Patton

# Reducing the footprint

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Jenny Patton's cell phone is ringing. It's another call on the hot line operated by the "Compost Ambassadors," a volunteer network she organized last year to answer questions from residents on the city's new green bin program.

This time, the caller wants to know if waxed paper can be put in the green bins. Patton doesn't think so. But she'll find out.

"Even when I tell people I don't know, it provides a certain comfort level," she explains.

And for Patton, who heads the environment committee of Westmount's Healthy City Project, the dos and don'ts of composting can indeed be complicated.

That's the kind of understanding that characterizes the efforts of this lifelong environmentalist and activist in her persistent drive to push Westmount into implementing programs to reduce, reuse and recycle.

And it's Patton's leadership, particularly in composting, that led city council at its meeting May 4 to nominate her as a candidate for Quebec's 2009 "Mérite municipal" award for citizen volunteers who have made a significant contribution to their community.

"We're delighted with the message her achievements provide for other municipalities," said Councillor Tom Thompson. Mayor Karin Marks also described the balance that Patton has managed to achieve by being supportive of the city, yet asking "What's the next step?"

### Raised in Westmount

Patton was raised in Westmount. She is now a financial consultant, but previously owned and operated a milling operation to manufacture high-end wood products. A resident of Holton Ave., she has been on the front lines of environmental advocacy in Westmount for two decades.

She urged the city to embrace indigenous gardening. She worked tirelessly to encourage its stand against pesticides use. She was a vocal opponent of CP's desire to spray the railway corridor through Westmount. And she never stopped pushing the composting cause, starting with the subsidized backyard composters.

This led her to experiment with worm farming in the basement of her Westmount home.

The results? "I overfed the worms," she says. "The whole house filled up with fruit

flies – I'm not perfect, you know!" So the worms and indoor compost had to go. But her efforts continued.

"I can hardly believe that after 15 years, we actually have door-to-door composting," she says. "I'm so grateful to Public Works and (retired director) Fred Caluori for finding ways to make it happen."

Patton, who maintains a garden of 1,500 plants at her country home on Lac Marois, is still looking for a way to grow vegetables close to the water without using even natural fertilizers. She is vice-president of the lake association.

It was "Granny's organic garden" in St. Agathe that probably shaped her environmental lifestyle, she says.

But as a twin to John Patton, her drive may come from having to fight for space "when I never had my own womb," she says with a laugh. "But being washed by male hormones also made me assertive and entrepreneurial."

Patton grew up and raised her children in the same neighbourhood where she now lives. Her son Boyd Fuller is an infrastructure professor at the University of Singapore and father of her only grandchild. Daughter Thia Fuller is a sculptor and environmental activist in the US.

Jenny attended Weston School, then on Severn, and graduated from King's Hall Compton. Bored by courses in science at McGill, she pursued her degree at the Thomas More Institute where she now leads courses and serves on the board.

She later obtained an MBA from McGill and has acquired credits toward a master's degree in ecology through Schumacher College in Devon, England.

### Clean energy system

Her pride and joy was the clean energy system she installed many years ago at her lumber business on St. Ambroise St. in St. Henri that had been founded in 1872 by noted Westmount architect E. J. Maxwell. It used sawdust from the milling operation rather than oil as the heating source.

But nature wasn't as kind in return. The record-breaking rainfall on July 14, 1987 drowned her plant "and the business floated away down the St. Pierre sewer."

An avid tennis player and reader, Patton has served as president of the downtown YWCA and maintains a wide range of interests.

Visitors to her home are likely to be greeted first by Gaia, a 14-year-old golden retriever; then by a treasured carousel



Jenny Patton on her own carousel horse.

horse. Discovering it at Ruth Stalker's Westmount antique store, Patton had it restored, outfitted with pony stirrups, harness and saddle. She then installed it herself on a brass pole that slides along a door and floor track between the dining and living rooms. She had a lighted merry-go-round canopy made and a music box

installed. Almost everything was recycled, she says.

And as the hot line rings again at 514.770.2088, Patton does what she does best – that for which the city is honouring her. Whether she actually wins the Quebec award or not, she adds, "If you get to the Olympics, you've already won."

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